

TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS



*"For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, Over and around us
lies, Gracious Lord to thee we raise,
this our sacrifice of praise"*

LATE SUMMER/AUTUMN 2022 ISSUE 58

Message from Rev Sam Funnell

Dear Friends,

As you receive this latest copy of TNV, may I take this opportunity to wish you every blessing for this summer.

It's been a very hot one so far, with more extreme temperatures forecast as I write this letter but knowing the vagaries of the British weather, it could be raining and blowing a gale by the time you read this!

Certainly our weather does seem to be increasingly extreme – all the more reason to heed the warnings of the impact of climate change, as our 'Temperature Banner' on the Communion table in Church, reminds us every week. We can all do our bit for the environment, which might seem small and inconsequential when faced with daily images of wildfires, floods and the parched brown grass of so many of our, usually green, spaces - but many small actions can have a huge combined impact.

As most of our natural world around our local area seems to be tinder-dry, brown and increasingly shrivelling in the heat and for lack of rain, it made me think that this is sometimes how our souls are – parched and barren through lack of spiritual refreshment. As the psalmist says:

'As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When shall I come and behold the face of God?'

(Psalm 42:1-2, NRSV)

Or, in the words of a song I discovered recently by Luke Parker, called 'Sweet Surrender':

*'In my weakness You are strong,
You hold my hand and hold my heart,
I give it away now, I am on my knees,
Offering all I am for You to see.
I am thirsty for your presence Lord.
Sweet surrender is all I can give...'*

Perhaps one thing we should all strive to do this summer, amidst caring for our gardens and other plants, would be to tend gently our souls and spend some quality time with God – refreshing our inner selves, deepening our relationship with the God who only desires our good and flourishing and soaking up all that God so graciously offers us.

You may find that spending a little more time in your daily devotions, or even changing your normal practise for something different and refreshing in its newness would invigorate your spirit – a new way of praying, understanding the scriptures, walking and praying, gardening as prayer, reflection through silence or music?

If the words of the song above find a resonance for you – you might like to listen to this song on YouTube, (Link: [\(1\) Luke Parker - Sweet Surrender \(Acoustic\) - YouTube](#)) and then spend some time with God after that, thanking God for all that we are offered, so freely, 'drinking in' all the love and grace and joy that sustains you through each and every day.

However you find your space and refreshment in our Creator and Re-Creating God - may your blessings abound and your soul find 'living water'*

With love and prayers,

Sam x

Family News

We thank God for the lives of all those who have died in the past few months and we remember;

Rev Julia Monahan, John King, Sheila King & Les Willis



"May light perpetual; shine upon them"



Some of our members have celebrated special birthdays so congratulations to;

Helen Harold, Leonora Salter &
Janice Kirby-Smith

Congratulations to Jackie Taylor & Tim Welch on their marriage on Saturday 20th August.



Dates for your diary

4th September 6pm	Welcome Service for Rev. Dr. Paul Glass at Guildford St Mary's
24th September	District Synod at Trinity
1st October 4pm	Harvest Cream Tea
2nd October 10.30am	Harvest Festival in aid of The Foodbank
9th October 4pm	Neighbourhood Tea Party
15th October 10.30am—3pm	Circuit Mission Day at Godalming (see page 13)
6th November 4pm	All Souls Service
30/11, 7/12, 14/12 & 21/12. 5.30—6.00pm	Advent Prayers on Zoom

Welcome to our new Superintendent Rev. Dr. Paul Glass



Rev Dr Paul Glass was born and raised in Leatherhead. At Leeds University where he read English and History he met his wife, Janet, in Meth Soc. Paul trained for the ministry at Wesley House in Cambridge and served as probationer minister in the South Leeds Circuit. He and Janet then moved to Ilkley before taking up school chaplaincy at Ashville College in Harrogate. After eight years there they moved to Wakefield where Paul was Superintendent of the Circuit. Paul and Janet are moving to Guildford from Canterbury where Paul has been school chaplain at Kent College for fifteen years.

Paul writes, 'I enjoy writing material for worship (especially drama) and have had three books published and currently run a weekly blog of meditations based on the lectionary readings for each week. Janet and I also have a shared interest in development issues and have spent time in Malawi, Tanzania and Cameroon (with Janet also visiting Ghana and Botswana). My doctorate is in Church History and my area of study was ministerial training.'

'Over the years I have been involved in Methodist work with young people at a national level having been Pastoral Visitor to the Methodist Schools group and previously head of counselling for MAYC London Weekend. I believe strongly in a ministry of encouragement, and I am really looking forward to working alongside all of you as we seek to discover God together. Janet and I are delighted and excited to be joining the Wey Valley Circuit and look forward to being part of the ongoing journey of faith that we all make together.'

News from the Methodist Conference June 2022

On Saturday 25 June, the Revd Graham Thompson was elected and inducted as President of the Conference, and Anthony Boateng as Vice-President. In his Conference address, Mr Thompson focused on the theme for the year of The Greatest Commandment. Mr Boateng's address was entitled 'Revival: The Methodist Dream' and emphasised the need to revive the Wesleyan fire. You can read both addresses in full here: www.methodist.org.uk/presidential-addresses-2022

During Conference worship, 20 presbyters and three deacons were received into Full Connexion on Sunday 26 June, along with four presbyters by transfer and two presbyters by reinstatement and transfer. Later that day, ordination services took place in four churches in the vicinity of Telford. Rev Sydney Samuel Lake was amongst those ordained.

(See a more on the conference on page 24)

A Blessing

During lockdown, I was scrolling through Facebook, and found an Act of Worship from the Minister of the Church I used to attend in Blackpool. Since then, I have been a member of this virtual congregation. The Rev Janet Pybon finishes each service with the following blessing: -

"God bless you, those you love, those you find it difficult to love, and those you fail to love."

Andy Meal

Confused?

Consider the following somewhat confusing sentences:

The bandage was wound round the wound.

The farm was used to produce produce.

The dump was so full it had to refuse more refuse.

The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.

The insurance was invalid for the invalid.

Note that there is no egg in eggplant nor ham in a hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple, and English muffins were not invented in England nor French fries in France.

While on the subject of food, why are sweetmeats sweet, but sweetbreads are meat?

Do a fat chance and a slim chance mean the same thing?

Can you think of any more confusing sentences?

Do let us know!



A Cornish Tale

I've never compiled a bucket list but if I had one of the things on it would be to see a production of the Pirates of Penzance in Cornwall. I was introduced to G & S at school and Pirates has always been my favourite. The plot is daft of course but the mood of the piece and its rollicking songs seem to fit the rugged remoteness of west Cornwall and its colourful reputation.



So when I found that the Minack Theatre was including Pirates in their schedule this Summer I was keen to go. For those who haven't been there, the Minack is an open air theatre carved out of the granite cliffs overlooking Porthcurno

Bay between Penzance and Lands End. The story of its creation is extraordinary – it was constructed entirely by hand, and substantially by the landowner Rowena Cade with the help of her gardener, starting in 1930 and continuing for some years thereafter.

Weather is of course a challenge for open-air theatre but we were fortunate in having a fine evening when we went in July. Beyond the stage there is a direct view out to sea and the passing craft add to the atmosphere, especially for a show like Pirates.

I should have realised that in that setting it would be impossible to field the ubiquitous choruses of pirates and policemen, to say nothing of 20 or more women supposedly

comprising the Major General's daughters. Instead, what we saw was performed entirely by six actors from the Illyria company with an orchestral backing track. It was both fascinating and excellent. The programme notes assured us that not a line or note of music from the original would be missing and thus it was. The actors were all young professionals with bags of energy, talent and split-second timing, including necessarily lightning-fast costume changes!

So my ambition of seeing Pirates in Cornwall has been satisfied. But it brings to mind something else. My father's family came to south London from Cornwall in the mid 19th century. As a child I learned that at one time there was history of smuggling in the family (Lander – get it?). It seems highly unlikely given my devout Wesleyan forebears but that was the story. However, later as a rather under-confident 12 year old at boarding school I was excited to learn that our English master was going to produce a survey of the origins of pupils' surnames. This, I thought, would increase my 'street cred' no end: a family history of smuggling! When the survey was issued I looked eagerly for my name only to find this: Lander=lauder=laundryman. Oh the chagrin!

David Lander

Oberammergau 2022

The play is very special, it started with a vow. In 1633 the plague was raging in Europe including Oberammergau. The people sort refuge in prayer and made a vow that if the dying stopped, they would stage a play of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ every 10 years. No one died of the plague from that day and so the passion play was born. (although there is no proof of this!)

It has been performed every 10 years since that day with

only 3 exceptions. Many of the actors and performers were killed in the Great War so the 1920 performance was cancelled and rescheduled for 1922. The 2nd world war forced the cancellation in 1940, and of course covid caused the re-scheduling of the 2020 performance.

The play takes place between May and October with approximately 100 performances. About 2000 people are involved (musicians, actors, choir, technicians, wardrobe etc.,) with about 900 on the stage at times.

I have always wanted to go to the Passion Play, so in 2018 I booked a holiday to Germany which included a visit to the 2020 Oberammergau Passion Play. Alas covid stepped in and the play was cancelled, however re-scheduled for 2022. On 21st June I finally made it!



The play runs from 2.30 in the afternoon until 10pm at night with a 3-hour meal interval. The security to get into the theatre is very

tight, and slow as there is an audience of 5,000. There are restrictions on what you can take in with you. (A sign of our modern times I'm afraid.) The play is in German, but you are given a book with a translation of the script. You are assigned a restaurant for your meal, part of the ticket cost, and many of those serving in the hotels are cast members. That is why it is a long break, to give them time to serve you and get back for the 2nd half.

From the moment the play starts the atmosphere in the theatre is electric with the audience so caught up in the music and acting. Some of the scenes really stood out for me; Jesus riding on a donkey on his entry into Jerusalem – the crowds cheering and waving palms; Jesus overturning the

money lenders in the temple – men scrabbling for their money, scattering sheep — and doves flying everywhere; Pilot washing his hands – and in his anger the water going everywhere; Jesus being flogged – it looked so real; placing a crown of thorns on his head and then being nailed to the cross – blood dripping down his face and back. However, the most awful scene was Judas hanging himself – it looked so real the audience gasped. If this all sound a bit gruesome, remember it is a play about the passion and suffering of Jesus - His sacrifice for us.

A few interesting facts:

Photography is forbidden in the theatre.

The youngest cast member is a babe in arms and the eldest over 90.

You need to have been born in Oberammergau or lived there for 20 years to be a cast member.

From Ash Wednesday the men (with exception of those playing Romans) are required to let their hair and beards grow naturally.

There were many animals in the cast including 3 badly behaved camels!

Finally, you can't visit Germany and not have apple strudel!



Jean Normington

Circuit Mission Day with Tom Lewis

"The Word became flesh and moved into the neighbourhood." John 1:14 (The Message). Long ago God became a man so that he could go and live amongst the people he loved. We, as his followers, are called to do the same! Our faith is not limited to Sundays or church buildings; All of us are called to live out the good news of Jesus in our neighbourhoods through all we do and say.



If you think that sounds exciting, but also a little daunting, why not come and join us on 15th October at Godalming Methodist Church? We'll hear from Tom Lewis, a pioneer Community Chaplain working in a new housing area. He'll lead some creative discussions to help us rethink mission and discover some simple ways to be more missional in your everyday life.

A Music Marathon

In about February I started to develop an idea that had been lurking in my mind for some time. I had wanted to do a fundraising event for The Samaritans for about 10 years – ever since they had supported me through a very difficult time in my life. I had also started to have ideas, visions, inspiration, to do something that connected with music. And so outside Church one afternoon, before Foundry Worship, I pitched to Mike Cope my idea of a 24-hour music marathon. This idea had been rumbling a bit but hadn't made its way out of occasional car trip conversation that Graham and I have (which seems to be where I do lots of

my deep thinking!)

The original idea of the 24-hour music marathon was that I would play or sing music for 24-hours on my own. I didn't think of it as being a particularly 'big' event. It was, dare I say it, quite humble in its origins.

Then people began making helpful suggestions. Mike suggested that maybe I might want friends to be involved to support me, so that I could have a break now and again. Graham suggested maybe a concert element might help to focus the fundraising aspect. I began to talk to family and friends, who started to volunteer to come along and keep me company in the wee small hours of the morning.

And before I quite knew what had happened the event had started to grow. This idea, that had started out small, was growing itself. I had a vision one morning – when the light was beaming into Trinity through the stained-glass window. I could see light going out of the window from the Sanctuary. Multi-coloured light, pure white light, God's Love being poured out beyond the church. That was when the idea really changed into something special. I felt compelled to invite other groups – groups who meet at Trinity, groups who aren't necessarily at church, local musicians – to turn what had originally been a one-woman-show, into something that had nothing to do with me and everything to do with Community.

The amazing thing was that as I started to reach out to and invite different groups, people started contacting me and asking if they could take part. No two groups wanted to come at the same time. Everyone had a place – almost as if they were supposed to be there at that particular time. There were members of the church family, who quickly jumped on board. Jam & Cake – a group that reformed and started meeting again because of the marathon – were soon doing an hour slot. The Anchor Folk Club were happy to take part. A music teacher from school offered herself, and her

fabulously talented daughters, to take part – they developed their own set list for the first time and were able to perform in front of people. The wonderful Carringtons came forward, with such enthusiasm and joy that it made me smile from ear to ear. Dorothy Kirkman and her wonderful students, who played beautifully and were so humble – not realising how amazing they are. Plus an excellent piano player (who wished to avoid audiences and will remain anonymous!) who volunteered for early morning on the Sunday.

There were other moments which were personally very touching – the excitement and delight for my nephews of taking part in their 'first ever concert'. Sitting in the afternoon with Adam, Jude, and Tilly (my 3 gorgeous niblings) and my brother and sister, as they sang, shook, and enthusiastically hit various instruments, was a blessing. Being able to perform with Hannah (my sister) and George (my brother) for the first time in years was incredibly special. But equally so was waking up on the morning of the marathon and receiving a text message to our family group from Hannah. Hannah had screenshotted the JustGiving page – we had raised £1,000 before the marathon had even started! The music marathon brought my family together in a way that we needed after a tough and trying year.

The blessings during the 24-hours were simply astonishing. People I had never met before turned up and wanted to pour out generosity. Adrian decided that he wanted to support throughout the whole 24 hours if he could! Dene Stuart, a self-taught guitarist of extraordinary talent, came up to me before his afternoon slot to tell me that he would come back at 5.30am to help. Neil jumped in on the sound desk and the drum kit with huge enthusiasm. And Sam Sharpe became a companion throughout the whole 24-hours – supporting, taking photos, and offering encouragement.

When we got to 10.30am on the Sunday morning and Graham played the final chord on the keyboard I truly felt

moved to tears. Still not quite able to grasp what we had done.

Once all the money was counted, we had raised £2,602 for The Samaritans. But there was something greater, deeper, and more profound that had happened. The music marathon was not 'my' music marathon. It was so much more than that. It showed God's Love in Action – in the support people gave each other, the kindness that was shown, the joy that was felt, the hope that was rekindled, and the sense of community that encircled everyone who took part.

One of the anonymous sponsors on my JustGiving page wrote this quote: "After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music." – Aldous Huxley. I couldn't agree more.

Louisa Nye



Good Morning!

I am God, and today I will be handling all your problems.

Please remember that I do not need your help. If life happens to deliver a situation that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly place it in the 'something for God to do' box.

All situations will be handled in My time, not yours. Once the matter is placed in My box do not hold on to it, worrying about it. Instead focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

If it is a situation, you are capable of handling, please consult Me first to make sure it is the proper solution. Remember that I neither slumber nor sleep - so there is no need for you to lose any. Rest in peace and remember that I am only a prayer away.

Origin unknown—submitted by Elaine Slatter

Praying Together Summer 2022

There are lots of different types of prayer such as prayers to praise God and prayers of repentance. In this piece I am thinking and writing about prayers of hope and asking God for things for the world, or other people or ourselves.

To help us pray you can use a mnemonic like TSP meaning generally teaspoon, in this case it helps to remember to offer God in prayer time gratitude and thank you to God, saying sorry to God and asking for forgiveness and lastly asking God in the section on please. I first came across TSP prayer

when Rev Bob Sneddon introduced it to worship.

The mnemonic is helpful as a prompt to actually pray. While on holiday there are lots of things, I can hope for and ask God please may this happen. There are mundane things like the sun will shine and it will not be too hot so we can enjoy the walk and other things like that there will be an open church so we can go in and have peace and quiet and say hello and thank you to God.

I also hope Jeff my husband as main map reader will find the route and there will be few calls to turn back and look for the acorn on a post to show the right way. The route we are doing is the Southwest Coast path and this one is marked by signposts with acorn symbol.

There are often cairns on routes sometimes on the hilltop or at a junction. One cairn on our Southwest Coast path walk this summer had a notice next to it which said prayer cairn please add a pebble to the cairn and say a prayer, so I stopped to add my chosen pebble to the cairn and say a prayer. That felt like a helpful thing to hope for that I will hear a prompt from God to stop and pray.

On our walks I often hope we meet interesting people when we stop to consult the map or stop to sit at the end of along climb uphill. One time when we stopped at the top of a hill before going down to a field of cows, we met a man who informed us we needed to take care as he had seen the cows run after a man in the field below and he had had to run quickly to reach the gate and safety. I asked was he Ok, he said yes but take care. It seemed odd but it all sounded a bit frightening running cows and finding safety. Into my head came the prayer from the Celtic prayer tradition.

Calm me God as you stilled the storm
Still me, God and keep me from harm
Let the tumult within me cease
Enfold me God in your peace.

This prayer comes from the Celtic Daily Prayer book published by Collins.

I prayed this prayer for me for Jeff, for the cows and I thanked God for the hope it gave. I felt glad I could pray. This prayer helped me to walk by the cows. Those cows just continued to munch on grass, and none even turned around to notice us.

I found some verses about hope from Romans 15 verse 13 and I came across these verses during my prayer time using Lectio 365 devised by Pete Greig and others. These prayers Lectio 365 are available twice daily on an app for mobile phones and arrive to be used as morning prayers and night prayers.

Romans 15:13 Good News Translation

“May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit”

TSP type prayer can help to give prayer time a structure and help prevent prayer just being a list of things that I am asking God to provide.

Ann Dawson



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land May 2022

It was a real privilege to join the Circuit Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May. From being a child, I have always wanted to go, and this was a really special experience. Our visit included the sites where the most important events of Jesus' life and Ministry took place and so we visited the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, the Dead Sea, River Jordan, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. I have chosen to write about one or two experiences, which were highlights for me!

The first day was spent around Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee. We stood around what is believed to be the rock Jesus used as a table for breakfast when He appeared to the disciples after His resurrection and cooked the fish He had directed them to catch in the lake; 'on the other side of the boat.' We were able to touch the rock! Very moving!



We then celebrated Holy Communion overlooking the lake, sitting on logs. We were the only people there in that beautiful setting. It was so calm, quiet and peaceful and we sang "Be still...". I had a real sense of the presence of Christ in that place. What a blessing!



Nazareth Village is a recreation of 1st Century Galilee life. It aims to bring Jesus' teaching to life by replicating a first century working farm. A shepherd looks after the sheep, a gardener was growing limes, grapes and cabbages; a carpenter with his tools reminded us of Joseph; a lady was spinning and dying cloth. They had also excavated an original olive press which produces 3 grades of oil. This visit made everything about Jesus' early life and teaching, real.



Jericho is the oldest city in the world and the lowest place on earth. We saw sycamore trees and were reminded of Zacchaeus, who, determined to see Jesus, climbed a sycamore tree. An encounter that changed his life, as so many similar encounters have done for countless people and still do today.

Floating in the Dead Sea was a very strange experience! It is warm (32C). It is extremely salty, therapeutic and really dense. I found it almost impossible to lower my legs to stand up to walk out! You can only stay for 10 minutes! It was very slippery and muddy but we all enjoyed the experience. It is 300m below sea level and unfortunately is shrinking rapidly. (Partly climate change but also farm irrigation up stream.)

Jerusalem and the surrounding area brought home what Jesus suffered in the last week of His life. We visited the Upper Room, where Jesus and His disciples ate the Last Supper, and the house of Caiaphas where Jesus was questioned and held overnight in a dungeon before being taken to Pilate.

There is a memorial to Peter who of course denied 3 times that he knew Jesus.



We then went to the Mount of Olives where we sat overlooking Jerusalem and learned a bit about the history of the city.



Then we walked part of the Palm Sunday route into the city. As we walked through the Garden of Gethsemane, we were reminded that this is where Jesus prayed before He was arrested. He was in agony and cried tears of blood. "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup from me....." It was very moving as I realised afresh that He did all of this for me (and you!).

Bethlehem was very different. We queued to enter the Church of the Nativity. There is a cave with the Star of David and a manger where allegedly Jesus was born, but the Church itself was incredibly ornate and seemed inappropriate as I was thinking "but Jesus was born in a stable!" Such a contrast.

In the inner city, a walk along the Via Dolorosa, with its Stations of the Cross, brought us to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and a place, just outside the church, where Jesus was crucified. We were told that there had been many crucifixions on this site and actual DNA had been found on the rocks. There is also a tomb in the garden, which COULD be the place where Jesus was buried.

Our hotel in Jerusalem overlooked the city walls. The Western Wall is the Wailing Wall, where Jews gather to pray. We were separated into 2 groups, men and women, as even today, they are not allowed to mix there.



On our final day, we visited the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. Such an emotional experience. It was horrendous what happened to the Jews. The photographs, personal mementoes and live testimonies were horrifying and several of our party were moved to tears. We were reminded that Jews were killed all over the world, not just in Germany. Jesus was a Jew!

What more can I say? The whole trip was an experience of a lifetime. I shall never forget seeing the actual places that Jesus knew and walking in the places where He walked 2000 years ago. Obviously, it has changed over the centuries, but He is still there, as He is with us wherever we are.

Joyce Nelson

The Methodist Conference

When you hear Telford mentioned, what comes to mind? Memories of driving on the M54 to North Wales or travelling north by train up the west coast of England, or the famous Iron Bridge, or perhaps Thomas Telford who gave his name to the town (although I understand it was nearly named as Dawley New Town)?

At the end of June, Telford experienced an invasion of Methodists as we gathered in local hotels to meet at the International Conference Centre for the annual Methodist Conference. Presbyters (ministers) arrived for the Presbyteral Conference on June 23rd - 24th, joined by lay people on June 25th for the Representative Conference. Representatives came from each district in the Methodist Church in Britain. It was a privilege (and responsibility) to represent our South East District. Ecumenical and World Church reps and members of the Youth Assembly joined us, together with staff employed by

the Methodist Church as part of the Connexional Team, and an army of volunteers who support the smooth running of Conference in many roles and behind the scenes.

In total, about five hundred Methodist people of whom 306 were elected representative (not delegates) gathered for several days of conferring and decision making until Conference adjourned on Thursday June 30th. We had previously read a 591-page agenda in three volumes covering fifty-three reports – varying in length from 1-87 pages! Some described updates on work started in previous years, others introduced new issues, and yet more reflected the work of organisations affiliated to Methodism, such as Methodist Homes and Action for Children.

I make no attempt to summarise or report the outcomes of all our voting – but copies of the Conference Business Digest are available on the table in our entrance hall, or from the Conference website. This digest summarises a various key decisions, and if you read the Methodist Recorder, you will have seen some of the more general news (with some gossip!) about our work.

Importantly though, we inducted our current President who has taken as his theme for the year, the words of Jesus' commandments 'to love God, and love our neighbours as ourselves' – how vital as we respond to refugees. Our Vice President urged us to 'rekindle the Wesley fire' together across our connexion, 278 years since the first Conference took place! We also nominated their successors (who will be inducted at the 2023 Conference), appointed new members to serve on Connexional committees, confirmed all the stations (ministerial appointments), received Probationer Ministers into Full Connexion with the Conference and sent them forward for Ordination (including our own Rev Sydney Samuel Lake) , directed the Connexional Team to begin areas of new work and stop others where we felt the direction was no longer appropriate or a priority, addressed pressure on our finances worsened by Covid, declining membership,

and the cost of living crisis, and many other social justice issues.

The first Methodist Conference met in 1744 under the leadership of John Wesley, who gathered his assistants (both ordained ministers and itinerant lay preachers) to confer about *'what to teach, how to teach, and what to do, i.e., how to regulate doctrine, discipline and practice.'* Technically, we continue the work of that Conference, which adjourned and then reconvenes annually, to carry Mr Wesley's work!

Today, the Methodist website tells us that 'Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church under God, carrying responsibility for the governance, discipline, management and administration of the life of the Church.' Representatives are an eclectic mixture of lay people, ordained presbyters, and deacons. All Conference Representatives whether lay or ordained, hold trustee responsibility for our connexional church and meet for business, worship, thanksgiving, and celebration.

It is a tiring but worthwhile few days of service to our church which concluded when we adjourned on June 30th. Whilst we serve the Conference for a year, we usually confidently adjourn until the next year. Not so this year! I have already spent 4 hours completing a questionnaire to further develop one piece of work and am expected to attend a further session (by Zoom) of Conference on September 6th to continue vital unfinished business; and have been warned of more to come. The joy of being a Conference 2022 representative!

Jenny Jackson

Lord, teach us to pray

A few weeks ago I was planned to preach at a local church, and in the usual way I forwarded a draft Order of Service to them. When I received a reply I was a little taken aback when my suggestion for the modern version of the Lord's Prayer was queried – the Congregation may not have been familiar with it, and could the traditional version please be used. This response raised some thoughts in my mind, which

became clearer a few Sundays later, I preached elsewhere where the theme from the Lectionary – ‘Your Kingdom Come’ was based on the reading in Luke 11:1-4 and 5-13.

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished one of his disciples said to him, "Lord teach us to pray"

The response to the above request starts with Jesus saying – “When you pray say...”

This prompted me to look at various translation of what Jesus is reported to have said -

King James Version

When ye pray, say
Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, as in heaven,
so on earth
Give us day by day our daily
bread.
And forgive us our sins;
For we also forgive everyone
That is indebted to us.
And lead us not into temptation.

Revised Standard Version
(English)

When you pray, say,
Father,

hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,

Give us each day our daily
bread.
And forgive us our sins,
For we ourselves forgive every-
one indebted to us.
And do not bring us to the time
of trial.

The Inclusive Bible

When you pray, say
Abba God, hallowed be your
name!
May your reign come,
Give us tomorrows’ bread
Forgive us our sins,
For we too forgive everyone
Who sins against us;
And don’t let us be subjected to
the test.

The Message

When you pray, say,
Father: reveal who you are
Set the world right,
Keep us alive with three square
meals,
Keep us forgiven with you
And forgiving others.

Keep us safe from ourselves and
the Devil.

From inside the back cover of "Singing the Faith":

Traditional Form

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name:
Thy kingdom come, thy will be
done;
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily
bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive
Those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into tempta-
tion,
But deliver us from evil.

Modern Form

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come your will
be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we for-
give those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

And deliver us from evil.

I found it fascinating how the words of Jesus were translated over the centuries, particularly as the original words were probably spoken in Aramaic and then translated into Greek and Latin before translation into English centuries later. I found it interesting how even though translated and re-translated the essence of the prayer had not changed, only the words to impart that essence.

But, nowhere in the various versions could I find Jesus saying the closing words that we use.

Traditional Form

For thine is the kingdom, the
power and the glory for ever
and ever Amen.

Modern Form

For the kingdom, the power and
the glory are yours, now and
forever, Amen

I am aware that some denominations eg Roman Catholic, Orthodox Churches and some Anglicans don't use that form of doxology (a liturgical formula of praise to God) because they aren't the recorded words spoken by Jesus.

The question is why are they there? After much investigation it became apparent that when writing their letters to the Christians across the Roman Empire (and beyond) the writers signed off with a message or doxology to support their recipients.

The nearest one I could find to 'Yours in the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen' - is at the end of Jude's letter, verse 24:

'To the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, might and authority (*power*), from all ages past, and now and for ever and ever! Amen - *so be it*'.

For me, what Jesus was teaching was that we should Hallow God's Holy name, and praise our God, Abba Father, YHWH, in whatever form we find helpful and respectful. For years I have loved the concept of God presented by Joachim Neander (1650-1680):

Praise to the Lord, who nourishes our lives and restores me, fitting me well for the tasks put before me, then to my physical and spiritual needs like a mother speeds to protect, support and nourish me with love. (StF 88 v 3 My loose translation)

I accept, and respect, we will all have our own concepts but I do rejoice that recent translations reflect that the Holy Spirit is written in the feminine tense, for me it makes my understanding of God all encompassing.

Then to give thanks for the gifts God brings us, from our bread both physical and spiritual, to our salvation and presence of the Holy Spirit. In other words God's immeasurable love for each of us individually and corporately, to do our best to bring God's kingdom, here on earth, and in our souls, hearts, minds, thoughts, words and actions.

As a Local Preacher on Trial back in the late 1960's one of my 80+ year old colleagues at the end of a service I had conducted said to me,
"You know, I never say 'in' earth, but 'on' earth, and always say 'yours' and not 'thine', because the language is more helpful for the young".

Ever since then I have always used that form of address particularly when working with children.

However we all understand and feel comfortable with a particular version, but it is important to remember that language and understanding do change over time and our prayers need to reflect the needs of the world we live in. As at Pentecost people were praising the Lord in many languages, *'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages, as the Spirit gave them ability, (Acts2:4): And how is it that that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? (v 8)'* so must we, respecting that others will use and understand, other forms/versions.

My recent visit to the Lutheran Church in Remagen is a good example. The service was conducted in German. Although I only understood a small amount, I knew the words of the Communion Service and Lord's Prayer in English and was able to fully participate in the worship.

I leave with you a version of the Lords Prayers passed on to me; I suspect many of you will have your own favourite translations. This one I found particularly sensitive and relevant for today:

May God richly bless your prayer time and worship in the language/idiom our loving Father/Mother God leads you.

Graham

THE LORD'S PRAYER: MAORI & POLYNESIA

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

From livinghour.org – Prayer created by the Anglican Church in Aotearoa (New Zealand Prayer Book 1997)



You might think The Foundry project slowed down during the languid heat of the Summer holiday, but no, we've been hard at work!

We've been tidying the premises with the help of Emlyn, and our friends in the Wombles (and getting a quote for repairing the potholes)! We're working out a cleaning rota now that the commercial cleaning contract has finished. If you offered at the Gifts & Talents Day to help with cleaning, we'll be in touch shortly to find out how you think you can best help.

During August we've been hosting Shona W and Eilis D who have been volunteering with us, helping Dan with invoicing, and setting up our new one drive filing structure. If we can we'd love to offer more such volunteering placements, but we're limited in terms of staff resource, which will be stretched further when term resumes, or to phrase correctly, when the new Connexional year begins! But again, if you offered to help with any such tasks on the Gift Day, expect a note from Dan shortly.

The current cycle of the weekly music making hub has been taking place from late July, into August and will be running through to mid-September. We've had a small number of children, and lots of Elders, most from one of the local nursing homes, participate each week. Thanks to Graham Warr, Sheila Card, and Mary and Trevor Ledger for representing the church family as volunteers each week. Their practical help and wisdom are invaluable.

Our wider relationship with IMM continues, and we are looking forward to more opportunities for collaboration in future.

Looking forward in other areas, we'll start working with the Short Stay School again in September, having agreed to continue our relationship for the new academic year.

The next Neighbourhood Party will be held on Sunday 9th Oc-

tober. If you would like to help, or know someone you think would benefit from an invite, please let Hugh know.

We'll be engaging with all of our tenants on the Change and Challenge document and the opportunities and potential obstacles it explores.

We'll continue our partnership with the Chinese Congregation, who continue to go from strength to strength in terms of attendee numbers on Sunday, and breadth of activity across the week.

Ruth, Hugh & Dan continue to sit on the ROC Working steering group, and over the next few months will be working with the other trustees on a new submission to the Charity Commission for one or more CIOs which focus down each area of activity in social isolation and loneliness, mental health, and youth, and on the Goldsworth Park estate around Lakeview, where we're working with the Borough on the management of the community centre.

During Foundry Worship over the past few months, we have been finishing our series looking at the Methodist Way of Life. Each week has been focused on one of the ways we are encouraged to live out and share our faith with others. Hugh Bowerman, Louisa Nye, Sam Funnell, and Denzel Matsaudza have used their own unique styles to help us to discuss these different facets of Methodism.

During this past season we have seen Foundry Worship grow in many ways. First, in terms of the numbers of people attending, which regularly are around 20-25 people. Second, in terms of the relaxed and open way people discuss and debate different ideas – which recently led to Hugh not being 'heckled' (!) but being questioned about the message. By having an atmosphere where all are welcome, and ensuring that everyone feels able to be themselves, it brings out a level of learning and conversation which has proven to be a real blessing. Most times we meet there are opportunities to discuss and pray in smaller groups, which has strengthened the friendships that Foundry Worship is also supporting.

Our band has also grown in number – to the point of challenging our technical capabilities! By drawing on a diverse group of individuals, almost every song is led by a different

person. To match the informal café style of Foundry Worship, our music is a mixture of contemporary, 1980s-1990s familiar worship songs, hymns reworked for a band setting, and 'secular' music. We have also used original music by Glen Penfold and Louisa Nye. Music choices are frequently influenced by people who come along to Foundry Worship and have their own suggestions or songs that have been on their heart.

To tie in with the new Waymaker Groups that are being launched in September, we will be moving our talks and focus on to consider topical issues in today's society, and how we as Christians engage and address those issues. Our aim is to equip each other and to offer support so that we can live out our lives in Community and take our faith beyond the 8 walls of the Sanctuary, out into the wider world and to those who may not yet know Jesus. We will also be blessed by hearing testimony from different people – a wonderful way for us to hear about God's work in action. There are exciting times ahead!

We leave you with a picture which flashed up as part of the Foundry Video we presented at the Gifts and Talents Day. Hugh & Dan in their new role as cleaners 😊



Thanks to everyone who contributes in any way to the Foundry project.

We're looking forward to working with you next year, as we actively, enthusiastically engage in offering Christian hospitality, and a prayer-full, thoughtful, enriching, worship experience.

Daniela Warr Schori for the Foundry staff team, with contribution from the Foundry Worship team in Hugh's absence. He is *actually* on holiday!!

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 Christmas and it will be edited by David Lander.

Jean Normington

Articles for the Christmas issue should be submitted by Monday 21st November.

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

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