



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
WOKING
Weekly News
Sunday 29th March 2020

We have a bumper issue this week. I am very grateful to everyone who has submitted something. Please do keep sending thoughts, articles, jokes, pictures and they will be included in a future issue. It has been a really difficult week for lots of us, so all the more important that we stay in touch with each other as much as we can.

Daniela

Message from Jackie

Dear Friends,

In the last few days life seems to have changed beyond all recognition, and will continue to change at a rapid rate over the next period. We humans tend to be somewhat averse to change and it is tempting in such difficult and scary times to focus on the bad news, and there's certainly plenty of it at the moment!

However, as Christians, we have an inner peace and hope that cannot be taken away from us by any earthly power, viral or otherwise. Those of us living alone may find the isolation particularly hard, but we are never truly alone, for God is always present with us whether we feel that presence or not. As the pace of life slows for a lot of us, let us use this time to support in prayer, acts of kindness and consideration, all those who are working very hard in the face of extreme difficulty and even danger, to enable us all to get through this time of trial and testing.

'Christ's love is greater than anyone can know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God. With God's power working in us, God can do much more than anything we can ask or imagine, to him be

glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time. Amen' [Ephesians 3:19-21]

Rev Jackie Case

Message from the leadership team

Tuesday 24th March, 1st day of "lock down."

What to do? I thought this afternoon I would go and spend time in my garden. It's quite sheltered and was nice and warm in the sunshine. As well as digging up weeds and long established couch grass I decided to count all the flowers that were blooming. So many! Violets, marigolds, violas, pulmonaria, hellebores, fritillary, cowslips and of course daffodils, tulips and crocus and several others. I found myself singing "How Great is our God" (Hope my neighbours couldn't hear me!) Nature seems totally oblivious to the trials we are facing...maybe time to consider the lilies of the field.

Indoors I am building a mini lent liturgy cross, so far I have purple ribbon for the robe (the kingship of Jesus), a milk bottle lid and scrap of material for the bowl and towel (washing Jesus feet) a thimble for the goblet and a genuine piece of bread (bread and wine).

What are you doing? Why not let us know, and in spite of all that is going on, let's remember ours is a Great Big God and He holds us in His hands.



Jean Normington

A Word in Season

As a Local Preacher I look at the Lectionary readings when planning a service. I happened to look at the readings for this coming Sunday, 29th March. One of them struck me as being particularly relevant for today; Psalm 130 (RSV). So relevant for the current situation it immediately reminded me of one of my favourite Old Testament verses: Deuteronomy 33:26-27 (RSV).

In verses 1, 5 and 7a of Psalm 130 the Psalmist writes:

'Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be

*attentive to the voice of my prayers.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in
his word I hope.
O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the
Lord there is steadfast love.*

The writer of Deuteronomy in Chapter 33 gives an answer to that cry:
There is none like God, O Jeshuran, (God's people), who rides through the heavens to your help, and in his majesty through the skies. The eternal God is your dwelling place and underneath are the everlasting arms.

In Roots the subheading for this Sunday is: *'How Jesus is present when things go wrong'. (Roots for Churches Ltd)*

Even in today's difficult and extremely worrying times we have this promise that God is with us. We are never alone and no matter how difficult things are we have God's loving arms around and that gives us hope. Hope for the future, that this difficult time will come to an end but whatever happens we can be sure that God is with us and we are wrapped in his/her love by those everlasting arms. As Jesus promised us we also have the 'Comforter' the Holy Spirit.

Think upon these words of Thomas O Chisolm (1866-1960) (Singing the Faith) 51 v 3

*'Pardon for sin and peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to
guide; strength for today and bright for
tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten
thousand beside.
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all
I have needed your hand has provided.
Great is your faithfulness, Lord, unto me'.*

I conclude with a prayer adapted from Roots :
'When we have worries about the future,
share them out loud -
When we are lonely and feel isolated and
separated from loved ones, share it with
God
When we have to wait in long queues -
Talk to God
When we are feeling unwell and are
concerned for our health - share the
concern.'

*(When you have finished your prayer give
yourself a big hug and say out loud): -*

**Loving Lord God hold me in your
everlasting arms of love.**

May God bless you all and hold you in his
everlasting arms of love.

Graham Warr

I am delighted to include a contribution in
the newsletter from Jim Mackay, Lakeside
Christian Fellowship, with his perspective
on the ROC Conversation:

An "Outsider's" view of the ROC Conversation

When the ROC Conversation was mooted
at a Churches Together in Woking (CTiW)
meeting about a year ago I was a sceptic.
Surely there was enough going on in
Woking already? Surely we needed to join
up church leaders more than we needed to
be doing more good works? Surely we
should be helping other churches who
need support rather than expand on the
large number of Christian Agencies already
in being? I argued from that viewpoint at
the CTiW meeting, but there were also
some strongly in favour of the
Conversation.

A few months passed and, via an odd
route, I started correspondence with
Caroline and Kevin Page in September last
year about the Conversation. They invited
me to discuss my thoughts with them. I
was, by this time, not against the
Conversation, nor for it. I still had my
"surelys". At the end of that meeting, on
Friday 13th September, I was shocked to be
asked to consider being on the Steering
Committee.

It was around this time, at Lakeside
Christian Fellowship, studying Ephesians,
we came to chapter 2, verse 10 - "For we
are God's handiwork. Created in Christ
Jesus to do good works, which God
prepared in advance for us to do." This led
us to ask what good works we had been
led into already, what good works have
been prepared for us, and to consider
whether there were any that we should
give up - not all that is good is God - it
may have been for a season. I also felt
that some of my "surelys" were like
contrasting chalk and cheese. One could
do good deeds while trying to bring church

leaders and churches together in unity – they were not exclusive. About ten days later I agreed to join the committee.

The Steering Committee meetings were two solid hours each time fortnightly and later weekly, always with humor and friendship. Critically for me church unity was being worked out in practice. Representatives of Trinity, Emmaus Road, Christchurch and New Life were also members of the Steering Committee. We reminded ourselves that although the focus of the meetings was on the Conversation, we were ultimately there to bring Christ to Woking. To be the face of Christ to the town.

On the Conversation Evening around 180 people from various backgrounds came together to celebrate the good works that are going on in Woking, to reveal the gaps in the works, and to offer solutions, manpower, and resources. My prayer, as we await the report from ROC, is that we will see the churches in Woking uniting, seeking further the purposes of God for the town, and going forward together in works and faith.

Jim Mackay

Whats-up WhatsApp?



So what is this WhatsApp you keep hearing about? Well it is an online messaging service. Translated - a quick and easy way to talk with family and friends, individually or in groups, via the internet, on your phone. You can call them as you would on a telephone, or video call them, so you see their faces and can interact with them in real time. You'll read below of ways in which WhatsApp is being used by Trinity folk, and you will have seen Ann Dawson's message earlier in the week about joining the new Virtual Prayer Group.

You can use WhatsApp if you have a smartphone, i.e. one with a digital screen you touch. It won't work on a phone that doesn't access the internet.

To start:

Find Google Play or Apple IStore on your phone. The icons (pictures) are at the top of this article, along with the WhatsApp

icon.

When you are in the 'store' search for WhatsApp. You will usually find the search bar at the top, with a magnifying glass picture next to it.

When you find it, tap INSTALL under WhatsApp messenger.

Open WhatsApp and continue to the next screen by agreeing to the terms and conditions.

Verify your phone number.

Lastly type in your name.

You are then good to go!

WhatsApp might ask you if you want to import your Contacts. If you do this, WhatsApp will find everyone in your phone who are also on the app, and populate it for you.

Alternatively, (if you don't want the app to have this personal information) your family and friends who are already on WhatsApp could connect with you.

If you have any problems, please just let me know and I will help you.

Daniela

"I'm a recent convert to WhatsApp. All sorts of things are bouncing round the wider Bowerman family as we try and keep each other occupied and amused". *Hugh*.

"As well as creating many difficulties, the 'Lock Down' is bringing out the good in people. In my street where we all normally keep ourselves to ourselves behind high hedges, a WhatsApp Group has been formed. Nearly everyone has joined and are sharing good ideas and actually organising a street collection for the Food Bank"!

John Nelson

Quiz Nights

This weekend our family will try out a virtual quiz night. Our daughter Claire is organising this. She's a teacher, and I'm curious whether the 'teacher stare' will work virtually! If all works well, perhaps we can sort out a virtual Trinity Quiz Night.

On a related note, is someone willing to put some quiz questions together? We could add them to the newsletter – makes us a little less dependent on 'technology'. Could be topical to the season, Trinity or just general knowledge. Your move.
Hugh.

The White Magnolia Tree

By Helen Deutsch

Paul and I have dear friends in Australia. Michelle works for the Salvation Army, and she posted this excerpt of a longer poem by Helen Deutsch on Facebook. I thought it was beautiful, and asked her permission to share with you.

*The year when I was twenty-one,
(John that year was twenty-three)
That was the year, that was the spring,
We planted the white magnolia tree.*

*"This tree," said John, "shall grow with us,
And every year it will bloom anew.
This is our life. This is our love."
And the white magnolia tree grew and grew...*

*... There is so little the serious heart
requires:
Friends, faith, a window open to the world,*

*Pride in work well done,
And strength to live in a world at war
And still maintain the heart's own private
peace ...*

*... Dear Heaven, I give thanks to thee
For things I did not know before,
For the wisdom of maturity,
For bread, and a roof, and for one thing
more...*

*Thanks because I still can see
The bloom on the white magnolia tree!*

Mr Warr and Ms Warr Schori teach online!

Like parents up and down the land, Bern and Jess are home schooling Isobel and Clara at the moment. They have drawn up a timetable with the Girls, and they have lessons from 9am to 2pm, with a Break Time (Clara likes the snack provided!) and a Lunch Break.

Bern and Jess asked Dad and I to do Guided Reading with the children, one on one, every morning from 9.00am to 9.30am. It is such good fun! I am working

with Isobel at the moment. She has chosen 'Colour of Magic' by Terry Pratchett from her school reading list.

She video calls me, and we work through the book together. We're at the start of the novel and we are enjoying it; discussing words she doesn't know, and asking questions about style, pace, allegory, and parody. Dad and Clara have read 'James and the Giant Peach' by Roald Dahl, and are now looking at poetry together.

It is a privilege and a joy to help and to spend some time with them every day!

Daniela

Thanks to David Lander for our closing cartoon

