

Message from Rev Sam Funnell

Dear Friends,

I have a book on my study shelves I've never properly read – actually I've got quite a few that come into that category – but this one is special to me – mainly and simply by virtue of its title 'The Friendship of the Lord'. I'm not sure that I will ever read all of it, although I probably ought to give it a good go sometime, but I will not get rid of it as it speaks to me of an essential facet of God's nature that I find comforting, reassuring and deeply meaningful: that God is our friend.

Don't you think that's amazing? That God, you know that GREAT BIG GOD that made the universe, everything in it and even you and me – is our friend. A friend is one that we choose and one that chooses us; it's different to family, which can be a great blessing or not depending on the relationship we have with our relations! A friend can accompany us through much of our life, or share just a small part of it but the relationship is ultimately one of choice and this can give it a very different nuance and impact.

I don't know about you but I have never really found it easy to make friends and I can probably count on one hand those I would name as such for me but the fact that, however many or few friends I have and how good I am at maintaining those friendships with the challenges of itinerant ministry, God is my friend - chooses me even if I wouldn't choose me at all, and helps me blossom within that gift of a relationship that is friendship.

These last months have made us realise, if we needed reminding or even really recognising for the first time, that it matters for us to have people around us and 'connected' with us, even if we have had to work on different ways of being connected and maintaining those relationships.

Perhaps it helps us now and will help us all at times in the days, weeks and months to come, if we can hold onto the one who says to us:

'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you.'
(John 15:13-16a NRSVA – my underlining)

And maybe, one of these days, I'll actually read that book of mine to help me remember!
Have a good week everyone!
Sam.

Prayer for the Week:

God, who calls me friend:
walk with me through life when I am in need of a companion;
talk with me when I need to hear another's voice;
sit with me, even if I am unaware of your presence;
love me, when I am at my most unlovable.
God, who calls me friend:
THANK YOU – for all you are! Amen

Messages from the Leadership Team

In the "Our Stories" slot during worship we have heard people talking about their encounters with Good Samaritans. I've also met with one in the past weeks. I needed an x ray and was informed by my doctors' surgery that I could just turn up at St Peters and didn't need an appointment. I must admit I thought it strange that I could just walk in. However, in good faith I took myself to the x ray department only to be told by the receptionist that it was appointments only. He must have seen my face fall as he then turned into my good Samaritan, he twiddled a few buttons on his computer and within 10 minutes I was having the x ray! This has made me wonder how I can be a Good Samaritan, and I must admit I am struggling with this. A Good Samaritan is a person who helps others in a random act of kindness. I don't encounter many people in my day-to-day life, but each week I try to remember to put something in the food bank collection bin at the supermarket.

Most of us have tried to be good neighbours over the last 18 months and as we come out of covid restrictions the need for Good Samaritans will not go away, and there will be many opportunities for us as the Church opens. For instance, would you be willing to serve tea and coffee after morning worship, a small thing but an act of real kindness. Sue and her Junior Church team are thinking of planning weekly treats for their families during the month of August, maybe you can help them with this.

The parable of the Good Samaritan can be read in Luke 10 v 25-37

Jean Normington



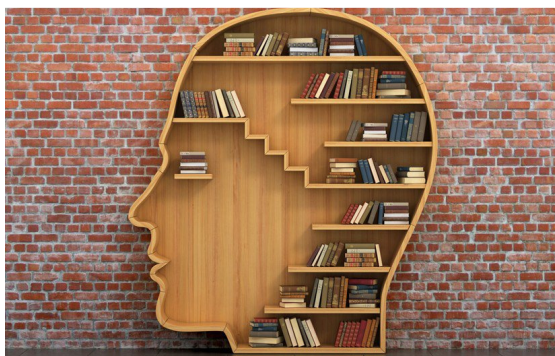
"Neighbourly hello" by emmajanehw (Creative Commons)

New books in our library

Margot has very kindly donated several books from John's collection to our library. They are on the lowest shelf of the bookcase, next to the reference books (concordance etc.) and are available for borrowing.

Please just sign them out in the red book in the usual way.

Elaine Slatter



MS Clip Art

Regular events at Trinity

We're gradually getting more of our regular tenants back into the building as restrictions relax.

I thought you might like to know which events are now regularly taking place again:

Monday: Zumba, Cremona Dance School

Tuesday: Chair Yoga, Cremona Dance School

Wednesday: Intergenerational Music Making, Cremona Dance School

Thursday: Yoga with Julie, Cremona Dance, Dot Sign Language

Friday: Trinity Toddlers

Saturday: Kids Karate, Cremona Dance, Dot Sign, The Barn Community (prayer)

Sunday: Morning Worship, Chinese Congregation, Bible Investigators (Fortnightly), Foundry Worship (Fortnightly)

Coffee and Chat will resume on a Wednesday morning, from 21 July.

If you would like more information on any of these events, please email me and I will put you in touch with the right person.

It's a blessing that we are able to host these tenants, in most case sole traders or small businesses, to help them get back on their feet post-Covid, and welcome people of all ages into the Church.

There is capacity to extend our welcome to more or different groups, such as social enterprises, and community organisations, in support of the Foundry mission, and to contribute toward our income. Our '*usp*' if you will is our Christian welcome, the beauty of the Sanctuary, the 'back room' facilities, car parking on site. There is much potential.

Daniela WS

A Word in Season 64 – ‘GOALS’

Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

(from Hebrews 12:1-2 NRSVA)

It is probably a case of calendar coincidence that at the moment our television and news are heavily involved in sport – the Euros – football, Wimbledon – tennis, ODIs – Cricket, Opens – Golf, all followed by the fast approaching Olympics. The word ‘goals’ is being widely used, for example Gareth Southgate, the England football team manager stressing the goal over the past five years was to produce a team capable of winning the Euros. At this moment with the semi-final approaching on Wednesday he could achieve that goal after five years of hard work. Eighteen year old Emma Raducanu after her surprise win at Wimbledon, said, ‘Whatever may happen my goal is to become the Wimbledon’s Ladies Champion in the future.’ We now know that after a tremendous effort she was unable to continue her attempt to reach the quarter-finals in the second set due to ‘medical’ problems but she is still determined to achieve her goal.

This reminds me of what has been happening in Trinity over the past five or so years. We know God has a goal for us to reach as individuals and a congregation but it has been hard sometimes to recognise what that goal is. Things are becoming clearer and the Leadership Team through prayer and consultation have established some goals they believe God has set for us. Like ‘wild card’ Emma we as a Congregation are at the beginning of putting the preparation into effect. Covid has posed many difficulties but we have found good solutions, and now that we are coming out from under the cloud the opportunities are there for us to move forward in the name of Jesus and with the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are all individuals with our own thoughts and ideas but, we need to recognise God’s presence in our working together to achieve this goal. There will be some ups and downs, disagreements and many challenges to come. But as the writer of Hebrews says we have to run the race towards the goal set before us, looking to Jesus. You may ask, what is our goal? In simple terms to extend Christ’s Kingdom here in Trinity in a post Covid world – reaching out prayerfully, spiritually and practically to share our faith and buildings to meet the needs now becoming apparent. It will bring changes – we cannot go back to a pre-Covid world as it doesn’t, in reality, exist anymore. With Christ as our champion and the Holy Spirit the Empowerer, we must move forward in faith and hope to reach the prize. We all, from the eldest to the youngest, have a positive part to play in this exciting time. As Paul says in Corinthians 12:4-7:

‘There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good’.

I hope that England do achieve the goal of winning the Euros. I remember, in the summer of 1966, sitting in the lounge of the station house at Lymington Town station, with the window, open giving a running commentary to the passengers waiting for their trains, as England won the World Cup, and the resulting excitement and joy. I hope too that Emma does achieve her goal to be a Wimbledon Ladies Champion. I pray in faith and hope that Trinity will achieve the goal set by our Lord to develop our witnesses to God’s love for all, and reaching out to serve the needs of our community and world in his name.

Some words of Sydney Carter remind us of God’s constant presence:

‘One more step along the way we go, from the old things to the new, keep us travelling along with you.

As we travel through the bad and good, keep us travelling the way we should, where we see no way to go you’ll be telling us the way, we know.

Give us courage when the way is rough, keep us loving though the way is tough, leap and sing in all we do, keep us travelling along with you: and it’s from the old we travel to the new; keep us travelling along with you’. (from StF 476)

As we move into the ‘new’ post restriction free environment, just announced, let us remember that, in spite of our concerns and fears for the immediate future God is with us. Scripture gives us these promises:

‘I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palm of my hands’ (Isaiah 49:15b-16 NRSVA)

For God has said, ***‘I will never leave you or forsake you.’*** So we can say with confidence, the Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. (Hebrews 13:5b-6 NRSVA)

Jesus said, ***‘Remember, I am with you always ...’*** (Matthew 28:20b NRSVA). ***‘I will ask the One who sent me to give you another Paraclete, (comforter, counsellor, teacher, advocate and mediator) another Helper to be with you always – the Spirit of truth, (John 14:15-17a The Inclusive Bible)***

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (from Romans 15).

Graham Warr



Image: WTA tennis/Jimmie48



Eco Church: Bronze!

Picking up on Dad's sporting inspired article, David Lander has informed us that Trinity has been awarded the Eco Church Bronze Award. Thanks to him and Daphne for leading on our submission. <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>

Daniela WS

Valerie's Quiz Corner!

Answers from the last quiz:

1. A monadnock is a small type of what? *Mountain*
2. What colour is found on 70% of the world's flags? *Red*
3. What is a spirometer used for? *To measure lung capacity*
4. What is the number of the R.A.F. squadron which carried out the Dambuster raid in 1943? *617*
5. How many rooms are in Buckingham Palace? *775*
6. Which art gallery holds Vincent Van Gough's painting, "Starry Night Over The Rhone"? *La Musee D'Orsay*
7. Aduke, borlotti and cannellini are all types of what? *Beans*
8. In which part of the body would you find the cruciate ligament? *Knees*
9. Which Welsh city lies at the mouth of the river Taff and has a suburb called Tiger Bay? *Cardiff*
10. Which is the world's deepest ocean? *Pacific Ocean*
11. Who wrote 'The Catcher in the Rye'? *JD Salinger*
12. Which method of communication involves two flags? *Semaphore*
13. Who created the famous statue "The Thinker"? *Rodin*
14. Which animal kills the most humans? *The Mosquito*
15. Of which country is Karachi the largest city? *Pakistan*

This week's Quiz:

1. What can be isosceles or scalene?
2. What is the former name of the Russian city St Petersburg?
3. New York's statue, The Statue of Liberty was a gift from which country?
4. In medicine what is hypertension?
5. Which Canadian city hosted the Olympic Games in 1976?
6. What was a Sopwith Camel?
7. Which composer wrote The Magic Flute in 1791
8. Which oil can help to relieve toothache?
9. In which European country is Colditz?
10. Which historical Chinese rebellion can also be a type of dog?
11. One of the National sports of Scotland. Played by 2 teams of 15 on a field?
12. Which chemical element has the symbol Si?
13. Which is the larger, the African or the Indian elephant?
14. Which is the largest bone in the human body?
15. In which ocean did the Titanic sink?

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