

TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS



“How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.” [Psalm 104: v 24]

October/November 2019 Issue 49

A Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends

The idea of travelling is a much-used, and richly evocative image of the Christian life. For a Methodist minister it is particularly pertinent for we are called to be itinerant. Ministers in the active work are “stationed” in a Circuit by the annual Methodist Conference on the recommendation of the Stationing Committee, for an initial period of 5 years, with the possibility of that invitation being extended if, after a period of consultation and prayerful discernment, the minister and the Circuit are agreeable. In comparison to the re-invitation process the retirement process is remarkably simple. In order to retire a minister like me is required to stand before the annual District Presbyteral Synod in the Spring of our last year of active service, give a reflective testimony about our experience of ministry and conclude by asking Synod to grant permission for us to “sit down” (ie. to stop travelling.) I did this last March, in the expectation that I would go home to Reading and serve there as a supernumerary for the rest of my active life.

It was as the prospect of moving on, for the last time in my ministry, was beginning to loom large on the horizon, that your superintendent approached me about serving

The image gracing our front cover is of a male Brimstone butterfly. It was photographed by Geoff Eaton earlier this Summer at Mottisfont near Romsey in Hampshire.

the congregation here at Trinity during the first year of my "retirement". So, whilst I am living (stationed) in the Basingstoke and Reading Circuit, now somewhat larger than when I left it to take up my first ministerial station, I find myself travelling from Reading to Woking (and beyond – I was at Cranleigh for the circuit service on Sunday 15th!) several times each week. I would like to thank you for the warm welcome I have received so far and I look forward to walking the Christian journey with you all during the coming Connexional year, after which I pray that the Methodist stationing process will have matched you with a more permanent, and more local minister, at least for the next five years.

As I write this, I am still surrounded by a large number of unopened cardboard removers' boxes. To date I have unpacked 157 and I think I have about 35 left to go. I have never learnt the art of travelling light, so I have accumulated a lot of clutter in terms of my possessions. (Did I really need to keep all those 'useful' ice cream tubs from the days when I ate ice cream? or the gardening magazines I bought for several years but whose advice I never followed? let alone all the shoes I haven't worn for years?) I have lost count of how many boxes of surplus stuff I have taken to various charity shops and I am certain that I have got rid of at least 1,000 books, although I still have enough to cover one complete bedroom wall of shelves!

It isn't easy to travel light in spiritual terms, either. "Let it go and move on", is much easier said than done! We all carry such a lot of unnecessary baggage which weighs down our souls: past hurts which have been 'forgiven' but still come back to haunt us from time to time; regrets we have about opportunities missed or things that didn't turn

out as well as we had hoped or expected; relationships with our Christian brothers and sisters that remain strained long after the original cause has ceased to be of any real importance in the grand scheme of things; the disappointment of hopes dashed or expectations unrealized.

As I continue the daunting task of sorting and clearing the papers which cluttered every part of my last manse study and spilled out into the manse dining room, I catch glimpses of half-forgotten incidents and situations that have long-since ceased to have any lasting relevance for God's work today, but have nevertheless left a troubling legacy.

On the other hand, I also come across uplifting thank you cards and letters, and messages of affirmation and care that I have received over the years. (I always advise people new to ministry to keep these to be used as a reviving tonic for the grey days of ministry.) I am making a real effort to consign the negative and out of date stuff to the recycling bin or, where needful to the shredder, but I will keep the best of the 'good' stuff a little longer, to savour like a fine wine in any grey days ahead.

In conclusion, may I say that although being called to serve at Trinity immediately after "sitting down" was a bit of a surprise, I am looking forward to getting to know you and working with you even though the time we will have together is likely to be short. As we journey together, I hope to learn much from you, and I hope that you will learn something from me.

Every Blessing, **Jackie**

[Read more from Jackie on page 14]

Dates for your diary

(See page 33 for regular weekly and monthly activities)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6 th October | Foundry Worship @ 5.00pm |
| 13 th October | Neighbourhood Party @ 4.00pm |
| 20 th October | Messy Church @ 10.00am |
| 20 th October | Foundry Worship @ 5.00pm |
| 27 th October | Early Communion @ 8.45am with
Rev Julia Monaghan |
| 29 th -31 st
October | Holiday Club |
| 3 rd November | All Souls Service @ 3.00pm led by
Rev Jackie Case |
| 3 rd November | Foundry Worship @ 5.00pm |
| 10 th November | Remembrance Sunday service led by
Graham Pearcey |
| 17 th November | Messy Church @ 10.00am |
| 17 th November | Foundry Worship @ 5.00pm |
| 24 th November | Early Communion @ 8.45am with
Rev David Faulkner |

*[Some advance information about
our Christmas services is on page 8]*

For your prayers

Please pray for members of our Trinity family who are seriously ill or undergoing hospital treatment of one sort or another. At the time of writing our prayers are asked in particular for **Bill Lindop, Arthur Andrews** and **Ann Dawson** following a stay in hospital, and **Kieran Meldrum and family.**



We remember too, **Rev Dave Faulkner** and **Rev Asif Das** who have recently undergone surgery and are making a phased return to work.

Earlier this Summer **Herbert James**, a long-standing member of Trinity died at the age of 87. He had worked as a solicitor in the City of London and for many years had been Chairman of the Finance Committee at Trinity. We are asked to remember in our prayers Susan, Juliet, Victoria, Madeleine and their families.

Congratulations to...



Enid Pullen on celebrating her 80th birthday

We welcome the arrival of **Samuel East**, born on September 21st – a son for Mark and Sarah (nee Bowerman) and grandson for Hugh and Helen.



Adam Phillips who has completed a Maths foundation course at Nice and is now studying for a computer science degree in Paris; and **Luke Phillips** who has passed his Baccalaureat and has a place at Toulouse University in the aeronautical and space engineering school.

Sunday Morning Coffee

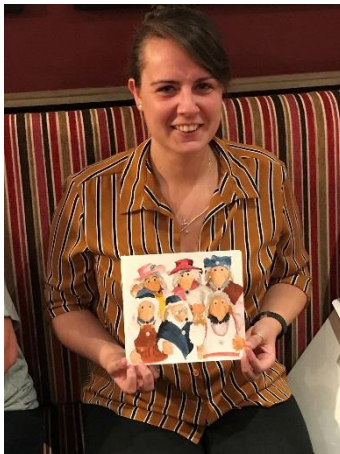
A small team of people serve coffee after the service each Sunday morning. Having the chance to chat over a cup of tea or coffee after the service is an important part of fellowship. Helping in this way does not take any particular skill – just a little time, a friendly smile and a willingness to help. We would really welcome a few more volunteers. If you think this is something you could do perhaps just twice a year, please do come and have a word with **Helen Bowerman**.

Farewells!

On 20th September we bid a sad 'farewell' to Tiffany who has not only been a superb administrator over the past year but has become a good friend to us all. We wish her every success in the future.



Some of us were able to enjoy a farewell lunch whilst the Wombles marked the occasion in their own inimitable way (© Lyn Lorberg!).



A different sort of farewell took place in August, preparatory to the works to create the new office. The Circuit safe which has graced the Stewards' Vestry at Trinity until now has been relocated to Merrow.

Leaving Trinity



On its way



In its new home



Christmas and New Year at Trinity

- Dec 14th Epworth Choir Christmas Concerts at 3.30pm and 7.30pm
- Dec 15th Nativity & Christingle Service at 10.30am
- Dec 22nd Carol Service at **5.00pm**
- Dec 24th Midnight Communion at 11.15pm
- Dec 25th Christmas Day Worship at 10.00am
- Dec 29th Possible united service – to be confirmed
- Jan 5th Covenant Service at 10.30am

*Our customary morning services and Foundry
Worship will take place as usual*

The bird that was trapped had flown

The bird that was trapped has flown
The sky that was grey is blue
The bone that was dead has grown
The dream that was dreamed is true
The locked door has been swung wide
The prisoner has been set free
The lips that were sealed have cried
The eye that was blind can see
The tree that was bare is green
The room that was dull is bright
The sheet that was soiled is clean
The dawn that was dark is light
The road that was blocked has no end
The unknown journey is known
The heart that is hurt will mend
The bird that was trapped has flown.

By James Robertson, included in the Scottish anthology 'Tools of the Trade: Poems for New Doctors'



Charities

Here is a summary of the amounts raised for our monthly refreshment charities and other collections in recent months.

March 2019	Woking MIND	£140.00
April	Christian Blind Mission	£75.00
May	Christian Aid	£110.00 (+ Plant Sale: £350.00)
June	Neurosciences Research Foundation	£110.00
July/August	Citizens Advice Woking	£180.00

The charities we are supporting during October and November are:

October – Compassion



Our support for Compassion began with our Harvest celebrations on 29th September. Compassion is a leading children's charity which

has been operating for 66 years, giving children the opportunity to escape the suffering and fear poverty brings. Nearly 385 million children are currently living in extreme poverty. Poverty has a face. It's a girl forced to marry because her family can't support her. A boy sent to work on the rubbish heap, rather than the classroom. Their approach is summed up in three simple words: Compassion for children.

Compassion works in partnership with local churches in 25 developing countries in Central and South America, Africa and South East Asia. They provide resources, training and expertise to help the church give the children in their

community the opportunity to escape from poverty and fulfil their potential. Each child is linked with a sponsor and care is provided through every stage of childhood from the womb to early adulthood. For further information see their website www.compassionuk.org.

November - Cancer Research UK



CRUK is the world's largest independent cancer research charity. Its work is almost entirely funded by the public. It raises

money through donations, legacies, community fundraising, events, retail and corporate partnerships. Over 40,000 people are regular volunteers.

The charity's vision is to bring forward the day when all cancers are healed. In the 1970s less than a quarter of people with cancer survived. But over the last 40 years survival has doubled – today half will survive. CRUK's ambition is to accelerate progress and see three-quarters of people surviving the disease within the next 20 years.

Around two thirds of the charity's income is spent on research. Of this 40% goes on basic laboratory research into the molecular basis of all types of cancer. The research is intended to improve understanding of how cancer develops and spreads and thus provide a foundation for other research. It supports over 200 clinical trials and studies cancer and cancer risk in over a million people in the UK. The rest of its funding is used to support research into over 100 specific cancer types, focusing on key areas such as drug discovery and development; prevention, early detection and imaging; surgery and radiotherapy; and cancers where survival rates are still low, such as oesophageal, lung and pancreatic cancers.

*[In December we will once again be supporting **All we Can** – more information in the next issue.]*

Woking Prayer Network

I have recently joined the Hoe Valley prayer group. This is one of the 'local' Woking Prayer Network groups and is Churches Together in Woking's (CTiW) way of encouraging and co-ordinating prayer across the town. The network was formed out of informal networks of people who were committed to praying for Woking and encouraged by a sense that God wanted a praying community in the town.

Having found out about it on the Internet, I contacted the group leader and with a little trepidation, turned up for the May meeting. What I found was a small friendly group of people from different churches in Woking who were committed to pray for both Woking and for the local community in which the group was based. I was welcomed and very quickly felt part of the group.

The aim of the network is to connect Christians praying for Woking and to:

- encourage intercessors
- create greater unity in prayer across the whole church in Woking
- stimulate more prayer for the town

Woking Prayer Network is not meant to replace, or in any way take away from, existing church prayer groups, Rather, it aims to connect with and encourage such groups. The only requirement to be a network member is a general commitment to pray for the town. Prayer needs from church fellowships, Christian charities, public sources of information and secular sources (e.g. the police or local

authority) are used to give the groups regular prayer request updates. Becoming a member is a way of making a commitment to pray regularly for Woking. My local Hoe Valley group meets once a month.

There are currently prayer groups based in Hoe Valley, Horsell and Goldsworth Park. The aim is to have at least one prayer group in each of the ten civic wards in Woking which meets regularly.

Last year the prayer network undertook to complete a prayer walk around the perimeter of Woking Borough to pray for the town as part of National Prayer Weekend. This year it took place on Saturday 28th September. A group from Trinity will be walking a section from Newark Priory to Old Woking. More about this in the next issue of TNV. If you are interested in finding out more about Woking's prayer groups, please contact Andrew Humphreys, the network coordinator, at wokingprayernetwork@outlook.com or come and have a chat with me.

Helen Bowerman



This sunflower was photographed at Eaton Towers (aka the home of Geoff & Wendy) this Summer

Jackie's story

We asked Jackie if she would tell us a bit about her background. This is what she wrote.

I was born on 26th May 1953, exactly a week before the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, narrowly missing the prize of a pram offered to the baby in Nursing Home born the closest to the Queen's big day. You could say that the circumstances of my birth set several trends which have remained with me throughout my life: I never win prizes, but often come second, and although too early for the coronation, I was in fact more than two weeks late and have continued either to be late or to arrive just in time ever since!



I grew up in Reading. The family home was large, ruled by my maternal grandmother and there were many people's needs to consider. As well as my parents and younger sister, (and 13 years later an unexpected baby brother), our home had always accommodated at least 2 lodgers (Nan always insisted on men rather than women) and several of them stayed for so many years that it was difficult to remember that they weren't actually members of the family.

Apart from being christened as a baby in the local Anglican Church and being a bridesmaid at the age of 3, my experience of church and the Christian faith was

limited to school assemblies. For years I thought that the only appropriate prayer position was "legs crossed, hands together, eyes closed"! But, at some point in my last year at primary school there must have been an epiphany moment (which I don't remember) and I asked if I could go to Sunday School. When my mother had recovered from the shock, she arranged for a couple who lived a few doors down the road to take me to their church, which happened to be the local Methodist Church. Thanks to the dedication of one particular Sunday School teacher, and various other church folk my faith was nurtured and grew over the next 8 years. I became a church member at 16.

After primary school, having passed the 11+, I travelled across Reading every day to the girls Grammar School. My vocation to teaching was discerned early: according to my mother, I came home from my first day at primary school declaring "I'm going to be a teacher", and never changed my mind. The only things still to be decided were what age and what subject. This was determined in my second year at the grammar school when, having sat through yet another chaotic and unstimulating RE lesson taught by a non-specialist, I thought to myself "Someone's got to be able to do better than this!"

A degree in Theology at Bristol University and a post graduate certificate in education followed, during which my faith continued to mature and I made life-long friends through MethSoc. It would be true to say that these were some of the happiest years of my life. Not yet ready to return home, my first teaching post was in a huge school just outside Stockport. It was probably one of the toughest years of my life, made bearable by the kindness and love of the people in the small local Methodist church. The following year I returned to live in Reading, teaching

for 3 years at Charters in Sunningdale and 20 years at Cox Green Comprehensive School in Maidenhead. (My father could never understand why a grammar school girl always insisted on teaching in co-ed comprehensive schools!)

Throughout my teaching years it was frequently suggested to me that I should consider local preaching, and even ordained ministry, but my reply was always the same, "No, no, teaching is my vocation!" Finally a very persuasive and astute Minister got me to agree to "putting a toe in the water" by beginning local preachers training, but I remained adamant that ordained ministry was out of the question.

However, in 1997, just as I was completing the local preachers course, a whole series of events, some quite powerful, strongly urged me to consider a call to ordained ministry. The battle, for battle it was indeed, concluded as I walked down the hospital corridor after visiting my father for the last time as he lay dying from lung cancer. A little voice in my head said, "You'll have to get used to these places, you know". The battle against God's call had been hard fought, I believe for about 15 years, but as I set my mind to the requirements of candidating there was an overwhelming sense of peace. "I am more me now, than I have ever been," I observed to a colleague in the early years of my ministry in Eastleigh. After one year's part time training I was offered the opportunity to be stationed two years early, continuing my training as I served as a probationer minister in Eastleigh, being ordained 3 years later. After 7 years in Eastleigh, I was stationed as Superintendent of the Portsmouth Circuit for 5 years, and then as Superintendent of the newly-formed Berkshire Surrey Borders Circuit for the last 7 years.

Are the skills from teaching transferable to ordained ministry? Yes, just as every class has its own particular character or dynamic, so every church and circuit is different. And some fellowship groups and meetings remind me of Year 11 on a Friday afternoon! But what you have to do above all else is bring the Bible to life for people and encourage them to explore for themselves what their faith means in the circumstances in which they live. Teaching isn't about telling people the answers; it's about equipping and encouraging them to work out the answers for themselves.

Life as an ordained minister doesn't leave a lot of time for hobbies and interests outside church. I had to give up amateur dramatics when I began my minister's training. I am a voracious reader: I consume lots of novels, mostly bought from charity shops: my particular favourites are historical who-done-its. I am also a keen needle woman, have never bought a clerical shirt in my 19 years of ordained ministry, have made other clothes including my sister's wedding dress, covered sofas, made gifts and soft toys (the latest are hobby horses!), and took up patchwork quilting during a sabbatical two years. I dabble in watercolour painting, having been on numerous beginners courses but never progressed any further. I love art in all forms and can lose myself for a whole day in an art gallery. And of course there are Gracie and Milo, my two dogs. "I know that keeping dogs can be expensive," I say when challenged, "but they are great companions for a single person, and they are my equivalent of a gym membership, because they ensure that I get some exercise every day, no matter what the weather."

Jackie Case

Engage

We are at the beginning of a new school year. Some children will be starting school for the first time, others moving from Primary to Secondary or from Secondary to Sixth Form College. For those not moving school, there will undoubtedly be a change of teacher. New beginnings for all. Many children will have had some anxiety about the changes they face. So it is fitting that all, through the work of Engage, are able to hear the message of God's love and the hope that comes with it.

Engage is a Christian charity that takes the Gospel message into the heart of our Woking schools – reaching over 15,000 children. For many, this may be the only encounter they have with the Christian faith. Working in 35 Primary schools, 3 Secondary schools and Woking College, the team is made up of three employed Schools workers and over 70 volunteers. Between them they carry out wide ranging work including leading school assemblies, lunchtime and after school clubs, storytelling, anger management groups, detached and pastoral work, RE lessons, and supporting Christian unions and teaching staff. Building relationships with students and teachers is important and can lead to opportunities for children to express concerns and worries which they might not feel able to talk about to family, teachers or friends. Being that 'listening ear' is a vital service in a world where children are feeling increasing pressures from many different angles.

Engage is a charity which relies on volunteer help, financial support from individuals, churches and organisations, and of course prayer support. And this is where we can all play a part. Perhaps you might consider

volunteering to be part of an assembly or 'Open the Book' team. Supporting financially enables to work of Engage to continue. But we are all able to pray for this really important work.

Patrick Coad, one of our local preachers and a member of Trinity is one of Engage's School workers. He will be able to give you more information if you feel you might like to become more involved. Please pick up a leaflet and a prayer card for Engage from the East Entrance. You can also find out more on the Engage website at www.engagewoking.org.

Helen Bowerman

Book review

*A glance at a book I have recently read- **The Year of Magical Thinking, by Joan Didier***

"A gripping account of the workings of bereavement and grief, unflinchingly analysed" was one review.

This is one woman's experience of the year following her husband's death. Don't read it if you are recently bereaved, but it is her story. She is an author, and her husband was an author, they worked at home together, and whilst she dealt with this loss after 40 years' marriage, she also had to deal with another critical illness in the family. It is very personal, so I wouldn't say it was necessarily something that would be helpful to anyone else; rather the exercise of writing about her experiences and her realisations helped move her to a different place a year on. She also explored the concept of grief as an illness.

There are quite a lot of quotes about death and grief scattered throughout the book, which at times were irritating. It was as if she couldn't decide if it was a work of fact, fiction, musings or an academic work with many references. Her internal dialogue was not for us, dear reader.

Even though it was not a straightforward book, and I am not sure if I can recommend it, it raised many interesting points, and here is a long quote, which I thought might be helpful to share:

"Grief turns out to be a place none of us know until we reach it. We anticipate (we know) that someone close to us could die, but we do not look beyond the few days or weeks that immediately follow such an imagined death. We misconstrue the nature of even those few days or weeks. We might expect if the death is sudden to feel shock. We do not expect this shock to obliterate, dislocating to both body and mind. We might expect that we will be prostrate, inconsolable, crazy with loss. We do not expect to be literally crazy, cool customers who believe that their husband is about to return and need his shoes. In the version of grief we imagine, the model will be 'healing'. A certain forward movement will prevail. The worst days will be the earliest days. We imagine that the moment to most severely test us will be the funeral, after which this hypothetical healing will take place. When we anticipate the funeral we wonder about failing to 'get through it', rise to the occasion, exhibit the 'strength' that invariably gets mentioned as the correct response to death. We anticipate needing to steel ourselves for the moment: will I be able to greet people, will I be able to leave the scene, will I be able even to get dressed that day? We have no way of knowing that this will not be the issue. We have no way of knowing that the funeral itself will be anodyne, a kind of narcotic regression in which we are wrapped in the care of others and the gravity and meaning of the occasion. Nor can we know ahead of the fact (and here lies the heart of the difference between grief as we

imagine it and grief as it is) the unending absence that follows, the void, the very opposite of meaning, the relentless succession of moments during which we will confront the experience of meaningless itself."

This journey shows that we all have experiences that are similar and also totally different, and I hope it will bring courage to some.

It is helpful to talk about death and grief, something we are not very good at doing. And at the end of our own journey, we know there is nothing to fear.

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" [Hebrews 4:16]

Allison Jackson

Stationing Update

The Circuit has entered the stationing process with a view to appointing a minister to serve at Trinity from September 2020. The manse in Woodham Road has now been re-let until Summer 2020 in expectation of a new appointment.

The Circuit Meeting in September confirmed an extension of Rev Dave Faulkner's appointment in the Circuit. This is for a further three years until 2023. Dave has confirmed that he will not be seeking a further extension beyond that point. The Circuit expressed its gratitude to Dave for his loyal and unstinting service, sometimes under difficult personal circumstances.

David Lander

Advent Pots? Help needed!

Although autumn has only just started - Christmas is coming and planning for the Advent Pots and Stable usually starts in October.

As some of you may know, I am doing a course at Kew Gardens which is intensive and as the number of garden team members is now down to 4, it will be a struggle to do the pots and stable this year without more help. So we are asking the question - should we give the pots a break this year? Try something else instead if anyone has any ideas and is willing to put them into practice? Or can we recruit more help?



We always get a big response to the pots - people take photos and read the texts and talk to us about them. It's good to make the church look festive outside.

The town centre is decorated and we decorate our homes. It seems sad if the church which is celebrating the real meaning of Christmas is not doing so visibly and publicly and with a sense of celebration. However the current garden team members are struggling! Please can we have feedback as to what we should do.

Can you help on Saturday mornings to cable tie the texts and numbers to the pots, or put a pot out every evening in December? The pots are prepared around the west side of the church and we move one to the front of the church each evening or early in the morning throughout December, like an Advent calendar. They are heavy but we have a sack truck to move them. We construct the

stable at the end of November/early December which needs people who can dig holes for the supports and climb steps to construct the roof, staple the material inside then put up lights. This usually takes around three Saturday mornings and we would need help to do this. We decorate the Christmas tree on the last Saturday in December – it's usually cold by then and more help to attach tinsel and decorations would be good as my abiding memory is how cold my fingers get!

If we can't get more help, then we may have to give the pots and stable a miss this year.

We also need more help in the garden especially in the summer. We garden most Saturday mornings from around March to December from 10.00 to 1 ish but hours are flexible. Easter we use ribbons to decorate the pots - these take time to tie on and then remove and we only did a limited amount this Easter. We need to water and feed all the pots and tubs and even my Dad who is 96 and uses a rollator has been known to hold a hose.

Deadheading takes time and we should have done more staking to support the plants. We can teach gardening skills if needed. I am starting to dig over the small area of garden at the front by the notice board, but it's full of brambles and tree roots that have to be cut through so that will take weeks if not months before we can add compost and plant anything. Can you help? Even if you could come a few mornings it would help. Otherwise we may have to pay for professional gardeners if we want to keep the garden going and that is around £25 an hour.

Please let us know if you have any ideas or are prepared to help for a few Saturdays at Christmas or through the year.

Jill Willis and the garden team

Our stained glass window



We have all looked up at our stained glass window here at Trinity, some with pleasure and others not so.

I think the window is fabulous, as did one of the specialist repairers who submitted a quotation for its restoration. In fact the remark made was that this was blown glass. The term 'blown' is special in that no two pieces are the same thickness.

I though readers might be interested in the information I have found since becoming involved in the repair that is now necessary. My many thanks for the following information are due to Maurice and Doreen Lee, together with Richard and Rosemary Christopher.

"Designed by Miss Gillian Rees Thomas. Design based on John Wesley's words "I look upon all the world as my parish. The cross represents the teaching of Christ spreading out towards the four corners of the earth; the cross flows into the chalice,

Continued.....

signifying the fulfilment of man's desire for the blessing of God; the central symbol incorporates the loving eye of God and the sun, the Light of the World." *[Taken from the brochure issued at the time of the opening of the Church]*

Miss Thomas, (née Robine, as it states in the London Gazette notification of her death) died at Richmond on 2nd September 2010. She did some work for Lowndes & Drury, stained glass makers, whose records are in the Victoria and Albert Museum. There is a picture of the window and a short note describing her as the finest Methodist stained glass craftswoman. It notes that, as in Woking, Methodist stained glass is now generally more abstract than representational.

The Surrey History Centre [7940/14] has an account of the building of the church. It mentions the architects, Edward D Mills & Partners. Mills was a committed Methodist and there is an obituary of him in the 'Independent' at

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/obituaries/obituary-edward-mills-1142547.html>. He also designed Mbale Anglican Cathedral, Uganda, which bears a striking resemblance to Trinity – see

<https://www.facebook.com/standrewscathedralsmbale/>.

The Royal Institute of British Architects has 49 photoprints, 12 negatives and 40 transparencies of the church – see http://riba.sirsidynix.net.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/?ps=DuwHIIa0TBq/MAIN_CAT/X/123.

RIBA also has drawings and photographs showing Miss Thomas' windows at Methodist churches at Trinity-at-Bowes (London), Trinity Woodsmoor (Stockport), Upper Norwood, Priory (St Paul's) Bedford. All these were designed by Edward Mills & Partners.

We are hoping to make repairs to this window later this year.

Lee Slatter

US Cents go home to Loomis

Since August 1996 I have been collecting unwanted coin and notes, of any country and of any age, including the UK, to help fund Guildford Cathedral in its day-to-day running. Members of many congregations have contributed very useful amounts of currency to this scheme. Then, people travelling to all four points of the globe have taken the accumulated amounts with them on holiday or on business against a sterling donation. To date, like this, a total of £19,575 has been raised. A while ago it was my turn, as co-ordinator, to hump the stuff (about 2 kilos of it) to Canada, and then into the USA. This is how it went.

The Cathedral's Coins Scheme accumulates a great store of American small change. From time to time our well-wishers grit their teeth, pack a weight of it in their hold baggage, and fly it back to its home country. Now it was my turn. My wife and I were visiting our daughter in western Canada. She lives in a small town just north of the border; so Washington State, USA, lies just the other side.

We make the crossing at Night Hawk –one of the smallest border posts along the whole frontier. Then we make our way south along the shore of Palmer Lake. In spring and summer Palmer Lake lies resplendent in its deep valley between the abruptly rising mountains of the East Cascades. The light glistens and gleams in the deep silence and the whole panorama of reflected mountains is one of majestic solitude. We stop to watch a pair of ospreys building their



nest on a wooden platform just a hundred metres from us. Tentatively he brings branch after branch. She accepts a few, rejects most, but he keeps coming time and time again.

But catch Palmer on an off day and the splendour turns to desolation and a certain menace. The mountain ridges are hidden in lowering clouds and driving rain. The wind sweeps across the water and waves crash threateningly just below the road. September that year we were lucky. The road is pressed to the shoreline by the steep slopes of the mountains. We drive slowly in fine weather along the shoreline the twenty kilometres down to Loomis, Washington.

There's a small church there, with a diner opposite – a small, one-stop supermarket cum café, offering burgers and lunch dishes to passing and local trade. For such a small place, it's quite busy. I hesitate to introduce the intricacies of our suburban Cathedral business so unexpectedly.

"What can I do for you folks?" asks the lady counter-assistant. "Could you do us a favour and change some wrapped coin?" I produce the cardboard tubes of one-cent, five cent and ten-cent pieces shipped from Guildford, in all twenty-four dollars. Quite a weight. "You brought that load of metal from *England*? What's it for?" I try to bring into the remote heart of rural Washington the needs and aspirations of our Surrey cathedral. I touch briefly on the recent scheme to remove asbestos in the plaster, the need for funds, the restoration of the organ. But she's doing lunches, so she interrupts: "I'll ask". She disappears behind a counter display and asks her husband who is busy producing burgers and sandwiches. He calls back: "Is it American?" "Yes", I say. He responds: "Take it". So the tubes of coin cross the counter of the Loomis diner, and I am holding twenty-four

dollar bills in my hand. After lunch we retrace our steps back into Canada. Four weeks more, back in Guildford, UK, the sterling equivalent is entered into the Scheme's paying-in slip, and the proceeds are acknowledged by Accounts.

It is not alone. Pesetas are changed in Bilbao; Euros in Venice; and some is travelling tourist class to Australia and NZ via Singapore, Hong Kong or Bangkok. Sum by sum it comes back, here a little, there a little, to bring our cumulative total closer and closer to £20,000 over fourteen years.

We'll gratefully accept your unwanted coins and notes – any country, any age – and we'll lug it, change it, convert it the world over. With the Cathedral always the end user. Give me a call (01483 715459) and I'll collect it – either from your home or the church! It will come safely home.

John Mitchell

Quaker Tapestry Museum

If you ever find yourself in Kendal and have an hour or so to spare I can recommend a visit to the Quaker Tapestry Museum. The Quaker Tapestry is a modern masterpiece, in which 4,000 men, women and children from 15 countries had a hand. 350 years of social history are brought to life. You can journey through the Quaker influence on the modern world: explore the industrial revolution, developments in science and medicine, astronomy, the abolition of slavery, social reform, and ecology. The detail of the stunning needlework and craftsmanship involved in the creation of 77 vibrant embroidered panels is stunning and over 40 of them are on display at Kendal.

Don't expect the Bayeux Tapestry. This is not one continuous display but each scene is shown in its own frame, and has a very informative commentary which you can listen to by selecting the relevant number from the hand piece they give you to take round.

Jean Normington

A poem by John Aldred

When I am stripped of power
When I am grieving
When I am a stranger
When I am humiliated

*May I trust in your promised land
May I know your joy
May I meet you within and in others
May I learn that your harvest is for all*

When I am powerful
When I am celebrating
When I am at home
When I am rewarded

*May I trust in your promised land
May I know your joy
May I meet you within and in others
May I learn that your harvest is for all.*

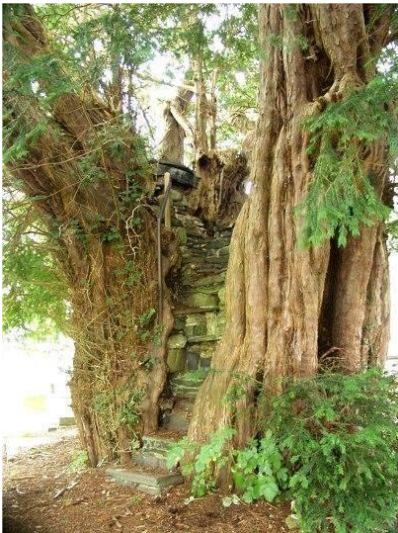
[Sent in by Allison Jackson]

Summer reflection

On my usual visit to Wales I spent time exploring tiny villages to which John Wesley 'took horse' and preached. In some of these he helped Howell Harris set up churches. In a larger place, Llanidloes, he preached from the old butter market which is recorded by a plaque.

He rode from the Dee at Bangor in the north to Haverfordwest in the south and wrote it was "delightful beyond expression" riding between "green vales, shaded with rows of trees. The river on one side labouring through rocks of every size, shape and colour"; behind these "a mountain, huge, upreared its broad, bare back".

One hamlet I approached, along a very narrow, deserted lane with grass growing along the centre, brought me to Nantglyn where, beside St James Church, there was a



graveyard. A massive yew tree grew there and through the ages it had split and a stairway of stone and lime had been built to rise through the centre to an open pulpit. It is reported that John Wesley preached from this pulpit to a large crowd.

On this sunny June day it made me fully appreciate his work and that the world was his parish.

Margaret Davies



Pirates Ahoy!

The Epworth Choir will be performing a semi-staged production of the Pirates of Penzance, **Gilbert & Sullivan's** iconic operetta, at the HG Wells Suite, Woking on Saturday 2nd November at 7.30pm.

Featuring a score packed with memorable tunes and plenty of good humour this promises to be a truly enjoyable evening.

Tickets: £15 (front stalls) and £10 (rear stalls) in advance online (www.epworthchoir.org), or on the door with a £2 surcharge per ticket. Tickets for children under 18 years old and students in full-time education are £5 in advance or on the door.



Mozart Concert

On Saturday 30th November at 7.30pm Woking Choral Society will perform with new Musical Director Richard Bannan conducting, at HG Wells Centre, Woking. The Programme includes **MOZART** *Mass in C Minor*; **HAYDN** *Insanae et vanae curae*; **MOZART** *Symphony No.34 in C major*; **W.F.E. BACH** *Vater Unser*. **Soloists: Miriam Allan soprano; Helen Charleston mezzo-soprano; Thomas Elwin tenor; Robert Davies baritone.**

The Mozart Mass in C minor is considered one of Mozart's greatest works. The large-scale work remains unfinished missing part of the Credo and all of the Agnus Dei.

Tickets: £18, students in full time education £5, children free, at www.wokingchoral.org.uk or obtained from the Lightbox, or Brittens Music, 13 The Broadway, Woodham, New Haw KT15 3EU.

What's on at Trinity

Prayer Group	Friday (weekly) 9.45am	Ann, W 770400
Y-Group	Monday (1 st & 3 rd) 8pm	Allison, W 725439
Coffee & Chat	Weds (weekly) 10.30am	Margot, W 762059
Bible Study Fellowship	Weds (weekly) 10.30am	Sarah Jo, W 892067
Bible Study	Friday (monthly) 10.30am	Peggy, W 764430
Phoenix	Friday (fortnightly) 8pm	Joyce, W 722457
Quest Group	Sat (monthly) 9.30 am	John, W 762059
Family Club	Friday 5.00pm	Sue Waddington, 01932 859636
Junior Church	Sunday 10.30am	Sue Waddington, 01932 859636
Messy Church	3 rd Sunday 10am	Sue Waddington, 01932 859636
Trinity Toddlers	Friday 9.30am	Kim Wilson, 07791763241



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.

David Lander

Articles for the December/January issue should be submitted by

Monday 19th November 2019

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

**“Trinity is a welcoming Church seeking to live
in the love of God and share the message of
Jesus Christ”**

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**Contributions to Trinity News & Views can
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pigeonhole at the Church or emailed to
tnv@trinitywoking.org.uk**

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