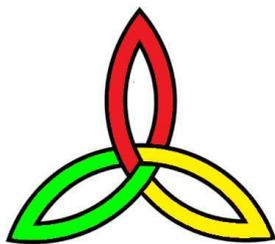


Trinity Times



February 2019

Issue No 217

Diary for February		
Tuesday 5th	7.30 pm	"A Road-trip Around Cowboy Country"; An Illustrated Talk by Colin Stringer
Wednesday 6th	2.30 pm 7.30 pm	Social Committee Meeting Elders Meeting with Property Group
Sunday 10th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Informal Church Meeting with Worship, led by the Elders Evening Worship led by Rev'd Chandrika Perera
Saturday 16th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 17th	10.30 am 5.30 pm 7.00 pm	Morning Worship led by Cath Edmonds Evening Worship led by David Latter One Truth Youth
Friday 22nd	2.30 pm	Film Afternoon
Saturday 23rd	9.00 am	Men's Breakfast
Sunday 24th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Café Service led by Rev'd Steven Cooper Evening Worship led by Rosie Berry
Diary for March		
Sunday 3rd	10.30 am 5.30 pm 7.00 pm	Team Worship led by Mel Mitchell Evening Worship led by Rev'd Steven Cooper, including Service of Holy Communion One Truth Youth
Wednesday 6th	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting
Sunday 10th	10.30 am 12.30 pm 5.30 pm	Morning Worship led by Rev'd Steven Cooper, including Service of Holy Communion Christian Aid Frugal Lunch at Trinity Church Evening Worship led by Katherine Harrison
Friday 15th	12.00 pm	Pub Lunch at The Red Lion
<p>Minister's Drop-in Time on Thursdays at 4.30 pm in the Vestry Meeting Point meets on Thursdays: 10.30 am. See below for venues during February Time for Prayer is held in the Vestry on Friday mornings from 9.30 – 10.00 am Youth Club Meetings at Trinity during term times – Friday evenings - School years 7 – 9</p>		

Trinity Times is the newsletter of Trinity Church, Park Lane, Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6PD

Minister: Rev'd Steven Cooper

Church Website: www.trinitychurchknebworth.org.uk Tel: 01438 210321

Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the United Reformed and Methodist Churches. Similarly, they do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

With the Christmas and New Year celebrations now behind us, and with Easter still some weeks away, Trinity Times is back on track with the first issue of 2019.

Most of the topics covered in the newsletter will have a familiar ring about them and I thank our regular correspondents for their continued support (occasionally with a bit of chivvy along by yours truly!). However, I would be pleased to welcome contributions from other sources at any time – perhaps you could think about making that a belated New Year resolution.

Graham Fothergill

FAMILY NEWS

The early part of the year often seems particularly dark and cold, and isolation and anxieties about daily life and health can feel especially weighty. Within our community, members share many of these, whether well-known or more private and I hope that we can be ever vigilant of the ways in which we can encourage and support each other through whatever issues arise. Our new welcoming Rainbow of members in the church entrance is surely a vibrant and visible sign of encouragement.... thank you Sunday Club!

We send condolences to Jackie Hall and her family who gathered in Trinity in early January to remember and celebrate the life of her mum, Moyra Harland (Kips), who died after a short period of illness. Our condolences too to Camilla Straughn and family following the recent illness and death of her sister in Nigeria.

Several members have ongoing hospital treatment, investigations or planned surgery in coming weeks and we offer prayer for them all, including Bill Hall, Becky Amy, Gill Atkinson, Rosie Berry and Hans Meister.

It was a joy to see the extended Dyster family swelling our congregation over Christmas. It was also encouraging to have Anna Kinloch joining again in Trinity 2 Step (a place of outreach and nurture through exercise, laughter and social exchange) after her long period of being restricted to home.

Whether members are house-bound or active, may this publication be among the ways we share in encouraging each other in making God's love visible within and beyond our local community.

Gill Hughes

Acknowledgement

Jackie and family would like to thank everyone at Trinity for their support in so many ways following the death of her mum. You all made a difficult time a bit easier to deal with so many thanks.

Best wishes

Jackie Hall

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

This is the text of the Trinity article which was prepared by Becky Amy for the February edition of the Knebworth Parish News. (Ed.)

Recently I have had a change of career, and now spend much of my day out in our countryside, walking dogs. As a result of this have rediscovered how beautiful and diverse our countryside is.

As children, my parents took us out and about in Surrey, Sussex and Kent. They would tell us the names of trees and flowers and remind us not to pick too many, but to leave some for others to enjoy. They taught us how to pick wilds fruit, such as blackberries, raspberries and rosehips, as long as we left some behind for others who followed. They taught us to avoid mushrooms and other fungi as it was difficult to tell which were poisonous and which were not. On a recent dog walk, in autumn, I found no less than 8 different types of fungi growing on a dying tree.

This struck me as a wonderful example of working together to get a task done. As I walked I thought about that dying tree, playing host to a diverse community of life, side by side, to achieve a common goal. It struck me that this is how we should be, embracing our diversity, and working together to improve our village.

Knebworth is changing rapidly, with new developments and probably more in the future... However, we should work together as a community to support each other through this change, embrace the challenges it gives us and be open to adapt to the changes.

Rebecca Amy
Church Secretary

REVEREND'S REFLECTIONS

Some of you will know that I am half Scottish; my mum was born in Paisley and grew up in a thoroughly Scottish household. And so Burns Night, which is taking place as I write this, has always had a particular family significance for me. Perhaps you have celebrated it too. If you've been to a Burns Supper or ceilidh, you'll be familiar with that most characteristic feature of such celebrations, Scottish country dancing. And as I think of all those who are participating in this up and down the land as I write, it occurs to me that there is a parallel between Scottish country dancing and our life together in the Church.

Compared with other kinds of dance, one of the things that characterises Scottish (and English) country dancing is that any given dance follows a set pattern. The moves are all pre-scripted for whichever dance it is - Dashing White Sergeant, Gay Gordons, Strip the Willow, etc; a dance works by everyone following the pattern of moves, which they will have been taught or otherwise picked up at some stage previously, and generally speaking everyone knows pretty much what to expect. And where there is variation or a new dance to learn, there is usually someone (a "caller") to guide you through it, and the more experienced dancers will also help those who are less familiar to follow what is happening.

The same is perhaps broadly true of our experience of church. By and large, things follow a fairly regular pattern; the hymns may be different from one Sunday to the next, but the general pattern of church life is familiar; and where there is something new to the experience, we help each other along.

The helping each other along is an important feature both of dancing at a ceilidh and of our life together in the church. Both place a high value on hospitality, and on enabling everyone to be at home there. It is with this in mind that we will be reflecting together this month at our **informal Church Meeting**, in our morning worship on **Sunday, 10th February**. In particular, we will be thinking about the various very real ways that people can find themselves on the edge or the margins of our life in the church, and about how we can enable everyone to be fully included in our church family. I warmly encourage you all to come along that day.

Of course, the familiarity and regularity of our life together in the church is often not replicated in the wider world. Our British society, for example, is experiencing a particularly chaotic time at present around Brexit, with all the uncertainty over what the effects of that will be for so many aspects of life. But our business as Christians is obviously not confined to the church, it is about the whole of our life. Here then we find that the analogy of our Christian experience with ceilidh dancing ceases to apply; our life beyond the church doesn't follow anything like as regular a pattern, and we don't always have a predetermined script or caller showing us which move to make next.

In this sense, if we're comparing it with dancing, life outside the church becomes more like a jive or tango: neither of which follows a set pattern of moves, although they do have their particular style.

This is where, perhaps more so than with Scottish country dancing, the skill of the dancer comes into its own. And so it is with us as Christians. It takes skill and experience for us to live faithfully according to Christ's style, out in a world where things are often changing and there is no preset pattern to what happens next.

And, just as with ballroom dancing, this skill and experience takes work to acquire. With this in mind, I'm delighted that, as of this month, we will be resuming at Trinity a regular habit of **'Come as you are' Bible study** sessions - a key element, for all of us, in developing the skill and experience for true Christian living. In order to be as easily accessible as possible, these sessions will happen once a month following Sunday morning worship - with lunch provided - on the fourth Sunday of each month. So this month, all are invited to stay for lunch and Bible study on **Sunday, 24th February**. We will be exploring, over the coming months, John's gospel, taking one chapter at a time. It will be wonderful to see you there!

Whatever your preferred style of dance, I wish you a blessed February and a reminder that I am always available to share with you in any of the questions or challenges which life may present.

Yours aye,

Steven

THE CHANGING FACE OF CHURCH SERVICES

Over the last thirty years, preaching has changed and I am sure you all have your own stories of how preaching has changed over time. I can recall sitting in the hard wooden pews of Walsworth Road Baptist Church listening to preachers who were predominately male and often over fifty. Their preaching was very theologically based with lots of bible references and rarely any illustrations or stories. There was no interaction with the congregation and you were expected to remain silent throughout.

An American theologian named Troeger has studied the art of preaching over the years and I agree with his current findings. Preachers are no longer predominately male and I have found at Trinity that we have preachers from both sexes and of all ages. Sermons seem to have become shorter, although this may be because I have a lot more interest in what is being said, whereas as a teenager I had no interest and spent the sermon adding up the hymn numbers!

Sermons now vary in their type. Although they are all usually based on one or more bible readings, the message is put across in different ways. Some may take the form of the traditional three point sermon but others may be told as a narrative from the point of view of a certain biblical character, others may be interactive and involve the congregation. Many preachers are now embracing technology and using images and power-point to illustrate their preaching.

I feel that these changes are on the whole positive. Having preachers of both sexes and different ages means that preachers are coming from a more diverse background which means that there will be more variety in preaching styles and the way sermons are delivered. For instance, the course that I am following looks at different ways of presenting God's word, so I try and incorporate these things into my services. This emphasis on creativity in preaching was not as prominent in previous training courses so there may be a difference in styles between those who recently trained and those who trained many years ago.

Kate Dickinson

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

Action for Children

Thank you to all who supported Action for Children over the Christmas period. We had a very successful Toy Service, which brought in a very nice and varied collection of toys which were taken to the Pines in Hertford. In addition, £184 was raised via the Christmas Lunch, Christmas cards and coffee morning monies.

In association with the other partner churches of Knebworth, we raised over £100 from carol singing and over £250 from the joint service held to mark Advent Sunday. This money went to Crisis, the charity which not only provides services for the homeless in London over Christmas but also throughout the year.

John Whittle

Christian Aid News

At the start of a New Year we thank you for your support of Christian Aid events during 2018.

We will begin our fund-raising for Christian Aid this year with a 'Frugal Lunch' at the beginning of Lent. This will be held on Sunday, 10th March at 12 noon for 12.30 pm at Trinity Church – tickets will be available before the event.

A further opportunity to enjoy food and fellowship will be afforded by another 'Big Brekkie' at Trinity on Saturday, 11th May. Our thanks to Kathy Cole for organising this event.

Christian Aid Week begins on 12th May and, as usual, there will be a house to house collection in the village for the charity. Last year we had the help of 38 collectors for this task and raised £2,610, plus an additional £300 in Gift Aid. However, to date, we have only 21 people willing to collect this year. If you feel you could help by delivering/collecting envelopes please speak to John Whittle or Hilary Dyster.

Thank you!

Hilary Dyster

Mission News

Thank you for all that you have contributed last month towards Trinity's support for The Samaritans!

This month and next our designated charity is Bridge Builders Christian Trust. Bridge Builders is a local charity based in Stevenage, of which Steven, our minister, is a trustee. Its vision is that every child within our local communities will have opportunities to explore the values of the Christian faith, so that they may look forward with hope and confidence, as they experience Christian love in action. The charity works in partnership with primary school teachers, church leaders and many committed volunteers in Stevenage and the surrounding area to provide:

- opportunities for children to explore the Christian faith through schools projects such as assemblies and class work
- opportunities for class visits to local churches for themed events such as The Easter Journey and The Christmas Journey.

We welcome your support towards our charitable giving to this cause. There will be a special opportunity briefly to hear more about the work of Bridge Builders following the talk ***A Road-Trip Around Cowboy Country*** by Colin and Liz Stringer at the church on the evening of **Tuesday, 5th February**. All are warmly invited to join us.

For full information about Bridge Builders, see www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk

Steven

DIARY INFORMATION

Meeting Point

The dates and venues for the coming month are as follows:

Thursday, 7th February at Hilary's home
Thursday, 14th February at Hilary's home
Thursday, 21st February – no meeting
Thursday, 28th February at Hilary's home

The meetings start at 10.30 am and usually finish around 12 noon.

Hilary Dyster

Men's Breakfast, Saturday, 23rd February



KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES

Donations to the Stevenage Food Bank

Just before the New Year, we received a message from John Mead from the Stevenage Food Bank thanking everybody who donates via the collecting boxes in the Knebworth Co-Op and the churches for their generosity. John tells us that, after Waitrose in Stevenage Old Town, Knebworth is the largest contributor. In 2018, the Stevenage Food bank fed in excess of two thousand people. Just before Christmas, in addition to basic supplies, all the families received a Christmas hamper of food goodies. The Food Bank also received donations of toys, so parents were able to choose presents for the children. Many thanks to everyone for your continuing generosity.

KFC Coffee Morning: Saturday, 16th February 10.00 am – 12 noon

Drop in to St Martin's Parish Centre for a drink and a natter and a bit of shopping at the Traidcraft stall.

Lent 2019

As Easter is later this year, the season of Lent does not begin until 6th March (Ash Wednesday). However, February is the time to consider joining a Lent Group. You will find an application form giving details about this year's course elsewhere in this newsletter. You will be very welcome at all of these events.

If you would like any more information, you can contact me on christine.goodwin51@btinternet.com or 01438 365918
Christine Goodwin, Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches

Knebworth Family of Churches Lent Groups 2019

Commencing week beginning 11th March 2019

THE MYSTERY OF GOD

This Lent course has been prepared by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). It delves more deeply into the mystery of God, seeking to rediscover what it is that draws us so deeply in our search for God. We will follow Jesus through the Lenten readings, allowing him to draw us, in love and wonder, into the mystery of God's plan of salvation. The course material is available on the CTBI website. (ctbi.org.uk)

The groups are made up of people from the different churches; applications are welcomed from anyone with or without a regular church connection. There are seven sessions: one for each week of Lent and two additional sessions for Ash Wednesday, which people may like to follow on their own by way of an introduction, and one for Palm Sunday. This could also be done individually, or some groups may decide to meet during Holy Week to complete the course together.

- The themes are:
- Ash Wednesday: The Mystery of Life and Death
 - Lent 1: The Mystery of Good and Evil
 - Lent 2: The Mystery of God's Glory
 - Lent 3: The Mystery of Sin, Suffering and Hope
 - Lent 4: (Mothering Sunday) The Mystery of Parenthood and Adoption
 - Lent 5: The Mystery of Love and Sacrifice
 - Palm Sunday: The Mystery of Joy and Salvation

There are five sessions of approximately 1½ hours.

Forms to be returned no later than **Sunday, 24th February 2019**, to the boxes in one of the churches (St Martin's, St Mary's, St Thomas More, Trinity) or via email to Rev John Whittle at the address below

For any enquiries/late applications:

Please contact Rev John Whittle: johnwhittle@cleworth.plus.com or 01438 813517

Please tick when you can meet.

Please also tick if you can host and/or lead.

DAY	MORNING	HOST.	LEAD	AFTERNOON	HOST.	LEAD	EVENING	HOST	LEAD
MONDAY									
TUESDAY									
WEDNESDAY									
THURSDAY									
FRIDAY									

Name:.....Church:.....

AddressPost Code

Telephone numbers:

Email

Please give email address if possible so that we can send details.

SOCIAL NEWS AND EVENTS

On **Tuesday, 5th February** at 7.30 pm there will be an illustrated talk by Colin Stringer describing the holiday that he and Liz had on a 3,000 mile trip last year around seven states in the West of the US. There will be a collection, at the end of the evening, in aid of BridgeBuilders, a Stevenage charity whose vision is that every child within our community will have opportunities to explore the values of the Christian faith.

There will be a DVD afternoon at 2.30 pm on **Friday, 22nd February**, followed by refreshments. The film to be shown is "The Viceroy's House. It is set in New Delhi in March 1947. Lord Mountbatten, the final Viceroy of India is tasked with overseeing the transition of British India to independence, but meets with conflict as the different sides clash in the face of monumental change. The cast includes Hugh Bonneville, Gillian Anderson, Michael Gambon and Simon Callow.

On **Friday, 15th March**, there will be Pub Lunch at The Red Lion, Woolmer Green at 12.00 pm.

Kathy Cole

METHODIST NEWS

Malcolm's Message

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year, the traditional greeting often goes with the notion of new year resolutions. I wonder how many of us have made a resolution for this year. Some of the more common ones that I hear of are losing weight, taking more exercise, keeping in touch with friends and family, making better use of time. We make the resolution with good intentions. Yet for many of us the resolutions are broken before we know where we are and before the year has aged any. I am always reminded of the words of St Paul who said something along the lines of, the good that I would I don't and the evil that I wouldn't I do.

Whenever I think of this I am reminded both of the story of the fall and our freedom to choose. Temptation, choice and personal responsibility - sounds like a book title; but is part of the struggle of living a Christian life. Even though we may not readily admit to it having someone tell us what to do and when to do it is easier for us. It means we don't have to make difficult decisions and if things go wrong, we can blame those who made the rules.

The Christian life makes things simple, but it doesn't make things easy. The simplicity of the Christian life is that the number of rules is much reduced; we are to love God with all of our being, and we are to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. This is simple, yet it is much more difficult than being told how this is to be worked out. It makes temptation much more prevalent; responsibility is pushed back onto us as we make choices. Yet this is the transition we want from being like children to being mature.

As parents we recognise that young children need to be told and directed to a significant degree; we hope that as our children develop and mature into adulthood that we would tell them less and less what to do and they would increasingly make right choices and show a developing maturity as they become adult.

The Christian life is about growing in faith. It is about working out for ourselves what it is to love God and how we love God; what it is to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. There are guidelines to follow in the Bible and experience to draw on through the traditions of the Church but we are expected to make choices for ourselves in the context in which we find ourselves.

Temptations happen, they are an inevitable part of life. Having to make choices is an inevitable part of life; temptation and choice belong together. The Christian life is all about being tempted and then doing what we know to be right. There is nothing wrong with temptation - it is an everyday part of life, what matters are the choices we make and the choices we make show reality of our faith.

Wishing you every blessing
Malcolm

{The above article was reproduced from the January edition of the North Herts Methodist Circuit Newsletter}

Thinking Lunch

12.30pm to 1.30pm on Thursday 7th February 2019
At Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans AL1 3XG



Sally Seddon

Volunteer Engagement Manager
for Shared Interest

Investing in a Fairer World

Tea / Coffee / Squash provided, but bring your own sandwiches.

Half an hour talk and then discussion.

*Donations to cover expenses and any profits will be given
to the Shared Interest foundation*

Daffodil Day, 4th March

A coach has been booked for Daffodil Day at Methodist Central Hall on Monday, 4th March; the cost is likely to be £15 per person. At present, I only have 18 names and we need 32 to pay for the coach. For anyone who hasn't been before, it is a service which starts with hymn singing, and has various singers and musicians who usually talk about their faith.

We will pick up as usual at Letchworth, Hitchin, Stevenage and Knebworth.

Margaret Noble

Bradwell Gathering and Pilgrimage; Saturday, 6th July

This will be a free day of pilgrimage, worship, activities and talks for the whole family beginning at 10.30 am at St Thomas' Church in Bradwell-on-Sea for the Pilgrimage walk.

See the website for full information: www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk

On behalf of Margaret Noble

**You are invited to attend
A Free Church Services
In the Lady Chapel on:**



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

Wednesday, 6th February at 11.00 am

Preacher: **Doral Hayes**

Ecumenical Facilitator, Churches Together in Hertfordshire

Wednesday, 6th March at 11.00 am

Preacher: **The Reverend Dr Paul Goodcliff**

General Secretary, Churches Together in England

The services will be followed by a fellowship lunch in the Abbots Kitchen and all are welcome

Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain: Reverend Simon Carver,
Email: simoncarver@btinternet.com

Please send items for the March issue of Trinity Times to Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 21st February:

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth
