



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 24th May 2020

We start with three 'companion' pieces this week, focussed around Aldersgate Sunday and its relevance today. I hope you enjoy following the thread from Jackie, to David, and Dad. You can then sit back with your feet up, with a cup of tea and a biscuit, to enjoy Jill's article about the Trinity Garden, and have a go at Valerie's quiz. Until next week.

Dan

Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends,

This Sunday is Aldersgate Sunday, when Methodist people reflect on John Wesley's powerful conversion experience at a house group meeting on the evening of 24th May 1738 when, according to his journal, "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine and saved me from the law of sin and death." This was, perhaps, a surprising development in the spiritual life of someone who had already been a priest in the Church of England for several years. But this spiritual awakening caused him to rethink his whole attitude and approach to sharing the gospel with others both inside and outside the church of his time and enabled him to lead the spread of radical spiritual revival in the society of his time. His brother Charles, also a priest, had had a similar conversion experience three days earlier, also in the context of the fellowship of a small group meeting, and as a result became probably the most prolific hymn writer the world has ever known.

Some Methodist historians think that Charles' own conversion experience is reflected in the much-loved hymn 'And can it be.' Curious isn't it that both these powerful, life-changing experiences happened in the context of small group fellowships, rather than in large corporate

acts of liturgical worship. What might be the effect on Trinity, I wonder, if every member attended such group fellowships regularly?

Every Blessing

Jackie

Message from the leadership team

Ok, so who remembers my last LT message? Have you been looking? Are you taking advantage of what you find? And, most importantly, have you still got it? "What on Earth is he on about?" I hear you ask. Cast your mind back to the beginning of April when it all started and I spoke of the importance of feeding your spiritual side as opportunity arose, and not losing Faith. So, have you? And if not why not? Many churches have risen to the challenge of providing on-line worship, Trinity included, and you don't even need an internet connection for some, just a phone. Each week, Dan has been sending out details of how to connect to Trinity's Sunday services and we as the Leadership Team are here to help you as best we can.

But we want to go a step further, as we recognise some might need feeding at other times.

A number of us, including myself, are part of small groups who have regular get-togethers to explore what it is to be Christian in our own lives. This has been especially rewarding to me over the last few weeks. So, we invite you to let us know if you'd like to join one - everyone is invited - Young, less young, singles, couples, parents, anyone. Just contact the office, be it by email trinitywoking@btinternet.com, post or leaving a message on the ansaphone. We can then co-ordinate responses in early June and get back to you. It would be wonderful to see the heart of what a church can provide having a form of re-birth from the darkness of lockdown.

In the meantime, stay safe, stay faithful, and stay in touch. Togetherness is key.

David Emmerson

"He has put a new song in my mouth"

This coming Sunday is Aldersgate Sunday or Wesley Day when we remember the anniversary of John Wesley's 'heart strangely warmed' experience on 24th May 1738. One of the results of that experience was Methodism.

However, the words of our title do not refer to John Wesley's experience, but to the events of Pentecost, 21st May 1738, when younger brother Charles had, what he called, 'my conversion'. He recorded in his Journal for that day, 'I took myself to prayer; the substance as follows:- O Jesus you have said, 'I will come to you; I will send the Comforter to you; my Father and I will come to you and make our abode with you.' O

God who doesn't lie, I wholly rely on your most true promise; accomplish it in your time and manner.'

Then, Charles who had been quite unwell retired to bed; as he was preparing to sleep, 'in quietness and peace,' he believed Mrs Musgrave came in and said, 'In the name of Jesus of Nazareth arise, and believe, and you will be healed of all your infirmities.' When he rose and looked into Scripture, he first saw Psalm 39:7:

'And now, Lord, what is my hope, my hope is in you,' and Psalm 40:3 'He has put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord'.

Charles then wrote, 'I now found myself at peace with God, and rejoiced in the hope of loving Christ'
What encouraging words for today in these still difficult times.

Charles also records 'I began a hymn upon my conversion.' It is widely believed to be:

*Where shall my wondering soul begin?
How shall I all to heaven aspire?
A slave redeemed from death and sin, a
brand plucked from the eternal fire,
How shall I equal triumphs raise, or sing
my great deliverer's praise?*

*O how shall I the goodness tell, Father
which you to me have shown?
That I, a child of wrath and hell, I should
be called a child of God,
Should know, should feel my sins forgiven,
blest with this antepast of heaven!
(H&P 706, StF 454 v 1-2)*

This was the start of Charles' mission to write around a total of 9000 pieces of poetry, hymns, and songs to share God's love and grace; and to teach, encourage and support the Methodist and other Christian traditions.

By the mid-nineteenth century Charles had become known as 'the sweet singer of Methodism.' Interestingly, I discovered very recently from my knowledgeable Heritage Steward colleague Keith, that Charles' first son Samuel, who became a composer and organist, reported that, Charles could 'just about', hold a tune. It is not surprising that Charles didn't write any tunes. The early tunes were local folk tunes or well-known classic melodies which people knew and could sing heartily.

The last verses of that 'Conversion Hymn' teach about how we cannot keep the love and promises of God to ourselves but must share them. I can only leave that challenge in Charles Wesley own words:

*Give me the faith which can remove and
sink the mountain to a plain,
Give me the childlike praying love, which
longs to build your house again,
Your love let it my heart o'erpower and all
my simple soul devour.*

*I would the precious time redeem, and
longer live for this alone:
To spend, and to be spent, for them who
have not yet my Saviour known:
Fully on these my mission prove, and only
breathe, to breathe your love.*

*My talents, gifts and graces, Lord, into
your blessed hands receive,
And let me live to preach your word and
let me to your glory live.
My every sacred moment spend in
publishing the sinners' friend.*

*Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart with
boundless charity divine.
So, shall I all my strength exert, and love
them with a zeal like thine.
And lead them to you open side, the
sheep for whom their Shepherd died. (H&P 767
StF 661)*

We don't have to be 'preachers' but we can share with others God's love for us and our love for our God.

May God richly bless us all this week.
Graham

Sources: Through the Year with Charles Wesley, ed. Stephen J. Poxon, pub Lion Hudson Ltd 2019 p. 152 May 21st
Exploring Methodism - Brother Charles, Barrie W. Tabraham, Epworth Press 2003, pp 32-43 'Wrestling Jacob'

Trinity Garden

Hello to everyone from the garden team. We are still gardening on Saturday mornings and other times in the week, while practicing good social distancing of course. Gardeners are allowed back to work outside. Usually we would be working on different parts of the garden anyway and we have our own tools and wear gloves so it's easy to garden. We do miss coffee and biscuits and must bring our own drinks!

We feel it is even more important when the Church building is closed, that the Church does not look abandoned. The Church garden is making a statement to anyone walking or driving past (and there are still quite a few!) that the building may be closed but we are still here and God is still here. So, we are determined to make the garden look bright and colourful and cheerful even if our ability to buy new plants is limited for a while.

The roses are incredibly early this year. We usually cut them back by about half in November then cut them back again to new shoots around February or March. We did the November cut but not the March one and they are looking the best I have ever seen them so maybe we will do that again in future! The white "Claire Austin" roses along the front are about 4 ft tall now and will get taller and are covered in buds which are just breaking. The pink 'Harlow Carr' roses in the hedge along the front are smothered in buds and just coming out. They are the highly perfumed ones so do drive past and stop and have a smell of them in a week or two if you can. I will also take some photos and see if we can add them to the newsletter.

We cut the Clematis back to about 18 inches high in March as they are the group 3 Clematis that flower in July. Clearly no one has told them that, as they are now about 5 ft high and covered in buds and some I think will be in flower in a couple of weeks. Again, very early - everything must have liked the wet spring followed by warm April.

We are sowing sunflower seeds and zinnia seeds. Luckily, I bought the seeds before the lockdown and I also have some left over from last year (I usually have several packs of seeds somewhere in my car!) and lots of free seeds from Amateur Gardening Magazine which I may just throw in and see what happens. We have prepared the beds either side of the church, weeded, hoed, raked, spread fertiliser, watered, sowed seeds and raked again. Sunflowers on the east side and zinnias on the west where it gets more sun. Still have seeds to sow in the new bed that we cleared at the front of the church by the notice board and in the bed by the trellis/clematis.

In the area by the notice board we are planning to plant a climbing rose to cover the trellis - I am thinking of a cream one called 'Madame Alfred Carriere' which is a vigorous repeat climber which will flower from May/June to November and will tolerate some shade and be big enough to train along the trellis on top of the fence. We

may also add a clematis that can twine in among it. As it is quite shady under the tree we were thinking of planting hydrangea paniculata - the tall ones with triangle shaped panicles of white or pink flowers that are good for woodland planting and like some shade. They will grow to about 6 ft high but are cut back every year. Also thinking of more pink perfumed "Harlow Carr" roses at the front as they are so popular. We have had emails and people coming into the Church office to ask what the pink roses are and at least one church member now has her own hedge of them! At least that was the plan when I had time to garden and could get to a garden centre to buy them! The current more flexible plan is to sow sunflower seeds there for this year leaving a gap for the rose and plant the roses and anything else in summer or autumn.

When we are ready I will order the roses direct from David Austin as I am registered as a garden designer with them and can get trade price. There is also a delivery charge so it's not worth it for one rose but is increasingly worth doing the more roses I buy. If anyone wants to add roses to the order let me know and we can split the delivery charge between us and get them all delivered to church for people to collect.

We have a birds nest in the store where there is a hole in the door - I can hear the baby birds tweeting - so we are tiptoeing around our storage area between the cabin and the store. Note to Wombles - don't repair this hole yet!

The bees are starting to find the cat mint which is just starting to flower (the blue plants around the centre bed - smells of mint if you touch it) and the robin and blackbird are watching for freshly turned soil. We have lots of leaf mould under the oak tree in the car park which needs to be spread over the beds at some point as it's not good for the oak tree if it piles up under it too much and our soil really needs some organic compost. I can order composted stable manure to be delivered but seems a shame not to use our own free supply of leaf mould. Just needs a lot of wheelbarrowing - not on top of the new seedlings obviously!

We had the area behind the trellis cleared and the old paving slabs we kept when the path was re-laid have now been laid in the compost area to make that much easier to work in. We have several compost bins and our plan was also to add a potting bench and maybe even a small plastic greenhouse for cuttings. I really want a nursery....!

My garden design course based at Kew Gardens is now on Zoom and I have massive amounts of

homework to do. The course will finish sometime in July (deadlines are now flexible too) so I don't have a lot of time to garden until then. Small seedlings need watering, roses will need dead-heading, we could take cuttings and everything will need weeding.

We really need more volunteers.

Training can be provided! I

If you want to help with the garden, at a socially safe distance of course and outside in the sun, please do let us know. Or even come and talk to us from a distance when we are gardening! We have 2 hoses for watering and can disinfect or use gloves as needed. It's been lovely to meet and talk to other gardeners in person. We can have a rota system so we don't have a large number of people there at any one time. We could take lots of cuttings and give them away.

Maybe eventually we could use the garden for outside services and bring our own chairs or have drive in services in the car park...!

With love from

Jill Willis, Lee and Elaine Slatter, and Dorothy Nicholson

Picture below of the gardening team is taken from the Trinity website!



Here are the answers to last week's Quiz, followed by this week's brain teaser..!

- Of which country is Kathmandu the capital? *Nepal*
- What is the name of Hugh Grant's character in "Bridget Jones Diary"? *Daniel Cleaver*
- In which English county will you find Castle Howard? *Yorkshire*
- What was the name of the mad, bad, and dangerous brother of Charlotte Bronte? *Branwell*
- How many potential dads does Sophie have in the film "Mamma Mia"?
3- *Bill, Harry & Sam*

- In which city is the tallest building in the world? *Dubai*
- In which fictional town is Coronation Street? *Weatherfield*
- What is the name of Sooty's friend? *Sweep*
- Which is the longest river in the U.K? *Severn*
- What is the name of the tower block where Rodney and Del Boy lived? *Nelson Mandela House*
- What soft drink is commonly associated with Scotland? *Irn-Bru*
- Who was married to Henry 2nd of England? *Eleanor of Aquitaine*
- What do the French call the English Channel? *La Manche*
- Which planet is nearest the sun? *Mercury*
- Where is the U.S Masters Gold Tournament held? *August National Golf Club*



- Which Castle in Kent was the home of Catherine of Aragon?
- What is the name of the money lender in "The Merchant Of Venice"?
- What is the currency of Poland?
- What is the general consensus on the number of plays Shakespeare wrote?
- What is the capital of Fiji?
- What was the name of Rudyard Kipling's home?
- In which country is it illegal to keep just one guinea pig?
- Which chemical element has the symbol Au?
- In which year did Churchill die?
- What do the letters D N A stand for?
- Which 3 countries border the Iguacu Falls in South America?
- What is Herpetoculture?
- Who wrote around the world in 80 days?
- Where did the Great Fire of London start?
- Who is the actor Peter Davidson's son in law?

Happy quizzing! *Valerie Slyfield*