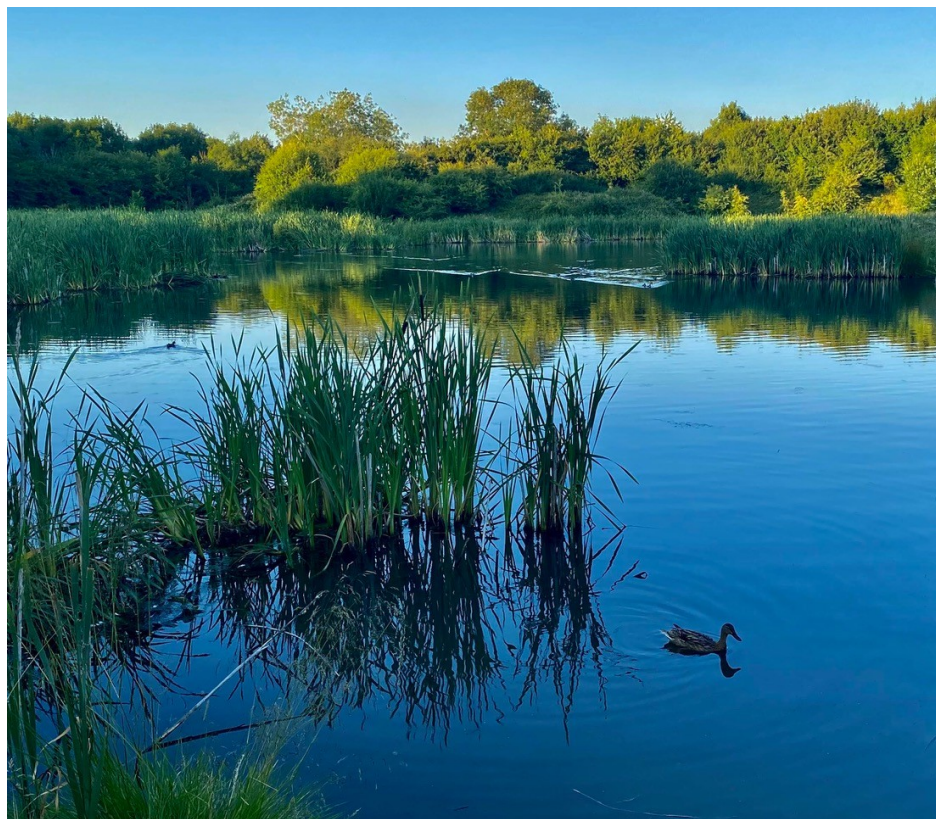


Issue 48

Affinity



Summer 2023

OADBY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

Oadby Trinity Methodist Church

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Associated Methodist Churches

Affinity magazine is also distributed to Members and Friends at Great Glen Methodist Church;

<https://churchatthecross.info>,

and Houghton on the Hill Methodist Church.

<https://leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk/circuit-churches/houghton.html>

Rev Derek McLean is Minister for all three churches which work closely together.

Editorial Team:

Rev Derek McLean [Minister]

Heather Corlett [Editor]

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Jon Wilford [Webmaster]



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Friendship

Those of us who enjoy the benefit of friendship will hopefully appreciate the sincerity of these words by B J Marbitzer

There's a miracle called friendship,
That dwells within the heart.
You don't know how it happens,
Or when it gets its start.
But the happiness it brings you,
Always gives a special lift,
And you realise that friendship
Is God's precious gift.

Submitted by Margaret Cartwright



[Friendship can be four-legged as well as two-legged! - Ed]

JUNE SERVICES AT OADBY

Sunday 4th –Trinity Sunday

8.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

10.30 Rev Derek McLean & all age Worship Team

Sunday 11th

10.30 Rev Ivan Bennett

Sunday 18th

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

Sunday 25th

10.30 Rev Tom Wilson

Every Saturday @ 10.15 am prayers in meeting room with various leaders

Online circuit services @ 6pm

4/6 Rev Daniel Yovan; 11/6 Rev Derek McLean; 18/6 Rev Paula Hunt

25/6 Rev Tony Pick

JULY SERVICES AT OADBY

Sunday 2nd

- 8.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion
10.30 Rev Derek McLean & all age Worship Team

Sunday 9th

- 10.30 Matt Forsyth

6.00pm Circuit farewell service for Rev Daniel Yovan at Syston. [also online]

Sunday 16th

- 10.30 Rev Gordon Webb –Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd

- 10.30 Moleen Chikumba

Sunday 30th

- 10.30 Dr Miriam Stevenson

Online circuit services @ 6pm

2/7 Rev Kate Cook; 9/7 see above] 16/7 Rev Paula Hunt 23/7 Rev Derek McLean; 30/7 Rev Tony Pick

AUGUST SERVICES AT OADBY

Sunday 6th

8.30 Rev Derek McLean - Holy Communion

10.30 Service led by our Worship Leaders

Sunday 13th

10.30 Rev Derek McLean - Holy Communion

Sunday 20th

10.30 James Blackhall

Sunday 27th

10.30 Douglas Beoku-Betts & Jo Kay

6.00pm Circuit Welcome Service at Wigston Magna for Rev Frances Ballantyne and Rev Helen White [also on line]

Online circuit services @ 6 pm

6/8 Rev Paula Hunt; 13/8 Rev Derek McLean; 20/8 Rev Israel Selvanayagam 27/8 see above.

JUNE SERVICES AT GREAT GLEN

Sunday 4th –Trinity Sunday

10.30 Andy Biggins & Colin Rodway - Café service

Sunday 11th

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

Sunday 18th

10.30 Local Arrangement

Sunday 25th

10.30 Moleen Chikumba

Every Saturday Coffee and Prayers 10-11 am

See pages 6-8 for details of online evening circuit services.

JULY SERVICES AT GREAT GLEN

Sunday 2nd

10.30 Richard Cawthorn-Café service

Sunday 9th

10.30 Rev Gordon Webb –Holy Communion

6.00pm Circuit farewell service for Rev Daniel Yovan at Syston.
[also online]

Sunday 16th

10.30 Jean Thornton

Sunday 23rd

10.30 Dr Miriam Stevenson

Sunday 30th

10.30 Rev Tom Wilson

AUGUST SERVICES AT GREAT GLEN

Sunday 6th

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Café service

Sunday 13th

10.30 Local Arrangement

Sunday 20th

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

This will be Derek's last service at Great Glen, and will be followed by lunch

Sunday 27th

10.30 Richard Gill

6.00pm Circuit Welcome Service at Wigston Magna for Rev Frances Ballantyne and Rev Helen White [also on line]

JUNE SERVICES AT HOUGHTON ON THE HILL

Sunday 4th –Trinity Sunday

10.30 Richard Gill

Sunday 11th

10.30 James Blackhall

Sunday 18th

10.30 Local Arrangement

Sunday 25th

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

Midweek service—Wednesdays at 2.30 pm with various leaders

Please see pages 6-7 for details of circuit online evening services.

JULY SERVICES AT HOUGHTON ON THE HILL

Sunday 2nd

10.30 Rev Gordon Webb

Sunday 9th

10.30 Local Arrangement

Sunday 16th

10.30 Sue Moore

6.00pm Circuit farewell service for Rev Daniel Yovan at Syston. [also online]

Sunday 23rd

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

Sunday 30th

10.30 Richard Cawthorn

AUGUST SERVICES AT HOUGHTON ON THE HILL

Sunday 6th

10.30 Local Arrangement

Sunday 13th

10.30 Susan Alexander & Audrey Baker

Sunday 20th

10.30 Howard Smith

Sunday 27th

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

This will be Derek's last service at Houghton, and will be followed by lunch.

6.00pm Circuit Welcome Service at Wigston Magna for Rev Frances Ballantyne and Rev Helen White [also on line]

EDI/JDS Training

The Methodist Church has produced some training on EDI/ JDS (Equality Diversity and Inclusion/ Justice Dignity and Solidarity).

Our churches are committed to Inclusion and to ensuring that every aspect of our work reflects God's welcome to all. I hope that we will welcome this new training. Some of it will be new to us, other aspects will no doubt be familiar, but even there it will be helpful to be reminded of things we knew or to learn about evolving understandings.

People in Leadership roles such as Ministers, Local Preachers and Stewards will be expected to undertake this training. For other roles such as Worship Leaders, the training isn't yet mandatory, but we hope people will want to do it. I'd encourage as many people as possible, and particularly all Church Council Members, to take this opportunity to learn to be more Christ-like as we serve others.

Training will be available online and face-to-face. Initially we will offer a number of sessions at various times and venues to ensure the maximum opportunities to take this up. This will be offered as a full day of training on a Saturday or as a set of three evenings.

After the initial roll out, we will work with neighbouring circuits to ensure that people continue to have opportunities to access regular opportunities for this.

In person training will be as follows:

1st July 10-3 Oadby OR

17th June 10-3 Blaby OR

Series of three evenings, 21/6, 28/6, 5/7 Birstall

Please attend if you can.



Heather Corlett: Editor

Editorial

Welcome to the Summer issue of Affinity., which covers the months of June, July and August. The magazine will henceforth be published on a quarterly basis with spring, summer, autumn and winter issues. This will bring the publication of Affinity in line with the publication of the quarterly preaching plan.

My thanks go to David Calow for the cover photo for this issue. Entitled “Oadby Duck Pond”, it is a pleasant summer scene.

On 9th July we say farewell to Rev Daniel Yovan at a circuit service at Syston. Then, looking ahead to August, there will be a welcome service at Wigston Magna Methodist Church on the evening of Sunday 27th August to welcome Revs Frances Ballantyne and Helen White to our circuit. Both services will be “in person” with the opportunity to join online also.

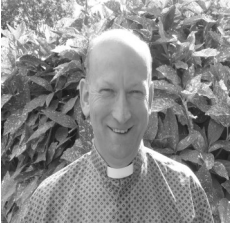
The deadline for the Autumn edition of Affinity, which covers the months of September, October and November, is **Sunday August 13th**. All contributions to Heather Corlett [Editor], Email: corletttheather910@gmail.com

Please note change of email address.

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]

Greetings from the Manse



Rev Derek McLean

It is a time of change.

This magazine is moving to quarterly publication rather than being produced every other month. I suspect that our editor will be relieved because the deadline does normally come round very quickly.

However, I am thinking more about changes to the nature of ministry and changes to our way of being church.

By the time that the next edition comes out we will have moved to the new arrangements for who is minister at which church. Great Glen and Houghton will have welcomed Revd Helen and the Wigston churches will have welcomed Revd Frances.

I hope that Affinity will continue to have articles from Great Glen and Houghton and that it will continue to be distributed in each of those churches, even though I will only be the minister for Oadby.

We will have to get used to new ways of working together. It was lovely to see so many friends attending the Chapel Tea and Anniversary Service at Houghton. Similarly, the Great Glen Souper Saturday fundraiser for Christian Aid was also well supported. It is important for all of us, that these links continue and are strengthened.

I hope by September that there will also have been great change in Glen. I have no doubt that Helen will want to encourage and build on the tremendous community engagement which happens at Saturday coffee and the way in which that draws people to us. I hope that by then we will have a new Youth Worker continuing and growing FNY. (Friday Night Youth)

Meanwhile, OTMC will itself be looking at change. So far, the Vision work that we have done has highlighted our strengths and weaknesses and given us a real enthusiasm for what we value about our Mission here. It has not yet given us a clear direction of the changes we need to make.

We hold fast to our call as “A Church for All at the Heart of the Community” but we need to express that in new ways.

As Joy Dine’s hymn expresses it, we ask God to “End our longing for the old days, grant the vision that we lack... let us travel light, discarding excess baggage from the past.” “When we set up camp and settle ... you disturb complacent comfort, pull the tent-pegs up again.”

Elsewhere in the circuit, similar conversations are underway. Our friends at Wigston Magna and South Wigston will be under the same ministry team and will seek to work more closely together; the circuit will be exploring Vision priorities; Bishop Street will be reflecting on their recent review as a church in the City Centre Network of churches. All of us will continue to explore issues of Justice, Dignity and Solidarity as we undertake the new training, and two of our churches have weddings booked.

May you feel the love of God surrounding you, and the comfort of the Spirit supporting you, as we seek to follow our Saviour, Jesus, wherever he may lead.

Rev Derek

Holiday reading: David Baddiel. 'Jews Don't Count' and Giles Fraser 'Chosen'.

I had been meaning to read David Baddiel's book for some time: I had seen much of the coverage describing the material in it.

Baddiel highlights the way in which conversations about discrimination fail to reflect the experience of Jews in Britain.

I highly recommend this book to help us examine our prejudices. It is certainly a wake-up call: even for those of us who try to be alert to the dangers of antisemitism, it is healthy to examine the quiet ways in which our biases remain.

For example, I was quite struck by his comments about BAME representation. He notes that there have been many instances where we celebrate the first person appointed to a particular job who is from a BAME background. Often, we will overlook the fact that a Jewish person has previously undertaken the same job: we simply forget to include Jews as minority ethnic.

Some people's prejudices continue to regard Jews as being financially successful, and simultaneously a drain on national resources: powerful and weak at the same time. Sometimes that contradiction can be implicit even within the same article or speech.

Whilst I was reading the book there were two stories in the British press where antisemitism was at the core of the arguments raging: a politician's quote and a newspaper cartoon.

The appalling history of Christian antisemitism means that we have much to learn from resources like this.

In the book, Baddiel's focus is the antisemitism of 'progressives'. In many ways, this is a group with which he aligns himself, and hence an

appropriate target. I'd have wanted to hear more about the interaction with the antisemitism of other groups, including those politically more conservative and of religious (specifically Christian) antisemitism. It was therefore appropriate that I then turned to Giles Fraser's book 'Chosen'.

Some will know of Fraser from his role as a Canon at St Paul's during the Occupy protests, others will have heard him as a regular contributor on Radio 4.

'Chosen' reflects the story of his breakdown following his resignation from St Paul's, and the way his subsequent journey toward recovery was deeply rooted in the rediscovery of his Jewish roots, particularly the experience of his great grandfather's brother who was a rabbi in Liverpool.

The name Fraser is itself an Anglicisation designed to help the family seem less conspicuous.

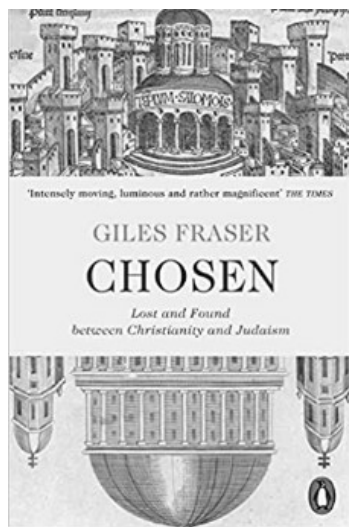
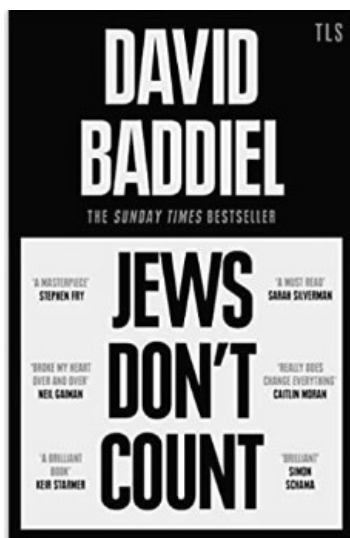
Unlike 'Jews Don't Count' this is a deeply theological book. It traces the way in which Christian Scriptures were written to represent different groups within Judaism, and come from a period before there was such a clear-cut distinction between Jews and Christians. It is only when we ignore that context that we find an apparent deep antisemitism in our Bibles.

Fraser speaks of a journey toward his personal healing, but through it we are reminded of the damage we can inadvertently still cause.

I'm very conscious of the fact that my own childhood experiences were significantly influenced by having parents who themselves grew up in wartime. I cannot begin to comprehend how much more profound is that effect when the life stories of Jews such as Baddiel and Fraser are wrapped up in flight from antisemitic pogroms which started long before the rise of the Nazis and the Holocaust.

I recommend both books. They are very different in style and subject matter, but the complement each other well.

Rev Derek



75 not out!

A large congregation gathered at Trinity Methodist Church, Oadby, Leicester, to celebrate the Rev. Albert Mosley's 75 year as a Methodist Minister. He was ordained in 1952.

The President of the Conference, Rev. Graham Thompson and the Chair of the Northampton District Rev Canon Helen Cameron, were involved in the service, which was led by Trinity's Minister Rev. Derek McLean.

Early in the service, following an Indian tradition, the principle guests were honoured with a shawl, recognising their contribution to the Church. The presentation was made by Rev. Israel Selvanayagam, a Circuit Minister, who also brought greetings.

A series of greetings were then brought by a number of Albert's colleagues and associates including, John Lark (a colleague in Rhodesia), Rev. David Clarke (an Anglican Priest), Sally Ruane (a Roman Catholic), Resham Singh Sandhu (a Sikh and Chair of the Leicestershire Faith forum), Jeffrey Kauffman (Representing the Oadby Jewish Community) and Zuber Hassam (Principle of the Oadby Muslim School). Each spoke of Albert's remarkably effective inter-faith work in the years following his retirement in Oadby.

In his address Albert spoke of his calling to the mission field and his first appointment on Southern Rhodesia (later re-named Zimbabwe) and of his first appointment as Superintendent of the Wankie Circuit, which was as large as Yorkshire!

He re-counted his early years in a country he came to love and recalled movingly the challenges he faced in times of serious political unrest.

For 9 years he was the Methodist Overseas Division General Secretary, making a significant contribution to the world-wide outreach of the Church.

The theme of his address was "Bringing people together." His entire ministry reflected this inspired objective.

The President presented Albert with a long service certificate before preaching on the theme of “Sometimes Christians.” He pointed out that Jesus wasn’t a sometimes person: “You can’t sometimes be a Christian and sometimes not.” the President asserted. He linked his theme to Albert’s fruitful and committed Ministry, reminding us that Albert was not a “sometimes” Christian.

During the service prayers of adoration, praise and confession were led by Helen Cameron and intercessory prayers by Howard Smith (a Circuit Local Preacher).

An appreciative congregation concluded the service with the hymn: “There’s wideness in God’s mercy.” It had been a fitting thanksgiving for a life inspirationally lived.

But the last word is with Zabar Hassam: Speaking of Albert he said: “We have been fortunate to witness the light of the divine that he reflects in our community.”

John Aldridge.



L-R Rev Canon Helen Cameron [Chair of District], Rev Dr Albert Mosley, Rev Graham Thompson [President of Conference] and Rev Derek McLean, our Minister.



Rev Dr Albert Mosley receives his “Long Service” certificate from Rev Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Conference

[Photographs courtesy of Dave Smith]

Zeph's Cafe Update

Well Summer is almost hereor it should be ! As always Zeph's has several good events planned by Michael, our cafe Manager and his staff. These past few weeks the cafe has been positively 'buzzing' with trade being brisk, and people enjoying the good food which is always available. Many people know of my 'addiction' to the Cherry Scones.....and there are so many other 'goodies' available so whatever your taste is....there is something to satisfy !!

As you will know by now, the first Friday of each month is designated as 'Fish Fryday', when you can either 'take away a delicious meal to be eaten in your own home, pre-ordered and then collected between 5.00pm and 5.30pm or you can choose to 'eat in' from 6.00pm. The charge is £9.25 which does include bread & butter, but whichever option you choose, you do need to book....so go ahead and enjoy !

Michael also has some special themed evenings planned for June, July and August. On 16th June, there is an 'Italian' Night, followed by a 'Seventies' Night on 30th June. In July there is a 'Greek' Night on 21st of that month and then on 18th August there is a 'French' Night. However, as these evenings are extremely popular and numbers are limited to how many can be accommodated, so booking is essential – as I know to my experience having missed some because of my tardiness !! A holiday on the continent may not be for everyone, but you can certainly get a taste of the continent by coming to one or more of these special themed evenings!

Of course you do not have to attend each and every 'special' evening. The meals which are served have rightly earned an enviable reputation not only in Oadby but further afield as is evidenced by those who come to eat there on a regular basis. The full English Breakfast which is served from 9.30am, is a vote winner, and is extremely popular with our regular clientele, as are the “daily” special lunches which are advertised on the cafe whiteboard. Other 'winners' which

are in great demand are the delicious scones which are very tempting. and the home-made cakes which really are mouthwatering, and these can be accompanied by either a cup of coffee (of which there are several types available), or a cup of tea. As I have said previously – without your support and encouragement, the whole concept of our being there for the Community of Oadby will falter, so come along and meet your neighbours and friends there. We enjoy seeing the residents of our Borough and from elsewhere, coming and relaxing in the wonderful atmosphere which is Zeph's. Another event which will be approaching all too soon, is the 'Motor Fest' which is an annual event in the centre of Oadby. The date this year is Sunday, 6th August, and once again Zeph's will be open and it is hoped that we shall again be allocated a 'spot' along the Parade to tempt visitors to enjoy a drink and snack.

To make Zeph's a continuing success, we need YOU – either by spreading the word or better still by being there in person !

Barry W. Wilford (Director)



General Church Meeting 2023 at Trinity

The General Church Meeting was held café-style in *Zeph's* following the morning service on Sunday 7th May. There were 30 members present with apologies received from ten others who were unable to attend. This important meeting in the life of our Church is the occasion when we appoint church stewards for the ensuing year and elect representatives ('managing trustees') to serve as members of the Church Council. Barbara Bell, Heather Corlett and Diane Price were re-elected as church stewards. Thanks for their years of service were expressed to the three retiring stewards: Anne Dodge, Suzanne Kelly and Barry Wilford. (It was noted that Anne Dodge will continue in office until the completion of her 'six-year term' in September.) The following existing representatives were re-elected to the Church Council: Graham Austen, Donald Candlin, Khavita Chibba, Helen Cooper, Christine McLean, Stella Orbell and Alison Wootton. John Aldridge and Meenal Desai were unanimously elected as new representatives.

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 office). It was noted that in challenging circumstances much useful work is being faithfully carried out as Trinity continues to seek to be *A Church for All for the Heart of the Community*. The Revd Derek McLean outlined to the meeting the proposed arrangements for next Connexional year (i.e from September 2023) when he will be working part-time and relinquishing pastoral oversight of Great Glen and Houghton Methodist Churches. Thanks were expressed to both Derek and Chris for their continuing ministry amongst us.

Howard Smith (Church Council Secretary)

WELCOME ON WEDNESDAY

Open to everyone

Summer programme 2023

2-3.30pm in the Worship area of Church.

7th June –Annual General meeting

The WOW Charity for 2022/23 is the Guide Dogs Association



Manse Garden Bring and Share Lunch

You are invited to a Bring & Share lunch in the manse garden on Sunday 4th June. Whether you are worshipping at Houghton, Glen, Oadby, or elsewhere, stay for coffee at church and then come and join us.

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.

If you are more comfortable just bringing your own picnic, please feel free to do so. Some of you will prefer that post-Covid, others need it for dietary reasons.

Teas & coffees will be provided. Feel free to bring soft drinks to share.

If you are able to bring a chair from home or from the church that will also help.

(If it is wet on the Sunday, we've got the church hall booked on standby so it will go ahead whatever the weather.)

Chris & Derek McLean

News from Houghton Chapel

After all the excitement of the Coronation of King Charles III, (and the many Bank Holidays in May!) things have gone a bit quiet so it is probably the perfect time to reflect on all the good things that have happened in the Chapel in recent months.

As well as holding twice weekly services on Sundays and Wednesdays, we've had special services for Advent and Christmas and dressing our Lenten Cross to celebrate Christ's resurrection at Easter. We also had a celebration of the Church Anniversary in May preceded by the traditional tea. Looking at the plaque on the outside of the Chapel (carefully because some of it is worn away!) it is good to think of all those teas going back over time attended by those who have gone before us.

We have welcomed audiences to eight monthly 'Talks in the Chapel' which have been presented in partnership with Houghton Music Club. There were a range of talks and concerts to suit all kinds of interests which were well attended by Houghton village folks, as well as friends from Oadby, Great Glen and elsewhere. . The series began last September with an illustrated talk on 'Trials in Opera' by one of our congregation, Michael Lessiter, who is a former member of the Royal Opera Chorus. November saw Robert Calow arrive with a huge collection of clarinets of all shapes and sizes for a talk and demonstration called simply 'The Clarinet' and in December Richard Gill gave a talk about Dickens and Rossetti at Christmas to get us all in a seasonal frame of mind. Talks in the Spring included a thought provoking account of some aspects of his time in Israel-Palestine from Derek McLean which was well contrasted the following month with an entertaining talk, illustrated of course, by Neil Crutchley recalling TV and Radio themes of earlier days which had everyone humming along and wallowing in nostalgia!

We learned about the slightly bizarre history of Thurnby Court from local historian Derek Scream. And a 'Concert of Music for a Spring evening' followed which was given by members of the Calow family and friends. The group treated us to an evening of sparkling short items on a variety of combinations of wind instruments and keyboard. The series concluded with a 'View from the Podium' by local conductor and composer David Fisher. We are already being asked 'what next?' and a new season is in the planning stage to start at the end of September.

Alongside all of this groups including the Houghton Singers have returned to use Chapel premises for their rehearsals. Most recently we have been delighted that our premises have been chosen to host a new foodbank in for the Trussell Trust in an area of Leicestershire where such facilities are less well established but nonetheless, sadly, very badly needed. They will operate from our schoolroom, I am sure the walls of the schoolroom would never have expected to witness such a sad turn of events and in a way we hope that their services will not be needed for too long.

Mary Moore.



[Photograph courtesy of David Calow]

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We do have a Safeguarding Policy to protect children and vulnerable adults that we expect you to adhere to and uphold.

If you wish to advertise your business in our magazine our rates are £42 for a quarter page advert, £72 for a half page and £144 for a whole page. We have 6 issues a year and our distribution covers houses in Oadby, Wigston, Knighton, Great Glen and Houghton on the Hill.

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