



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING
GENERAL CHURCH MEETING ~ BOOK OF REPORTS
SUNDAY 18 APRIL 2021

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Stewards/ Leadership team

Our biggest challenge this year has been coping with the outcome of Covid.

With the help of our technical team, we have been able to worship by one means or another every week. Our ministers and local preachers have graciously led our services sometimes with a last-minute switch from live in Church to Zoom. We are also now able to live stream most services, although there is a need for more volunteers to come forward and help with this.

An Away-Day was planned for the Leadership Team (LT) and the Staff in February, but this had to be moved to a Zoom meeting. From this meeting we have come away with ideas for taking Trinity and The Foundry forward. The main thing we have decided is that the present LT and staff will now form one team. Rather than having lots of separate meetings we can save time and get things moving more quickly by being one. The five Stewards, who are part of the LT, will still retain the job of ensuring worship happens weekly, communicating with visiting preachers and supervising staff. We are also planning to arrange more small groups, source material and courses that will help us talk more easily and naturally about our faith and offering more hospitality to those on the fringes of our Church.

The Trinity Tomorrow appeal has been launched and the leaflet explains why we urgently need to raise £20,000. We will celebrate the outcome of this on Trinity Sunday 30th May.

We are working to re-new our ECO Church status and will be holding a Climate Change Service on Sunday on June 6th as part of this.

We worked with Sam in arranging the Lent course and the Easter services.

We work with Dan to ensure all Covid safety rules and protocols are adhered to, and that we have all the correct risk assessments in place. Safeguarding is reviewed at each LT meeting.

We are working and investigating on how we can have "Youth Voices" more involved in our Church life.

We are represented at Churches together in Woking and Woking People of Faith.

Thanks to a great deal of hard work from volunteers working in small socially distanced teams, we were able to clean the church after all the building work that had gone on to renew the lighting system, sound system and carpet, just about in time for our Easter services. These were the Tenebrae Service (in church with the benefit of the new lights), Good Friday reflection on Zoom and then the live celebration in the church on Easter Sunday. Sam had worked really hard in preparing what were 3 special services. Thank you, Sam.

Jean Normington on behalf of the Leadership Team

Pastoral Work at Trinity

The Pastoral Team have continued to support our Trinity members and families in a variety of ways during this mainly lockdown year of Covid 19.

Membership is now 116, with around 35 adherents. We are waiting for 5 people to come into membership. We have had some members move their membership to other churches – Gill and Roman Kozlowski; David and Susan Jones; Eileen McIntyre and Donald Fraser, and we are sorry to see them go.

We have had several deaths this year:

Maisie Morgan; Marina Parker; John Craig; Evelyn Tank; Arthur Andrews; Beryl Andrews and Dorothy Mitchell, and we remember them with love.

We have decided not to carry on maintaining the Friends of Trinity (FOT) as it has served its purpose and causes unnecessary administration now. We have our magazine TNV on the website, as well as the weekly newsletter and Dan has been contacting any who are still on the email list.

We are very grateful for the team of Pastoral Visitors, and thank them for their practical and prayerful support. They have been able to keep in contact with their groups during this difficult year. They have been in touch mainly by phone, and services on zoom have enabled some chat, and whilst this has not been pastoral it has enabled people to share their family concerns. We give thanks to Helen Harrold and David Reeve who are standing down after many years of faithful service as Pastoral visitors, and also welcome Liz Penfold to the team.

We have also supported members of Trinity who have lost loved ones during this year of small funerals, and reduced family gatherings.

Training: We ran two sessions on Zoom for Pastoral Visitors to come and chat and see how they could support their people. We promoted some online courses run by the Methodist Lay worker network to our Pastoral Visitors. Shirley and Allison have attended sessions of the Lay worker Conference, and also both have attended online training/webinars on Unconscious Bias and Green Evangelism, and Shirley has attended 'Being an Inclusive Church.'

At Christmas and Harvest we distributed plants to ~31 people in our congregation, and we continue to support those who are housebound, in hospital or in need of care.

We have not been able to take Home Communion to many (apart from a few during summer months). Visiting has changed due to Covid. We continue to support the All Souls Service (mainly online this year), which is received gratefully by those who have lost loved ones, and take this opportunity to remember them.

Pastoral work has changed this year, for our Pastoral lay workers and also for the Pastoral Visitors. There has not been any chat in church or coffee mornings or other informal gatherings (like in the kitchen after Church!), but people have managed to offer support where they can, and we have signposted people to local Help groups, and also there has been a lot of informal help to housebound and vulnerable people.

We support the Prayer Group, and share appropriate church family news with the congregation on Sundays.

We have been unable to use the Intercessions Book, but please do let Allison or Shirley know if you or anyone in your family is struggling, and let us know of any concerns that you would like to be included in the online Sunday Intercession prayers (or for private prayer).

We pray for the continued support of the Pastoral Team, and we pray for you, your families and all those in need. We find that we are encouraged to share our faith, and as Jesus showed his love to all, we put Jesus at the centre of our lives.

We thank Joyce, John, (and Jackie until August), Sam, the Pastoral Working Group and the Leadership Team for their support during the last year and also Dan who is a STAR.

Allison Jackson & Shirley Turner, April 2021

Prayer at Trinity

In early 2020 the prayer group met in person on a Friday morning every week for about an hour. At the moment we cannot meet in person so we set up a WhatsApp Trinity Prayer group.

The WhatsApp prayer group was set up by Jean Normington. We gave our names to Jean and she linked us together in the group so the messages sent to the group are confidential to the group. We meet from 10.00 to 11.00 am on a Friday morning and pray together. This is working well with God prompting our prayers.

During the week prayer requests can be sent to the group by members in the group so we can pray as and when prayer is requested.

Often in a main church service or at Foundry Worship prayer requests will be made and the prayer group will pray for all these needs and give thanks to God when prayer is answered.

If you have a prayer request please ask Dan in the admin office, W730754 or via trinitywoking@btinternet.com

If you have any questions or prayer requests please ask Ann Dawson or Jean Normington

Ann Dawson

Children and Family Work

Over this lockdown year, family work has mostly been on Zoom. We did manage to do a couple of meet ups in Woking Park in the summer, with risk assessments in place covering every angle for social distancing and safeguarding.

Children have adapted well to their new normal, parents have been encouraging their children to participate, and leaders have been amazing. We have managed to include this past year virtual October half term holiday club, Nativity, February half term holiday club, children have made cards for the main church members, we did Mother's Day activities, and Easter all on Zoom as well as the normal Friday Fun Club and Junior church every week.

The time and effort involved is enormous, each child received a pack; these packs include age-appropriate activities and resource materials for all the children to be able to join in each session.

Leaders helped prepare and hand deliver to families, this gave us all an opportunity to meet families on their doorsteps for a quick chat to find out how they were doing. A small group of leaders have helped with writing stories, encouraging children to chat online, and hosting. I have learnt to film edit, stream, record and cope with ever-changing Zoom technology.

Without the support of children's team and parents for encouraging children to participate, Junior church would be in a different place.

Rowena has been encouraging the younger children to join Junior church from the Chinese congregation and working as part of our team and joining in Bible investigators. Leading into Bible Investigators, Denzel has been heading this group of young people. He encourages, inspires and gets young people to participate. They are looking at fund raising ideas to support a health card and bible project <https://www.greatlakesoutreach.org/> as well as learning about their own faith and scripture.

I have been keeping in touch with families who have not joined us using email and text messages etc. Denzel encouraged us to look at how we could support parents at Christmas with Gift cards, this was spontaneous he encouraged the wider community, friends and church leadership to respond, this gave ten known families an opportunity to receive a gift of love from Trinity's friends. It has been agreed we will investigate offering out to the wider church another time.

I have also been supporting families who have found it hard over this period some requiring practical support while others emotional.

Graham helps write and lead fun club, to enable me to support individual parents and families who require prayer and support via a listening ear.

Currently the children's team have worked alongside and with all age groups from 2-16 years old amounting to 33 children and young people on a regular basis plus their parents. Children have noticeably grown in their faith; repeatedly ask for prayers or offering up their own prayers, asking questions and debating amongst themselves for answers.

On maybe a selfish note, I cannot wait to see the families reunite together in conversation and fellowship, how the new normal will look only time will tell we are in God's hands we are all seeking his wisdom and guidance as we move slowly forward into a new creative hybrid thinking of Junior Church.

My final thanks to everyone who have kept the children and families work in their prayers, in action, encouragement, the ministry leadership teams, enabling this work to continue with God firmly in the centre of children's ministry.

Sue Waddington

Foundry

During the Covid challenges as you know Hugh and Dan have been supporting ROC Woking initiatives. The following are in progress:

- Woking Phone Friends. We've recruited and trained volunteers. Each week they phone their 'client,' befriending and connecting with them. Clients have been suggested by the Council, informal and self-referrals are now possible.
- Loneliness Survey. Statistics suggest over 10% of the population are lonely. That's a staggering 10,000 people in Woking – of all ages. How do we engage with them? The survey is to help us find out.
- Laptops for schools. We've managed to put a small group together to gather, wipe clean (digitally speaking) and re-build old PCs. These are then made available to schools.
- Volunteer management system. Volunteering is one of the most effective ways to break down isolation and build community. Digital technology enables volunteering to be managed in a totally different way. We are working with others to put a robust platform together that enables small tasks to be posted so that volunteers can offer to do them – it's the same way that shopping and prescriptions were managed during lockdown.

Whilst set up in Covid times, all these activities are just as relevant in normal times. Each results in us engaging with people whether they are 'client' or volunteer. Because a number of Trinity people are involved in the groups, this is a community Trinity can engage with.

How does this link to the Foundry? Anticipating a degree of normality returning within a few months we are starting to talk of 'Foundry Projects.' These will be initiatives conceived and organised from the Foundry to further support the community engagement above. Some examples:

- Tea parties at Trinity so that Phone Friend volunteers and clients can meet with each other;
- Providing equipment and training to those who are digitally isolated;
- Appropriate discussion and support groups for those across the age range who are lonely.

We can use our people and premises to facilitate a wide range of activities. We can ask 'non Church' volunteers to help us. It is not difficult to conceive that The Foundry will come into contact with a lot of new people. We can add to them the existing users of our premises. This is the Foundry's mission field and provides our opportunity to create a place where Jesus can be found through us in the way that we live. Of those that are curious as to what motivates us, we have opportunity to gently share our own faith stories and the good news of Jesus.

Hugh Bowerman and Dan Warr Schori

Finance Committee

As has been reported elsewhere, the Covid Pandemic and enforced Lock Down have had a great impact upon Trinity's financial stability. Our Accountant confirmed that the end result for 2019/20 was a shortfall of just over £27K which we were more or less able to cover with accumulated reserves.

Clearly there are some savings to be made when the building is closed and we estimate that we have saved around £8K so far this year on such things as cleaning, heating and building maintenance. However, our largest bills have not been reduced, that is Circuit Assessment and Salaries for the team that has worked so very hard keeping us in touch with one another, caring for us pastorally and developing our future mission aspirations.

Another good thing is that one way and another, you have all done your very best to keep your regular financial offerings up to date which in turn enables us to keep the Gift Aid income at a high level. So, thank you! Also, the Circuit has awarded us a one off Covid Relief Grant of £10K.

Our income from the regular tenants using the building has all but disappeared and whilst some will be coming back over the next few weeks, that source of essential income will be greatly reduced.

Now is not the time to look closely at all of the figures but we know sufficient about the key figures to know that our forecast shortfall for the current year, mentioned in the Trinity Tomorrow Appeal as around £37K, is about right, and so we ask everyone to pray as hard as they can and to give as generously as they can towards the Appeal target of £20K.

Although things are difficult just now, we are determined to remain positive about the longer-term future and are pleased to report that we have achieved the renewal of the lights, sound and carpet in the church within the budget of £60K from the 2020 Development Fund. This was generously donated by our members a few years ago, expressly to fund building development and we have no intention of using the remaining balance to cover our cash shortage.

We must be relentless and imaginative about finding new ways of raising money to cover our running costs because cash shortages are likely to be a regular feature over coming years.

John Nelson on behalf of Finance Committee

Property Committee

Even though the building has been closed to the public for much of the year, there has still been quite a bit achieved!

During the closed periods, the building was checked every week to ensure there were no floods or other problems.

When we have been getting ready for the return of some groups, we worked with Dan and the tenant to ensure that they were allowed to meet again and that they did so in a socially distanced way. We were able to accommodate a term of Cremona Ballet, a series of Music Exams and regular meetings of DOT Sign Language but most groups simply have not met. You will have noticed the different signage and layout required for worship in the church now. Dan is currently working with some groups who are restarting from 19th April.

The Wombles Group has not been able to meet on a regular basis but did meet outside to tidy up a bit and paint the rear fence, keeping well away from each other and bringing their own coffee and biscuits!

During the last year we have had the Narthex Roof renewed successfully and so it no longer leaks or loses so much heat.

The major Project has been the renewal of the lighting, the sound system and the carpet in the Church. The contractors were allowed to continue working but not all at the same time. We did use a number of volunteers to work in small groups to clear all of the furniture out of the church and then remove the carpet tiles and the parquet flooring. The supply of power sockets has always been a problem in the Church and so the volunteers cut channels into the floor and there is now a modern ring main and a range of data connection points around and across the Church, beneath the carpet. We also designed and created a new desk to accommodate the sound, light and digital controls more efficiently and securely.

We are very pleased with the end result and the new lighting really added to the atmosphere for the Tenebrae Service.



The Sanctuary set up for the Tenebrae Service

The Church is now really flexible, very well equipped and we anticipate it being used more frequently and for a wider range of events.

We must acknowledge the huge amount of work done at Trinity by the volunteers; they really have saved us a huge amount of money. There are the well-known Monday Wombles who were ready to get involved at the drop of a hat and painted the Narthex ceiling following its repair and brought the furniture back into the Church after a thorough

cleaning. They are not getting any younger despite the longer hair styles they have at the moment! It has been encouraging to see some younger people willing to roll up their sleeves and do the heavy, dirty work in the Church over recent months.

So, a great big THANK YOU to everyone who has been involved in this strange year when the building has been so quiet but we have achieved so much.

John Nelson on behalf of the Property Committee

Phoenix House Group

The Phoenix House group has continued to meet during Lockdown on Zoom. Although we have missed face to face contact, we have really appreciated the technology which has enabled us to keep in touch with each other. It has also meant that 4 of our members, who have moved from the area, have been able to join us for our meetings, so Trisha and Jim Dennis and David and Susan Jones are still part of our fellowship, which has been wonderful!

We have our eyes fixed on Jesus and through prayer, Bible study and open, thought provoking discussion, we seek to follow Him and learn more about His will for us in our daily lives. We are open and honest and feel free to share our thoughts and feelings. For variety, members are encouraged to lead a session, but there is no pressure to do so.

We have discussed a variety of topics during the year and at present we are looking in detail at Psalm 23.

We support each other in all circumstances and situations and our sessions always include a time of prayer for ourselves and those we know who are in need.

Please feel free to join us once a fortnight on Friday evenings and for the occasional social event when the current restrictions are lifted.

Joyce Nelson

Trinity Garden

The advent pots with lights were a great success with lots of positive comments, including from people not connected with Trinity. We had families coming every day to read the day's story and then to see the baby in the manger. Our purpose built stable worked well and will be moved to the side of the church once we have a few people to move it. We planted daffodils in the Advent pots in November, two varieties to try to have them out for Easter. The timing was spot on and they gave a bright cheerful welcome with the yellow ribbons as well. We see the garden as a form of outreach and ministry and while it's nice that it looks good, it's the effect on the community that is important to us.

More roses are arriving for the bed at the front; three climbing roses to grow up the fence and along the trellis and yellow roses to form the outline of the Christian fish sign. We are in the process of removing as much as we can of the rotten tree stump and clearing the front. The soil is poor and needs a lot of organic matter added. We hope to sow Zinnia seeds among the roses and edge the bed with blue cat mint taken from cuttings from the cat mint in the centre bed.

We need to re-plant the two narthex beds and add some planting to the front beds and side pots. As Church finances are stretched we can really only do mass planting if we have donations.

We have a new bench for the west side donated in memory of Beryl and Arthur Andrews which once in position will also have planting around it. We could make more of the garden at this side as it is further away from the traffic and in the sun.

We still have to construct and plant the rain garden on the west side as mitigation of the additional ground water that is going into the sewage system from the extra parking area on the east side. That is a condition of the planning permission for the new parking so we are required to do it. I have booked myself onto a Zoom course on rain gardens in May! It may need a contractor however to dig out the swale especially as the area is full of tree roots.

We need more help in the garden especially at busy times of the year. The current job is spreading and digging in composted stable manure for the new roses. Help with planting would be good. Even if it's only occasionally help. By summer dead heading roses or watering with the hose will be needed. I will be gardening from Chichester by the summer and we need to think about how we can continue to maintain the garden long term. We could employ gardeners and we may have to do that for specific tasks, but qualified gardeners are around £25 an hour. On average we have 5 of us for say 3 hours on a Saturday morning. That's nearly £400 a week if we had to pay. We can provide lessons for any volunteers!

Jill Willis



The 'Easter' pots

BSF

Sadly during this past year due to Covid restrictions, the Day Women's Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) class has been unable to meet on Wednesday mornings at Trinity Methodist Church.

The class transitioned online and this year have been studying Genesis, the discussion groups meet on Zoom and the lecture is available on mybsf.org.

The children's leaders have been providing weekly videos for the preschool children teaching eternal truths about God from the same passage that the adults study, through age appropriate Bible stories, hymns, prayer and directed activities. During this time our weekly Tuesday leaders meeting, to train and equip class leaders to serve in their various roles has also transitioned online.

We continue to pray for Trinity Methodist church and their ministry each week.

BSF is an in depth, interdenominational lay ministry that helps people grow closer to God through personal Bible study in community with others and equips them to effectively serve in and through the Church throughout the world.

BSF through men's, women's, student, children and preschool children, BSF Online and BSF's WordGo app serves more than 400,000 class members on six continents in more than 120 nations. There are those who are discovering God's word for the first time and those who have studied the Bible over a lifetime explore scripture together.

Chapter by chapter, verse by verse, we approach the Bible as God's Truth to be studied, savoured and lived out.

BSF also encourages every member to serve in their churches. In the UK and around the world many class members and leaders have gone on to assume leadership positions in their church and to serve God in their communities. More information can be found on the bsfinternational.org website. As restrictions begin to ease, we very much look forward to our class being able to meet in person again at Trinity Methodist Church in due course.

Jenny Wilkinson