

# Affinity



SPRING 2026

**OADBY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH**

## Oadby Trinity Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Derek McLean

Website: [www.oadbymethodist.org.uk](http://www.oadbymethodist.org.uk)

### Contact details

**Minister:** Rev Derek McLean 0116 2712404

minister@oadbymethodist.co.uk

### Room booking:

bookings@oadbymethodist.co.uk

**Food Bank:** Contact number: 07723 121794

info@oadbyfoodbank.org.uk

**Zeph's Café** 01162717575 <https://www.zephscafe.co.uk>

Guides/Brownies/Rainbows: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk>

Brownies Guides: Nicky Calow 07727432120

[OadbyTrinityGuides@hotmail.com](mailto:OadbyTrinityGuides@hotmail.com)

### Office holders

**Minister :** Rev Derek McLean

**Senior Steward:** Diane Price

**Safeguarding Officer:** Michael Elliott. [078834 952263]

Cover photograph "Spring Rainbow" courtesy of David Calow.

## **A prayer for the true fast during Lent**

Isaiah 58:6–7 teaches that God desires a “*true fast*” from his people. We're called not only to abstain from something, but to worship God by joining in his redemptive work of bringing justice, mercy and righteousness into the world.

The good news is that God himself equips and empowers us for this calling through his Spirit.

***Father of all,***

*I long to bring you the praise you deserve. In this Lenten Season, shape my heart by the truth of Isaiah 58. Teach me what a true fast means, and help me to walk in your compassion — to loosen the chains of injustice, to lift up the oppressed, and to share generously with those in need.*

*Forgive me for the times I've forgotten your call and settled for outward religion instead of a living faith. Renew in me a heart that worships you not only with words, but through mercy, justice, and kindness.*

*By your Spirit, anoint me to build your kingdom, to follow Christ faithfully, and to reflect your grace to the most vulnerable.*

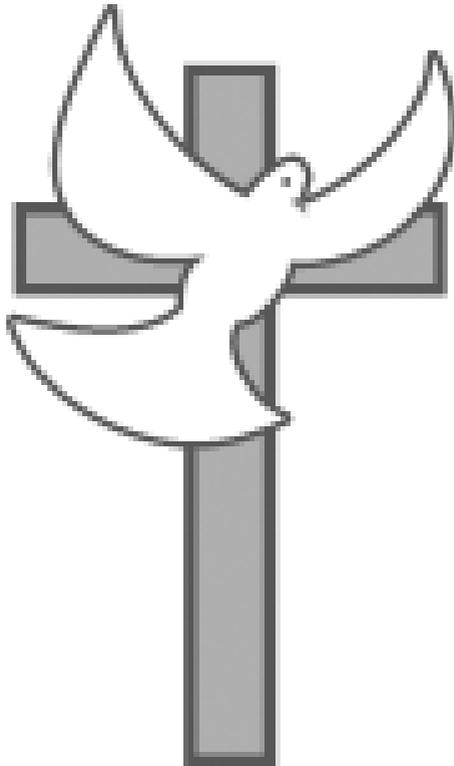
***Amen.***

Source: <https://www.compassionuk.org/blogs/lent-prayers/>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Article</b>	<b>Page</b>
A prayer for the true fast	3
March services	6
Lent groups and Easter services	7
April services	8
May services	9
Editorial	10
Message from the Manse	11
Jean scores a Century	12
Rock, pebbles, sand	13
Called by the Spirit	14
Gaza: The Genocide Continues	16
Were you there?	17
Easter Offering & dedication service	18
Bamboozle Theatre	19
Quiz & meal night for LOROS	20
Mother's Day Memorial gathering	21
I have a dream	22
Diary Dates	24
Palm Sunday	25

Book Review: "Our Island Stories"	26
Wanted for Inter-Care	28
To ritual refined	32
Methodist Sacramental Fellowship	34
Doctor Agnes Nisbett	37



## **MARCH SERVICES**

### **Sunday 1st –Lent 2**

8.30 Rev Derek McLean - Holy Communion

10.30 Rev Derek McLean - all age Worship to include the baptism of Rio

6.00 Rev Andrew Farrington (online)

### **Sunday 8th –Lent 3**

10.30 Rev Derek McLean - Holy Communion

6.00 Rev Andrew Farrington (online)

### **Sunday 15th –Lent 4/Mothering Sunday**

10.30 Rev Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman

6.00 Rev Andrew Farrington (online)

### **Sunday 22nd –Lent 5**

10.30 Miriam Stevenson

6.00 Rev Andrew Farrington (online)

### **Sunday 29th –Palm Sunday**

10.30 Rev Tom Wilson

3.00 Oadby URC Rosemead Drive Final service, all invited

6.00 Rev Liam Dacre-Davis (online)

Please see details of Palm Sunday Donkey Parade on page 25

## **Lent groups and Easter Services.**

### **Lent study resources/group**

**Lent Groups** - For 2026, Derek is recommending two resources for personal devotion. The Methodist Church is producing '*Pause, Breathe, Make Space for God*'. This will be used in our Sunday worship and be accompanied by reflections for use during the week. There is also the series '*Acts of Hope*' from Embrace the Middle East. If you want copies of either, please let Derek know. Derek also recommends: "Jonah – Much more than a 'fishy' story." Follow one person's journey of discipleship. Explore the theme of calling, fear, regret, repentance, remarkable evangelism, acceptance of others, and being at peace with God. All in four short, at times comical, chapters of scripture.

To offer flexibility, there are three venues, plus on-line, ways of joining in this journey.

Houghton on the Hill Wednesdays 2.30pm , 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>  
March

Great Glen Wednesdays 7.30 pm 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March

Christchurch and on-line Sundays 6 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup>. 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>  
March.

## **APRIL SERVICES**

### **Thursday 2nd—Maundy Thursday**

7pm Service of Holy Communion at Trinity led by Rev Derek McLean (Churches Together)

### **Friday 3rd —Good Friday**

10:00 Service at St Peter's Church (Churches Together)

### **Sunday 5th —Easter Sunday**

10.30 Rev Derek McLean —Holy Communion

6.00 Rev Ivan Bennett (online)

### **Sunday 12th – Easter 2**

10.30 Rev Kate Cook

6.00 Rev Ian Hu (online)

### **Sunday 19th - Easter 3**

10.30 Howard Smith

6.00 Rev Kim Alexander (online)

### **Sunday 26th – Easter 4**

10.30 Rev Derek McLean to include the Baptism of Daniel

6.00 Rev Liam Dacre-Davis (online)

Mid-week 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

## **MAY SERVICES**

### **Sunday 3rd**

8.30 Rev Derek McLean -Holy Communion

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –all age Worship

6.30 Easter Offering service at Trinity (also available online)

Further details on page 18

### **Sunday 10th**

10.30 Rev Derek McLean -Holy Communion/ Christian Aid

**12.00** General Church meeting

6.00 Rev Derek McLean (online)

### **Sunday 17th**

10.30 Rev Kim Alexander

6.00 District Ordinands Testimony Service (online)

### **Sunday 24th - Pentecost /Aldersgate Sunday**

10.30 Jo Kay

6.00 Rev Ivan Bennett (online)

### **Sunday 31st –Trinity Sunday**

10.30 Rev Christopher Andam

6.00 Rev Kim Alexander (online)

Details of the online service can be obtained by emailing

[trinityeveningservice@leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk](mailto:trinityeveningservice@leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk)

There is also a contact list to share updates. This might include reminders if there is a change of time because we are live from a particular venue, or if there are different joining instructions on a particular week. Please let us know if you want to be on that circulation list.



Heather Corlett: Editor

## Editorial

Welcome to the Spring 2026 issue of Affinity, which covers the months of March, April and May. We have plenty to look forward to. By the time this issue of Affinity is printed, we shall be into the season of Lent and preparing prayerfully for the joyful season of Easter. Hopefully too, we will see the daylight hours lengthening and the days becoming warmer as Spring arrives.

Our quiz and meal in aid of our Church charity, LOROS is on Friday March 27th. Do come along for a meal and to enjoy the quiz whilst supporting this much loved local charity.

The deadline for the Summer 2026 edition of Affinity, which covers the months of June, July and August, is **Sunday May 17th**. All contributions to Heather Corlett [Editor] by that date please. 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

Dear friends,

During a recent service, I was preparing the prayers of intercession, our prayers of concern for local and international issues, and I seemed to have a long list of worries for us to hold in prayer.

International political tensions continue to escalate; we are fearful in our communities where division is escalating into hatred. We have seen failing in the world church, and we are saddened by the news that the Oadby URC is to close. I had a long list of individuals who were sick and who needed our prayer – not all of whom I could name publicly. We wanted to bring comfort to those who were mourning the death of loved ones, particularly the two members of this church whose funeral and thanksgiving services we were planning.

Rightly, we wanted to hold all these things in prayer. However, before we did so, we wanted to spend time in thankfulness.

We are thankful that despite the news of a violent death locally, we take comfort that crimes of such violence are at a lower level than throughout most of our lifetimes.

We are thankful for some significant milestone birthdays and anniversaries being celebrated in our community (including Jean's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday mentioned elsewhere in this edition); thankful that we live in a country blessed with the level of medical care which enables so many more to benefit from such extended lives.

We give thanks for those who bring support and comfort to the sick and the bereaved.

We rejoice in those who work with the disadvantaged, thinking particularly of the work of Bamboozle bringing theatre to the severely disabled.

We acknowledge that contemporary media brings terrible images to our screens in an instant, but we rejoice in the way we are drawn together. We look forward to hearing more from Revd Andrew Farrington on his inspiring and uplifting visit to the Trichy Diocese of the Church of South India.

Whilst avoiding some of the hype around this change, we celebrate the news which we've witnessed ourselves that young adults with no Christian background are suddenly finding a new interest in the significance of the story of Jesus.

The message of Jesus, the joy of the Gospel, is one of Hope: we hold fast to that.

God bless you

**Rev Derek**

---

### **Jean scores a century!**

Jean Ward, who, with her late husband Ernie, was a faithful member and supporter of Oadby Trinity for many years will be 100 years old on April 10th.

As a Church family we send our heartfelt good wishes and congratulations to Jean as she celebrates this milestone birthday with her family and friends. May she know God's blessing as she marks this important occasion in her life.

## **Rocks, Pebbles, Sand – Philosophy Made Simple**

A philosophy professor once stood before his class with a large empty jar. He filled the jar with large rocks and asked his students if the jar was full. The students said yes, the jar was full.

He then added small pebbles to the jar and asked again, “Is the jar full now?” The students agreed that the jar was indeed full.

The professor then poured sand into the jar and asked again. The students then agreed that the jar was finally full

The professor went on to explain that the jar signifies one’s life.

The rocks are equivalent to the most important things in your life, such as family, health, and relationships. And if the pebbles and the sand were lost, the jar would still be full and your life would still have a meaning.

The pebbles represent the other things that matter in your life, such as your work, school, and house. These things often come and go, and are not permanent or essential to your overall well-being.

And finally, **the sand represents the remaining small stuff and material possessions in your life.** These things don’t mean much to your life as a whole and are likely only done to waste time or get small tasks accomplished.

The metaphor here is that if you start with putting sand into the jar, you will not have room for rocks or pebbles. This holds true for the things you let into your life too.

**Submitted by Gillian Austen**

## **Called by the Spirit: A Journey of Curiosity and Calling**

“Because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” (2 Peter 1:21)

My calling to be a local preacher didn’t come as a dramatic revelation. It grew quietly over years, a thread of faith, questions, and gentle nudges from God.

As a child in India, I was surrounded by a rich mixture of beliefs: Christian devotion from my Methodist grandparents, a mother who had embraced Christianity from a Hindu background, and the diversity of faiths all around me. This made me deeply curious. Who is God? How does He speak? And how do we understand His Word?

I was always full of questions when reading Scripture, more than my parents or even our minister could answer. One verse, however, gave me hope: “men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” (2 Peter 1:21) If God inspired the Bible, I believed He could also help me understand it. I began to pray for that understanding, and slowly, God began to open things up.

One defining moment came when I was in Year 7, studying grammar in my native Marathi. We were learning about Persons in grammar—first, second, and third person. That lesson stayed with me. When I read the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, I noticed both used the same third-person narrative style. Something about the tone and flow felt familiar. Could they have been written by the same person?

I took this question to our minister. Surprised, he asked if I had read it somewhere. I hadn’t. It was just a natural connection. He smiled and said, “You should consider studying theology someday.” That stayed with me.

As I approached the end of my school years, the thought of ministry grew stronger. I shared it with my parents and relatives. One particular conversation left a lasting impression. A distant relative, an ordained minister and director of a well-known educational institution, sat me down for what felt like a heart-to-heart. He encouraged my calling, but also offered practical wisdom. He reminded me of St Paul, who supported his ministry by making tents, and urged me to pursue a path where I could stand on my own feet. “Let your service to God be free, not dependent,” he said. It wasn’t discouragement but grounding, advice that helped me navigate my vocation with maturity.

Life, of course, took a different path. I pursued science, earned a degree in computer science, and moved into a career. My journey hasn’t been a straight line. At times, I drifted from church, put off by things I experienced in local congregations. Yet I never drifted from God. Faith stayed alive through personal reading and prayer. God kept nudging me through Scripture, through people, and through quiet moments of reflection.

Years later, I found myself in the UK, seeking a community again. Trinity Methodist Church in Oadby welcomed my family warmly. It felt like coming home. It was Rev. Derek who gently asked me, “Have you considered becoming a local preacher?” That question stirred something old yet familiar in me. It felt as though God was bringing everything full circle.

Calling, I’ve learned, isn’t always loud. Sometimes it grows in quiet wonder, in the classroom, in questions left unanswered, in scriptures pondered in solitude. It’s in the weaving together of past and present, of learning and worship, of our voices and God’s. Like those moved by the Spirit in 2 Peter 1:21, I now feel called not just to receive, but to speak. Not from my own will, but moved gently and over time by the Holy Spirit.

**Ashutosh Desai**

## **Gaza: The Genocide Continues**

Amos Trust are returning to Leicester at 7:30pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Venue: Christ the King Church, Beaumont Way, Leicester, LE4 1DS

Speakers will include representatives from Amos Trust, WANN/Gaza, Friends of Al Aqsa, and other local organisations.

The evening will also include Film and Poetry, and a reflection led by Revd Robert Hinsley and Revd Derek McLean.

Refreshments will include mint tea, arabic coffee, and baklava

Admission free.



## Were you there?

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 there for ***YOU!***

## Margaret Cartwright



## **Easter Offering and Dedication Service.**

The tradition of fund raising for overseas mission began in Manchester in 1883 when Methodist women collected 'Christmas pennies' at family gatherings on Christmas day to support missionaries overseas. This tradition has continued and is now a collection taken at Easter. The envelopes came later and are designed for those who can Gift Aid their donation.

The money raised goes directly to fund the work of Mission Partners and the churches they serve in many parts of the world.

The service itself is prepared by Methodist Women in Britain (supported by the Global Relationships team), as a gift to the Methodist people. All the monies raised are given directly to the World Mission Fund. These gifts are vital for the continuing work in different parts of the world .

As many churches no longer have an Overseas Mission Sunday this is a way of recognising the continuing work of the Methodist Church overseas in these challenging times through supporting schools, clinics and programmes to combat climate change.

For 2026 the focus is on freedom. The theme is *Unbound: a gospel that breaks the barrier*.

Resources will be available at the March Circuit meeting for all churches.

Please join the Easter Offering Dedication Service here in Trinity Oadby on Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6.30pm.

**Mary Gill**

**Easter Offering Service Organiser**

## Bamboozle Theatre

Many of you will remember Bamboozle which was the WOW charity a few years ago, and which does amazing work creating theatre productions for disabled children.

They've just launched a Crowd funder campaign to bring their outdoor show for autistic audiences, 'Traces', to life in 2027.

They are aiming to raise £30,000 this year to create more accessible theatre experiences for children.

They have worked with hundreds of families in outdoor spaces – parents tell them that being in nature is the best place for their children to feel comfortable; but they haven't previously produced an outdoor theatrical show.

This is needed because

- Autistic children and their families feel excluded from public spaces that are often unwelcoming. Even a bus journey can be distressing when your child is judged and not accepted. This leads to a feeling of isolation.
- We know that being outdoors in nature is a great place for autistic young people.

The show is titled: "Traces – Outdoor Theatre in the Landscape." Autistic children and their families in Leicestershire and across the UK will have a theatre show that they know is for them.

The show will be performed in woodlands, parks and at festivals where all children and their families will feel comfortable and be accepted. Everyone will be able to access the show in their own way and at their own pace. Donate here: <https://bamboozletheatre.co.uk/events/crowdfunder-traces/>

## Quiz and meal for Church charity LOROS

We are having a quiz night and meal on Friday 27th of March in aid of LOROS, our charity for 2025/6

Bookings are at Zeph's for both the quiz and the meal (meal at 6pm) for £15. For quiz only tickets (£5) see Lesley Green or Frazer Robson. The quiz will start at 7.30pm and our quiz master will be Dave Smith, who always puts together a great quiz and gets our brains working!

**QUIZ NIGHT**  
Charity Quiz Night in  
Support of the Church's  
Charity 'LOROS'

Delivering free, high-quality, compassionate care and support to terminally ill patients, their family and carers.

**Friday  
27th  
March**

Meal at Zeph's  
from 6.00pm  
Quiz starts 7.30pm

Quiz  
£5 per person  
(see Frazer Robson, Dave Smith  
or Lesley Green for tickets)

Quiz & Meal  
£15.00 per person  
(book your tickets through the  
Café)

**Meals include**

- Chicken & Mushroom Pie, Chips & Peas
- Cod in Parsley Sauce, Roasted Herb New Potatoes & Peas
- Spinach, Mushroom & Stilton Pasta in a Creamy Pesto Sauce with Garlic Bread

Puddings available to purchase on the night  
Tickets booked through Zeph's Café

**LOROS**  
LOROS (Care for Life) - Hospices & Palliative

**Zeph's Café**

## **Mother's Day Memorial Gathering**

Many people who have been bereaved find things particularly difficult around Mother's Day.

We are holding an event in the church, jointly with Adkinson's Funeral Directors, at 6pm on Monday 9th March.

This will be a much more secular event than our All Souls commemoration, but will be another opportunity to light candles, to reflect, and to remember.

The event will be led by our own minister, the Revd Derek McLean, together with Sarah Lane, a Civil Celebrant.



## I HAVE A DREAM

It is deeply rooted in my life, travels, study and work.

I have a dream of a world that insists on building openness in our communities and a world in which all are welcome, valued, belong equally, have hospitality and sanctuary and are safe. A world where;

There are no corners, no straight lines, no centres, no margins, no hierarchies, no superiors, no inferiors.

The only walls that exist are there to give shelter and share hospitality.

All people are honoured as made in the image of God and all life is held as sacred.

There is deep mutual respect and trust between women and men, young and old, black and white and all shades in between, between Bahai, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jain, Muslim, Pagan, Sikh and Zoroastrian, and people of all sexual orientations, different identities, different abilities and disabilities

The earth and all its inhabitants, great and small, are held in honour and respect and protected.

Children play safely and the dignity of elders is upheld with respect.

Nations work together to eliminate inequality, oppression and persecution, ensuring poverty is history.

Nations never again engage in mass murder and holocaust, enshrining protection and sanctuary of those whose lives are in danger in any way.

Nations work together for a world of fair trade, and a just and equal sharing of the benefits of human enterprise and economy; nations work together and stand by values of justice for all, mercy and kindness in the execution of justice, and humility in all leadership, nations learn war no more and develop non-violent ways to resolve conflict, stop the manufacture and trading of weapons of destruction and turn all weapons into instruments of healing, where hatred and hunger are ended, reconciliation is real and relationships are healed.

I would like to see every Church become a Church of sanctuary and every Mosque, Synagogue, Gurdwara, Mandir and Vihara places of sanctuary, the safest places on earth, where all can be sure of warm welcomes, protective hospitality , safety and sanctuary.

This is my modest dream. I'm not asking for a lot.

It may be unrealistic, and in the words of John Lennon, "you may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one."

**Inderjit Bhogal 28 August 2023**

[Inderjit Bhogal was the Vice President of the Methodist Conference 2023/4]

## Diary Dates – Ministers leaving and Ministers arriving

5<sup>th</sup> July There will be a picnic in the manse garden following the All-Age Service

12<sup>th</sup> July This will be Derek's last Sunday here at Trinity. He will lead a Communion service at 10:30. During the service we will also acknowledge Chris' contribution to the life of this church and circuit over the last eight years.

There will then be a Circuit leaving service here at Oadby (Trinity) at 6:30 pm. This will give us opportunity to say goodbye to Revd Liam Dacre-Davis as well as Derek

19<sup>th</sup> July will be Liam's last Sunday in the circuit with his final service likely to be at 10:45am at Bishop Street

30<sup>th</sup> August 10:45am Circuit Welcome Service for Revd Shirlyn Toppin and Deacon Karen McBride (venue tbc). Shirlyn will be the new Superintendent for the Leicester Trinity Circuit, and she will also take over Pastoral Care for Trinity MC Oadby. Karen will focus on city centre ministry, primarily based at Bishop St, a role which will include Chaplaincy at the University of Leicester.

---

## **Palm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

Please note that the usual Churches Together in Oadby donkey procession from St Peters to Trinity Methodist will not be happening this year.

However, we note the following events:

Families are encouraged to join the Great Glen/ Burton Overy donkey procession which leaves Great Glen at 9.30am, going across the fields to Burton Overy where there are drinks and bacon rolls on arrival followed by a short service at around 10.30am, depending on how long the walk takes!

The walk starts at St Cuthberts at 9:30am but many people join the procession when it reaches Great Glen MC, others wait to join at the top of the hill at Coverside Road.

Sadly, Oadby United Reformed Church on Rosemead Drive, is closing. Their final service will also take place on Palm Sunday 3.00pm. This will be a time to gather, to give thanks and to honour the long life and faithful witness of the church within Oadby across many years. We are encouraged to share this invitation within our church fellowship, and we are invited to join them as they mark this significant moment. Representatives of Churches Together in Oadby will participate in the service.

There will also (of course) be the usual 10:30am service at Trinity.

---

## **Our Island Stories: Ten Walks through Rural Britain and Its Hidden History of Empire by Corinne Fowler**

I found this book in the lovely bookshop in Kibworth. I didn't immediately realise that there was a local connection. The author is a Professor at the University of Leicester. She was the subject of some abuse in response to her earlier work for the National Trust, exploring the historic origins of the money which funded some of Britain's grandest properties.

Most of that response focused exclusively on the extent to which the report which she co-authored referred to the legacy of slavery. Instead, as this book makes clear, she is interested in a wider view of our colonial history.

The book consists of ten walks, each undertaken with an expert on a particular aspect of British history and its contemporary echoes. In a light and accessible style, we learn about a specific period. Given the age of many National Trust properties, it is unsurprising that there is more here about the exploitation of India than about slavery per se.

As I trace my paternal line to crofters on a Scottish island, I was personally interested in the chapter about the Clearances: people were dispensable when sheep were more profitable.

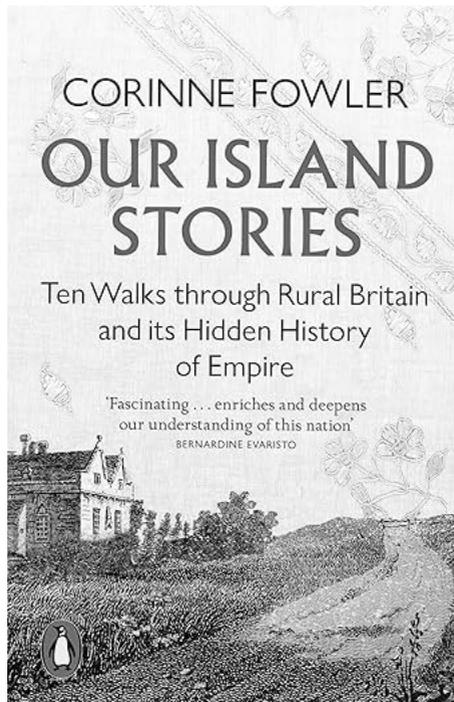
Overall, "the church" doesn't come out of this story well, but I was pleased that the Methodists were on the right side of history in the two chapters where they featured. Methodists were the victims in the story of the Tolpuddle martyrs, and the chapel was the home of the Cornish tin miners.

This rediscovery of history is too easily a topic of culture wars: portrayed as an undermining of what it means to be "British".

However, I was struck by the way in which the stories intertwined the exploitation of people in far-off corners of empire, with the exploitation of the poorest members of British society. That was present in stories about Lancashire mills, and also in the way in which colonial profits were used to fund the enclosures which deprived peasants from access to Common Land.

That seemed the most hopeful aspect of the book: we shouldn't set one exploited group of people against another, but should fully and truthfully tell these stories and their legacy.

Submitted by Rev Derek



## WANTED

Do you have any oddments of DK wool that you no longer need? I am passing winter evenings knitting children's hats which will be sent out to hospitals in Africa by the charity InterCare based in Syston. Any colours, though I have plenty of white already. Please leave any wool at the Hospitality Desk marked for my attention.

Also, do you have any surplus medical items – see list below – still in their sealed sterile packs where appropriate. Intercare do a valuable job collecting surplus health care goods, for the two-fold purpose of medical waste reduction and sending regular consignments of vital medical aid to rural health units across sub-Saharan Africa. There are many items that members of the public may have, that could be donated to InterCare, some medical, but also some normal day to day items like toiletries and bedding. For example,

**First Aid Items** - Bandages, Dressings, Foil blankets, Gauze, Plasters, Surgical Tape, Tourniquets – should have 12 months left to any expiry date.

**PPE** - Aprons, disposal bags, facemasks/shields, surgical gloves, wipes (alcohol and skin wipes etc.).

**Health Care Accessories** - Bed linen (i.e. Flat bed sheets etc.), Measuring cups/spoons, Sharps bins, Towels

**Medical Equipment** - Blood pressure monitors, catheters (including bags); nebulisers and accessories; pulse oximeters; stethoscopes; syringes; thermometers; metal adjustable walking sticks/poles or arm crutches; arm slings; foldable wheelchairs.

If you would like to read more about the work of Intercare, please see their website at <https://intercare.org.uk/>

**If you need any further information please contact Gillian, 07977415388**

**Ready to take to InterCare, plus more hats, bed linen and crutches**



**Gillian Austen**

## ZEPH'S UPDATE

Zeph's had a very busy and very enjoyable Christmas period. Our thanks for the support of all our customers and our thanks to our staff and volunteers for all their hard work. I'm pleased to be able to say that the busy period carried on into January. Business has been encouraging.

As always, a number of events have been organised for the coming weeks:

27 February – Pie Night

6 March – Fish Fryday

20 March – American Diner Night

27 March – Quiz Night in aid of the Church Charity LOROS

10 April – Fish Fryday

17 April – Mexican Evening

1 May – Fish Fryday

22 May – Movie Theme Night with a choir singing classic movie songs

5 June – Fish Fryday

19 June – Greek Night

Can I draw your attention in particular to the Quiz Night on 27 March which will again be run by Dave Smith. It is to raise funds for the Church Charity which this year is LOROS. As you will all know, LOROS is an exceptional charity and one that is currently in need of as much financial support as it can get so please do your best to attend. There will be a meal in Zeph's at 6.00 pm followed by the quiz at 7.30 pm. The cost for the meal and quiz will be £15. The cost of the quiz alone will be £5.

For all the events, call in at the café to book or simply ring Zeph's and remember, book early to avoid disappointment.

Remember also that if you are in need of a buffet or some cakes for a special event then Zeph's will be pleased to help.

As was reported in the last edition of Affinity, David Calow has joined us as a Director of Zeph's. We are though still looking for another Director so if anyone is interested then please get in touch with me.

Finally, I am pleased to be able to say that we now have a new updated website for Zeph's. Please take a look at it. Our thanks to Tim Neville from Black Owl for carrying out the work and to David Calow who helped with the photographs and graphics for the new website.

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



## **"...to ritual refined" Developing Schillebeeckx's Sacramental Theology, by Tom McLean**

I'm biased. I would not have come across this book if it wasn't my son's doctoral dissertation. It describes his journey in search of the meaning of the Eucharist commencing in Methodism and travelling through Anglo Catholicism into a Catholic university, initially seeking inspiration in the earliest surviving sacramental liturgies before turning to the work of Edward Schillebeeckx.

The research might have led to editing and finalising Schillebeeckx's intended last great opus on Sacramental Theology. However, it became obvious that this was impossible because the notes which Schillebeeckx had left were a long way short of the completed article, but also because Schillebeeckx consistently sought to be contemporary in approach. The understanding of science, theology, and the global context have all changed markedly since Schillebeeckx was working.

Tom develops the way that sacramental rites can be better understood with the anthropological lens of Ritual Studies. In effect, the words of the Eucharist can be seen to be "performative". Performative here means that the words themselves give rise to a changed state of the world. Hence for example we hear the vows made in a wedding service and they have legal significance to create a new reality. Similarly, hate speech can itself constitute violence. The words of the Eucharist become something more substantial than mere words.

The authenticity of the ritual depends on the nature of the Christ whose presence we encounter. Our understanding of what is Christ-like has changed in recent decades. Understanding Christ in creation develops with greater scientific understanding of the "created" order; theological understandings of incarnation change and develop in the light of (e.g.) liberation, feminist, and womanist theology.

Whilst in Catholic theology the Mass “works” regardless of any failings of the priest, encountering Christ inherently challenges power structures, so it cannot be co-opted to protect the rich and powerful.

There is slight reference within the thesis to “transubstantiation”, a term which Schillebeeckx sought to retain, as well as other possible words such as “transsignificance” (a choice which appealed to me) with an acknowledgement that the word choice introduces more heat than light into the debate, particularly deriving from the historic split between Catholics and Protestants.

This book enabled me to deepen my understanding of what happens in the Eucharist, and it left me keen to continue seeking to encounter Jesus at such a profound and deep level.

(Slightly) longer version of this review available on request; fuller book expected to be published later this year.

**Rev Derek**



**Methodist Sacramental Fellowship  
(MSF)**

When the Methodist Conference met in Leicester in July 1989 I took the opportunity to attend one of the many ‘fringe events’ which were held during that week. The *MSF* Conference Meeting took the form of Evening Prayer followed by the Annual Lecture. The venue was St Andrew’s Methodist Church in the Leicester West Circuit where the minister was Revd Alan Williams. The Revd Michael Townsend gave a splendid lecture entitled *Whatever happened to Heaven? Worship, Prayer and the Communion of Saints*. It was a truly memorable evening, which led me to join *MSF*. It was a decision I have never regretted: during the intervening years my membership of *MSF* has been a constant source of inspiration and spiritual nourishment. I regularly attend the Annual Conference of the Fellowship which is traditionally held during Low Weekend (Low Sunday is the Sunday immediately following Easter Day). I am now a Vice President of *MSF*, and currently also its Membership and Mailing Secretary.

In recent years there have been several local gatherings for *MSF* members (and sympathisers!) including a visit in 2024 to Revd Colin Smith’s church and home in Derbyshire. Our next planned meeting will be held at Trinity on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June** (which co-incidentally happens to be the Feast of Corpus Christi!). The day begins with coffee and conversation in *Zeph’s Café* before we move to the Worship Area for a service of Holy Communion with our Minister, Revd Derek McLean, as celebrant. For those who wish to stay there will be a communal lunch, again in *Zeph’s*. This will be an **open meeting and everyone is welcome to attend all or part of the gathering**. Further details will be published in church notices nearer the date.

Founded in 1935, and open to Christians of all traditions, *MSF* exists “to affirm the catholic and universal tradition of Christianity within Methodism. It also seeks to promote the sacramental faith and practice which John and Charles Wesley drew from scripture and

Christian tradition. The Fellowship encourages a pattern of Christian discipleship rooted in Holy Communion. *MSF* is committed to unity with other Christians in life and worship and in a common programme for justice and peace.” Members pay a modest annual subscription with reduced rates available for retired persons. Please ask me for further details if you are interested.

### **The Prayer of the Fellowship:**

*Almighty God,  
who raised up your servants  
John and Charles Wesley,  
to proclaim anew the gift of redemption  
and the life of holiness;  
pour upon us the gifts of your Holy Spirit,  
that in unity with your whole church,  
we may be renewed through word and sacrament  
and serve you in the needs of our neighbour;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Howard Smith**



**METHODIST**

**SACRAMENTAL**

**FELLOWSHIP**

**Oadby Trinity Methodist Church**

**Harborough Road LE2 4LA**



We have Large or Small rooms for Hire at Competitive Rates.  
For Regular Meetings, or Single Bookings  
Free Wi Fi available (unsecured network)

**We have a Safeguarding Policy to protect children & vulnerable adults that you MUST abide by.**

For hire charges: Please email:

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

Website: [www.oadbymethodist.co.uk](http://www.oadbymethodist.co.uk)

## ***Steele-Elliott*** ***School of Dance***

RAD and BTDA registered teachers

**Ballet - Tap - Modern - Lyrical**



Classes from 4yrs to teens  
Pre-school classes from 2½ years  
(including Melody Movement)

Classes held Fridays at  
Trinity Methodist Church Hall,  
Oadby LE2 4LA

Classes also at Leicester  
Buckminster Road Baptist Church Hall

Contact us to book a place  
t: 0116 2833964

e: [info@steeleelliottschoolofdance.co.uk](mailto:info@steeleelliottschoolofdance.co.uk)  
[www.steeleelliottschoolofdance.co.uk](http://www.steeleelliottschoolofdance.co.uk)



Melody Bear, Miligan  
Bear and Melody  
Movement are the  
registered trade marks  
of JH Swing.

## **Advertising in** **Oadby Trinity Church** **Magazine**

**We are sorry but we are  
not taking any new ad-  
verts in the church  
magazine.**

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



### **Doctor Agnes Nisbett**

In January, our good friend Agnes Nisbett was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Leicester for her pioneering work in the care for mothers of stillborn babies.

In 1973, Agnes suffered the heartbreak of a stillbirth at Leicester Royal Infirmary (LRI), a situation made worse by the way that her baby was taken away from her. She turned this tragedy to good effect by setting up initiatives to help other women in the same situation. The Born While Sleeping programme at the LRI, which included a dedicated ward for mothers of stillborn babies, was the first of its kind in the UK.

Thanks to Agnes, parents of stillborn babies are able to keep physical mementoes such as clothes, photographs and handprints, as well as knowing where their child is buried.

Fuller story available here: <https://le.ac.uk/news/2026/january/university-leicester-honours-midwife-personal-heartbreak-parents-stillborn-babies>

# **TM** Asset Management

## Independent Financial Advice

- **Savings & Investments**
- **Pensions**
- **Inheritance Tax Planning**
- **Protection**

### **CLEAR UNDERSTANDABLE ADVICE**

**Matt Raine      07885 593 175**

**Tim Rodgers    07885 593 174**

**matt@tmam.co.uk**

West Walk Building

110 Regent Rd,  
Leicester. LE1 7LT

**0116 2542255**



**[www.tmam.co.uk](http://www.tmam.co.uk)**

Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority



**20%**  
donation\*

## Looking for home insurance? We've got you covered

**Protect your home and contents and help your favourite charity**

When you take out a Methodist Insurance Home Shield policy, we'll give you back **20%** of your first year's premium for the charity or church of your choice. Your Methodist home insurance policy not only protects your home but also supports the Methodist community.

*Recommended by church members.*

**For a quote:**

**Call; 0345 606 1331**

**email;**

**[enquiries@micmail.com](mailto:enquiries@micmail.com)**

**Visit the web site at**

**[www.methodistinsurance.co.uk/home](http://www.methodistinsurance.co.uk/home)**

*Minimum premiums apply.  
Subject to terms and con-*

# A.J. Adkinson & Son

FAMILY-OWNED INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Serving our community for over 100 years,  
with compassionate and professional bereavement care,  
uniquely tailored to your needs.

Specialist faith facilities, on-site parking and catering suite.

12 London Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5DG

24 hour service 0116 271 2340

Email: [funerals@ajadkinsonandson.com](mailto:funerals@ajadkinsonandson.com)

[www.ajadkinsonandson.com](http://www.ajadkinsonandson.com)



TRUSTED  
BEREAVEMENT  
CARE FROM  
OUR FAMILY  
TO YOURS



**Come and visit Zeph's  
Café. Excellent Cakes.  
Hot and Cold food.**



Trinity Methodist  
Church.  
Harborough Rd. Oadby  
LE2 4LA

**Why not look at our  
Buffets for all occa-  
sions.  
Or book an afternoon  
tea?**

**Evening events;  
Fish Friday; 1st Fri-  
day of the month.  
Many other themed  
evening meals.  
Check for details.**

**Opening hours;;  
Mon-Sat 9.30-4.30**



**Zephscfe.co.uk  
Tel: 0116 271 7575**