

TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS



*“Colours of day dawn into the mind, the sun has
come up, the night is behind. So light up the fire and
let the flame burn, open the door; let Jesus return.”*

February/March 2017 Issue 33

Message from Paul, our Minister

"Today is the first day of the rest of my life!" That's a phrase often heard in the pursuit of hope and a fresh start. We often associate New Year with fresh starts, and our Covenant service early in January was about a recommitment of faith and service to God, preparing ourselves for the future.

But today & tomorrow are never divorced from yesterday, and new beginnings are always built on the past. This is a good thing! The past is a rich storehouse of memories and experiences, and whether they be painful or positive they all, without exception, add to our growth and further our discipleship. Tougher walks make stronger muscles, and harder battles make better soldiers. And the joyful parts of the past add the perspective of gratitude and appreciation for all the good things in our lives, making our thankfulness far outrank our regrets.

As we look forward, we prepare for a new day of mission and effective gospel outreach. My hope for 2017 is that we will all see that the power behind Kingdom mission lies not in clever ideas or polished events, but in the life of the Spirit-filled individual. Events, policies, strategies & plans are very important but we cannot hide behind them. They are only successful when we recognise that each of us individually is the spear's tip & blade's edge of God's work. When we step out in this truth, the strategies and events of the corporate church take off. But we cannot do this in our own strength, and for this reason we need to encourage each other to grow deeper into Jesus, so that we learn to rely more on his strength and less on our own weakness.

My desire is that we see more training and development for all disciples in the year ahead, equipping us all to be more

effective for the Kingdom. This has already begun with our Advent Course at the end of last year, and our current Alpha Course. There will be much more to come, as we gradually mobilise into an effective transformative Church, seeing many lives changed and the community impacted in surprising ways. Good days ahead!

Paul Chesworth

Dates for your diaries at Trinity

February 4 th	Circuit Mission Supper
February 25 th	Epworth Choir: 'Come & Sing 'Rutter Requiem' (<i>see page 27</i>)
March 3 rd	Women's World Day of Prayer (10.00am service at Trinity, <i>see page 4</i>)
March 4 th	Music Workshop (<i>see page 6</i>)
March 11 th -12 th	Gift Day Weekend for Trinity 2020 (<i>see page 7</i>)
March 25 th	Garden Club event (<i>see page 4</i>)
April 2 nd	Neighbourhood Party
April 13 th	Maundy Thursday: Passover Meal (7.30pm)
April 14 th	Good Friday
April 16 th	Easter Sunday
May 13 th	Plant sale for Christian Aid

Family News



On 27th November we welcomed into the church by Baptism the daughters of Louise & Nigel Wickham: *Elizabeth Margaret Ann* (born on 5th February 2012) and *Sophie Grace* (born on 10th March 2016)

We are delighted that our Administrator Jess has largely recovered from the operation that kept her from us before Christmas. We missed you Jess! And thanks to John Nelson, Sue Waddell and others who willingly honed their admin skills to cover in Jess's absence!



For the last few years the congregation at Trinity has endured difficult and challenging times, particularly during the eighteen months when it has been without the guiding hand of a Minister. The burden of managing the church has rested with the Church's leadership team and it is largely due to their capable diligence that Trinity has survived relatively unscathed. Paul has said that he wants to light a spiritual fire in Trinity. He will find that, through the good offices of the team, the kindling has been gathered and the tinder kept dry. We owe the leadership a debt of gratitude.

Gareth Davies

(and so say all of us! [Ed.]



Women's World Day of Prayer 2017

is on **Friday 3rd March**. The morning service is being held at Trinity at 10.00am and all are welcome – men and women. Various people from Trinity will be taking part so please support it if you can. The service, written by the Christian women of the Philippines, is on the theme of justice: *Am I being unfair to you?* There will also be a service at St Andrews at 7.30pm.

The Garden Club are arranging an evening of an illustrated Talk by Mike Tozer of his latest sailing adventure, followed by food, and rounded off with a quiz hosted by Ian Duncan on **Saturday March 25th**.
"We hope to see everyone there."



Trinity Charities of the month

February 2017

See report from Peggy Windsor on page 5



March 2017

The Brigitte Trust is an independent local charity offering free emotional support and practical help at home to people and their families facing cancer, MND, MS, heart and lung failure and other life-threatening diseases



An Invitation to share Christmas

Under the guidance of Kathleen Bristow, and with pictures of starving Biafran children on our minds, in 1985 our Bible Study group voted to support on a regular basis the world wide charity SOS (Latin = equal in society) Children's Villages. They are the world's largest charity working with orphaned and abandoned children. They work towards every child growing up in a loving family home, whether it is with the child's biological family or a new SOS family, so that they flourish and reach their full potential.

Many children would have lived only a moribund life with no hope and nothing to contribute to their community or country and no helpful example for future generations, without the help and guidance and love from SOS Mothers.



I would like to share with you extracts from the recent letter from our village in Awasa Ethiopia.

"Debebe, a twelve year old boy, is showing interest and skill in the science and technology club. His inventions include an onion grinding machine and also using simple things like a lamp, battery and wires, a device for proving a ball has crossed the line to score a goal in soccer.

SOS gives financial support for needy children to continue their education when there are home difficulties. For example to a girl called Mestawot, whose father died was able to benefit from a SOS education program, which changed her life.

Christmas Day in Ethiopia is celebrated on 7th January. Christ's birth is called "Genna". This is when families wear traditional white clothes and attend churches. After church Christmas food, a spicy chicken stew, is eaten. Then the traditional Christmas hockey game called Ye Genna Chewata is played."

An invitation to celebrate Christmas with them. How kind!

Peggy Windsor

Music Worship Workshop

Don & Helen Lowe, from Guernsey, will be leading a workshop for everyone interested to be part of the development of our worship life through music at Trinity. It will be held on **Saturday 4th March**. The detailed programme is being issued separately but please speak to Paul Chesworth for more information.

Don is the worship leader at Paul's previous appointment at Les Camps Methodist Church and Helen is a singer. They have a great ministry of encouragement in the area of leading worship and in developing musicians.

If you can play any instrument, no matter how novice or experienced you are, or can sing or wish you could sing (!) then this is for you. The most important thing is that you have the desire to step out and get involved.

Trinity 2020

Over lunch on Sunday 8th January we were able to formally launch the project to refurbish our premises. The scheme, drawn up by the architect Derek Kemp of Church Projects Ltd and costed by a Quantity Surveyor, was approved by Church Council in October and communicated to the whole Trinity family by individual letters in November.

Our best estimate of the total cost of the project at current prices, including a contingency and an allowance for renewing the substantial areas of flat roofs, is £900,000. This is of course a substantial sum and we will now be directing our attention to the various sources from which we can obtain funds. This includes grants from both within and beyond Methodism and of course direct giving from within Trinity. The project team, augmented by Graham Warr who is going to be assisting specifically with fund-raising, are now focussed on this and we want everybody to recognise their role in it. Every form of giving and every type of fund-raising effort is valuable however small or large. A number of valuable ideas emerged at the launch and we will be following these up. So look out for announcements! In particular, and obviously very importantly, we are planning to hold a Gift Day on the weekend of 11/12 March. Details of this will be published separately.

This project represents a commitment to ensure that at Trinity we maintain a set of premises that are fit and able to support our mission to serve God and his people in the local community over the next 50 years. Please support it by your prayers and in every other way you can.

John Nelson is acting as Project leader and two teams are developing to steer the project going forward:

Fund-raising

John Nelson
Graham Warr
Jean Normington
Sue Waddell

Project Development

John Nelson
David Lander
David Jones



View of reception/
administrator's
desk from East
Entrance
following
relocation of
store and plant
rooms

(images © Pavilion Sky)



View of expanded
Courtyard with
glass screen to
small hall beyond
and relocated
servery and
kitchen to the
right

Early Morning Communion



The dates for our 8.45am
services in the coming months
are: 26th February
26th March
23rd April

The Treacle Mines of Chobham



(photo courtesy of David Jones)

Just after Christmas some of us took a 10.5 mile walk from Horsell Common led by David Jones. Lunchtime found us on the top of Chobham clump admiring the wonderful sunny and frosty view and eating our lunches. I asked my fellow walkers if they knew about the Treacle Mines up here – they just looked at me with amusement, or was it pity. Even when later we passed Treacle Cottage I still think they were wondering if I'd had too much brandy butter with my mince pies.

However!

Chobham took a great deal of trouble to keep their treacle mines well hidden. People were discouraged from attempting to find them, but this only made it more of a challenge for a few adventurous young people eager to solve the mystery surrounding the site of the mine and the activities of the treacle miners. What the teenagers did

discover, were areas of seclusion around Chobham! There followed tales of courting couples finding that the 'treacle mines' were ideal places for lovemaking or for a bit of slap and tickle. The newly formed Boy Scout Troops, with higher thoughts on their minds, also found these secluded areas were good places to go 'tracking'.

The treacle mines always remained something of a mystery and several theories were offered. From a lady in Chobham in her report to the Daily Mail, she said –

"Many locations throughout England lay false claim to the true origin of the tales of treacle mines, but we in Surrey know the true origin, which dates from the year 1852.

An army of 8,129 troops assembled under canvas on Chobham Common and were reviewed by Queen Victoria on June 21st before departing to the Crimea. During their eight weeks camped on the Common, large quantities of provisions were stored there, including 30 hogsheads (barrels) each containing 56 gallons of molasses which were used, in the main, for horse fodder. To keep the barrels cool and prevent fermentation, a shallow excavation was dug out of a small hillock known as 'The Clump' and the barrels were stored under a thin layer of soil.

When the troops departed, the barrels were left and they remained buried until 1901 when they burst and the contents started to run down the hillside. Villagers who discovered the sweet sticky substance believed they had found a natural source of treacle and thus started the legend of the Chobham Treacle Mines".

Whatever the truth was, the Treacle Mines had been excavated in Chobham by 1904.

Jean Normington

A Walk into Christmas (To us a child is born)

What an inspired way to bring the Christmas story to life! The labyrinth created in the church on 22nd December was the inspiration of Anna Koslowska. It took us from creation (*in the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God*), through the prophecy of Isaiah (*the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light*) to the familiar narratives of Advent and the Nativity as told in the Gospels. Seven tableaux were presented, each one illustrating a different stage in the journey and culminating in the manger scene.



As 'walkers' arrived in the Narthex they were greeted by one of the narrators who proceeded to lead them through the labyrinth telling the story scene by scene. In the first scene we saw Mary with the baby in her arms surrounded by candles, representing the prophecy of Isaiah told 700 years before the birth of Jesus. In the next two scenes we saw the visitations of the angel, first to Mary and then to Joseph. Then we followed Mary and Joseph along the road to

Bethlehem where their repeated attempts to find accommodation were thwarted until the innkeeper directed them to the stable. In scene five we stood with the shepherds in the field and watched as their customary

nightly routine was transformed by the unearthly appearance of the angel, causing them first mute terror, then wonder and finally the realisation that they must make their way to Bethlehem. Next we joined the magi observing the stars and studying their charts, determining where and when the new king was to be born. Finally we arrived in Bethlehem where Mary and Joseph sat in the stable with the new-born Jesus. We joined the shepherds as they worshipped and glorified God, and the magi as they knelt in reverence and offered their gifts.



At the end there was an opportunity for reflection, and hopefully the experience of some new insights from this imaginative and different way of studying the Christmas story.

Over the afternoon and evening sessions over 50 people took the journey and more than 25 actors took the parts in the tableaux. No mean feat: it required four Marys, three Josephs, six wise men, three angels and so on! Thanks must go not only to them but to everyone else who enabled the event to happen: to Simon & Iris Che and our friends in the Chinese congregation who organised refreshments and took part in the journey, to Trevor Ledger and a doughty band of helpers who constructed the set (and dismantled it the

following morning), and most of all to Anna for taking the initiative to bring the event into being. Where did she get the idea from we all asked? This is what she said:

"I was thinking about the Nativity story and how it is seen as just that – a story. I thought that so many times we overcomplicate it and twist it from what it originally says in the Bible. I wanted to do an event that was interesting, but something that was honest and something that comes straight from the Bible, straight from God.

Reading the Gospels I could see that the birth of Jesus was a journey, especially for Mary and Joseph. It was a journey of their faith, something I think we should learn from and something we should experience; not just watch from a distance, but really experience what Mary and Joseph might be thinking and feeling at the time. So I thought we could do something where the audience moves around and quite literally goes with Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men on their journeys. And that's where the idea of a labyrinth came in."



Recalling the Carol Service



Whilst we have left the festival behind, we know that the implications of the Christmas story are timeless. This was in my mind when I chose two of the three songs that our choir sang at the Carol Service on 18th December. It had been intended that the words would appear on the screens but due to a glitch in the arrangements that didn't happen! So hoping they strike a chord as we head off through 2017, here is one of them:

Where have they hidden you?

*Where have they hidden you, child of the manger,
Child of my child and seal of my soul?*

They have carved me in stone O child of my passion,
Bound me in dogma and trammelled my will.
They have wrapped me in tinsel and sold me at counters,
Tuning my song to the ring in their till.

*Where can I find you, O child of the manger,
Child of my childhood and seal of my soul?*

You can find me as ever with blind and with beggar,
The lame and the prisoner, the broken in heart.
But finding's not keeping and keeping's not following;
Follow me home to the end of my road.
At home with the homeless I dine with the outcast,
And if you receive them, then there shall I be.

David Lander

Across the desert, without a camel - an epic trek in Mongolia.

So it was about this time last year that I applied for the HSBC Gobi Challenge - a charity trek to raise funds for WaterAid. 100 HSBC Bank employees from across the globe, 22 different nationalities represented, attempting to trek 100km across the Gobi Desert in October 2016. This was to be followed by a week volunteering in the local community, building Gers (Mongolian Yurts) for homeless families and helping Snow Leopard rangers in a national park - how hard could it be?



When I told people what I was doing, I typically got asked three questions - firstly 'where exactly is Mongolia?' That's an easy one to answer - it's an enormous country, landlocked between Russia to the North and China to the South. It's a 5,500 mile, 15 hour flight away with a slightly

terrifying refuel in Kyrgyzstan! Mongolia also has the coldest capital city, Ulaanbaatar, and one of the lowest population densities in the world - oh, and I needed 12 injections to go there!

Second question was 'wow, but a desert - you don't like the heat!?' Well, the simple answer to that is that the Gobi Desert is a cold desert - it's 500,000 square miles of rock and sand surrounded by mountain ranges and it sits at a high northern latitude so it gets down to -50° in the winter!



The third question was then predictably, 'why on earth would you want to go there?!?!' Well, aside from the fact that we collectively raised just shy of £300,000 for WaterAid (so I couldn't really back out!), it was a unique opportunity

to experience a new culture, meet new people, and explore a new country, whilst really making a difference for WaterAid.

The conditions were incredibly challenging right from the start - minus 20°, trying to keep warm with goat-dung fuelled stoves that filled our Gers with acrid smoke overnight, massive blisters from trekking 100km on icy ground, zero privacy, 2 showers in 2 weeks, scary food and absolutely terrifying toilets.



However, all this was endured/enjoyed in the most stunning landscape - awesome snow-capped jagged peaks, Unesco ice-gorges flanked by frozen waterfalls, endless sand dunes, herds of wild camels, the ever present chance of seeing a Snow Leopard (sadly not to be this time) and the most generous and beautiful locals I've ever met on my travels.

Hard-work, a fabulous team spirit, grit, determination and a collective sense of fun meant that we successfully completed our trek in 5 days! The first time 100 people have trekked the Gobi together. All the money we raised will be invested by WaterAid in India this year. Their mission is to transform the lives of the poorest and most marginalised people by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.



Thanks so much to everyone who donated and supported this fantastic cause by sponsoring me. Together, we've really made a difference.

Jo Eaton

(all images © Jo Eaton)

Greetings from Chinese Congregation

Chinese New Year 2017

Year of the Rooster

**(1933:1945:1957:1969:
1981:1993:2005:2017)
2029)**



Chinese New Year falls on 28 January in 2017, Year of Rooster, the tenth zodiac sign of the Chinese horoscope. There are twelve animals, each taking turn as the sign of the lunar year. There is celebration among Chinese communities all over the world. In London, it will take place on the first Sunday of the lunar New Year, i.e. 29

January, at Leicester Square in China Town. The main streets will be decorated with bright red lanterns, banners and posters. Firecrackers and fireworks, lion dance will add to the atmosphere of the festival, and numerous stalls along the streets, with food of good variety, and various festival artefacts in display would attract tourists and visitors to enjoy a day of glamorous festivity.

Chinese New Year is time to turn a new page for all. As a common practice towards the end of the year, tidy up is a must for all homes. Old furniture and clothing would be discarded and replaced by new ones, for those who could afford it. At least, a thorough cleansing of the house is a must. The idea of new spirit is the watch word.

New Year Eve signifies a departure from negative elements such as misfortunes and failures in the outgoing

year, a time for reflection. The coming of New Year day is a turning point towards a brighter future, full of hope and vision, a time to plan for the new year. It is more than a second chance that we all need. Moreover, it is also a time for thanksgiving, for all the blessings in the past year, a time to render gratitude to heaven and beloved family and friends.

Year of Rooster has its charm. It is believed that people born in a year of Rooster are very observant, resourceful, courageous and talented, usually full of confidence. They are active and popular within a crowd, always ready to take up leadership, eloquent in verbal



expression, and always displaying their charm on any occasion. On the other hand, Roosters expect others to be good listeners, thus falling easy prey to vanity and self-centredness. They are usually healthy, a good fighter against illness. They can be a little sensitive, feeling stressed and moody at times.

In those days without alarm clocks, roosters in a village played an important role of waking people up to start the day's work., thus good friends to the farmers.

Rooster played a part in a story in 3rd century China. It was a time when the Barbarians took over the northern part of the empire, and the royal family had to seek refuge in the south. The morale remained high among the ministers and generals, aiming at recovering the lost territory and faded glory. Zuti, (266-321) a young general, was no exception. He kept on his daily martial art training for the mission, upon the wake up call of the rooster. One night, a rooster broke the midnight silence

by an untimely wake up call. As a routine, Zuti sprang up from his bed, quickly woke up his friends and started their training. Before long they found out the rooster performed its duty well in advance of the break of dawn. Though his mission was eventually in vain, he was well remembered for his vigilance, dedication and commitment.

We can see echo of similar spirit in the scriptures. Samuel as a child in the temple is a good example. Peter had to wait until the third crow to remind him of what Jesus had said to him. Today, we also need a wake-up call in our busy life. It is beyond doubt our Lord has been giving such call in many ways, through various channels and in different circumstances. It is our awareness and vigilance that would enable us to pick up the call.

Let's wake up upon His calling to turn a new page in the New Year.



Simon Che

A highlight of any trip to Barcelona is the architecture of Antoni Gaudi, and especially the Sagrada Familia church, still under construction after 135 years and 90 years after Gaudi's death. The project became Gaudi's personal mission and towards the end of his life he was even living on the site as building work went on around him. Dwarfed by the striking towers there is a curious stonework panel on the outside west wall.

Whichever way you count the numbers (up, across, diagonally) they add up to the same total and represent the duration of Jesus' earthly life.



***"God gave us mouths that close
and ears that don't – that should
tell us something"***

(Eugene O'Neill)

I never knew that.....!

Many of us have done things in our lives that stand out as being rather special or unusual or perhaps surprising. Your editor thought it might be of interest to invite various people to share those experiences in TNV. To add some intrigue the people and the events have been mixed up so readers can try to guess who goes with which. The list of contributors is at the foot of the next page and the answers are on page 34.

1. I appeared on TV as part of a team excavating one of Henry VIII's shipbuilding dockyards
2. I have had a close encounter with the ceiling of the great dome inside Westminster Central Hall
3. I flew in Concorde
4. As a child I was allowed to visit the royal box at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden and was very excited to be allowed to sit on the royal WC (throne?!)
5. In my late teens I was a keen member of a speleological association and took part in many expeditions
6. I once kissed the rock guitarist Brian May
7. At school my nickname was Gizzy (because I was one of four girls with the same Christian name). It is an abbreviation of my then surname – a clue?
8. I was selected to show the Queen round a new building at a well-known local establishment
9. I competed in synchronised trampolining to gold standard level
10. I used to be Secretary of the Citroen 2CV Club of Great Britain!
11. I won the competition for the Broadest Smile at a Youth Missionary Association event

12. At a local TV station, a door opened into my face. It was Cilla Black, who looked surprised and just said "Sorry Chuck"
13. I spent part of a night sitting on a hotel staircase following a fire alert talking to Dr Jonathon Miller
14. I was once entertained to a meal on the Royal Yacht Britannia
15. For a stage show I was provided with a pair of trousers previously worn by the famous Canadian singer, Edmund Hockridge
16. I met Eric Morecambe and his wife – and he was just as funny in real life
17. After I had once given a beggar 30p for a cup of tea I looked round and he was mysteriously not there. I wondered: hospitality and angels (Hebrews 13 v2)?
18. I once encountered Winston Churchill in Westerham, near his Chartwell home
19. As a young child I was winched from the body of a Sea King Helicopter onto the deck of HMS Ark Royal (as part of a display for a family fun day)
20. When at university I managed to meet the famous Brazilian footballer Pele and get his autograph
21. Some 25 years ago I was responsible for accidentally blowing up a large item of test equipment in the course of my work

These are the contributors:

Graham Warr	Paul Chesworth	Gareth Davies
Sam Cudby	Elaine Slatter	David Lander
Daphne Lander	Mike Tozer	Jean Normington
Sue Waddell	Chris Waddington	Sue Waddington
Shirley Turner	Ruth Taylor	Bill Lindop
Dorothy Mitchell	Geoff Eaton	Sue Tozer
John Nelson	Hugh Bowerman	Ben Annobil

(answers on page 34)

No time to pray

I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,
And heavier came each task,
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.
He answered: "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,
But the day toiled on grey and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me.
He said: "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come in to God's presence,
I used all the keys in the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning,
And paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray.



(Grace Naessens)

The Bates Saga 1685 to 2016

One day in 2002 I suddenly thought "Where do I come from?" "I wonder how far back I can trace my ancestors?". So, I decided to find out. Little did I know that the journey would take me 14 years from Treeton, where I was born, to a 12th Century Church in a little Hamlet in Lincolnshire.

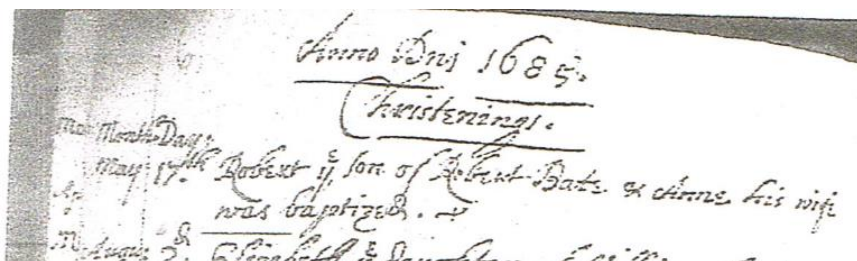
I started by using the Internet to track National Census Returns and bmd certificates and trace my ancestors going back as far as 1813 to Hawthorpe, a Hamlet in Lincolnshire where a Peter Bates was born.

Peter had 12 children, seven girls and five boys, two of whom moved to Nottingham to find work. They met and married two sisters. Joseph, one of the brothers, married Mary in 1873 and they had two sons, one of whom, called James, became my Granddad. Joseph sadly died of Typhoid when my Granddad was only 18 months old, and he already had a younger brother only 3 months old. They went to live with Mary's mother but it is a miracle they survived. However, in 1895 James married Louisa and they had two girls and two boys. The younger one was Charles Harry who became my father. In 1905 the family moved to Treeton where James had got a job at the new Colliery as a "Fireman for Stationery Engine". Later my Dad met Mary Billingsley at the Baptist Church. They married and had me and my two younger brothers.

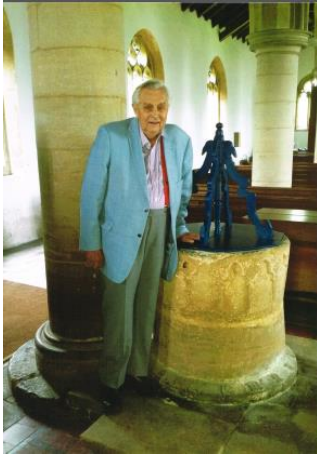
That was as far back as I could go because National Census records only started in 1841. However, I later discovered that in 1538 at the time of Henry V111 it was ordered that all Parishes had to start keeping local Registers. In practice, since the Vicar was often the only person who could read and write, he was the official in charge.

These records were kept safely locked away but recently Lincolnshire County Council published its own records on the Internet and I decided to investigate. They cover 103 Parishes each with several Registers. I selected a dozen Parishes within a five-mile radius of Hawthorpe. There were some 30 separate Registers totalling over 2000 pages of script, each with up to 80 entries on each page with varying degrees of clarity. It was at a time when I was sleeping badly and took the opportunity to work through them during the night.

It was tedious and frustrating but ultimately proved to be well worth the effort when a few months later the breakthrough came at 3.00am one morning. I suddenly came across the first recorded baptism of a Bate in 1685 in a Register of a small Hamlet of less than 100 people, Threekingham. (We were then called Bate). It was a surprise that the baptism did not take place in Hawthorpe. I knew nothing about the place and previously had never even heard of the place.



The entry records the baptism of Robert the son of Robert and Anne Bate who were living in Threekingham. Almost certainly they were of Saxon stock and only moved to Hawthorpe later. Robert and Anne had two boys, Robert and John. The son Robert had five children, Robert, William, Anne, Mary and Elizabeth. From that point, searching through a stack of other records over the next couple of years, I was able to trace the next six generations to finally link up with Peter Bates.



Church by the Vicar.

Finally, in June 2016, I visited Threkingham with my son and his wife to find out more. I contacted the Church Warden who was extremely helpful and showed us around the Church. It is a lovely building and I had a deep feeling of belonging whilst standing by the Font which is over 1000 years old and in which Robert Bates was Baptised 331 years previously, and still is in use. We were also able to attend Sunday morning Communion and were welcomed back into St. Peter's

Threkingham itself is a delightful friendly place with a warm sense of community and I immediately felt comfortable and at home. So, my journey ended successfully after 14 years and at that point the Bates Saga begins.



Apart from St. Peter's, the other building of note is the Three Kings Inn. Famous because King John is reputed to have stayed at its earlier building on his final journey during which he had lost all his jewellery in The Wash. It is also notorious as Dick Turpin's mother-in-law is said to have owned it and Dick regularly fed his horse there before embarking on his journeys.

Eric Bates

Choir News

You are invited to join **Epworth Choir** for a 'Come and Sing' John Rutter's Requiem at Trinity on **Saturday 25th February**. Registration commences at 10.00am and the programme runs from 11am to 5pm, to include rehearsal, talk with Q&A and informal performance. The cost is £20.00 (£10 for under 30s) and full details can be found in the previous issue of TNV or online at www.epworthchoir.org. The performance at 4pm is open to all and you are invited to come and listen.

The choir's next concert is at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford at 7.30pm on Saturday 29th April.

Woking Choral Society will be performing Haydn's Creation in Guildford Cathedral at 7.30pm on **Saturday 1st April**. Conducted by Ben Palmer the soloists are Felicity Hayward (Soprano), Tom Raskin (Tenor) and Nicholas Mogg (Bass). Tickets are priced £22 and £16, £5 for students/children and can be obtained via 01483 547881 or www.guildford-cathedral.org/events/boxoffice



"It's time to put Fairtrade in your break"

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
27 February – 12 March
2017



A Sort of Pilgrimage – Day Two

(Continuing Graham Warr's journey to the cathedrals in the North West of England)

Following the amazing day in Blackburn yesterday. Today started inauspiciously, it was dull and overcast. The train from Blackburn to Blackpool was packed I couldn't see out of the window. Happily, most people got off in Preston and I found a window seat for the remainder of the journey. There was no sign of the sun and there was a smattering of rain drops. As we crossed the coastal plain the weather improved a bit and the rain petered out.

It was very much the 'day after the day before', feeling flat and lonely, in a bit of a trough. To pique my interest, I began to look for the famous 'Tower' but couldn't see it until we were almost into the station and then spotted it out of the window on the other side.

The day was not at all what I had expected, Blackpool was bleak and cold and then to crown it all, the vintage trams were not running due to an overhead power cable being damaged. Even the Tower seemed to be dejected sort of longing for the sunshine or the night when it would be ablaze with light.

I couldn't help feeling down and grief suddenly flooded me. I stood by the entrance to the North Tower talking to God. Particularly at times like these, when on my own, grieving, I would turn to him and talk – some might say I was talking to myself – well yes, in a way I am, but I firmly believe my Lord is listening and supporting me.



Feeling more positive I found an official and was informed that they were hoping the vintage trams would be running after lunch and a limited service of ordinary trams was running from the North Tower to Fleetwood. A tram arrived shortly and as I was cold I jumped on. It was warm and, for a tram fan, the journey was interesting and the experience good.

Fleetwood was a pleasant surprise. It was still cold but the visibility had improved and the view across Morecambe Bay towards the Cumbrian Mountains was uplifting. After a short walk along the sea front I



found a 'traditional' Beach Café and enjoyed a hot meal and drink. I was sitting at a small table and could see the view out of the large, panorama, window. Faintly on the horizon the hills and mountains of the Lake District were visible.

Psalm 121 came to mind:

*I lift my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let my foot be moved; he who keeps me will not slumber.*

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is my keeper

The Lord will keep my going out and my coming in from this time on and forevermore.

(NRSV amended)

Then words from Deuteronomy 33:26/27:

The Eternal God is our dwelling place and underneath are the everlasting arms. (KJV)

Isn't our God amazing, always there, always loving?

Feeling in better spirits I took the tram back into Blackpool and during the journey we were informed that the trams were now operating normally. Enjoying the warm ride, I stayed on until the end of the line passing all the 'sights' – the Tower and its famous Ballroom, the Pleasure Beach and Funfair and, finally one of my reasons for coming; to look at the new Tram Depot, take some photographs and collect as many tram numbers as possible.

Then, at last, my other reason for coming, to board and ride a vintage tram. As a very young child my parents took the whole family to Crystal Palace and we travelled part way on a London tram and it had a magical effect on me. Then in the late 1980s we had taken our own family to visit Blackpool and Bernhard and I had ridden on one of these trams. The next half an hour was pure nostalgia and happy memories, although today, tinged with sadness.



The journey isn't far from the Pleasure Beach to the North Pier but the sounds and smells were wonderful. Despite the weather and the disruption, it was a great experience and well worth waiting for. As I alighted from the tram a sudden squall blew in from the sea. It was time to go – I scurried to the station as the umbrella was not much use in the wind. However, it was not far and opposite the station was a large supermarket with a café where a mug of hot chocolate and a cake worked wonders. As I sat sipping my drink I mulled over what to do next. I had a room booked in Liverpool for the night but it was only mid-afternoon. The weather was not very good and it was too late to visit either of Liverpool's cathedrals. *(to be continued.....)*

Graham Warr

Resolutions

The New Year was slowly nearing, and with the festive season already upon us many people were indulging in retrospection and re-evaluating some of their life choices of the 2016. New resolutions are the perfect opportunity for all who have failed to accomplish their targets to start making the changes that they had set for themselves the previous year.

As a family we said bye-bye to 2016 and welcomed 2017 in our lives. We put down our resolutions for 2017 as we always do. This was after evaluating what we had put down to achieve in 2016. Yes, there were some areas we intended to have worked on but we couldn't - maybe it was because of time, or we had been too ambitious, or we had procrastinated. Some resolutions were not accomplished because we did not take into account the economic



situation, or they had been put aside because other important things took our attention, or we simply forgot what we had put down for ourselves in the previous year.

Our son suggested that we should take time to reflect on progress of the New Year resolutions mid-year. This sounded a very noble idea. What we forgot is that we can make our plan but the Lord determines our steps (Proverbs 16:9). If God does not direct your steps it does not matter how flowery your resolutions may be, they cannot be accomplished.

Of all the years we have made resolutions, we started by asking God to guide us in planning our year and setting

targets for ourselves. But this has become the end of our relationship with God over it. We often would not invite God to re-evaluate progress in the middle of the year. In Jeremiah 29:11 we read *'For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'* We often take it the other way round. We say we know our plans but often end up frustrated because we have not allowed God to take centre stage in our resolutions.

We start each year with an earnest commitment to do and be better. We make resolutions that we hope will make us a better, happier this year. But how did that work out for us last year? Why not launch the New Year by letting God help us make our resolutions?

Many of the resolutions that we make are focused on improving daily routines. They often deal with weight loss, better health, kicking bad habits or saving money. Do these sound familiar? Certainly, they do; we can even throw in being a better parent or spouse or nailing a job promotion.



Carefully and sincerely examine what our resolutions mean to us and just how seriously we respect our commitments to ourselves. That's what a resolution is: a commitment to self. This year, if we don't want to breach our contract with ourselves in the 40-day lifespan of most New Year's resolutions, turn to the only one who can guide us to make our commitments unbreakable.

In Philippians 3:13-14 we read: *'Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.'*

Most of the resolutions that God directs are not costly. They require commitment and knowledge that the Lord will provide. Each time we are faced with challenges in accomplishing our resolutions we should turn to God for guidance and supplication. Proverbs 3:5-6 instructs us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and lean not on our own understanding. In all our ways we should submit to the Lord and the Lord will make our paths straight. Whatever we plan, if we put our trust in the Lord all will be fulfilled.

Paul encouraged the Thessalonians (2 Thess. 1:11): *"To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfil every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power."*

Some of the resolutions we make are not fulfilled because they are not worth the hustle in God's eyes. They may not be what God intends us to achieve in life. There will be better things that God wants you to focus on. Do not be discouraged when you do not satisfy your desires. God has a plan for you in 2017.

Your resolutions begin by accepting God as your partner in contract and as the judge of the contract's worth. Understand that you are not perfect, so do not commit yourself to pursue resolutions that you know you cannot keep. Forgive yourself each day if you falter, because you are imperfect, and you would have no need for resolutions if you were perfect. God has already acknowledged your failure and still loves you. *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteous ones of God."* (2 Corinthians 5:21)

God Bless everyone in 2017 as we focus on improving our relationship with God.

Rabson Ziso

Answers to "I never knew that....."

1. Chris Waddington
2. John Nelson
3. Gareth Davies
4. Elaine Slatter
5. Shirley Turner
6. Jean Normington
7. Sue Waddell
8. Ruth Taylor
9. Sue Waddington
10. Sue Tozer



11. Graham Warr

12. Mike Tozer
13. Daphne Lander



14. Dorothy Mitchell
15. David Lander
16. Paul Chesworth
17. Ben Annobil
18. Bill Lindop
19. Sam Cudby
20. Geoff Eaton
21. Hugh Bowerman

From the Editor

Thanks to all who have helped with the preparation and distribution of this issue of TNV. And an extra 'thank you' for the co-operation of those whose items have had to be shortened or deferred due to pressure on space. The next issue will be edited by Jean Normington and I shall be back in this chair for June/July.

David Lander

**Articles for the April/May issue should be
submitted by
19th March 2017**

**TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS is the magazine of
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING**

**“Trinity is a welcoming Church seeking to live
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**Contributions to Trinity News & Views can
be written, typed, left in the newsletter
pigeonhole at the Church or emailed to
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This edition printed by Knaphill Print Co. Ltd.