

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 16th August 2020

Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends,

It was wonderful to see so many (about 50) gathered at Trinity for worship on Sunday morning. Although everyone in the congregation had to wear masks, the eyes are indeed 'the windows of the soul' and some limited fellowship was able to be shared at a safe distance. We were very much experimenting with how to manage people's arrival and entry into the worship area and their exit from it; how to incorporate music when we aren't able to sing; how to continue familiar features such as the stories from the congregation; and how to share the service in the homes of those unable to attend in person. My personal thanks to all those who did so much thinking and planning before the day, those who contributed in any way to the service, and those who cleaned chairs etc. to enable Foundry worship to take place later. I am delighted that, although it is not yet practical to do work with the children on site, they are still receiving zoom worship and activities at 11.00am on Sunday mornings.

As a result of our experiences on Sunday, you will find that some improvements to the processes and layout will have been made by next Sunday. We especially hope that, with the help of James Turner, our broadcasting of the service to those at home will be much improved, and we will further develop our ability to use the electronic equipment and our resources as the weeks go by. Many of us have learnt a great deal in a short time about the technological possibilities available to us, and we need to build a team of people to make better use of the opportunities now available to us to serve, not only our current membership, but also the future mission of the church.

As I drove home from Woking on Sunday, I found myself reflecting on what the Lord Jesus Christ would have said to his first disciples if they had been faced with COVID and its challenges. Of course there were infectious diseases then that blighted the lives of the infected and isolated them from family and society. Leprosy, for example, was universally feared: at the first signs of infection sufferers were sent away from family friends and society as a whole, losing their livelihoods and becoming dependent upon charitable gifts of food and clothing left outside the town or village, where they lived in groups for mutual support. Leprosy came to Europe with returning crusaders and remained a scourge for centuries. The last leper colony in Europe, on an island near Cyprus, was not closed until 1950s! In Mark's account of Jesus's healing of a leper, the Greek words used for Jesus' attitude are most literally translated, 'he was filled with anger' [Mark 1:41]. Jesus was angry at the evil that disrupts life and destroys well-being, isolating people like this man from community and loved ones. I am sure that the Lord Jesus supports us to do whatever we have to do to protect the vulnerable from Coronavirus and is encouraging us to do whatever we can to make it better for those whose well-being has been so compromised by the Covid pandemic.

Every Blessing

Jackie

Message from the leadership team

Recent times have been so depressing yet some things continue to amaze me. And, to be honest, the fact that Trinity has survived is astounding. We have lost income (from our tenants), we made the decision to not furlough staff and reduce costs, we have adapted to worshipping online (with all its challenges). Had we been a Limited company we would have folded long ago. But we aren't Limited. In fact, with Faith what we can achieve is limitless - all we have to do is move in the right direction.

But what is the right direction? Is it to survive and get back to normal as soon as is reasonably possible? Or is it to take the opportunity to completely revisit the offering that Trinity provides to the community? I am a firm believer in change, even if it takes me away from my comfort zone. And I believe that Trinity cannot afford to miss this chance to become relevant to the new world that is emerging. Online services

are definitely a part of this. Don't get me wrong, worshipping at Trinity can be uplifting at times, but perhaps we are guilty of having let life take precedence on Sundays and choosing which ones to attend. Online services allow greater flexibility to take part when in previous times we might not have at all.

So please pray for the resources to make this happen. Financial resources. Technical resources. And most importantly, Human Resources. This is a new journey for all at Trinity and it cannot fall on the few. As Christians, we must all play (and pray) our part.

David Emmerson

A Word in Season 21 – Take a Break

Jesus said: *'Come unto me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest'. (Matthew 11:28)*

It has been such a long time since we were able to meet in the flesh and what a joy it was to gather for worship yesterday. Lockdown has been exceedingly difficult and with the recent, not necessarily undesired, hot weather the last three weeks have been exhausting for many of us. The greatest pleasure yesterday was being on the door and greeting everyone, I know it was 'different' but from behind the masks the joy of conversation was wonderful.

Two things touched me yesterday. Jean and I shared a prayer for God's blessing before everything got underway; the WhatsApp Friday prayer group have been praying for the opportunity to return to the church for Worship and we were there. How great is our God! For indeed God does answer prayer. The other was the number of people who wished me well for the family Canal Boat holiday, starting later today (I write this on Monday). It gives one such a lift to know that the Weekly Newsletter is read and appreciated by so many.

At the end of the Service I truly felt like the Psalmist,

'For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness'. (Psalm 84:10)

However, all this preparation and 'worry' takes a toll and Jesus recognised this. After a highly active, successful, mission he called his disciples together and said:

'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves, and rest a while. For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.' (Mark 6:31-32)

We all need breaks, physically, mentally, and particularly spiritually. I don't see the Grand Union Canal as a necessarily deserted place; but a week together with family culminating in the whole family sharing a birthday celebration at the weekend, will be a welcome break and a change. It is true what the old adage suggests, 'A change is as good as a rest.' I am looking forward to the break and the associated activities, particularly as Bernhard suggested yesterday, we will have time for our Sunday Crossword session and a chance to discuss and review the next steps in the miniature world of the Ramsen model railway!

May God richly bless you this week and I hope you will all find an opportunity to take a break and have a rest, sharing some words of John Glyn, (StF 469)

'For you are always close to me, following all my ways.

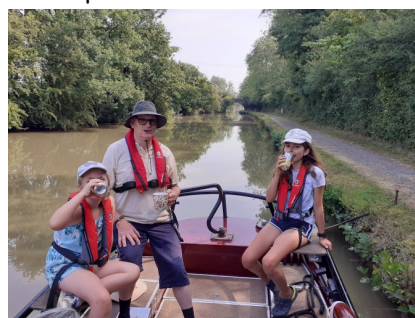
May I be always close to you following all your ways, Lord'

I look forward to sharing with you some of the experiences from my break in the next Newsletter.

Graham

Note from the Ed.

Hot off the Press, canal boat snap of our regular correspondent and his Girls!



Rev Jackie Case will be leaving us at the end of the month. Elaine Slatter has written this poem in her honour!

To Rev. Jackie, with love;

Some months ago.
We felt rather low,
As we'd had a tough time here at Trinity.
You came at great cost
'Cos your retirement was lost
But you cheered us all up in a minute-'e' (sorry!)

We'll miss you so much
With your down-to-earth touch
But we know you'll enjoy your new leisure.
We want you to know
When to Reading you go
We shall think of you often with pleasure.

E.S.



Glen's song writing challenge for July

My challenge for July was to write a song about "Justice" - a tricky subject due to its many facets. The new song, "King Of All Justice" can be used to kick off a Christian house group thinking about the topic of justice. Uppermost in my mind were two recent news stories since, in both cases, there seems to have been no remorse by the perpetrators of these particularly callous crimes. As Christians this is troublesome, so friends may like to use it to think about our response in such cases. Here's the link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDUz3iG_wg

Glen Penfold

Financial Appeal

Dear Friends,

As the Covid 19 related restrictions extend into the future as far as we can see, the Leadership Team has been thinking hard about how to continue worship and extend our witness beyond those who regularly join our Zoom services.

The next step for us would be to transmit our services through a YouTube Channel, which we know many other churches are doing successfully, so that everyone can access the worship through the Trinity Website and Youtube.

This is called Live Streaming.

We know Live Streaming is not the total answer, but John heard Justin Welby at New Wine last week saying that at Canterbury Cathedral, they would get 25 people to Morning Prayers, 40 max each day before Lock Down, and now between 40K and 50K from all over the world watch the YouTube feed every day! So it can work, very well.

The cost of the equipment to do this properly is quite modest at around £1,000 and even though our finances have taken a huge battering since the 'Lock Down' Trinity can find that money. However, perhaps this is a Project that you might feel you would like to help on its way and make an extra donation towards that cost.

Please pray about this as a way forward and if you feel able, contact Sue Waddell suewad48@btinternet.com or Mike Tozer tozermike@hotmail.com about how best to make a one-off additional payment.

In His service

*Leadership Team
August 2020*

Wondering where Quiz Corner is? Valerie's new computer is struggling in the heat too. Normal service will resume next week 😊