



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 21st June 2020

Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday was the third anniversary of the Grenfell Tower tragedy. I am aware that Trinity has a special connection through its previous minister, Rev Mike Long, who left Trinity to serve in Notting Hill Methodist Church. His new church was so close to the Tower that it became a centre of mourning, refuge and practical relief for the community displaced and traumatized by the events of that dreadful night.

Having heard Mike speak about the experience at a conference two years ago, I could not fail to be deeply moved by his experience and that of his church, but I also wondered how I might have coped if I'd been in Mike's situation. God, in his infinite wisdom, not only raises up people to do extraordinary things in times of need, but also wonderfully places and equips his faithful servants in the right place to use their gifts for the benefit of the work of the kingdom.

Let us not be under any misapprehension: this is costly for those so placed. Our role as God's faithful people is to support them in practical ways if we can, and certainly with sustained prayer. It is important to continue such support in the long term.

The immediate crisis may seem over because it has dropped out of the news, except for an anniversary each year, but the experience of Grenfell teaches us that there is long term need for practical, emotional, and spiritual support. There is also a need to keep the issues in the forefront of the minds of politicians, policymakers and those with power and influence. This is what the 'Black Lives Matter', '#Me Too' and other campaigns are doing, and it is what still needs to be done regarding the lessons 'learnt' from Grenfell but not yet applied.

It will also be necessary if anything positive is to come out of the experiences of the Coronavirus pandemic. The prophets of old did this in the ancient world and we, as God's faithful people, need to perform that prophetic role in our society.

Every Blessing

Jackie

Message from the leadership team

On being ROC steady

You wait ages for a bus, then three come at once. With ROC we make slow and steady progress, then suddenly it all starts to happen.

After what seems an age, significant and exciting progress is now being made with ROC. The Conversation has turned into Action Groups. These in turn are starting to present opportunity. Each Action sub-Group (Youth, Mental Health, Social Isolation & Loneliness, Communications) is established with enthusiastic membership. Importantly the council is represented on each group and is keen to work with us.

Today a group of us met with Woking's new Director of Community Services, Julie Fisher. Her team have been responsible for weekly contact with everyone on the vulnerable list. Working with other organisations (e.g., Horsell Prepared, Woking Mutual Aid), they have ensured that during lockdown any needs have been met. I find myself proud to live in an area where the council has taken this responsibility so seriously and delivered well.

Back to today's meeting. As we come out of lockdown, so circumstances are changing. Fewer people need assistance. Volunteers are returning to work. I dare say the council want their staff back! But what about the 'clients'? Some people will need support for some time yet. New lonely people have been identified. However you look at it, there is fantastic opportunity to consolidate then build-on what has been achieved during lockdown. And the council is speaking with ROC Woking to see if we can help. What an opportunity to get involved and put into practice the ROC aim of Redeeming Our Community.

The next few weeks will be important. Our prayer is that ROC Woking will be able to play its part, and that working with Woking Borough Council and the other partners that have done so much, we will be able to ensure that the new normal for isolated and lonely people is much better than the old normal. Please pray for the ROC team as we explore this opportunity. Would we have reached this point if we hadn't continued faithfully along our ROC journey? When presenting the above to the Leadership Team this week a comment was made that we need to learn to be patient. Easily said, and so true, but not easily done. Another prayer in these challenging times is that God will grant us all patience!

Back to those buses. If you wait patiently for a bus and three come at once, then the last one is usually half empty. My recollection from school days is that if each bus came on time, then each bus would be full, and you'd never get on. Patience (or late running buses) has its merits.

Hugh Bowerman

A Word in Season 13 - Grace

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.

(2 Corinthians 12:8 RSV)

Three things came together last weekend, 'out of the blue' it would seem, but God was behind them. First of all, on Friday morning at the WhatsApp prayer group we prayed for those members of our Church community who are struggling with the effects of lockdown.

Then on Friday afternoon I was informed that the Topic for our House group that evening would be 'Grace'. It had been requested by a member of the group. As one of the Local Preachers I was asked if I would make some input. Thankfully I remembered I had preached a Sermon on Grace at Byfleet in 2009 and had kept a copy of my notes. After house group I circulated a summary of the notes to members. Finally, on Sunday I was sharing the morning Zoom service and Jackie was preaching on MHA Sunday about Ruth and her kindness to Naomi her Mother in Law and the kindness of Boaz to Ruth and Naomi. Please read the book of Ruth, it is a short book, but full of love, kindness and God's grace. I watched the movie the other day and was impressed with it, especially its faithfulness in following the Bible story rather than a kind of fantasy as often happens.

These three things fitted well together, and this week I am led to share these thoughts with you all.

Grace as a Wesleyan Core Term

(Page 1110, The Wesley Study Bible, NRSV, Abingdon Press, Nashville 1989)

The term grace is a basic, yet misunderstood, concept. Some consider grace as a nice gift-wrapped unearned present from God. This mistaken idea of grace as a substance, a cure-all, a prescription for our ills has a long history.

Grace is actually a relational concept: God's active presence and transformative power in our lives. The name Emmanuel speaks to this reality – God with us and in us.

We perceive the divine presence by the results of the divine energy working within us, enlightening, convicting, forgiving, liberating, assuring, chastising, empowering, strengthening, comforting – assisting us to become what God intended humankind to be, faithful creatures whose love for God and their neighbours is manifest through works of piety and mercy.

Grace is a Trinitarian concept, grounded in the love and mercy of God the Father; especially manifest in

the life, death, and resurrection of God the Son; and experienced through the work of God the Holy Spirit in our lives. God raises us up through his Grace.

John Wesley believed that grace was God's love for humanity made evident in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Grace communicates forgiveness and makes renewal possible. He likened the process of salvation, (through grace), to a house. Prevenient grace serves as the porch, justification as the door, and sanctification or holiness as the rooms of the house wherein we are called to dwell.

('The Principles of a Methodist Further Explained', The Works of the Rev. John Wesley, MA, ed Thomas Jackson 3rd edition, Volume 8:472)

Prevenient Grace: This comes, (*pre-venio*), before we become aware that God is seeking us out. We are all born Children of God and are loved, with an everlasting love.

'I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you.'
(Jeremiah 31:3)

God is always seeking us out, reaching out to us in all sorts of places, times, human conditions, - offering, prompting, but not coercing a response from us, to that love. Although we may not be aware of it, God doesn't give up!

Loved with everlasting love, led by grace that love to know; Spirit, breathing from above, you have taught me this is so.

O this full and perfect peace! O this transport all divine! In a love that cannot cease I am his and he is mine. (Salvation Army Song Book, George Wade Robinson 1838-77)

Justification: From the porch to and through the door. God restores us to the relationship for which we were created through our faith in that saving, forgiving, redeeming, love for each one of us. Enabling us to enter a new relationship with God, which was made possible through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Grace, God's unconditional love for each one of us, individually, undeserved, but freely given, with 'no strings' and we cannot earn this grace, by words or works, but by receiving this love by trusting in God alone – not ourselves – to bring forgiveness and regeneration in our lives.

As St Paul said in his letter to the Corinthians:
My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:8 RSV)

God will take care of you through every day, over all

the way, yes, God will take care of you!
(Salvation Army Song Book)

Sanctification/Holiness: Through God's grace we enter into the rooms of the house.

We are - *ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,* (StF 83, Henry Francis Lyte, 1793-1847) for a purpose: to share with others what we have received. This is how we grow in grace – sharing with others the grace of God - to love and serve our Lord through communication with others – in different rooms. Our faith and love for God, small and weak though they often are, is enriched, strengthened, and empowered through the presence in our lives of God the Holy Spirit.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. (Ephesians 2:8-10, RSV)

The opportunities and activities involved in our growth in grace, may not appear to be significant but the Covid 19 pandemic, and the story of Ruth, has shown us how important a touch of love, an encouraging word, a helping hand, a compassionate empathy, a silent or shared prayer, is to family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and particularly strangers. Working out our faith by raising Others up raises us up, and God strengthens, supports, encourages, empowers, and enables us to grow in grace.

Amazing grace – how sweet the sound – that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

God's grace has taught my heart to fear, his grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come.

God's grace has brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.

(StF 440, John Newton, 1725-1807, altd.)

This week I pray that, *'The Grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. (2 Corinthians 13:13)*

Graham Warr

Sources: *The Making of Methodism 2nd revised and updated edition, Barrie W Tabraham, Epworth Press*

2010

The New Creation, John Wesley's Theology Today, Theodore Runyon, Abingdon Press, 19880
Original Material Graham Warr 2009/2020

Arthur Andrews

The funeral for Arthur Andrews will be held at Woking Crematorium on 24 June 2020, at 11am.

This service will be for very close family only, but we ask that you pray for Arthur and his family at this time.

If you would like to make a donation in Arthur's memory, then gifts are gratefully received for Woking and Sam Beare Hospice and can be made by following the link:

https://www.love2donate.co.uk/inmemory/identify_name.php?bc=301

or via Lodge Brothers Funeral Director's website.

With grateful thanks from Beryl, David, Michael and Helen.

MHA Sunday

As Jackie promised in her Service on Sunday, here is a reminder of the details for making donations to MHA.

You can donate online via:

<https://www.mha.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/mha-sunday/> or send a cheque to:

MHA

Epworth House

Stuart Street

Derby

DE1 2EQ

Adam Payne, new Minister at Godalming URC

Recently, the pastoral committee of the URC Wessex Synod held a Zoom meeting and unanimously agreed the following:

"In the light of the clear indications of Godalming United Church that they wish to issue a strong call to Adam Payne to serve as their minister at the earliest opportunity, the Pastoral Committee agrees to appoint Adam Payne as a Synod Minister to serve at Godalming United Church."

Adam has accepted the call and is intending to move to Godalming in August to take up his appointment on 1 September. The church gives thanks for Adam's appointment and looks forward to welcoming him and his family to Godalming and prays that his ministry will be a time of blessing for the church and the wider community.

Notice from the Circuit, submitted by Jean Normington.

Quiz Answers for last week

What type of Bridge is Tower Bridge?

A combined bascule and suspension bridge

Which river rises in Northamptonshire? *Welland*

Of which fish is sockeye a variety? *Salmon*

What type of musical instrument was

Antonio Stradivari most famous for making? *Violins*

What does the acronym SCUBA stand for?

Self-Contained Under Water Breathing apparatus

Axilla is the proper name for which part of the body?

Armpit

What is the official name of Hull in N.E.England?

Kingston upon Hull

Who was Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton?

An Irish Antarctic Explorer

What is Monaco's chief source of income? *Tourism*

Who developed the radio? *Marconi*

Who wrote the books of Sherlock Holmes?

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Which is the oldest university in Britain? *Oxford*

Valerie's Quiz Corner!

1. Who sculpted The Angel of the North Statue?
2. Which Brazilian city is overlooked by Sugar Loaf Mountain?
3. How many pieces does a chess player have at the beginning of a game?
4. Where is Monet's Garden?
5. What nationality was Greta Garbo?
6. What is the full name of President Jimmy Carter?
7. Where in the body are the Axis and Atlas bones?
8. What is the capital of Venezuela?
9. Who was Mary Wollstonecraft?
10. What is the National Flower of Canada?
11. What is Ambergris?
12. When is Michaelmas celebrated?

Picture of the Angel of the North, from Wikipedia

