



# T RINITY NEWS & VIEWS



*"O Come let us adore him"*

**December 2016/January 2017 Issue 32**

## Message from Paul our minister



I remember as a child in the 1960's going to visit Auntie Mary's farm. My dad was at Methodist Conference every year in those days for a week. So mum would take my sister & I to the big strawberry farm each summer. I remember our Austin Cambridge making its way over the top of the Pennines (before the motorways were built) and dropping down the other side. And there, in the far distance, were the local power station cooling towers near the farm. Huge towers we could see for miles, and mum would say, "look, there's Auntie Mary's cooling towers!" It wasn't until I was about 14 that I discovered they didn't belong to Auntie Mary at all, but were just a childhood landmark.

As the car trundled on, I remember the towers never seemed to get any closer, and it felt like an age before we would arrive and I'd be able at last to play amongst bales of hay, feed the calves, & ride on tractor trailers with my friends. It was heaven. It was home.

The Advent journey is a bit like that. The world saw Jesus on the horizon long ago through the eyes of the Old Testament prophets. Creation ached in anticipation of his physical coming as the fulfillment of those prophecies. And then at last, history brought the world to the point of arrival at the manger side, awestruck by the humility of God himself made flesh in a lowly child.

The Christmas story of shepherds and magi making their personal journeys to pay homage to the King of the universe is a wonderful glimpse of the journey God intends for all humanity. Seeking, longing to arrive, and then finding the God

of all creation come among us; for those who seek, always find.

The question is, do we recognise him when we get there? Shepherds and magi did, and they bowed down and worshipped. Shall we also? As our familiar journey through the Advent season brings our own generation to the manger side once again, will we welcome him afresh into our lives, recommitting ourselves to his service and the causes of his Kingdom?

I was excited as a child to visit Auntie Mary's farm, and remember the sheer undiluted thrill of arriving at the big white gate at the end of the farm track. But it doesn't come close to the thrill of arriving at the manger. There is no greater journey on earth than to travel, seek, and arrive at Jesus' side. It's where we belong. It's home.

Have a very happy Christmas!



**Paul**

## **WAIT AWHILE**

If after Church you wait awhile  
Someone greets you with a smile.  
But if you quickly rise and flee,  
We'll all seem cold and stiff maybe.  
The one beside you in the pew,  
Perhaps is just a stranger too.  
All we, like you, have fears and cares.  
All of us need each other's prayers.  
In fellowship we bid you meet,  
With us around, God's Mercy Seat.

## Family News



### Dedication

Harriet Grace Coad 9th October 2016



### Funeral

4th November 2016 William Harry Rodley

*May light perpetual shine upon him*



We would like to thank everyone for all the support care and kindness shown to us during the past few months. Thank you especially for faithful prayers of intercession which God has truly heard and answered, blessing us with amazing strength and calmness to cope with each situation whilst David received wonderful medical treatment. May I share a chorus with you which I learned long ago at Sunday School.

I believe God answers prayer  
I am sure God answers prayer  
I have proved God answers prayer  
Glory to His Name.

Enid & David Pullen.

## Trinity Garden Update.

It is the first week in November and the end of another garden year. Not that some of our plants believe that. The fuchsias in the large pots by the East Entrance are still blooming, the blue salvias in the island bed are magnificent, and have you noticed that the grasses in the huge pots by the Main Door are flowering?

This year has seen the garden settling down and becoming established. It is hard to remember what a tangle of brambles and saplings existed on the West side of the church. Very late in the Autumn of 2015 we sowed the area with grass seed and were really excited to see the ground changing colour from brown to green. We now have a lovely lawn, which Ian mows on a regular basis.

More recently the landlords of Alwyne Court have removed a large tree which leaned over our garden, and replaced the elderly boundary fence with a very smart fence, and this has transformed the whole of that area. It all looked so smart that we had to do something about hiding the compost bins so Lee and Kim (a member of the Chinese community that worships here), have erected a trellis screen, and next year we will be planting some climbers against it. Jill also plans to use this area to raise plants

from cuttings to replenish Trinity's garden, and also possibly for sale, so we will have a little plant nursery.



Inspired by the new fence on the west side, the Resources Committee has replaced several bays of fencing between us

and our lovely neighbours on the east side. Alan, who lives with his wife in the corner house, and who has given us hydrangeas and the big fig tree, only has one complaint. He used to look through a gap in the broken fence to help him drive out onto Brewery Road, and of course can no longer do that!

In the summer a working party cut down the brambles opposite the East entrance and we have started to clear the jungle of weeds and overgrown shrubs nearer to the road. The roses are now well settled in and have looked and smelled beautiful this year.

It is a joy to see the garden take shape and we love the plants, but as Jill reminds us, it is God's garden. It is a witness of our

church to the world, or at least to our passers-by.

Flowers are always used to bring comfort in sad times and joy in happy times, and complete strangers smile as they pass, and often will stop to chat when we are watering or weeding. That brings us together with them face to face. They see that we are ordinary human-beings, not those odd people who go to church, and that we can be talked to, in these times when contact often seems limited to electronic communication.



Local people do really take an interest in the garden, so maybe it could become a sort of community garden - somewhere folk could sit and admire the flowers and have space to think.

That is something for us to think about!

## The Garden Team



## A Walk Into Christmas

You are invited to take part in a Christmas special event we are going to run at the church on December 22nd.

It will involve the Nativity laid out in a labyrinth in the main church consisting of a series of scenes from the Christmas story, with actors miming the event and a 'story teller' taking groups round reading from a script based on the bible. Instead of normal plays, where the actors do all the work and audience just sit and watch, the actors stay where they are and it's the audience who are on their feet, visiting each scene.

This is an opportunity for the whole church to come together and to communicate this wonderful story for all, either to help or to soak up the scenes and atmosphere.

More details later but mark the date in your diary, Thursday 22nd December.

**Anna Kozlowska**

## Dates for your diaries

December 1st	Start of Advent Courses see page 9
December 11th	Nativity Service
December 18th	Carol Service (6.30pm)
December 22nd	A Walk to Christmas (3 - 5.30pm & 7 - 9pm)
December 24th	Christingle (5.00pm)
December 24th	Midnight Service (11.15pm) Finish at 12 midnight
December 25th	Christmas Day Family worship(10.00am)
January 2017	Alpha Course - dates to be announced
January 8th	Covenant Service followed by Launch Redevelopment Project over lunch
February 4th	Circuit Mission Supper with President and Vice President of Conference
March 3rd	Women's World Day of Prayer
April 13th	Maundy Thursday - Passover meal
April 14th	Good Friday
April 16th	Easter Day



## MacMillan Coffee Mornings

The two fund raising events organised by Tarina Berry at Trinity Woking & St Michael's Sheerwater raised over £600 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



## EPWORTH CHOIR

**Saturday 25 February - 'Come and Sing!'  
Rutter Requiem - 11am - 5pm (registration from  
10am) - Trinity Methodist Church, Woking**

Conducted by Michael Waldron with Laurence Williams as accompanist. We will also be joined by Augusta Hebbert, soprano and vocal coach. The programme will be as follows:

- 1000 - 1100 Tea and Registration
- 1100 - 1115 Introduction and Warm-up
- 1115 - 1300 Rehearsal (including short break)
- 1300 - 1400 Lunch
- 1400 - 1420 A short talk/presentation given on the work (with Q&A)
- 1420 - 1530 Rehearsal (including short break)
- 1530 - 1500 Tea and cake
- 1600 - 1700 Information performance (family and friends welcome to come and listen)

Cost will be: £20 (£10 for under 30s) to include tea/coffee/cakes Singers to bring a packed lunch

Booking can be made online <https://epworthchoir.org/>



# ***Advent - LIVING IN THE LIGHT***

***Join us for four sessions exploring and learning about the reports of Luke, John, Mary and Paul. Engage in exploring how we can express our Christian spirituality in our everyday lives, living the light.***

***We will be running all four sessions, twice over so nobody has to miss a session if you wish to attend all 4. If you wish to hear these thought provoking discussions come along to any or all of these dates:***

## **Afternoons:**

- Session 1: Thursday 1st December: 2.30pm - 4.15pm**
- Session 2: Thursday 8th December 2.30pm - 4.15pm**
- Session 3: Tuesday 13th December 2.30pm - 4.15pm**
- Session 4: Tuesday 20th December 2.30pm - 4.15pm**

## **Evenings:**

- Session 1: Thursday 1st December: 7.45pm - 9.30pm**
- Session 2: Tuesday 13th December 7.45pm - 9.30pm**
- Session 3: Thursday 15th December 7.45pm - 9.30pm**
- Session 4: Tuesday 20th December 7.45pm - 9.30pm**

**Email the administrator on [office@trinitywoking.org.uk](mailto:office@trinitywoking.org.uk) to sign up or alternatively call 01483 730354**



## Alligator Tales - Part 2b

### Still in the Army

One of our Berlin sorties was a trip into East Berlin via Checkpoint Charlie. Because of the previous problems which occurred when the Alligator Jumbulance got stuck and caused a diplomatic incident, we travelled on an army 'bus. There wasn't the luxury of a lift, so the handicapped guests (VIPs) had to be manually carried on and off. I was sitting on the backseat with another volunteer - we had Barry lying in our laps. He had cerebral palsy and was only comfortable in the moulded seat in his wheelchair, or lying down. When we arrived at the checkpoint, army vehicles were to be let through "without let or hindrance". We had to hold our passports open at certain pages - if the guard wiggled his finger, we had to turn a page one way or the other, but not show any visas, or other entries. The guard was puzzled to see two faces and three passports, but must have got more of a shock, when Barry was assisted to sit up briefly.

It had been said that ACROSS was the only travel agency which

catered for the dying. Ada, who came with us to Berlin, had terminal cancer. Despite being on large doses of strong painkillers, she was in pain every time we moved her, but she was determined to make the most of her holiday. Travelling on the army 'bus must have been an ordeal for her, but once she was back on her trolley-bed, she decided she wanted to go shopping. She was accompanied by a couple of squaddies, who quick-marched her and her bed across the main road - and reappeared sometime later, having bought a samovar and a lot of other items. The East was very poor and "shabby" in comparison to the affluent West.

Our hosts hadn't realised that it would take about 25 minutes to unload the Jumbulance, and the same time again to reload, so it was difficult to keep to the schedule. One day, we went to the Olympic Stadium, where Jesse Owens won three gold medals in 1936, upsetting the plans of a "perfect race" of blond, blue-eyed people.

I think we were taken somewhere else that day, and we were due at the Brigadier's house at 4pm, for a garden party.

Needless to say, we were late, and rather disheveled - hedge, backwards, twice, and dragged come to mind. The SSAFA ladies and other guests looked as though they had done nothing all day, apart from shower and put neatly pressed clothes on before coming out. It was a very pleasant afternoon, strolling round the gardens, and having music provided by a military band.

The week soon came to an end, and it was time to leave. A problem arose at Checkpoint Bravo - a full stop was missing from the passenger manifest, so we had to wait for that to be rectified. Then we were held up by an accident on the autobahn, and missed the ferry - but eventually we arrived home safe and sound.

P.S. Shortly after returning home, we received news that Ada had passed away, and had been able to tell family and friends about her adventure. I'm pleased to have had the privilege of being part of a team which made some of her last few days so memorable.

**Andy Meal**

## **Favourite Carols**

The Christmas Big Sing on the BBC "Songs of Praise" will be broadcast on Christmas Day (Time not known). Aled Jones will sing a solo, as well as being the presenter. Gareth Malone will be there with a choir of young professional singers called "Voice", Laura Mvula will sing a solo and Keith and Kristyn Getty will sing their arrangement of "God rest ye merry gentlemen", with Irish musicians and an Irish dancer.

There will also be a feast of favourite traditional carols to keep you in the festive spirit. The orchestra is led by Paul Leddington Wright, who was the Musical Director for MAYC Weekends at the Royal Albert Hall, and celebrates thirty years of working with Songs of Praise.



## Amazing Grace – “Live Like You’re Loved”

On Sunday 2nd October the young people of Trinity Methodist Church in Woking organised a Youth led service called Amazing Grace. From 6 o'clock in the evening the church began to fill with over 60 people, three quarters of which were young people from churches and youth groups all over Surrey. In order to create an appropriate space, the young people spent hours beforehand transforming and redecorating the church into a safe place for the congregation to worship or pray freely in whatever way they wanted.

The service was based on God's Grace and Love for us, and the senses were used to explore different prayer methods and to help focus prayer to strengthen – and for some people, to start – their relationship with God. Dinner was provided; hot dogs and cakes; and everyone was encouraged into small groups with strangers of all ages to discuss their faith and just get to know each other. Everyone left with at least one more friend than they came in with!

The evening then continued with modern worship songs, led by a small band of Anna Kozłowska (vocals/guitar), Evie Oldfield (keyboard) and Ben Hillman (percussion).



During this time there was a mixture of people worshipping along with the band, groups in deep conversation that came from the random group pairing, and those exploring prayer stations – set up by the young people. These involved going deeper into prayer with the use of smelling different fragrances and herbs; touching different materials (things that helped an individual focus); tasting oils that originated from the time of Jesus; reflecting on a variety of pictures and reflections in mirrors. The service also involved an inspirational talk on grace, given by Sam Taylor who led us in prayer, which was followed by a time of complete silence in the church, the only thing to be heard was the hum of the sound system and cars driving past in the distance. This

reflective time was followed by more worship, led by the band. After this, the whole congregation linked together for a group prayer the whole church took part in. The prayers for this came from a prayer tree set up that the congregation added to. The evening then concluded with the congregation getting back into their groups of strangers, blessing each other in prayer, discussing their evening with each other, and joining in on more worship and praise through song.

**Anna Kozlowska**

## **Christmas with the Epworth Choir**

The annual Epworth Christmas Carol Concert will be performed at Christ Church, Woking on Monday 12th December at 7.30pm. Also taking part will be Epworth Brass and the choir of St. Andrew's School, Woking. All profits will go to Link Able, a Woking based charity serving those with learning disabilities to develop their potential and help them enjoy socially fulfilled lives.

Epworth Box Office 01483 760133 or online: [epworthchoir.org](http://epworthchoir.org)

## **The New Room**

The article on Poldark and Methodism reminded me of my time as a student in Bristol. It was the early 1950's and if I went anywhere to worship it would be to the Welsh Baptist chapel near the University. Occasionally I attended one of the other two Welsh chapels in the city. The Methodists had been bombed out of their premises during the early years of the war but by the time I arrived they had rebuilt their chapel within the shell of an Anglican church. The Presbyterians had been given the use of the New Room and they met there every Sunday evening.



The occasion I particularly remember was a special service (Gymanfa Pregethu) in the New Room in which the Minister of Charing Cross Chapel in London had been invited to preach. He was a

survivor of the trenches in the first world war and was reputed to have suffered the after effects of a gas attack.

The New Room is a wonderful eighteenth century chapel but it is not designed for comfort. The congregation sits either in a block of enclosed pews (presumably built for the gentry) or on the surrounding backless benches. The former were full and as a ragamuffin student only occasionally seen at the services I was seated on the latter. Nevertheless I listened intently to a sermon that lasted for all of five minutes short of an hour. I can remember the text to this day:

“Go up into the hills where the air is clear, the view is far and the companionship is the best on the earth”

When one is growing into adulthood there is a danger that the faith of one’s youth falters. But it was due to experiences such as this in the New Room that I stuck to it and developed a lasting faith in Christ.

**Gareth Davies**

## **Beyond Trinity Charity of the Month**

**September**



£128.00

**October**



£125.00

**Harvest Festival**

£1,000 plus

*Please send your  
suggestions for  
Charity of the month  
to any member of  
Beyond Trinity*

*beyondtrinity@trinitywoking.  
org.uk*

## **A Very Different Holiday - or a Sort of Pilgrimage**

**O**ver the years I have learned that we all meet grief in one way or another. Recently as many of you will know I have been experiencing a depth of grief I did not know existed. In spite of knowing that Christine was slowly dying from cancer for about a year, her last week in mid-March came as a real shock.

I felt bereft, there was a huge hole in my life, we had known and loved each other for nearly fifty years. The first few days passed in a daze, zombie like I made the arrangements for her funeral with amazing support from the children, their partners and friends from Trinity and others.

It was about a month later that the family talked about arrangements for the holidays, particularly August. Very kindly Bernhard and Jessica arranged for me to join them and Jessica's family in Portugal for the first two weeks and we had a lovely time. Daniela was staying at home with me for

most of the rest of the month and my sister Sue invited me up for a few days to Selby, but it was in the Bank Holiday week that I would be totally on my own as they were all away for that week.

I talk to God a lot, both out loud and in my head, I found myself being led to pursue a couple of desires I had. Ever since my parents took me to St Paul's Cathedral when I was about five I have had a fascination with cathedrals and over the years developed a desire to visit all the Cathedrals in England and as many in the rest of the UK and Europe as I could. Gradually that desire has refined to not just visiting the cathedral but also sharing in some form of worship, if possible one that involved singing.

For as long as I can remember I have had a fascination with railways largely because as well as myself many members of my wider family have worked on the railways. Since I was nine years old I am proud to say I have been a serious train spotter. Mainly without an anorak but with a little pocket book, camera and binoculars I have collected

almost 30,000 numbers from across Europe.

Thus it was that I decided to take the first 'holiday' on my own since the YMA Conference at Kingswood School, Bristol in 'World Cup Final Week' 1966. I would go by train to Blackburn, travel the Calder Valley Line and visit the cathedral. The next day to move on to Blackpool, to ride the trams; and take the train, along lines I have never travelled before, to visit Southport where my mum worked for the Salvation Army in a children's home for the latter part of the war and met my dad. Then onto Liverpool for the night, using a somewhat unusual route to visit Chester, the cathedral and the Roman remains, before travelling back home the following afternoon. I knew the project was rather ambitious and a couple of days before I panicked a bit because I would be totally on my own. I went to bed on the Tuesday night and saw the little plaque, kept on my bookcase, which had been mum's.

*'I will never forget you, I have carved your name upon the*

*palms of my hands' Isaiah 49:15-16*

Suddenly I knew for certain I would not be alone, I had God's promise and fifty years of wonderful memories to take with me.

### **Blackburn Cathedral:**

When I stepped out of the station into the forecourt it was there in front of me, just across the road, set in an open plaza. It was only consecrated as a cathedral in 1926 and had previously been the Parish Church, but it had a 'presence'. There was a thin aluminium



spire and a huge fibre optic sculpture in the form of a bronze disc, on the

east wall. It represents 'The Healing of the Nations' and is by Mark Jalland. It was quietly, but profoundly impressive and moving.

On the edge of the plaza is a bronze sculpture of a mother holding the hand of her child as the child reaches down to pick up her 'teddy bear' from the pavement. It was touching to see two young children

passing by who bent down to pick up the 'bear' before they realised it was made of metal. Whether it was intended or not it reminded me of how God our Mother/Father, sent his Son, to reach out and save a fallen race. One of them being me! I felt uplifted and set off to enter the cathedral. I had done some basic research but had no idea what God had in store for me.



I love Guildford cathedral because it is so light and airy inside and Blackburn is the same but smaller. You walk into a beautiful, light and airy building which is full of amazing art works and as I arrived an organist was practising. It made me feel like King David when he wrote, *'I was glad, when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord.'* Psalm 121:1

It was compact but truly beautiful with the light from the plain glass windows mixed with the light from the stained glass. There were many works

of art but two struck me as not only impressive but also focussed the mind on Jesus and God's love for us. The view down the cathedral leading the eye to the sculpture of 'Christ the Worker' was one. It was simple but so compelling and as you got closer it drew you into the presence of Jesus at work in the world today.



The other was the Jesus Chapel and the icon of Christ in Glory. It was here that the most moving part of my visit took place. As it was school holidays there was no Choral Evensong but I returned at 5.30 to share in said Evening Prayer. The last time I had celebrated evening prayer in this form was back in 1973 in Bishop Otter College Chapel, when studying for my Teaching Certificate.



Today only the appointed Canon and I were present and

we read the readings together antiphonally. As we were reading the Beatitudes (*Matthew 5:1-12*), one of the appointed readings for that day. I found myself reading verse four aloud,

*Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.*

My heart was touched, I felt uplifted, I really felt the presence of God.

Evening Prayer was a fitting end to my first day, and although still grieving I knew I was held in God's hands, even though the pain still exists.

I found this cathedral is a genuine, little gem, and well worth a visit.

I went to bed wondering what rays of God's sunshine and showers of blessing would I receive tomorrow in Blackpool and Southport?

To be continued...!

**Graham Warr**

## **Black & White**

That is wrong and that is  
right,  
This is black and this is  
white.  
Sometimes I envy folk  
who see  
Everything as it should  
be.  
The many shades of in  
between  
Are filled with thoughts of  
"might have been"  
If only I had felt quite  
sure  
I could have walked  
straight through that  
door.  
I dithered here and there  
and there  
I saw both sides and did  
not dare  
To point with any  
certainty  
Say - "that is so" and let  
it be.  
Folk who look with all  
their sight  
Often find both sides are  
right.

Anon.

**THE INNKEEPER'S  
WIFE**  
*(From 'The Witnesses'  
by Clive Sansom)*

I love this byre. Shadows  
are kindly here. The light  
is flecked with travelling  
stars of dust.

So quiet it seems after  
the inn-clamour, scraping  
of fiddles and the  
stamping feet.

Only the cows, each in  
her patient box,  
turn their slow eyes, as  
we and the sunlight  
enter, and slowly  
rhythmic mouths.

'That is the stall,  
carpenter. You see it's too  
far gone for patching or  
re-patching. My husband  
made it, and he's gone  
these dozen years and  
more.....'

Strange how this lifeless  
thing, degraded wood  
split from the tree and  
nailed and crucified

To make a wall, outlives  
the mastering hand that  
struck it down, the warm  
firm hand

That touched my body  
with its wandering love.

'No, let the fire take  
them. Strip every board  
and make a new  
beginning.

Too many memories lurk  
like worms in this old  
wood.

That piece you're holding  
– that patch of grain with  
the giant's thumbprint –  
I stared at it a full hour  
when he died: its grooves  
are down my mind.

And that board there  
baring its knot-hole like a  
missing jig-saw –  
I remember another hand  
along its rim.

No, not my husband's,  
and why I should  
remember I cannot say.

It was a night in winter.  
Our house was full, tight-  
packed as salted herrings–  
So full, they said, we had  
to hold our breaths to  
close the door and shut  
the night-air out!

And then two travellers  
came. They stood outside  
across the threshold,  
Half in the ring of light  
and half beyond it.

I would have let them in  
despite the crowding –  
the woman was past her  
time –

But I'd no mind to argue  
with my husband,  
The flagon in my hand  
and half the inn still  
clamouring for wine.  
But when trade  
slackened, and all our  
guests had sung  
themselves to bed  
Or told the floor their  
troubles, I came out here  
where he had lodged  
them.  
The man was standing as  
you are now, his hand  
smoothing that board.  
He was a carpenter, I  
heard them say.  
She rested on the straw,  
and on her arm a child  
was lying.  
None of your creased-  
faced brats squalling their  
lungs out. Just lying there  
as calm as a new-  
dropped calf – his eyes  
wide open,  
And gazing round as if the  
word he saw in the chaff-  
strewn light of the stable  
lantern  
Was something beautiful  
and new and strange.  
Ah well, he'll have  
learned different now, I  
reckon, wherever he is.  
And why I should recall a  
scene like that, when  
times I would remember

Have passed beyond re-  
living, I cannot think.  
It's a trick you're served  
by old possessions: they  
have their memories too –  
Too many memories.  
Well, I must go in. There  
are meals to serve. Join  
us there Carpenter, when  
you've had enough of  
cattle-company. The  
world is a sad place,  
But wine and music blunt  
the truth of it.'

## The Vyne

is holding Creative  
Lunches for those with  
dementia and their  
carers.

Sessions include music  
and singing, visual arts  
and lunch – cost is £5  
per person including  
lunch.

This is fortnightly on  
Tuesdays 10.45-2pm.  
Please book on 01483  
743696 and for more  
information and dates

[www.woking.gov.uk/creativelunch](http://www.woking.gov.uk/creativelunch)

## **Wey Valley Circuit Mission Supper and Talk Saturday 4th Feb 2017**

**Speakers: Revd Dr Roger Walton, President  
of the Methodist Conference**

**and Ms Rachel Lampard, Vice President  
of the Methodist Conference**



Subject: The Refugee Camps of Syria

Trinity Methodist Church, Woking 6pm for 6.30pm

Tickets - £7 All proceeds will go towards Mission Funds

We are delighted to have such eminent speakers at our first Wey Valley Circuit Mission Supper and do hope you will be able to join us for the evening.

The evening will begin with a shared meal, with food provided by each of the churches, and then Roger and Rachel will speak to us about the Syrian Refugee Camps and the work that the Methodist Church is doing there.

**Tickets will be available from your local church representative so please book early for what should be an excellent evening with fellow members of our new Circuit.**



*We send our wishes to all at Trinity for a happy and peaceful Christmas & New Year*

<i>Sue Waddell</i>	<i>Pam McCallun</i>
<i>Kim Johnson</i>	<i>Allison Jackson</i>
<i>Helen, Stuart, Adam &amp; Paul Best</i>	<i>Arthur &amp; Beryl Andrews</i>
<i>Elaine &amp; Lee Slatter</i>	<i>Jean Normington</i>
<i>Janet Atterbury</i>	<i>Kozłowski Family</i>
<i>John &amp; Joyce Nelson</i>	<i>David &amp; Daphne Lander</i>
<i>Margaret Davies</i>	<i>John &amp; Margot Craig</i>
<i>Lorna Fry</i>	<i>Henk &amp; Gerda Innemee</i>
<i>Bill Lindop</i>	<i>Kevin Bown</i>
<i>Wendy &amp; Geoff Eaton</i>	<i>Leonora Salter</i>
<i>Gill Edwards</i>	<i>Helen &amp; Greg Cave</i>
<i>Paul &amp; Liz Chesworth</i>	<i>Margaret &amp; Peter Dorrell</i>
<i>Dorothy &amp; John Mitchell</i>	<i>Ann &amp; Jeff Dawson</i>
<i>Ruth Taylor</i>	<i>Andrea Fowler</i>
<i>David Reeve</i>	<i>Rabson Ziso</i>
<i>Margaret &amp; Jim Chisholm</i>	<i>Gareth &amp; Sheila Davies</i>
<i>David &amp; Jenny Broadley</i>	<i>Sue Wetherell</i>
<i>Ian McIntosh</i>	<i>Mike &amp; Vera Salisbury</i>
<i>Peggy Windsor</i>	<i>Liz &amp; Glen Penfold</i>





# DING BATS -contributed by Barbara Phillips

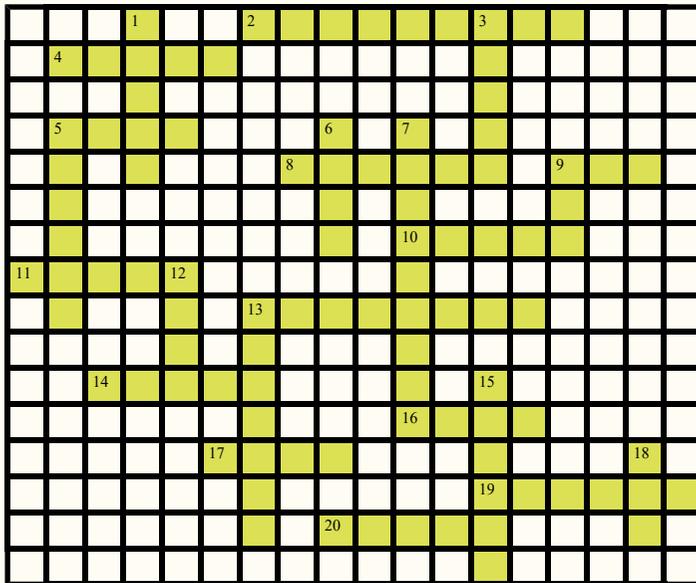


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Answers on page 28

# Children's Christmas Crossword



Answers are on page 28

## Across

2. This season of the year
4. Eaten in pies
5. Decorate with baubles
8. Engaged to Mary
9. There were no vacancies here
10. Evergreen shrub with prickly leaves
11. Name given to the baby
13. Things we give or receive
14. The King at this time
16. Mother of the baby
17. The three kings were this.
19. Mode of transport
20. A song we sing

## Down

1. A Messenger from on high
3. One of the gifts from one of the kings
5. Often eaten for Christmas dinner
6. Another gift from a king
7. The little town where these events happened
9. Clings to 10 across
12. A sign in the sky
13. Find a sixpence in this if you are lucky
15. A manger was used for this purpose
18. Follows 17 across



# Trinity Methodist Church 2020 A strategy for growth and development

I hope that by the time you read this, you will have received a letter from the Leadership Team enclosing a much fuller document outlining our strategy and including the plans of the proposed work to our building. If you have not received this letter, please let me know.

Over lunch on 8th January we will talk about these plans and try to answer any questions you may have and so I hope you will join us.

At its last meeting, Church Council wholeheartedly adopted the Project as stated in the briefing document we have sent you and so a number of us are now working on the next steps, in preparation for the work which will not commence until Autumn 2017 at the soonest.

What I ask everyone to remember is that the work that is proposed to change the building is all about **supporting our mission**, not simply about giving us a smarter building.

Our mission is to worship God and to serve his community here in Woking, and without the building we can do neither of those things.

So, before we meet for lunch, it would be helpful if everyone could just find some time to think about how the building currently helps us to do what we do and then start thinking about what else God may be calling us to do for His kingdom. We need to remember that whilst Woking is in many ways a very affluent town, there are many in the population who are disadvantaged, homeless, jobless, or just feeling lost; so are there new ways that we, as a Church, could offer help.

We are starting this Project feeling confident about our future. Neither the Leadership Team nor Church Council will accept the notion that decline is inevitable. We are confident that through study and prayer we will see Christian development, as individuals experience a more intense awareness of God, and that will drive us forward. We hope that you too will share that confidence and become involved as fully as you can.

**John Nelson**

# Together at Prayer

*Luke 2 Good News Translation - The Birth of Jesus*

*2 1 At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. 2 When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. 3 Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown.*

*4 Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. 5 He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, 6 and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. 7 She gave birth to her first son wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.*

## *The Shepherds and the Angels*

*8 There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, 10 but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. 11 This very day in David's town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord! 12 And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*13 Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:*

*14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!"*

*15 When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. 17 When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. 18 All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. 19 Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. 20 The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.*

Peace on earth is a central message of Christmas.  
Help us Lord to hold on to this in the frenzy of card writing and posting.

Enable us Lord to ponder the coming of the Christ Child in the present buying and wrapping and in the build up to Christmas.

Peace on earth. Let that message be in our hearts in the cooking and preparations for Christmas.

Peace on earth  
God sent his son; Jesus came to bring peace – help us to bring peace in our families.

Peace on earth - Peace on earth.  
Help us God to think of this as we sing the familiar carols and listen to scripture.  
And live this out in the world.

Peace on earth  
Let us ponder this over the washing up and into the New Year.

**Amen**

Christmas – space for God

Christmas

One day in the year to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Help us Lord to rejoice in the singing of Christmas carols and hearing the well known Bible readings.

Be with us in the retelling of the journey to Bethlehem

And enable us to find that small thing that ignites our love for you.

Lord of Lords. It can be a difficult time of year, cold and wet and hard to feel jolly about the approach of Christmas Day.

Be with those Lord for whom Christmas will be hard.

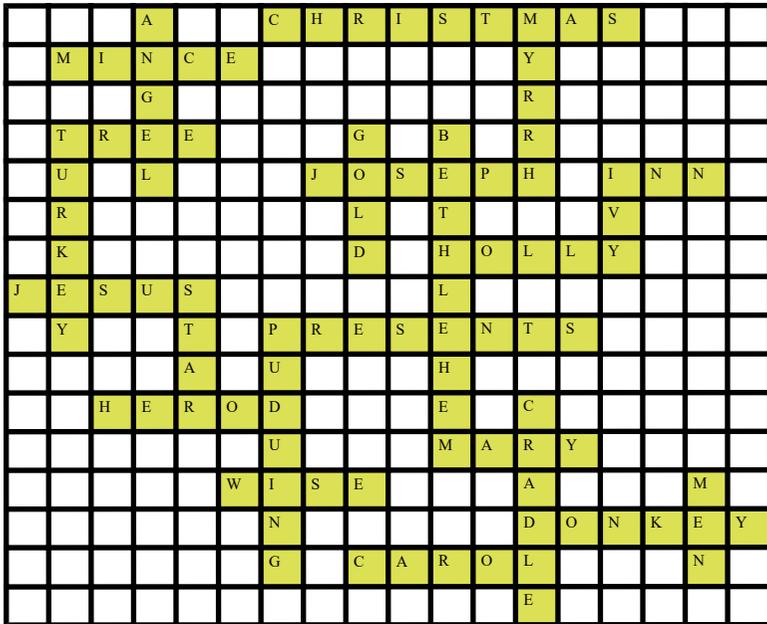
Comfort them Lord and help us all to reach out to others this year to share their concerns.

May there be room in our church for all ages to come to worship.

May there be room in our hearts for the Christ child this Christmas.

**Amen**

## Solution



### Mots croisés compilés par la famille Phillips en France

#### Ding Bats - Answers

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Get up and go</p> <p>2 The devil is in the detail</p> <p>3 Dominoes</p> <p>4 Foregone conclusion</p> <p>5 Out on a Limb</p> <p>6 Blind faith</p> | <p>7 Err on the side of caution</p> <p>8 Stuck up</p> <p>9 Dark circles under the eyes</p> <p>10 wringing wet</p> |
|---|---|

## Hope for the hopeless

**F**or months I followed the American politics leading to the elections. I watched the slagging that characterised the campaign. Hillary and Donald showed immaturity in most of the campaign. Instead of dwelling on policies and how they intended to improve the lives of the Americans, they were busy denigrating each other, I found no hope in the American people as it turned out.

I never trusted any one of them. America being a powerful country and being led by Donald was my worst hope. What sort of leader would he be? I always questioned the integrity of the American people who endorsed him to be President of America. I did not see a future for the American people with Donald. How would he handle international affairs with such hurt?

Hillary was a better devil but I did not trust her as well. This was hopelessness. I stayed awake on Election Day as the votes were being counted. I was convinced that the American people would elect a better devil and not Donald.

This did not turn to be my hope. In the morning the situation was hopeless. Donald was the President elect. Congratulatory messages came from Russia and even Obama. Well there was nothing that Obama could do apart from showing political maturity. Hillary went into shock a little just like most of us. I doubted Donald's leadership even before taking office.

I was hopeless and still remained hopeless. I then realised that God has his own ways. We want to choose leaders and not ask God to give us leaders. We are busy telling God who we want to be leader instead of asking God to show us a leader. I got some consolation when Donald showed that some of his campaign messages were not convincing and would not be part of his government objectives. The u-turn on Obama Care, the building of a wall to stop Mexicans from coming into the States has now become obsolete. Hope started coming to the American people. It became a different Donald. It is not the Donald who was campaigning to be president. He is now a Donald who is showing some hope in

the American people. Maybe the change came because of the demonstrations by the people who I would want to think did not cast their votes. Those who do not vote help to elect the undesired leaders.

*Ezekiel 37:1-2 says:*

*The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.*

*He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry.*

God was showing Ezekiel that there could be life in the things that you perceive to be lifeless. The bones came to life. The life of the Americans could be revived. If the dry bones came back to life surely America will be hopeful with Donald as president.

We often make judgements from our own perceptions and do not allow God to reign in our lives. We dwell a lot on our own instincts and not give God space.

In 1985, I went to watch baseball of two high schools in Zimbabwe. I did not witness the start of the game. So when I arrived with my little daughter, I asked one young

boy what the scores were and he said we are 18 to nothing. I had hoped to hear that our school was leading. Then I said to the boy this is very bad we have lost and yet we are playing at home. The boy then said we have not batted yet. The boy was hopeful yet I was already hopeless. There was hope because our school had not batted yet.

Many a time we are in this predicament where we have no hope because we do not see the direction God is leading us in. We do not open our doors to usher God in. We think all is not possible if it does not work our way. There are situations which appear to be totally and absolutely hopeless. These situations require the intervention of the living God. As we approach Christmas, our hope gets revived. The coming of Christ makes everything well. We begin to sing 'When peace like a river attendeth My soul----- It is well with my soul.' Hopeless situations get transformed. The dry bones in our lives change to give us a new complexion. Christ is coming to give us hope even in hopeless situations.

We can see change in all our lives if we allow God to take

centre stage in this advent period

*"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good." Job 7:6-7*

Hope is embedded in trust of the living God. When we see Christmas lights being commissioned then we know Christ is coming again. Christ comes to dwell in our lives every day not just this festive season. He is always at your door. All we need is for Christ to come into our lives.

If we all remembered these scriptures then all hopeless situations could be transfigured and become hopeful.

May hope of Christmas time guide us to be positive even in world things and let the Lord intervene where there are doubts.

Make me an instrument of your peace should be our song every day.

**Rabson Ziso**

## **Advent Pots and Stable.**

**T**he garden team will again be telling the story of Christmas using 25 planted tubs in the form of an advent calendar outside the church. The story (with a little artistic licence!) is told in 25 episodes with planting to match to the story. One pot will be placed outside the Church every day from 1 December, until we reach 25 pots and the stable and crib on Christmas Day. Special delivery due after the Christmas Eve midnight service! The story and photos of the pots will also be on Trinity's website, accessed from the home page under Christmas 2016. One episode and a photo of the planted pot will be added to the website every day.

Our aim is to tell the Christmas story in a way that anyone using the premises or passing the church can enjoy as well as church members. The last two years we have had people taking photos, other churches wanting to copy the idea, people calling into the church office to say how much they enjoyed it.

Follow us on the church website or come and see our pots! The display will remain over the Christmas period.



If anyone would like to help decorate pot 25 which is a Christmas Tree or the stable and crib, either on Christmas Eve or 22 or 23 December, please let me know. Hopefully it will not be pouring with rain this year!

**Jill Willis and  
the Garden Team**



**A Date For Your  
Diary  
Women's World Day  
of Prayer: Friday 3  
March 2017**



The Morning service will be held at Trinity Methodist Church at 10.00am

The Evening Service will be at St Andrews Church at 7.30 pm

It is a long time since this service was held at Trinity in the morning, we hope that it be well attended by as many as possible. Everyone is welcome –not just women!

Many of our members will be taking part in the readings and leading the service so keep the date free.

## Is it better to give or receive?

**A**s a follow up to our **Silent Auction** held mid-year, this seems a good time to have a roundup of my part in it!

We all had a great evening, once everyone understood that the main entertainment was outbidding someone who had already bid on an item that they thought was in the bag! It was done with good humour and eagerness, with certain items being more desirable than others! It seemed incidental that we had a great supper and managed to raise over £1000 for the Church, and managed to purchase two toilets from toilet twinning.

After the bidding was over, it made me ponder the words from Acts 20:35 – “Remember the words of Lord Jesus, It is more blessed to give than receive”. So is this true in all cases?

I have had some great times out since the auction and am still looking forward to one! (a summer one!). Following a bidding war on an afternoon dinghy sailing at Papercourt

Lake, Mike kindly offered three afternoons to the three of us who eagerly were outbidding each other! I had a sublimely sunny afternoon doing something I had wanted to do since the 2012 Olympics when I had watched the experts from Weymouth over a sunny sea! A small audience turned up to support/watch/laugh if I fell in/ take photos and Mike took me out on a small dinghy (a Wanderer I think?!). He showed me the basics, and we waited for the race to finish so that we could go and tack from the top of the lake back down to the club. Well, I didn't fall in, and we didn't fall out, and a great time was had by all! With the wind in my hair and sails, I'm ready for the 2020 Olympics! I hope the other two bidders had as much fun! I donated a Vegetarian meal for four, and was pleased to entertain Margot and John, and Sheila and Eileen one Saturday night. We sampled Raclette and a few other vegetarian delights, and I certainly had a great evening with old and new friends!

My latest outing has been to Hampton Court thanks to Jean, and with Sue W. We managed to book in a Saturday when we

were all free, and set off with our picnic, looking forwards to tea and cake later. The day was drizzly and it is surprisingly freezing at Hampton Court – for the first time I realised that all those courtyards lead up to open stairs and huge rooms with little but wall hangings for warmth! We met some of the residents, went on a journey to see if were on the King's side, and managed to learn a lot of the history, whilst having a laugh and fun day out! Is it better to eat your sandwiches in the café or in the rain, we also asked ourselves at lunchtime, as we settled in a quiet corner of the café to warm

up! Tea and cake warmed us up later, and it was a great day. So, is it better to give than to receive is not quite the question, but in giving we are all receiving much more than we set out to give, and in receiving we are also part of giving – but the circle starts with the giving. Thanks to everyone who gave items for the auction, and for all those bidders, and my hope is that everyone will continue with being more blessed with their giving, whether that is random acts of kindness, money for church development, or training me for the Olympics!!

**Allison Jackson**

## **From the Editor**

Thank you to everyone for their contributions and help with this issue of TNV.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone for the loving kindness and compassion shown to me over the past few difficult months. It has been a great comfort to know that many prayers were being said for me and that I and my family were in the thoughts of so many of you.

Exciting news, there is going to be a change in the editorship of the magazine, David Lander and I will now share the editorship each producing alternate issues.

**Articles for the February /March Issue should be submitted by 22nd January 2017**

**For the young and not so young, a picture for you to colour!**





**TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS is the magazine of  
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**“Trinity is a welcoming Church seeking to live in  
the love of God and share the message of Jesus  
Christ**

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