



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 28th June 2020

Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends,

In many ways we are living through a period of extremes. After the hottest, driest May on record, June saw such extensive rain that my water butt overflowed and the compost in my 'self-watering' pots turned to 'soup'. The sweet peas and strawberries had to be rescued from drowning by replanting into a drier flower bed. Now, this week, we're in a heat wave and I must wield the watering can lest they suffer death by drought! But, of course, my minor frustrations are insignificant compared to what's happening in the local community and the wider world. Alongside the relief of some easing of lockdown restrictions, some people, who have been shielding or very limited in their movements, are understandably anxious about being expected to go out more, maybe to work or braving the shops for themselves after 3 months of isolation and extreme fear about the risk to their health. Some people have saved money in lockdown, others have struggled financially and are now worried about debt, being on the brink of insolvency, or layoffs delayed by furlough measures. We have been cheered by many random acts of kindness, and there has been a long-overdue recognition of the significant role played in maintaining the well-being of our communities by an extensive, often overlooked and underpaid, army of 'key workers'. But we've also been rudely awakened to the continuing racial injustice that is still rife in societies that have long deemed themselves to be highly civilized and 'Christian'. As if that were not enough, here in Reading where I live, deeply shocked and saddened, we are trying to make sense of unprovoked stabbings in the town centre Forbury Gardens last Saturday, where three people lost their lives and others were injured by a young man whose motives are still under investigation.

What does this rollercoaster of highs and lows mean for us as God's people? How can we support one another and witness to Christ in our communities, especially when we are still unable to gather

physically for worship with the carefree freedom that we once did? Is our mission on hold until COVID-19 is a thing of the past? Our faith is Incarnational: God became flesh through the birth of Jesus of Nazareth; he walked among human beings, sharing human joys and sorrows; he not only faced death as we do, but also the brutality of injustice. God still walks among human beings today whatever their circumstances or situations, whatever their creed or their colour. For we are the Body of Christ, held in fellowship with God and one another through God's grace and the Holy Spirit.

'Christ has no body now but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.'

[St Teresa of Avila]

Every blessing, Jackie

Message from the leadership team

On Sunday Rev Julia set us some questions based on Matthew 10 v24 -39: From whom or what do you need to separate?

What do you need to let go of to grow and come alive?

Where have you become stuck with your relationship with Jesus?

Who would I be if I became fully myself?

Difficult questions and they have been challenging me this week - I wish I knew the answers!

During lockdown we have been forced to separate from the normal things in our lives and as we enter the "new normal" we are all going to have to let go of old familiar things and learn new ways. Let's pray we can use these new things to grow and come alive again to the love of Jesus.

Are you stuck in your relationship with Jesus? In Wednesday's *Fresh from The Word* Tim Yau reminded us that when Jesus said come the disciples came, and when he said go, they went. Jesus saw past the external aspects of this ragtag bunch, he had faith in them, he believed they could do what he could do. Can we use our experiences of the last months to revitalise our love for him?

Who would I be if I became fully myself? I don't know is the honest answer, but I hope and pray that

my faith would be stronger, and I would be a worthy disciple.

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy. Give us courage to be obedient when you call us to follow you, and faith to go when we don’t see what you see. Amen”

Jean Normington

A Word in Season 14 – a reflection on Refugee Week (15-21 June)

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change”. (Psalm 41:1-2a NRSVA)

I was 28 years old when I met my first refugee. I was working as a house parent at the Children’s Home in Woking and she was a middle-aged lady, a member of one of the many Asian families expelled from Uganda by General Idi Amin. They had been given virtually no notice to leave and could take nothing with them except for what they were wearing, and a little money. Fortunately, this lady already had family members in Britain who were able to assist her. She came as a resident member of staff and stayed for many years.

In the autumn of 1980, when I was running the Home, we were approached by the Vicar of St Pauls, who was also the Homes Chaplain, to see if we could find a job and some accommodation for a family from Cambodia, who had fled from the Pol Pot regime. Their village had been attacked and the extended family separated. Mum was pregnant, expecting their first child. Happily, we were able to employ him as a general handyman and provided them with residential accommodation.

Many years later when I was teaching in Lambeth, I became acquainted with many refugees. At that time Waterloo Station was the terminal for the Euro-Star service from Continental Europe and was regarded as a port of entry. Lambeth Borough Council were delegated as the Local Authority for any refugees coming into Waterloo. The school had several places available and we became the first call for placing refugee and migrant children in primary education in the Borough. Over the next fifteen years we found places for children from South America, Somalia, Eastern Europe, and South East Asia.

It was clear to me that all they wanted was a place of refuge. Somewhere safe to stay and to realise their hopes for the future. I know that in recent years the problem has multiplied and become more complex,

but the basic need of all refugees is that of a refuge. No matter what the reasons, they want what is best in terms of safety and security for the future.

Fleeing from Bethlehem, to avoid Herod’s massacre of the babies, Mary and Joseph, as refugees, took the young Jesus to Egypt, where God had ordained a refuge, a place of safety, for them.

The Psalmists tells us that God is our refuge and strength and our everlasting support no matter what happens. As Christians we are called to share that loving care and support for us with others. We may not be able to change the world on our own but working together with God’s grace, the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, and the community of faith, we can move mountains. With prayer, words, actions, and sharing resources we can make a difference.

Mary Haugen, in her hymn, (409 StF, slightly altered), puts it very succinctly,

Let us build a world, where love can dwell and all can safely live,

A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace,

Here the love Christ shall end divisions, all would be welcome in this world.

Let us build a world where love is found in water, wine, and wheat,

A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space,

As we share in Christ the feast that frees us, all would be welcome in this world.

Let us build a world where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone,

To heal and strengthen, serve, and teach and live the Word they’ve known.

Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s grace,

Let us bring an end to fear and danger, all would be welcome in this place.

Let us build a world where all are named, their songs and visions heard,

And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word

Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,

Let this house proclaim from earth to heaven all are welcome in this world.

'Alone with none but you, my God, what need I fear,
when you are near, O Lord of night and day?
Safer am I within your hand than if a host did round
me stand'.
(St Columba Of Iona, Sixth Century)

May God go with us into the coming week as we
seek to love and serve our Lord.
Graham Warr

New photos of the Trinity Garden

Jill has sent us some new photos of the Trinity
Garden, and I have included a selection below.
They really are beautiful.



Photos by Jill Willis

Did you get the answers right to Valerie's Quiz last week?

1. Who sculpted The Angel of the North Statue?
Anthony Gormley
2. Which Brazilian city is overlooked by Sugar Loaf Mountain?
Rio de Janeiro

3. How many pieces does a chess player have at the beginning of a game? *16*
4. Where is Monet's Garden? *Giverny*
5. What nationality was Greta Garbo? *Swedish*
6. What is the full name of President Jimmy Carter?
James Earl Junior
7. Where in the body are the Axis and Atlas bones?
Neck
8. What is the capital of Venezuela? *Caracas*
9. Who was Mary Wollstonecraft? *English writer & philosopher (and mother of Mary Shelley! - Dan)*
10. What is the National Flower of Canada? *Dogwood*
11. What is Ambergris? *A musky, waxy solid, found in the intestine of the sperm whale and used in the perfume industry.*
12. When is Michaelmas celebrated? *29th September.*

Valerie's Quiz Corner!

1. What is chicle the main ingredient of?
2. What is the points value of the letter z in a game of Scrabble?
3. In which American state is the city of Minneapolis?
4. Which bald headed detective was fond of lollipops?
5. For what manufactured food is Molton Mowbray famous?
6. Which ballet company was founded in 1735 at St Petersburg?
7. Which German cathedral was begun in 1248 and finished in 1842 -1880?
8. Another name for a puma?
9. Which Labour M.P. served as foreign secretary from 2001 -2006 ?
10. What do the initials C.N.D stand for?
11. Who was the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia?
12. What is the 4th and last Gospel of the New Testament?
13. Where are the Dodecanese Islands?
14. Where are the phalanges in the human body?
15. How did Joan of Ark die in 1430?



Graffiti portrait of Mary Wollstonecraft painted on the wall of Newington Green Unitarian Church in North London by 'Stewy'. Picture from BBC website.