

Affinity



AUTUMN 2026

OADBY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

Oadby Trinity Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Shirlyn Toppin

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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

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Senior Steward: Diane Price

Safeguarding Officer: Michael Elliott

Cover photograph: "Autumn Leaves!" courtesy of David Calow.

A prayer to live out our Calling of the Methodist Church in Britain

[from Methodist Prayer Handbook 2026-7 “Sorrow & Joy”]

Justice seeking

God of justice we lament the pollution of the earth, hunger, conflict,
the denial of rights and the abuse of power.

May our sorrow bring resolve to work for change in your name.

We celebrate strangers welcomed,

Injustices righted,

Barriers overcome,

The flourishing of creation,

And the empowerment of those who have been marginalised.

May our joy bring encouragement to work for change in your name.

Help us to believe that we can make a difference, and to discover-
what is ours to do.

Strengthen all efforts to pursue peace and seek righteousness.

May your kingdom come and your will be done. AMEN

Prayer offered by the Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist Union of
Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed
Church, working together for peace and justice.

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Houghton Methodist Chapel

Special Service of C e l e b r a t i o n



A special service to celebrate and reflect upon 174 years of worship and ministry in the village of Houghton-on-the-Hill will be held at the Chapel on Sunday 6 September 2026 at 6.30pm.

All are welcome.

The service will be followed by tea and cakes.

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 6th

8.30 **No early morning Communion service**

10.30 Rev Shirlyn Toppin –Holy Communion

6.00 Rev Kim Alexander –online circuit service

Sunday 13th

10.30 Michael Mays

6.00 Rev Ian Hu -online circuit service

Sunday 20th

10.30 Rev Shirlyn Toppin

6,00 Deacon Sharon Dilley -online circuit service

Sunday 27th

10.30 Howard Smith

6.00 Rev Andrew Farrington -online circuit service

Midweek Worship ' 11.30 am on 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month. All welcome

Saturday Prayers every week 10.30-11.00 am in Meeting Room. All welcome

OCTOBER SERVICES

Sunday 4th

- 8.30 Rev Shirlyn Toppin –Holy Communion
- 10.30 Rev Shirlyn Toppin –all age Worship
- 6.00 Rev Kim Alexander –online circuit service

Sunday 11th

- 10.30 Dr Miriam Stevenson
- 6.00 Rev Ian Hu -online circuit service

Sunday 18th

- 10.30 Rev Shirlyn Toppin –Holy Communion
- 6,00 Rev Andrew Farrington - online circuit service

Sunday 25th –Bible Sunday

- 10.30 Rev Gordon Webb
- 6.00 Deacon Karen McBride -online circuit service

NOVEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 1st –All Saints Day

- 8.30 Rev Shirlyn Toppin –Holy Communion
- 10.30 Rev Shirlyn Toppin –all age Worship
- 3.00** Rev Shirlyn Toppin –Memorial service
- 6.00 Rev Kim Alexander –online circuit service

Sunday 8th –Remembrance Sunday

- 10.30 Ashutosh Desa
- 3.00 Civic Remembrance service @ St Peter's Church
- 6.00 Rev Ian Hu -online circuit service

Sunday 15th

- 10.30 Rev Shirlyn Toppin –Holy Communion & Recommisioning of Pastoral Visitors
- 6.00 Rev Shirlyn Toppin –online circuit service

Sunday 22nd

- 10.30 Rev Kim Alexander
- 6.00 Deacon Karen McBride –online circuit service

Sunday 29th

- 10.30 Rev Kate Cook
- 6.00 Rev Kim Alexander –online circuit service

Foot prints

Someone told me long ago, be cautious what you do,
Your future like a path of snow lies there ahead of you.
Be careful how you step out because every step will show;
So now I have to wait and see where my footprints will go.
But God is my companion, and his footprints I'll see
And cautiously we'll travel on, my Saviour Lord and me.

Margaret Cartwright





Heather Corlett: Editor

Editorial

Welcome to the Autumn 2026 issue of Affinity, which covers the months of September, October and November.

We extend a warm welcome to our new
Presbyter and Circuit Superintendent, Rev

Shirlyn Toppin as she begins her ministry here at Oadby and throughout the Leicester Trinity circuit. Shirlyn has sent us some background information about herself. [see p.11], and we look forward to getting to know her over the coming months. We pray that God will bless Shirlyn's ministry among us, leading us all to grow in faith and to share the Gospel of Christ within our community.

In June our good friend, Rev Dr Albert Mosley celebrated his 100th Birthday. Some photos of Albert's milestone celebration are included in this issue of Affinity. Congratulations to you Albert from all the Church Family at Trinity.

The deadline for the Winter 2026 edition of Affinity, which covers the months of December 2026 and January and February 2027, is **Sunday November 15th**. 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

An introduction to Rev Shirlyn Toppin

Shirlyn is from Trinidad and Tobago and is the youngest of three sisters. She is a proud aunt to three nephews and two great-nieces. After completing her ministerial studies in the UK, she began ministry in 2003. Her calling is shaped by a deep love for God, a warm pastoral heart, and a passion for sharing the gospel through word and sacrament.

Serving Leicester Trinity Circuit

I am delighted to serve the Lord in the uniquely placed Leicester Trinity Circuit. I look forward to walking alongside its churches and communities as they respond to those around them with grace, faith, and love.

Interests Beyond Ministry

I enjoy reading and shopping—especially for shoes.

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers at Trinity

Girl guiding has been in the news recently with the launch of its new uniform, making this a great time to celebrate the opportunities it offers girls and young women in our community.

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers give girls aged 4 to 17 a welcoming place to make friends, grow in confidence and try new experiences. From the youngest Rainbows to older Rangers, every girl is encouraged to have fun, learn skills and feel part of a supportive group.

Led by trained volunteer leaders and helpers, our units offer a varied programme of activities, games, challenges and badge work. Guiding is full of fun and friendship, while also helping girls develop independence, kindness, teamwork and courage. It gives them space to be themselves, use their voice and discover what they can achieve.

Recently, our girls have enjoyed trips to Wicksteed Park, spent time outdoors and earned many badges and awards. There is always something new to look forward to, from creative activities and outdoor adventures to community projects and time with friends.

At Trinity, all units meet on Wednesdays and currently have spaces available for girls to start straight away. We are especially pleased to have a new Ranger unit for older girls. Rangers can continue their guiding journey or begin one for the first time, with activities designed for their age group.

If you know a girl who would enjoy adventure, friendship and fun, please encourage her parent or carer to register her interest in joining Girlguiding. We would love to welcome new members to our groups at Trinity. [Register a child | Girlguiding](#)



Praying for the Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit District 23, Circuit 7

To complement the excellent annual *Methodist Prayer Handbook*, which is published by the Connexion, the Northampton Methodist District also produces a *District Prayer Diary* annually. It is available on-line, accessed via the District webpage. Each Circuit is invited to submit material for inclusion in the *Diary*. As our Circuit's 'number' is 23/7 our concerns are the subject of Day 7 each month. The entry for 2026/27 is reproduced below.

Circuit introduction:

Our Circuit spreads north, east and south from the City Centre. It includes six churches within the city boundary and eleven in the suburban and semi-rural areas beyond. We rejoice in our diversity and that of the communities we seek to serve in the name of Christ.

Give thanks for:

- The fruitful ministries of those who have recently left us: Revd Liam Dacre-Davis, Revd Derek McLean and Revd Malcolm Oliver.
- Houghton-on-the-Hill Methodist Church and the faithful witness of its small congregation over many years as regular worship there now ceases.
- The careful and devoted work of those who ensure that our many premises offer safe and welcoming environments to all who make use of them week by week.

Please pray for:

- Revd Shirlyn Toppin, our new Superintendent Minister, as she takes up the challenges and opportunities of this strategic role.

- Deacon Karen McBride, as she explores opportunities for mission in the City Centre and as part of the Chaplaincy Team at the University of Leicester.
- Our local preachers and worship leaders, and those currently in training.
- The residents, staff and volunteers at *Aigburth*, the MHA home in Oadby.

The following people are listed by name:

- Superintendent: Revd Shirlyn Toppin
- Ministers: Revd Kim Alexander, Revd Christopher Andam (also Ghanaian Fellowship), Revd Ivan Bennett, Deacon Sharon Dilley, Revd Andrew Farrington, Rev Ian Hu, Deacon Karen McBride.
- Supernumeraries: Revd David Bosworth, Revd Kate Cook, Revd Dr Albert Mosley, Revd Tony Pick, Revd Vincent Price, Revd Gordon Webb.
- Circuit Stewards: Julie Manning, Howard Smith, Peter Holdridge (Finance).
- Circuit Administrator: Laurie Rowell

God, faithful and true, you call every generation to make a pilgrim journey. Guide our feet along the road of faith, that we may put our whole trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Methodist Worship Book]

Howard Smith

Church Charity nomination

Please keep donating your Sunday coffee money for LOROS for the next few weeks, but this is the time of year when we need to think of a new annual charity we would like to support.

This year, it should be a national charity, as we follow the sequence: local, national, international. You may give your suggestion to any of the Outreach Team, (Tricia Lockley, Suzanne Kelly, Frazer Robson or Lesley Green) or preferably email the charity details to outreachmc@outlook.com. Please let us have your nominations by Sunday, 13th September, so the team may consider them and make a recommendation to October's Church Council meeting.

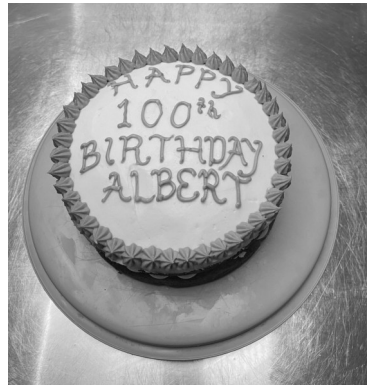
We would welcome new members to the team if you have an interest in linking our church with the community. Please have a chat to any of us to see what is involved or what we might do in future!

The Outreach Team

A Centenary Celebration

On 7th June 2026 Rev Dr Albert Mosley, who is a much loved and respected member of our Church family scored a century as he reached 100 years of age. At our all age worship service that morning, Rev Malcolm Oliver, our acting Superintendent Minister read out a letter from Rev Richard Andrew, the President of the Methodist Conference [2025/6] congratulating Albert on his milestone achievement, and thanking him for his many years of Christian ministry both here in the UK and abroad. Here are a few photos of Albert's special day. Many Congratulations from all the Church Family Albert.

Heather Corlett [Editor]



[Photos courtesy of Dave Smith]

ZEPH'S UPDATE

As everyone will be very aware, we have this summer experienced extreme temperatures and more heatwaves than we would normally get in a decade. This has consequences for Zeph's with some of our customers understandably reluctant to come out in such weather. Business has therefore at times been challenging but I am very pleased to say that in response to these conditions, we are in the process of installing air conditioning in the Café. This comes at a price, but we have been able to do this because we have secured a loan from the Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit to cover the costs. Our sincere thanks to the Circuit for their support and to Michael Elliott who has co-ordinated our application for the loan. At the time of writing this article, work on installing the air conditioning is due to start imminently. By the time you read it, it should be installed and making a trip to Zeph's in very high temperatures a much more comfortable experience. We are a warm space in winter and now a cool space in summer!

There will, as always, be a number of events at Zeph's in the coming weeks.

- 4 September – Fish Supper
- 18 September – Great British Night
- 2 October – Fish Supper
- 30 October – Cyprus Night
- 6 November – Fish Supper
- 22 November – Sunday Roast
- 27 November – Chinese Buffet Night

Details of all our Christmas events will be announced in October. We are also in the process of exploring what other events we could put on drawing in particular on suggestions from our new Directors.

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.

Our thanks to Michael, our staff and volunteers for all they continue to do to make Zeph's the excellent café it is. And our thanks to you and all our customers for your ongoing support.

Frazer Robson, Chair of Board of Directors



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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.**

Prisons Week 2026

Prisons Week began in 1975, as Christians working closely with prisoners wanted to encourage prayer within churches and the wider Christian community for the needs of prisoners.

In 1993 Prisoners Week became a registered charity and in 1995 to focus attention not only on the needs of prisoners but on all those involved and affected by prison it became known as Prison's Week. This year the week runs from Sunday October 11th to 17th and the theme is 'Show mercy'. Individuals, churches and communities are encouraged to reflect on how they show mercy to everyone in and affected by the prison system.

Please remember in prayer the needs of prisoners, their families, victims, prison staff and all who work in the justice system.

'What does the Lord require of you?

**Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your
God.'** Micah 6:8

Diane Price



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