

TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS



**Christ the Lord is risen today
Hallelujah!**

EASTER/SPRING 2023 ISSUE 60

Message from Rev Sam Funnell

Dear Friends,

I wonder how your garden, or the park, or any bits of 'green space' near you are looking this spring?

What's coming back to life and what seems to still be dormant or maybe just hasn't made it through the winter?

I often am curious as to what will 'return' and what won't in the various gardens of the manses I've lived in. The gardens have varied but the quality of care on my part is consistently poor; I have been known to say that I don't possess 'green fingers', rather mine tend to finish plants off!

Over the past weeks we've been travelling through the dark (ish) days of late winter, which made a bit of a chilly 'last blast' in early March and accompany the long 40 days (excluding the Sundays) of Lent. From Ash Wednesday (22nd February) through to the last Lenten day of Holy Saturday (8th April – not to be confused with 'Easter Saturday' which is AFTER Easter Day!) we have journeyed from darkness to light; incomprehension towards understanding; from need, through loss and onto hope fulfilled and restoration and LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS!

As we see the natural world, in all its beauty and fragility, struggling through the cold, wet and dark days of winter – we too have walked our personal paths through similar experiences, both in getting through another winter and journeying through our Lenten time of reflection towards the hope of brighter and better things; towards resurrection.

So, as you may take a moment to survey your bit of the natural world and how it's 'weathered' the winter....I invite you to stop for a little while and do a personal spiritual survey:

What's returning to life in your soul?

What seems dormant and in need of God's gift of resurrection?

What seems to have come to an end and needs 'laying down' and 'letting go'?

Whatever you find as you reflect, know that God sees that too, understands and loves you still and will help you as you carry on that walk of faith – through Holy Week, into Easter and beyond.

Where there are signs of growth, the Creator God will gently tend those precious, fragile shoots...

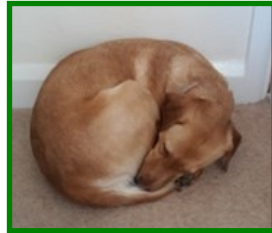
Where there is need for life, God's Spirit will bring refreshment and energy and the spark of newness...

Where there is ending, Christ will hold that with you and give you peace...

Have a blessed Easter and may the joy of our risen Saviour accompany you in all things!

With love,

Sam (and Daisy Dog).



Our Worship Band Practising

Family News

In memoriam ..We remember in our prayers the families of

Eric Bates who died November 2022.

Gareth Davies who died February 2023

Trevor Kirby-Smith who died March 2023



We Welcome



Elishama Carrington whose Baptism took place at Trinity on 4th December 2023

Enid Burman into membership

4th December 2023

Ann Whales transferred membership

12th March 2023



Congratulations

To Margo Craig on her special birthday 30th March 2023



Dates for your Dairy

6th April	Tenebrae Service @8pm
7th April	Good Friday Service @10.00am
9th April	Easter Sunday with Holy Communion @ 10.30am
16th April	Neighbourhood Tea Party @ 4.00pm
23rd April	Church General Meeting following morning service.
12th May	Gambian Evening 7.00pm –10 pm
20th May	Plant Sale in aid of Christian Aid
18th June	All Age Worship @ 10.30am



Knife Angel at Guildford Cathedral

Photo by Mike Cope

I will not leave you comfortless

I've just released another song on YouTube since it is quite appropriate for Holy Week. It's a lament really, and may be helpful for our thoughts and prayers especially on Good Friday. It could also be helpful as a prelude for Prayers of Confession. You can listen to "I Will Not Leave You Comfortless" on the following YouTube link:

<https://youtu.be/7imqn5gho3Y>

It is the first Christian song that I ever wrote, which I did when I was 16 years old!! I used to play it with just a guitar at that time and, (because of its unusual timing for a guitar), it has taken me these 55 years to come up with an arrangement that I am happy with!!!

The song is based on the Authorised (King James) Version of John 14 v18 and John 15 v25. Other versions translate the title differently, (and not as comfortingly to my mind), so my 16-year-old mind was really struck by that lovely phrase in the Authorised Version - Comforting His disciples and preparing them for what was to happen very soon was what Jesus was doing, after all.

"I Will Not Leave You Comfortless" was one of 24 songs featured in Christian musical "Sonlight" which were written by young people in Walton-On-Thames. The musical was performed at Walton Methodist Church around Easter 1973 and attracted the attention of a well know theatre impresario who contracted us for a couple of years to some major theatre producers. As is often the way, it didn't quite make it due to funding complications, even though a provincial theatre run was being actively planned.

It was an exciting project that came from a very simple initial idea to put on something for a few evenings in Walton Methodist Church with songs written by young people who had been to see "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Godspell". Unlike those two shows, "Sonlight" started with the crucifixion and told the story onwards from that. It was a musical collaboration between the young people of Walton Methodist Church and St Erconwald's

Catholic Church, Walton. It brought many of us together and has cemented friendships which have lasted these last 50 years.

Glen Penfold

Verse 1

I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you
He gave this as His promise, what more need He do
Still, He did much more than that, on a cross at Calvary
Racked by pain and sorrow untold
To die, to make us all free

Verse 2

They hated me without a cause, such lonely words but true
The agony of nails and thorns, such mental torture too
To die for being a perfect man, can you imagine that
Such love He had, such love He gave
For those He had to save

Verse 3

I will not leave you comfortless, how soothing words can be
Instead of words of hate and stress, He gave us words of
peace
Yet still we turn so many ways, to try to seek and find
Another way, another life
We leave His words behind

Words and Music © Glen Penfold

Flying the Nest

We had two Holy Weeks last year. The first started in cool sunshine in the courtyard at a church in London with a Palm Sunday procession around the church, waving palm leaves at bewildered tourists. The second ended in the blazing light of Easter Sunday in Cyprus – Easter is a week later in the Greek orthodox calendar – with enthusiastic celebrations in the local village square, eating and drinking and dancing. We had travelled to Cyprus for a family wedding of a couple who lived on the island. They had postponed their wedding several times because of COVID and travel restrictions, and by the time of the wedding, everyone was willing to make huge efforts to get to what seemed like the first celebration in two years. Guests arrived on the island from all over, pent-up with partying and ready to shake loose from the blistering impact of the pandemic and to reconnect with family.

When we arrived at the house where we were staying, late on the first Maundy Thursday, we found we were sharing our home in the sun: other guests had arrived there before us. Under the eaves of the house was a nest, made of the white local mud. And in the nest were four baby birds with wide open beaks. The four huge open mouths eclipsed the tiny bodies and the baby birds constantly yelled for food.



Day 1

Here they are when we first arrived.... Surrounded by my older siblings, I had sympathy with the chick with its beak firmly shut.

None of us were birdwatchers but we had the internet: they were Barn Swallows which are very common on the island.

Barn Swallows make nests out of the local mud, in this case white limestone which covers this part of Cyprus and find shelter under the eaves of the local tourist villas, mostly, we thought, to avoid the watchful gatherings of village cats waiting for aeronautical errors.

Barn Swallows spend the winter in Africa south of the Sahara and on the Indian sub-continent, many thousands of kilometres away. Swallows travel hundreds of kilometres a day at a speed of over 30 km/h and only briefly touch down to rest and recover – how astonishing is that? These small birds have an arduous, uncertain journey and are vulnerable to starvation and exhaustion from crossing vast seas and deserts and being battered by strong winds and sandstorms. And yet, astoundingly, they had arrived here in sun-drenched Cyprus to build a nest in the eaves of a holiday villa.

Easter Sunday in England melted into Palm Sunday in Cyprus and the local churches were decorated with palms which wilted quickly in the heat. Time passed in a sunny haze of goodwill and celebrations: the wedding was beautiful, and everyone scrubbed up well. And every day we woke up and greeted the baby birds in the nest and cleared up their poo – there was a lot of poo – and sat and watched the parents. We ate our breakfast whilst they ate theirs. We were dive-bombed a few times, so we moved our table, we were in their way. And at the end of each day, when we returned from our days out seeing family and site-seeing, we returned to the family under the eaves to see how they were doing. Four people with little knowledge of birds were caught up in the life of this parallel family living in the same space.

We realised that we had overlooked one of the babies – or they were rotating their positions, always leaving one in the back row, rather like the wedding photos. Constantly the parent birds swooped in and out the nest to find food, but the size and number of chicks appeared daunting for the two tiny adults. Barns Swallows eat insects – lots and lots of insects – and we wondered how the energy balance could possibly work for the parents and the babies. The more energy consumed, the more

feathers grown but they were growing a good deal of feathers from tiny, tiny insects and it takes a lot of energy to catch the insects. How could that possibly work? But here they are on Day 8, looking much more grown up and silky. And finally....we woke up on the day before we left, East-



Day 8

er Sunday, to find the nest empty, the birds had flown their nest. Sometimes natural symbolism does not mess around. We didn't have far to look, they had just flown to the nearby tree, where the parents were still feeding them whilst the newly fledged chicks worked out how things work outside the nest. See the parent on the wing still feeding their child – what control! We all celebrated that they had all had the courage to fly.



Day 10

For ten days we lived alongside the swallows, caring about what happened to them, in awe of their beauty and abilities. The nature documentary stepped out of the screen, and we became aware how closely intertwined our two families were. For a short, precious time we became conscious of each other. We had arrived in Cyprus to reconnect with family and left with a wider view.

Lisa Barrot

Photographs by James Barrott

Neighbourhood Party

Sunday 16th April 2023, 4pm – 6pm

Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road, Woking



You are warmly invited to our next neighbourhood tea party. If you need transport this can be arranged. There will be a high tea, entertainment by Vineeta (a Kathak Dancer) and a fun quiz.

Please join us for a jolly time, meeting friends old and new. Contact us via phone, post or email to be added to our official invite list.



Kathak means “the one who tells a story” through dance, songs and music. Kathak dancers tell various stories through their hand movements and extensive footwork, but most importantly, through their facial expressions.



Phone: Marian 07749 094064 or Pauline 07729 301713
Post: Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road, Woking, GU214LH
e-mail: trinitywoking@btinternet.com Tel. 01483 730754



To: Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road, Woking

Please add me to the invite list for your next Neighbourhood Party

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

On 16th April we have our next Neighbourhood Party.

I think I am fairly safe in saying that this is the first Party where our entertainment will be a Kathak dancer. Vineeta will explain this form of dancing and demonstrate it to us.

As I write, we still have space for additional guests, so if you know anyone who you think would appreciate an invitation, with their permission please let us have their details. If you haven't helped at a Neighbourhood Party, this is your chance to do so. Helpers in the kitchen (Pauline Robson 07729 301713), table hosts (Enid Burman 01483 767411) and Drivers (David Reeve 01483 715462).

Foundry Worship

Our café style worship is settling down to a general style yet contains great variation. Some weeks we follow a theme, others we are more testimony based. Some examples from the past couple of months:

- Rev Sam helping us think about statements of belief – creeds. We looked at some traditional ones, some modern ones and were invited to write our own – how would we sum up what we believe? Many people were stimulated to write their own at home, and there was a healthy exchange of ‘creeds’ being passed round by email and WhatsApp. We followed up on the same theme in our Waymaker group.
- John Nash, the local representative of Good News for Everyone (formerly The Gideons). GNFE provide us with the Hope magazine which many greatly appreciated. John shared his testimony of what happened when his business failed, how he felt totally lost and destroyed. It was his faith in Jesus that brought renewal of hope, a message he gladly shared with us.
- Anna Carrington and Hugh led a service looking at how personality type (e.g., as indicated by Myers Briggs) can result in a preference for different styles of praying. We had opportunity to try some different styles – prayer beads, art, meditative whilst listening to music, the time spent whilst doing household chores, and poetry.

One of the joys of Foundry Worship is our band. More people are joining this. We have enjoyed songs written by Graham, Glen, and Mike – what a combination of talent. More recently Ildi has started writing poetry based on the theme of the week. So, as I finish my quick review of recent Foundry worship, I thought I’d leave you with her poem written about prayer.

Hugh Bowerman

Should I?

1. Should I glance on Heavens and pray to God today? No.

Not today.

Everything is in order. Life is a bliss. I sense peace within.
The milky ways of happiness, comfort, and contentment are
Manoeuvring through the chambers of my heart and soul.

An unbounded universe of solace is released through
The wonderous of channels of my unique bloodstream.

No noise is heard. No pain is felt.

Everything is in order. Life is a bliss. I sense peace within.

2. Should I focus on Heavens and pray to God today? No.

Not today.

Things are in order. Life is acceptable. I sense only little
turmoil within.

The shooting stars of worries and anxieties are beginning
to arise

On the horizon of precariousness and trembling distress.

So like a feeble rocket, I am trying to navigate through
The galaxies of my endless assumptions and expectations.

Some noise is heard. Some pain is felt.

Things are in order. Life is acceptable. I sense only little
turmoil within.

3. Should I scream to Heavens and pray to God today? Yes.

Nothing is in order! Life is unbearable! I sense torment within!

Difficulties are approaching me like a pair of ferocious
hands trying

To tear the skin between my worry-filled lungs and
corroded ribs.

The disease of jealousy and greed overwhelm me; tainting
The pure and clean surfaces of my honest words and beliefs.

Ear splitting noise is heard. Agony is felt.

Nothing is in order. Life is unbearable. I sense torment within.

4. So, should I glance or focus or scream to Heavens and pray
to God today? Yes!

Today and every day...

Suddenly, his infinite arms of reassurance, humbleness,
And kindness are reaching out towards my way.

Drawing me close

To a safe place in my mind. A secure haven completely
sealed and

Airtight with God's fulfilling, omniscient and eternal love.

So shall I pray to God today and every day? Yes.

No noise is heard. No pain is felt.

Everything is in order. Life is a bliss. I sense peace within.

Again...

Ildi Johnson

Charity of the month

Since September we have a nominated charity of the month to which we pass on all donations from our weekly refreshments served on Sundays after the morning service. These have covered a wide range of charities, all of which have been nominated by members of the congregation, some who have personal

links with the charities through volunteering. So far, we have supported the following charities:

October - Engage
November - Jubilee Sailing Trust
December- St. Mungo's
January - Mary's Meals
February - Surrey Young Carers
March - Fund for Human Need
April - Engage
May - Anazao

Information about the charity of the month and a webpage link is provided on the refreshment 'trolley' each week, and also on the notice board in the courtyard. Do take time to have a look and find out more about them.

Our April charity is Engage. 'Engage' takes the Christian message into over 30 Primary Schools, alongside several Secondary Schools locally and Woking College. More information at: www.engagewoking.org Trinity has undertaken to support Engage and will have this as our charity of the month twice a year.

Our May charity is Anazao. Anazao was founded in 2009 by Julie Callin (Bill Lindop's daughter). Sue Waddington is also on the Charity's Board. It helps in equipping health clinics in Africa, providing clean water sources such as wells and boreholes, training medical staff and providing lifesaving equipment including mosquito nets.



Anazao also supports education by providing equipment and training, along with safe accommodation for young people from rural areas to stay in, in order to pursue their education.

Look out for information about the Gambian evening on Friday 12th May which will also support the work of Anazao.

If you know of a worthwhile cause you would like us to consider as charity of the month, please let me know and we might be able to add it to the list.

Helen Bowerman

'In the Garden' Prayer Thoughts for Easter

Friday 17th March was the seventh anniversary of my wife Christine's death, and Sunday was Mother's Day.

On Friday morning Dan, my daughter, and I visited Christine's brightly planted memorial tree in the Crematorium and put a vase of daffodils in the Memorial Chapel. We spent a short while in silence and quietly played some of Christine's favourite music.

We shared memories and I said a silent prayer. It was lovely. We then drove down to Bracklesham on the coast near Chichester to stay for two nights. I did my teacher training in Chichester from 1970-73. It was a pleasure to visit the places which had such happy memories for Christine and me, and to share them with Dan.

Dan and I visited the Cathedral where, as a member of the College Chapel Choir back in the 1970s I had sung in the annual Christmas Service of Nine Lesson and Carols. In the Summer Term of 1971, we were privileged to be invited to lead a Choral Evensong. They are very precious memories.

On this trip, Dan and I attended Choral Evensong on Saturday Evening, it was beautiful!

Leaving the Cathedral, we walked around the southern and western walls of the city, which enclosed the Bishop's Palace Garden. It was so calm and peaceful and lovely in the late afternoon sunshine.



*The Bishop's
Palace Garden,
Chichester, West
Sussex*



As it was Lent, it reminded me of the gardens that played a significant role in the Easter story. Prayer was important to Jesus throughout his Ministry. When he was tired or troubled, he would go on his own or with the disciples to quiet places away from the 'hustle and bustle' of life - the mountain top, the lake, the garden. There to pray to his Abba, Father and seek rest, recuperation, talk (pray) to explore the Abba Father's will and to explain it to those close to him.

There are two specific and detailed references to gardens in the Easter Story.

1: Following the momentous events of 'The Last Supper, Jesus prays,
'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me, may be in them, and I in them.'
After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. (John 17:25 - 18:1)

Gethsemane was a garden on the Mount of Olives. Here Jesus came to pray to his Abba, Father and express his concerns and doubts about his role in God's plan to bring salvation and redemption to the world by his death on the cross and his resurrection.

Accounts of the visit to Gethsemane can be found in Matthew 26:36-56, Mark 14:32-51, Luke 22:39-53, John 18:1-10. Each of the accounts are similar in content but different in recording details and emphasis.

All are agreed that Jesus came to the Garden to pray (talk) to his Abba Father and share his deepest thoughts.

For me, it is the human Jesus who speaks to his Abba, Father of his concerns about his mission of bringing salvation and re-

demption to his people. He expresses his doubts about his role in the amazing, sacrificial act of love he is called to undertake. Although Jesus struggles, his final words are put simply by Luke. (Luke 22:42)

'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.'

In his 'human' response to his task Jesus places his future into God's hands taking the step of faith we all need to take.

Jesus goes back to the disciples and, according to Luke, found them sleeping, exhausted by grief, and says to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial." (Luke 22:46)

They awake, and get up, and go to meet that 'time of trial' which, for them it is the arrest and mock trial of Jesus. Then leading to the humiliation, Crucifixion, and death of Jesus. Jesus goes from Gethsemane to Golgotha without complaint, and in love gives his life on the cross for all, including you and me.

'Amazing Grace! How can it be? That you, my God, should die for me? (Charles Wesley)

2: As we know the story does not end there and we come to the second garden featured in the story. At the end of that horrendous day when after all the abuse, violence, mockery, and eventual death of Jesus has passed the events are recorded as-

When it was evening a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. Joseph wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. (Mt 27:57: Mk 15:42: Lk 23:50, John 19:38-41)

It is John who specifically mentions the garden. But, as we know, it didn't end there either.

Again, the four Gospel writers record the events with their own emphasis and their accounts are recorded in *Matthew 28:1-10*, *Mk 16:1-8*, *Lk 24:1-12*, *John 20:1-18*.

We are told that after Jesus was laid in the tomb some of the women - Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome and perhaps some others came to check on Jesus's body and a huge stone was rolled across the entrance. They went away to prepare the spices used to embalm a body. In the early morning of the day after the Sabbath, they returned, but found the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty!

Jesus was not there, and, in various ways, they were informed he had risen as promised! They were instructed to tell the disciples that Jesus had arisen! Peter and John raced to the tomb and saw that it was empty. They could only confirm what they had been told and they returned to their homes, bemused, confused and afraid. They met together to share what they had heard and tried to understand.

Through his prayers in the garden, Jesus accepted the difficult task before him, and God's love and power went with him to the amazing, triumphant end!



Caves in the rock face – Bridgenorth, Shropshire

Over the years there have been times when I, and I suspect many of you, have faced situations causing worry and concern in everyday life and then at other times decisions to make; how we should respond to God's call to serve. As Jesus has shown, we have access through prayer, to God - Abba, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to the love and power sufficient to achieve what God has called us to do or say. We also have the promise of Jesus, given to us by Matthew.

'I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.'

(Matthew 28:20b The Message)

You may know these two songs; they speak of God's love for me and you and our access to God through prayer.

*Whisper a prayer in the morning, whisper a prayer at noon,
whisper a prayer in the evening,*

To keep our hearts in tune

*God answers prayer in the morning, God, answers prayer at
noon, God answers prayer in the evening, to keep our hearts
in tune.*

*Prayer changes things in the morning, prayer changes things
at noon, Prayer changes things in the evening and keeps our
hearts in tune. (The Salvation Army Chorus Book)*

*I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses,
and the voice I hear, falling on my ear the Son of God discloses,
and he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells
me I am his own; and the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known. (C Austin Miles)*

I pray God will richly bless you this Easter and your prayer times as you share the joy of prayerfully walking and talking in the garden of life, with our, 'Risen Lord'! Amen.

Graham Warr

(All Biblical references are from the NRSVA, Harper Collins 2018)

Behind the Scenes

I hope everyone coming into our premises find them clean, tidy, warm, and welcoming. Our next step is to make the premises as engaging as possible – we want people to think about why we are here and take some new thought away with them.

As you can imagine, Trinity doesn't just 'happen', but involves a lot of work behind the scenes. We are indebted to our staff and members for much of what happens. However, I want to focus on a few new initiatives that we hope will have a big impact over time.

Cleaning

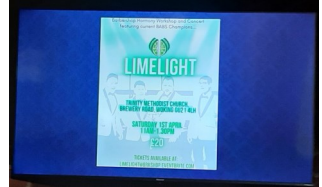
Last year we cancelled our regular cleaning contract – we didn't feel we got value for money. To be honest, our staff would spend a lot of time cleaning up between the regular cleans. Initially the staff covered a lot of the cleaning, but now we are starting to get more people involved. Our tenants generally leave a room as they find it, those that don't are being 'educated'. We have introduced cleaning stations around the premises so there is no excuse of not being able to find cleaning equipment. We have members from the English and Chinese congregations who clean regularly. And once a month we have our "cake and clean" sessions where a larger group carry out a deeper clean of part of the premises. If we are to avoid having to find the money to employ professional cleaners, we could still do with some more cleaning volunteers, so if this is something you could help with, please speak with Emlyn or Dan.



Display Screens

We have installed information screens (TV's) in the East En-

trance and Courtyard. We display which group is in which room on these. We can also advertise events, church services – in fact we can display anything we want. The use of the displays is in its infancy, but we are already building up a library of slides to cycle through. At the moment most slides are informational, but we want to start introducing slides that are topical (short prayers based on news items?) or may be ones that encourage people to think. This could be a simple question (Did the universe really just appear?) or a profound statement, something you've read that impacted you. We have a number of keen photographers in our midst – why not a picture with a few words of what it means to you? Whilst those in the office will always help turn an idea into a slide, we really don't have a monopoly on ideas. Perhaps we could get a group of volunteers together to take this on as their contribution to mission. Interested – let the office know and we'll arrange a get together to share ideas.



Heating

A few weeks back the sanctuary heating failed. TBH, the cause remains something of a mystery. We have applied more sealant to the bits on the roof - and so far, so good. The reason I mention it is that the heating uses up staff time. Whether it's bleeding air out the system, programming when it goes on and off, or simply walking round a cold building to turn on the radiators and blowers that someone has decided to turn right down or off, it doesn't sort itself. Fortunately, the heating season is nearly over – in a few months' time it won't matter whether the heating works or not. But this is only a respite. Come the autumn we'll be hoping the system springs back to life, but also managing likely significant increases in what we pay for our energy – lots more turning on/off, changing the timing programme, watching the weather – anything we can do to save money. And all this hopefully invisible behind the scenes.

Hugh Bowerman



Plant and Craft sale



for



Saturday 20th May from 10.00am to 12.30pm

Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road, GU21 4LH



**Plants + Seed swop box + Homemade cakes +
Craft + Bric a brac**



**Coffees and teas will be served
All funds raised go to Christian Aid**

Cash donations welcome and card machine available



Woking People of Faith Ladies coffee morning

Trinity is a member of the Woking People of Faith charity and Trinity members have been actively involved in some of the Charity's events including helping to clear Horsell common of unwanted plants and taking part in the recent Byfleet walking pilgrimage. One of the events which stopped due to the pandemic was Ladies coffee mornings which were held frequently previously. So it was really good to announce that they would commence again and so the first one since the pandemic was held on 1st March at the Garden café at the Woking Hospice, Goldsworth Park.

16 ladies met at the café – the group comprising 2 from the Baha'i faith, 1 Jewish lady, 7 Muslims and 6 Christians and it was good to have a real mix of faiths. We made sure that we sat next to someone we didn't know so that we got to know someone new. We



chatted about various subjects as there was no set agenda. One of the Muslim ladies said that meetings like this was a real life saver for her as she was a Carer and had little opportunities to get out and just relax. The Garden café made us very welcome, specially making a vegan black forest gateau and a fabulous almond cake for us and all enjoyed a hot drink of choice. We are now hoping to establish these mornings on a regular basis at different venues. If any ladies would like to come, do let me know – you will be very welcome. Dates and venues to be confirmed in due course.

Daphne Lander

My Journey

I was honoured to be invited to become a member of Trinity last December and I've recently been reflecting on the significance of that moment and my journey to it.

After nearly 50 years of our wonderful marriage, my husband died at home on Boxing Day 2018 following a brief illness. Everyone who has lost love ones knows that coping with grief and finding the way through the rest of their lives is difficult and also different for each one of us.

I was bereft and bewildered and did not belong to a Church. On that Boxing Day my neighbour brought her friend who was a vicar and the three of us prayed. Looking back, we all believe that God sent them to me. Her friend has become my friend, and his mixture of ministry and friendship and gentle encouragement as I sought the Lord's consolation from the pit of my grief, gradually led me into the fellowship of Trinity, a closer relationship with God and a spiritual healing.

During covid, I sought sanctuary in my garden and the nearby Common and I found the natural world a soothing balm and a peaceful setting for prayer and reflection.



I also joined the online services for several churches. I was most drawn to how God was worshiped in Trinity, perhaps because of the many years I spent in the Methodist Sunday School. In approaching Trinity, I immediately felt at home, from my first contact with Daniela and Reverend Sam, then through the welcoming fellowship of the Coffee and Chat group and on into the broader Church community when I started to attend the services in person. I was seeking a spiritual home, friendship and Christian fellowship and I've found them in abundance within Trinity.

Our Heavenly Father continued to console, cherish and heal me through my family and friends, shared worship, prayer, reflection and His natural world, until I awoke one day last

autumn and felt that the weight had completely lifted off my heart. No longer was I afraid of the future and focused on just surviving to the end of each day. My grief had become a manageable sadness, I was at peace and able to look to my future trusting that God would continue to plan it, show me His will for this life and carry me safely through to my Eternal Life, reunited with my Gerry.

Becoming a member of Trinity became more significant than I first anticipated. It has made me examine the depth of my faith and consider how I can live through my faith and develop spiritually. It has made me even more appreciative of the joy that I feel being part of the Trinity family, being welcomed unconditionally into their world of loving friendship and care, based on the bedrock of Christianity.

The membership service gave me the opportunity to confirm my faith, to publicly give thanks to God for shaping my life, even when I wasn't aware of it, and to say how welcomed and befriended I felt by everyone. The sun shining through Trinity's beautiful stained glass window made the morning perfect.



In our Foundry service recently, we considered the content and origins of various versions of the creed. Then Rev. Sam gave us blank sheets and asked us to write our own! In just 2 minutes!! To my amazement, I found myself scribbling this creed and sharing it with the group:

I believe in a God of love.

I believe that He sent His son Jesus to us to show us the way to eternal life.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is among us now, to guide, comfort, help us through this life and love one another.

I realised the next day that it represented my anxieties and the strands of hope that I had been clinging to for the last 4 years. Presented with that blank paper, writing 'I believe' and pausing, I believe that the Holy Spirit within me enabled me to spontaneously express that my anxious hopes have become belief and assurance.

I love the old hymns and recently starting searching via Google for video recordings to play at home. In doing this, YouTube has gradually introduced me to more modern worship songs and two by Stuart Townend that I enjoy are *There is a Hope* and *My soul finds rest (Psalm 62)* (with Aaron Keyes).

Six months ago, I was too shy to speak publicly about my faith and am now amazed that His Spirit within me enables me to 'Lift up a Shout and let the Earth hear my Voice' (from 'Kingdom Come' KXC Music). Every day I have been consoled by the Lord's Prayer and Psalm 23 and felt the Lord's comforting presence. Grief can be all-consuming and I pray that sharing some of my journey and reflections will comfort and help anyone who is grieving and seeking consolation.

Enid Burman

Coins and Notes still welcome

A very warm "Thank you" to all who have contributed to the Coins Scheme which I run for Guildford Cathedral. Our grand total keeps rising in spite of Covid – we have now reached £25,500+ in the 16 years since we started.

The Scheme invites donations of any coins and notes of any currency worldwide, and of any age, current or obsolete. We include the UK. The proceeds go towards the day-to-day running of the Cathedral and are always gratefully received.

In addition, the Scheme holds the donations of foreign currency it receives, hoping that persons travelling may be happy to take it abroad on holiday or business against a donation to the Scheme.

A jar for donations is on the left in the north entrance area.

For further information, please contact John Mitchell on 37petherwin@gmail.com or at 01483 715459

Gambian Evening

friday 12th May 23

In aid of

Anazao

Partnering with churches in Africa to spread the message of Jesus and supporting their communities with healthcare and education



promote diversity and culture through music

Venue: Trinity Methodist Church

Time: 7pm

Ticket price: £10.00 per person

Includes:

Vegetarian Yassa & Rice

African Music and Dance

The Landfall Tavern
(non- alcoholic bar)

Hearts on Fire

Some of you may know that I did my Masters in Heritage Management, which is broadly the study of managing, preserving and interpreting (for the public) old buildings and landscapes. My dissertation had the somewhat grandiose title of 'Visitor Induced Wear and Tear in the Cathedrals of Western Europe'. Basically, writing about the damage we all do when we go into historic buildings; be that high heels on tiled floors, breath damaging wall plaster, graffiti in soft stone, litter on the lawns, and the balance to be struck in encouraging visitors, whilst protecting the buildings.

I visited many Cathedrals with my parents in the Spring & Summer, I researched it, in the UK, France, Germany and Switzerland. One of my favourites, because of how it sits in the landscape, and the quality and quantity of modern art collected by Bishop Hussey in the post war period, is Chichester, on the Sussex coast. The cathedral has a tapestry by John Piper, a window by Marc Chagall, a painting by Graham Sutherland (one of my favourites, showing Christ and Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection -Google it!), and lots of other beautiful pieces ancient and modern.

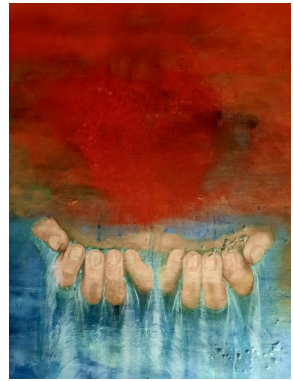
Dad and I went down to Chichester for the weekend recently. We wandered about the Cathedral and came across a lady in a side chapel, scrubbing at a large canvas. On closer inspection the canvas was part of a triptych. We spoke with the artist, Professor Anne Grebby, who is the artist in residence at the Cathedral in Spring 2023. She was scrubbing back some of the paint she had rendered, of water splashing, and foaming, and transforming into the wings of a dove. We spent a lot of time with Professor Grebby who showed us her preparatory sketches and talked us through her thought processes.

The main panel shows the baptism of Christ by John the Baptist. I had a strong emotional reaction to the painting of John's hands, the torn fingernails and engrained dirt, so beautifully rendered. Prof Grebby told me I was not alone in this, visitors have commented on how tender the portrayal is. Above the hands is a heart, which she originally painted more visibly, but which in the final painting she has taken back, so you see it in the depths of the painting.

From this heart the painting takes its name. We exchanged email details, and Professor Grebby very kindly sent me the image you see, a close up of the hands I found so moving. We have permission to share it in our church publications, hence its inclusion here.

When finished, the triptych entitled -Heart on Fire- will be on display in the Cathedral, before touring.

I really encourage you to go and see it! Either in situ in Chichester, or if it comes to Guildford Cathedral for example.



Daniela Warr Schori

Image reproduced with permission of the artist.

Stained Glass Window

We are pleased to report that the repairs to the stained-glass window were completed this week. We are so grateful to everyone who contributed towards the cost of this important project.

Hopefully, it will now last for many years to come.



A note to contributors

It is our practice to publish each edition of TNV on the Trinity website. It is an important source of information about church life at Trinity and something we want to share with others. At the same time we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable for their personal details to appear on the internet in this way. We will be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so.

From the Editor

Thank you to all who have helped with the preparation and distribution of this issue of TNV. The next issue is planned for late summer and it will be edited by David Lander.

Jean Normington

Articles for the Summer issue should be submitted by 11th August 2023

**TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS is the magazine of
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING**

**“Trinity is a welcoming Church seeking to live
in the love of God and share the message of
Jesus Christ”**

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**Contributions to Trinity News & Views can be
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hole at the Church or emailed to
tnv@trinitywoking.org.uk**

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