

TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS



*"How great is God Almighty, who has made
all things well."*

August/September 2017 Issue 36

Family news

At this time of year we remember all young people who are leaving school or college and moving on to new ventures. In particular at Trinity this year we are saying 'bon voyage' to five very familiar faces, all of whom have been making significant contributions in different ways to the life of our church family.

Adam Best is going to Birmingham University to read maths and economics.

Paul Best is planning to go to Nottingham University to read maths.

Anna Koslowska has secured a place at Trinity Church, Cheltenham to be an intern on their discipleship year.

Elizabeth Koslowska is planning to go to the University of York to study drama: writing, directing and performance.

Jess Waddington is going to the University of Essex at Colchester to read criminology with a view to working with young offenders.

We send them our love and best wishes, and we look forward to seeing them again soon and hearing about their progress.



Our thoughts are also with Helen & Stuart, Gill & Roman, Sue & Chris for whom September is going to feel strange – exciting and anxious all at the same time no doubt!

John Craig has recently stepped down as a Pastoral Visitor after more than 50 years. We thank John for his dedication and commitment over such a long period of time in this role. We should also remember in our prayers all the pastoral team at Trinity – our Pastoral Workers Allison and Shirley and all our pastoral visitors. We are truly blessed by such a fine team and their mission of care to the whole church family.



We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Alfred and Joan Vice who recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary. See page 30.

At the Methodist Conference in June, **Revd Loraine Mellor** was inducted as President for 2017/18. She is Chair of the Nottingham & Derby District and co-ordinator of the Larger than Circuit group which is considering how the Church can best reflect the missional needs of today's Church. The Vice-President is **Ms Jill Baker**, a local preacher and tutor in the Scotland District. Among other roles she was a mission partner in the South Caribbean for eight years and is a former President of Methodist Women in Britain.

Dates for your diaries at Trinity

August 6 th	Morning Service in Mandarin led by Rev David Foo (with English translation)
September 23 rd	South East District Synod at Trinity
September 30 th - October 1 st	Harvest weekend (<i>see below</i>)
September 25 th	Church Council
October 22 nd	Compassion Sunday (<i>see page 7</i>) & Neighbourhood Party

Harvest Festival Saturday 30th September – Sunday 1st October

The theme will be the Harvest of Water, with particular reference to the on-going work we are supporting in The Gambia. On Saturday evening we will have a supper with a talk from Bill Lindop, sharing with us some of the projects he has been involved with in the country since 1986. More recently this has included a number of village water projects.



More details about the event will be issued in due course.

Music in Worship

The decision to use contemporary music in our worship through July and August reflects a desire by the Leadership Team to examine our worship style, recognising that as in all things tastes change as society progresses and that to remain relevant (without which we have no purpose!) the church must move too.

Music is a crucial element in our services yet sadly it often proves to be divisive. Modern worship songs are not to everybody's taste but at the same time we have to recognise that for the most part the generations that represent the future of our churches prefer to worship in this way. So we are grateful to Anna and Gill for enabling this experiment to happen.

In September we will be reverting, at least for the time being, to the more familiar pattern but the Leadership Team will be organising a consultation so that all who have shared the services can offer their feedback. And this is not just about music; it is about our style of worship and the sort of church we want Trinity to be in the years to come, and the resources we need to deliver it.

David Lander



Compassion UK Child Sponsorship

Being a sponsor costs just 83p per day, an amount that most of us wouldn't even miss. Hundreds of thousand of people sponsor through Compassion. We *can* change the world... one child at a time.



For more information go to www.compassionuk.org

Early Morning Communion



The dates for our 8.45am services in the coming months are:

27th August

24th September

22nd October

26th November

Trinity 2020

In the previous issue of TNV we reported on two successful fund-raising events – the Treasure & Trash sale and the Snowdon climb. Since then there has been another – a sponsored walk around Goldsworth Park Lake, organised by Pam McCallum and Ann Dawson. A report on that follows.

Two important developments are coming up. Amongst the various approaches to grant-giving bodies one of the most



significant is our own Circuit. An application has been made and will be considered shortly. In addition we are preparing a planning application for the initial phase of works. Since most of the project involves internal changes this is not a big or costly step but is an essential pre-requisite.



At their recent meeting Church Council learned that the funds raised so far now total about £130,000. Once we know the

outcome of our application to the Circuit we will be in a better position to take stock of the position and we anticipate doing that with the whole church family in late September/October. In the meantime we ask for your prayerful consideration not only for the building project itself but for the future of Trinity as a whole as we strive to determine our mission for the years ahead.

David Lander

A walk around Goldsworth Park Lake

This walking round the lake had all started with me thinking I cannot walk up Snowdon but what can I do to raise money for the Church Building Fund? Pam had then come up with the idea of walking around Goldsworth Park Lake and I thought I could do that and so could other people and we were off.



Well not quite. We sorted out sponsor sheets and on Tuesday and Saturday of the week in the first week of July several of us from the congregation assembled at the car park near Goldsworth Lake and prepared to walk around the lake.

It was interesting to walk around the lake, which I (Ann) had last walked around many years ago. Below are a few of the thoughts we had about our lake walk that we put together afterwards over a mug of tea.

- Many other people were also walking around the lake – we spotted fellow walkers, cyclists - most with helmets, scooter riders - some young and some older;
 - One cyclist rang her bell to warn us she was coming past which helped us move over on the path;
- Some people as they walked by said *Hello* or *Good Morning* and that filled us with delight;
 - Many grandparents seemed to be taking grandchildren for a stroll to feed the ducks and enjoy the sunshine;
- At the shops we saw Sea Cadets rattling a tin to get

money for their adventures. They explained they sail on the lake. On the way round the lake we passed the Sea Cadet hall with a balcony overlooking the lake and beside it mountain ash trees full of red berries. We saw the huge garages used to store their boats. Also spotted on the lake was the sea cadet boat adorned with flags;

- We saw Canada Geese and ducks and a seagull perched on a jetty rail;
- Fishermen were seen while we were on the Saturday walk. Some had a small tent which we felt sure must be where they fled to hide in to eat sandwiches later in the day. No fishermen were seen on Tuesday;
- We did spot a large notice and map of the lake with information on fishing and this information board was near the second car park;
- Large and small dogs were being walked by owners around the lake;
- We saw youngsters playing in the play area with parents or carers watching and keeping an eye out;
- We heard bird song coming from up in a tall tree but we never saw the bird making the lovely melody;
- There were some surprises like the eye catching beautiful garden just after we started the walk with pink dianthus and orange/yellow dahlias plus yellow osteospermum and at the back of that garden some rose bushes;
- We saw swans and cygnets only on the Saturday walk – were we talking too much to notice them on the Tuesday walk?

- We saw trees and bushes growing by the lake and their reflection in the water;
- It was fun to notice the sunlight dancing on the water and realise in this lovely setting that we were only a few miles from the centre of Woking;
- A highlight was walking and talking with others from Church and the continued talking over drinking of a mug of tea at the end.



"When can we walk around the lake again?" was heard when we had finished walking so we have set a date – this time to walk around the lake and not be raising money for the building development fund. So we will walk for the fresh air, the exercise and the enjoyment of walking with other people and having time to talk.

Do join us on the next walk around Goldsworth Lake on **22nd August 2017** at 10.30 am. We shall be outside "Waitrose" at Goldsworth Park. Do let us know please - if you want to join us so we can keep an eye out for you and not start walking without your company!

Finally, thank you to those who took part and those who sponsored us. The total so far is £505.00 to which more will be added by way of Gift Aid.

Ann Dawson & Pam McCallum



Beyond Trinity: Charities of the month

The charities selected for the next two months are Let's Read Ltd (July/August) and Crisis at Christmas (September). Here is some information about them.

Let's Read Ltd is a local charity helping to improve the literacy of young people in the Woking area in two main ways:

- By giving free books to pupils at 13 of the schools in Woking. Over the past 12 years they have given over 35,000 books. The pupils typically get a book of their choice each term. At present they are distributing almost a thousand books a term.
- By providing one-to-one tuition at 4 of Woking's primary schools. They help about 60 pupils each year, whose schools see them as being behind in their reading skill.



Reading is the key to unlocking a child's full potential and one of the best routes out of poverty for the poorest children. Yet in our country today too many children, including 40% of the poorest children, leave primary school without being able to read well.

Funding is principally through donations from individuals and private sector organisations. Every penny donated is used to buy books. A small grant and use of an office is given by Woking BC. All reading tutors and book-gifting staff are volunteers.

Daphne Lander



For over 40 years **Crisis at Christmas** has been offering food, warmth, companionship and health services to homeless people in London over the festivities.

Last December about 4600 guests, all homeless people, were welcomed through the doors. This enormous Christmas effort depends on charity – for example all the premises used are donated temporarily. And the generosity of more than 10,000 volunteers makes this the largest volunteer led event in the U.K.

Nearly all the services offered to homeless people at Christmas including healthcare, opticians, podiatry, dentistry, natural healing and hairdressing, depend on volunteers. I remember my surprise when a podiatrist friend mentioned she would be volunteering for a couple of shifts.

How can we help?

A donation of £22.32 secures a place for one homeless person. Apart from welcome and support, this includes three hot meals including a traditional Christmas dinner, a shower and clean clothes. Some may even be helped to move towards a more settled future.

Hopefully we might aim to raise enough this September to secure several places and ensure a respite from life on the streets?

Margot Craig

Praying together: (1) In the wake of Grenfell Tower

I start this month with a prayer for all those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire in June 2017. You may like to use the prayer over the coming month. The prayer and the comments I have adapted from the web site of the Methodist Church of Britain.

Gracious God

We pray for those caught up in the fire at Grenfell Tower, for casualties, for the wounded, for the missing and the traumatised.

We pray for the emergency services and for those who are responsible for co-ordinating the response to this major incident.

We pray for the congregations and leaders of the local Churches who are listening, helping and being alongside those who have lost so much.

Be with those who lament.

In despair bring hope.

In injury bring healing.

In fear bring comfort.

In our helplessness be our strength.

In your mercy hear our prayers.

In Christ's name.

Amen.

There was also a piece written by the President and Vice President of the Methodist Church in Britain for 2016- 2017, Rev Dr Roger Walton and Ms Rachel Lampard, and I quote it here –

"The horror of the burning tower in Notting Hill will be imprinted on many people's minds for a long time. Our shared grief has, however, only intensified as we heard the stories: of the people who are lost, people who have lost everything, and people still searching

for the lost. Few of us will have been able to witness these events unfold without weeping. And now comes the anger, at those with power, at past decisions, at powerlessness.”

The Methodist Church in Notting Hill¹ has been at the forefront over the last few weeks. It is the first public building outside the police cordon, and has been a focus for grief and practical help. The people there and its leaders will need our prayers and support long into the future.



At times of such heartbreaking events we risk being overwhelmed. How can we respond?

Our first response, along with the prophet Ezekiel who was among a people from whom everything had been taken, has to be one of being alongside people and holding silence (Ezekiel 3.15). To sit with people. To listen to them. To lament for and with them. To offer care and to remain silent as we feel the loss, the pain, the fear, the anger.

The piece continues about the need to fight against injustice and fight for justice.

The love of God, and the command to care for our neighbour, does not finish at the end of our street, or even at our national borders. And if that is the case, then we have to consider - and prioritise - the needs and voices of the poorest and the most disadvantaged, not only in this country, but around the world.

¹ Revd Mike Long's church. www.nottinghillmethodistchurch.org
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So what do we do? We face the reality that we cannot change everything tomorrow. But we must hold in front of us this alternative way, the picture of the Kingdom of God. And then we have to proclaim it and live it out, in our own lives and in our communities. But it must not stop there. It needs to spill out into a passion for transforming the political and economic world, working with all who share a vision for justice and the common good. We remember that judgement in Matthew 25 is reserved for those who have not lived out the ways of the Kingdom.

During the past year our President and Vice-President have taken the text from Micah: *"What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God"*. Now is a time, they write, to cling to those words, realise that they demand of us repentance for our past actions and present privileges, and to commit ourselves to love without measure, act for justice whatever the cost, and do so whilst walking humbly with a God of love and justice.

Micah 6: 6-8

- 6 With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
- 7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of
rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
- 8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

A prayer

Sorry Lord where we are complacent because we have so much,

We have freedom and many privileges and forget others who have far less

We are sorry Lord where we have not been just, or loving or kind to our family, neighbours or friends

We are sorry Lord where we have not loved our enemy – Guide us Lord and show us how to live.

Help us Lord to love you, to love ourselves and to love other people.

Show us Lord how to think and pray, to act and to work for justice for all.

Encourage us Lord as we seek to build your kingdom of love.

Guide us to walk humbly with God.

Our God who is a God of love and justice

Amen

Ann Dawson

Crossing over (Retirement)

I could not stop thinking back and remembering the day I came to England. This was the 17th June 2003. It was a



sunny day and I had not been to this country. I was going to be reunited with my wife after living for a full year apart due to the political situation. She had come to England exactly a year and one month before. I had left our two girls and boy: the girls were both in university and the boy was in 'A' level. I was filled with anxiety and excitement - anxiety from leaving our children to be looked after by the schools were

they were going, and excitement because I was going to be reunited with my wife.

A lot has gone on in our lives as a family since we were reunited in 2003. Our children have graduated from universities. Two of the children are engineers and the first girl is a research nurse after graduating with a Masters in Public health. I have also gone through life transformation from being a lecturer at a Teachers' College back in Zimbabwe to becoming a Deputy Home manager and a Manager. Now it is time to pack up and do something else in my retirement. My wife, having been a school teacher in this country, thought of retiring early to start farming project.

The time has come for me to bid farewell. I planned my retirement some two years back but there appears to be that anxiety creeping in me as was in 2003 when I first came to England. One of my support workers has logged on her mobile phone count down and each day I am on the same shift she tells me that I am left with so many month, weeks, days, hours, minutes and seconds. This reminder brings excitement and anxiety just as was with the Israelites as they were crossing the River Jordan into the Promised Land. What now comes into my mind is how I will cope with a reduced income and yet I am looking forward to my retirement. I wish it was now.

There are a lot of things that need to be in place as one moves to retirement. Joshua told the Israelites to consecrate themselves for the next day as they were about to cross the River Jordan. The Lord was going to perform wonders on them. They actually realised the wonders when the Priests, who were carrying the Ark, were



leading. Today we do not have the Ark but the Holy Spirit who will guide all our plans.

To retire is to begin another life away from the routines of working under structured times. Preparation is needed. One may become too careful in the last days at work. You don't want to make any mistake in the way you deliver your services - one would wish to retire on a clean page.

Such is life. I learn from St. Paul as he cried out when contemplating challenges and trials of life. He says *'Who is adequate for these things?'* Paul answered his own question because he knew that such confidence as we have is through Jesus Christ. We are not adequate to consider anything coming from ourselves, our adequacy is from God - hence consecrating ourselves to God and trusting in the Lord for guidance.

At times I become scared of retiring because I am not too sure of the future, especially in these changing times when the money is buying very little. The bills will remain the same whether you are retired or not. The expenditure will still be the same. When I think about all this I become anxious and the excitement goes. I end up saying to myself *'God come and help me to consecrate myself so I can cross the River Jordan.'* I am consoled by the fact that I have fought a good fight and it is now time to hang up my boots and go and play with grandchildren. A decision has to be made. There is not a point when one will be satisfied that this is the time to retire. If I have not improved my life before 65 years of age then there won't be a time to improve it. This is the time to spend more time in God's kingdom.

So I cross over to a more needy area where my services are required. I will spend more time with the people that are lonely. I will miss the people that I cared for - the staff that

I led and the management I was answerable to. I will also miss CQC visits, the care managers from Social Services, and the different doctors who usually visited the men I was caring for. But this should not dissuade me from the goal. The Lord has taken me this far and I am glad I am still able to fend for myself and my wife.

Vongai and I will spend more time in Zimbabwe. We both have one living parent. We have a project that helps the community and also gives us an income. I am crossing over and I suppose the dog that wins the fight is the retirement dog as it is the dog that I have been feeding most and has the resources required.

I have enjoyed my work but at times I have not given enough time to God. I have also been scared to retire and at times would think whether it was the best decision I was making. Like Moses said to the Israelites, *'Do not be afraid for I am with you always.'* The Lord will fight your fears while you keep silent. The anxiety I feel today, I will not feel once I am in retirement.

I am reminded of Isaiah 30:15. *'For thus the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said, in repentance and rest you shall be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength.'*

I have fought a good fight and I must rest, and praise my God for taking me this far. I shall be starting to put together my life story for my children and grandchildren. I have found inspiration from many people who have been in my life. Now it's time to say 'good bye' to certain activities especially my paid employment and concentrate on what God wants me to do next. I say ***'Here I am Lord. I will go if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart'***.

Rabson Ziso

[Editor's note: Rabson is not leaving us just yet!]

Operation *Christmas Child* Shoebox Appeal



Once again we will be collecting gift-filled 'Shoe-type-boxes' for distribution to some of the world's needy children. *Operation Christmas Child* is an initiative of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief and development organisation.

We were advised to use the Official Boxes as they are a standard size and make stacking the container easier for shipping (and we don't have to cover odd size boxes now). The boxes are checked at the charity's processing centres before being transported to children who are living in some of the most wretched conditions in countries such as Belarus, Bosnia, Crimea, Romania, Serbia, Swaziland, Ukraine and Zimbabwe, and a donation of £3.00 towards the transport costs will be gratefully received - special envelopes are available for this purpose.

Many of the children have been removed from abusive situations by the authorities; some are ill or are living in poverty or squalid conditions with their families; others have been abandoned by their parents.

The toys and gifts we send make a huge difference to the children's lives and for many it is the first time they have received any presents. A full list of gift ideas will be available on **Sunday 3rd September**, but please keep in mind that your gift **MUST BE NEW**.



We would of course like you to fill a box on your own but if you do not feel able to, there will be an opportunity to leave a gift in one of the large boxes which will be in the East Entrance form **Sunday 1st October**.

Can we bring a little pleasure to these children's lives?

Edna Evans

In the footsteps of Lynne Truss.....

No doubt TNV readers share a concern for the correct use of language which Lynne Truss has done much to champion. Here are two cases recently cited in the press where incorrect use has been, to say the least, unfortunate.

An American millionaire's wife travelling through Europe came across a beautiful diamond ring for sale for \$10,000. She sent a telegram to her husband: "*Can I buy?*" Back came the reply: "*No price too high*". So she purchased the ring and he was furious. He had meant: "*No; price too high.*"

During the recent Southern Rail dispute a commuter sent a text to the company: "*Are you laying on extra trains between Hastings and Rye?*" The reply he received was: "*No, we are not sorry.*" What a pity the second comma was omitted!

Praying together: (2) Summer

Philippians 4:4-9 (Good News Translation):

4 May you always be joyful in your union with the Lord. I say it again: rejoice!

5 Show a gentle attitude toward everyone. The Lord is coming soon.

6 Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart.

7 And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.

8 In conclusion, my friends, fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honourable.

9 Put into practice what you learned and received from me (St Paul), both from my words and from my actions. And the God who gives us peace will be with you.

Since it's Summer, and roses are surely one of the most beautiful flowers on earth, I've chosen some images from a free website hoping they'll help us think lovely thoughts. God can renew our minds and refill our hearts with love.



"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

[Philippians 4:8 (NIV)]

We need your help, Lord please, to fill our minds with all these good things and put these words into our busy lives.

Renew our minds Lord and refill our hearts with love - Amen.

Ann Dawson



Epworth Choir's next concert will be on Saturday 21st October at St Dunstons Church, Woking commencing at 7.45pm. The programme is entitled 'The French Touch' and includes choral and organ music by Fauré, Saint-Saëns, Franck and Vierne.

Proceeds will go to Quest Riding for the Disabled based in Chobham. Tickets priced £15 (£5 for under 12s) are obtainable from the box office (01483 760133) or choir members.

Book Circle Trip to Hull

Hull is a city of surprises.

On the recent Book Circle trip to Hull I was surprised to find myself sitting in a theatre watching a play about women boxers. I was surprised to follow that up the next day with a visit to William Wilberforce's house. And I was surprised, most of all, to have my preconceptions about Hull blown away by spending time wandering around the maze of Georgian streets and wharves around the old town which gave a hint of the glories of Hull's past.

The trip started as a chat over a cup of tea. We somehow got talking about how Hull is this year's UK City of Culture and how John and Margot Craig grew up there and that their families have a long history in the city. The idea was planted and who better to guide us round Hull than John and Margot who had lived in the city, knew its history and its backstreets and who could give a personal perspective on how Hull had changed over the years? The invitation spread to include the rest of the Book Circle – we had been on our Big Day Out to London the previous year – and others joined too when they heard we were going.



Fish and Chips: Lisa Barrott, Allison Jackson, Jean Normington, John Craig, Margot Craig, Ruth Taylor, Sue Waddell, James Barrott

In the end eight of us went to Hull with four then going on to Scarborough. You can read all about the trip to Scarborough in Allison Jackson's article [*follows – Ed.*]. We



arrived in Hull by car, crossing over the gloriously delicate-yet-tough Humber Bridge over the fast-flowing, muddy waters of the River Humber. The photograph gives an idea of what it was like without showing the true impact of its scale.

We stayed in a hotel on the edge of the city centre in a regenerated area undergoing rapid change. Each morning we passed over the River Hull near the backs of storehouses and stores which a hundred years ago would have been noisy with the hustle and bustle of trading ships and the unloading and loading of goods. Cobbled streets led to the centre of the city with its grand buildings and parks and visitor attractions such as the Maritime Museum shown in the photograph.

We were fascinated to see how being the UK City of Culture had given the city opportunities and money to attract visitors. Many of the tourist attractions had developed their facilities with new visitors in mind and we visited the Ferens Art Gallery to see the exhibition 'Skin', the Maritime Museum (*opposite*), the Streetlife museum and several of the restaurants in the newly regenerated dockyard area. All the attractions were close together and all within walking distance; we could relax and go at our own pace and spend time doing the things that we liked most. Margot loved the Maritime Museum as her father was a skipper on a trawler. Jean adored the William Wilberforce exhibition with its history of the abolition of the slave trade. Allison and Ruth



enjoyed the guide in the Streetlife museum who told them that all he was about to say was made up and then enchanted and intrigued them with stories of lives on Arctic trawlers and the desperate conditions people lived in. My absolute favourite (and Sue's too) was the 'Skin' exhibition. Art, at its best, can make you stop dead in your tracks and see the world from a different perspective: this was one of those moments. The artist, Ron Mueck, models human beings on a very large or small scale using puppetry techniques, the results are skillful and disturbing and so lifelike that it takes your breath away. Do look him up. John was impressed by the regeneration of areas he used to know as derelict and rundown. And finally, James.... well he was thrilled by the fish and chips: we felt it would be rude to visit Hull and not taste the sea so all eight of us crowded round a tiny table in a dockside restaurant for an early fish supper before the theatre. You can see us in the photograph (*see page 26*).

I warmly recommend a visit to Hull. It's a fabulous and fascinating place to spend time and not at all what you might expect. There are many Methodist connections including William Wilberforce and J Arthur Rank. We had to leave Philip Larkin for next time but whether you're a lover of poetry, theatre, history, art, architecture or industrial heritage there is something for you in Hull, the 2017 UK City of Culture.

Lisa Barrott

Four go on an outing (Or what important people we missed.....)

Four of us travelled on from Hull to Scarborough for a few days. The passengers on the train to the seaside were Ruth, Jean, Sue and Allison. We went for sea air, walks and some of us went for ice creams.

It was certainly breezy on the East Coast, and we walked along the coast, avoiding any culture as museums/galleries were shut on Mondays, but spotted bee orchids in meadows, a drinker moth caterpillar and found an idyllic deserted beach at Cayton Bay for our picnic lunch. Three other people there and a café for ice-creams on the way up!

We had a car for day two, and went to Bempton Cliffs Bird Reserve. We didn't see Chris Packham there, but we did see millions of gulls, gannets, kitty wakes and their chicks and three puffins (of the alleged 11,000 breeding pairs!). On to Robin Hood Bay for tea, where the tea shops mostly closed at 2.30 because of lack of customers, and then onto Whitby for sunset over the water, and fish & chips which was great for three of us, but not so great for the vegetarian (Whitby chips are well known for their beef dripping qualities). People we missed in Whitby were Abbess St Hilda, Captain James Cook, Bram Stoker, Lewis Carrol or Charles Dickens.

But back to Scarborough – we had a great few days in a little four-storey cottage which had stairs so steep that you could only take your own cup of tea up from the kitchen to the living room as you had to hold onto the bannisters with the other hand! We could look out onto the harbour and the lighthouse, but some people we didn't see in Scarborough were Anne Bronte, who was buried up the road, Susan Hill, Edith Sitwell, Selina Scott or Charles Laughton; Alan Ayckbourn who lived a mere 3 doors along from our cottage – I think his house was about 5 houses really, and of course John Wesley! He visited and preached here in his latter years, and when he died in 1791, there were said to be 621 Methodists in Scarborough. We saw the place he preached from and also a house he stayed in, but obviously he was one of the people of Scarborough we did not see!

Allison Jackson

Thoughts of Joan and Alfred Vice on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary



In the mid 1950s I got a job in the Town Clerk's office in St Albans. One of the lady employees far out-shone the others. She was a sparkling jewel named Joan Clamp. One morning she came early into my office, her hands still blue with cold after cycling to work on a frosty morning. I said to her *"Would you like to come nearer the fire?"* There was a filing cabinet in the way and she replied *"Yes, if there's room"*. I said *"there's always room for you by my fire Miss Clamp."* Now sixty years later, if you ever come to my fire you will still find the former Miss Clamp seated before it in the best chair.

In three months we were engaged and three months later were married in St Albans Baptist Church on 29th June 1957. During those last few months I got a better job at Wimbledon. After an idyllic honeymoon in Scotland we were able to move into a flat quite close to the Town Hall where I worked and then after a year or so into a bungalow a mile away in Morden. During our Wimbledon years we enjoyed the Common of course and we both had swimming lessons in preparation for a holiday on The Broads. I had done a lot

of dinghy drill in the RAF but as we always wore life jackets they never bothered to teach us to swim! Under the Wimbledon Baths where we had our lessons there was a cellar where a rifle club practised and I enjoyed shooting with them. These were different times – I once took a rifle to be changed at a shop in London. I had to ask a policeman for the way which he happily told me with never a question about what I was doing with a rifle in a London street – happy peaceful days!

In June 1965 I got a job as Deputy Clerk to the Council in Woking. Our first house here was in Horsell and our three children all attended Horsell Village School. Although our second house was in Maybury, and our eldest daughter was married in St Paul's Church, Joan always kept a fondness for Horsell and was delighted when we moved to our present house in Cheapside beside the Common in 1987.

Joan has been plagued by health problems and has undergone innumerable operations. Nevertheless she has never lost her cheerful smile and her interest and readiness to help so far as she can in everything that is going on.

From our experience I can offer three basic elements of a happy marriage. First the acceptance and commitment to the definition of a marriage – a union of a man and a woman for life to the exclusion of all others. In our case that has never been doubted or queried, but simply taken as read. The next is that a married couple should have a home – a private space in which to develop their joint lives in combination and harmony. Finally there should be a recognition and appreciation of all that the other has contributed. That attitude is the fuel in the engine of a happy marriage – and incidentally it is the first step to prayer.

Joan and I have been blessed with sixty years of happy married life. Our greatest delight has been with our three

children and in later years similarly with our six grandchildren. As they develop their own lives there is joy for us in their successes and it is good to be able to share and where possible to help in their disappointments.

When we were married Joan was a life-long Baptist and I was nothing in particular. I went to church with her as part of living shared lives. Neither of us particularly liked Baptist churches other than that at St Albans. Probably the first time we visited Trinity was on 26th June 1966. In those days of decrepit Woking the new Methodist church was the only building of which I had any desire to see the interior. We got on well with the Methodists. I found their contentment with *'walking humbly with our God'* by way of enquiry rather than propitiation quite refreshing. I am forever grateful to Revd. John Bishop for accepting me into membership. That led to my becoming Property Committee Secretary, then District Manses Committee Secretary and membership of the District Property Committee. So in these back-room jobs I hope I have been able to assist the church in some small way.

We thank Trinity very sincerely for the flowers you sent us and we thank the many individuals who sent us cards and good wishes. We celebrated the anniversary with a little supper party – just the family and one or two old friends – at the Talbot Inn in Ripley. I felt I ought to say a few words and I included some lines from Tennyson:

*"And though We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are,
One equal temper of heroic hearts
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."*

This seemed to go down well at the party. We just hope it is true.

Joan & Alfred Vice

Methodist Heritage

Those were the days! All through my early years I went to a Methodist Sunday School with my parents, twice every Sunday. My Mum was our Sunday School secretary so I saw all the literature that came through the post from MYD (Methodist Youth Department) - lesson notes for Sunday School teachers, magazines for teenagers, scripture exam material, and all types of Christian literature. A lot of it was written by LPB and JKM (Revd Leonard P Barnett and Revd J Kenneth Meir). I met them both and treated them as Gods – for they were in my eyes.



Our youth club was affiliated to MAYC which also had offices in MYD. The Ludgate Hill premises became too small so a new complex of buildings was built at Muswell Hill N10, on land given by Guy Chester, a Methodist philanthropist. As well as MYD offices, a youth hostel for students living in London was built - Chester House.

As a teenager I used to go on 'holiday' with five girls to MYD Summer Schools. We were all Sunday School teachers, and went to places like Truro School (Methodist boarding school), Bangor in North Wales (A Welsh college) and Filey (Hunmanby Hall boarding school) for lectures on Sunday School teaching, arts, crafts, drama, music sessions, talent shows, and general seaside fun. The word 'school' didn't put us off. We had a great time and very happy memories.

Looking back I now realise that I lived in a Methodist bubble, but at the time it just felt normal. I wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

Barbara Phillips

A note to contributors

It is our practice to publish each edition of TNV on the Trinity website. It is an important source of information about church life at Trinity and something we want to share with others. At the same time we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable for their personal details to appear on the internet in this way. We will be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so.

From the Editor

Thanks to all who have helped with the preparation and distribution of this issue of TNV. The next issue will be edited by Jean Normington.

For those who are interested, the photograph on the front cover shows the River Spey near Loch Laggan with the Cairngorm range in the background.

David Lander

**Articles for the October/November issue
should be submitted by
24th September 2017**

**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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pigeonhole at the Church or emailed to
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