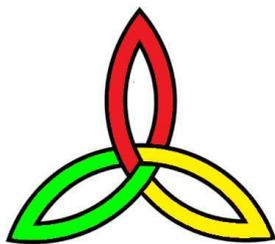


Trinity Times



July 2019

Issue No 222

Diary for July		
Wednesday 3rd	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting
Sunday 7th	10.30 am 5..30 pm	Team Worship led by Becky Amy Evening Worship led by Rev'd Steven Cooper, including Service of Holy Communion
Saturday 13th	2.00 pm	"Singing Our Praise"
Sunday 14th	10.30 am 12.00 pm 5.30 pm	Morning Worship led by Rev'd Steven Cooper, including Service of Holy Communion Family Barbecue Circuit Farewell Service for Rev'd Steven Cooper
Saturday 20th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 21st	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Informal Church Meeting with Morning Worship led by the Elders KFC Taize Service at St Martin's Church
Sunday 28th	10.30 am 12.00pm 5.30 pm	Morning Worship led by Rev'd John Steele "Come As You Are" Evening Worship led by Rev'd John Whittle
Diary for August		
Sunday 4th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Team Worship led by Gill Hughes Evening Worship led by Rev'd Nancy Barbarinde, including Service of Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson, including Service of Holy Communion Evening Worship led by Peter Rogers
Saturday 17th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 18th	10.30 am 5..30 pm	Morning Worship led by Rosie Berry Evening Worship led by Becky Amy
<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 July 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

Thank you to those who replied to my article about church membership that appeared in last month's Trinity Times. Unfortunately, there was not an overwhelming response – which I found a bit disappointing – but those who did were able to offer some help and guidance and I thank them for that. I have yet to make up my mind on the way forward but I'm sure that I will come to a decision in the fullness of time.

Graham Fothergill

THANK YOU

Dear All

Thank you for your loving and prayerful support in recent weeks following the death of my father, Alan Richardson. I was confident that the Trinity Family would help us prepare the thanksgiving service, and I was right.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone! I think you will agree we did justice to the five hymns, four readings and copious quantities of tea, coffee and cake.

Thank you again. God bless.

Heather, Mark and Jean

Thanks Trinity, you were superb!!!!

The Hall Family would like to thank Team Trinity for the magnificent support given to them after the death of Bill.

From the first visit when we found it was OK to talk and cry, the many cards and hugs we received, to folks helping track down missing ministers when phone numbers were written down wrong (oops), to long meetings to organize the actual services, both at Trinity and at Harwood Park Crematorium. The music with no questions asked, just acceptance of what was wanted.

The folk helping with the car parking - and, yes, it was raining, sorry! Then the team putting out tables, filling the tables with cakes (lots), the tea cups which never ran dry and the clearing up.

And all the other details - the collection box, flowers and much, much more. You were brilliant Trinity, you made a very difficult time a little easier.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and are proud to belong to such a caring church.

Jackie and family

FAMILY NEWS

It is good to report that we have several causes for thanksgiving or celebration within Trinity fellowship in recent times.

Kate Dickinson has cleared all the hurdles towards being accredited as a Methodist Local Preacher and we look forward to being with her to acknowledge that in her Accreditation Service here in Trinity on the afternoon of Sunday 15th September.

The North Herts Circuit has recently appointed a new part time Circuit Administrator. I am delighted to say that Jenny Wright was the successful candidate and will be based in the office at Central Methodist Church in Letchworth.

At the end of June, Natalie Edwards celebrated a milestone birthday – we wish her a belated happy birthday!

Congratulations to Jeff Hughes and his partner Carron who have recently welcomed little Duncan into their lives, forgoing sleep for the privilege of parenthood. Brian and I are not the only members of Trinity who recall Jeff at the same age!

Of course there are still many struggling with health issues, recovery from surgery and anxieties of family life, and we continue to do our best to support each other in good times and through challenges. At time of writing, Hilary Dyster is making a steady recovery from a fracture to her kneecap, and Zena Watts is making good progress towards being out and about again as she heals from surgery. Gill Atkinson is making steady progress in her return to full mobility. Rosie Berry has healed well from her surgery. Ron Davies is currently in Lister Hospital, and Patricia Radley is being monitored by clinic appointments. We remember Helen Plewman, as Mary Stewart spends time with her in California supporting the family after surgery.

Gill Hughes

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

This is the text of the Trinity article which was prepared by Rosie Berry for the July edition of the Knebworth Parish News. (*Ed.*)

When I was a student, the number one song was "The Sound of Silence" by Simon and Garfunkel. Can silence have a sound?

I recently went on a silent retreat at Scargill House in the Yorkshire Dales. This is a Christian community offering hospitality, with a variety of courses for all comers. We were prepared for the silence by notes on the feelings and emotions we might encounter, such as fear, anticipation, and panic! I was looking forward to the daily sessions with my spiritual director, when we would discuss my progress in meditation.

The community has a striking chapel full of light and conducive to prayer and contemplation. Meals were taken in silence, although sometimes we listened to pleasant music. Community members were always attentive and ready to talk if needed. One morning I decided to sit in the walled garden, a haven of solitude. Imagine my dismay when the workmen started hammering on the outhouse roof.

The surrounding countryside offered a variety of walks but I didn't venture out on my own, having slipped on the labyrinth path in the rain. What of the silence? I found this creative, not oppressive. The craft room furnished materials for art work, and I summed up my stay with a poem.

I experienced the values of the Community, holding a safe and open space through sharing lives based on generous hospitality and welcome to all. Following the example of Jesus, they seek to encourage individuals and groups, including those who feel marginalised within society and the church.

www.scargillmovement.org.

Rosie Berry, one of the Elders.

REVEREND'S REFLECTIONS

As I prepare to bid a very fond farewell to Trinity Church, this will be my final contribution to Trinity Times. It has been a privilege to serve as a minister here at Trinity and in the North Hertfordshire Methodist Circuit. As my first appointment as a minister, it has been for me a very significant experience of growth and learning, as I have found my way into this lifelong role. It is inevitably the case that Trinity Church has sometimes taken the role of guinea pig, to my experimentations and efforts to feel my way around what is the right judgement call in different situations, and working out how to strike the right balance of my time in a role where there is always more to do than the time available. Indeed I have sometimes brazenly tested waters that someone with greater experience might have skirted around, in order to develop in my understanding of what works and what doesn't in this role.

I thank you profoundly, therefore, for having the courage to take on a probationer minister, and for being such a great family to work with as I have grown in this way. Inevitably there are some things that I might have approached, some judgement calls that I might have made differently with the benefit of experience; but in consequence you have played an absolutely invaluable part in setting me up for the next 30 years of ministry in the Methodist Church, and I am profoundly grateful. Whatever path my work as a minister should take over the coming decades, Trinity, together with St Paul's, will forever be the church where it began, and you will always have a very special place in my heart, and in Ruth's and in Seraphina's too.

I look forward very much to sharing with you in the final events of my time at Trinity this month. In particular I hope that as many as possible of you will be able to join me and Victor and friends for a musical bonanza, ***Singing Our Praise***, at **2pm on Saturday, 13th July**. Entry is free and all are welcome. And I look forward to our church family barbecue, following our Church Anniversary service at 10.30 am on my final Sunday, 14th July – and then my final farewell service, for Trinity and the whole North Herts Circuit, that evening at 5.30 pm.

My role as minister here actually finishes at the end of the month, and it is worth a word of explanation why my final service is only halfway through July. This is because over the final two Sundays this month, I shall be leading a group of young adults on what might be called a pilgrimage, in Taizé. This group includes our own Corletta and Stephen, and it promises to be a tremendously exciting experience; please do include them in your prayers.

Trinity will very much be in my prayers as you pursue the appointment of a new minister after I have gone, and I wish you every blessing for all that lies ahead.

Finally, as I head on to new pastures as minister of Wesley's Chapel in London, you are all very welcome to join me for my welcome service there, at **2.30 pm on Sunday, 1st September** — and, of course, you will always be welcome to visit any time.

I wish every one of you God's blessing, this month and always.

Steven

Thank You – and a Date for Your Diary

As many of you know, I was accepted as a Local Preacher by the Local Preacher's meeting at the beginning of June. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone at Trinity Church for all the support you have given me, not just while I have been training but ever since arriving at Trinity. So many of you have played a part in enabling me to get to where I am today and I am truly grateful to you all. There is a saying that it takes a village to raise a child, well I think it takes a church to raise a Local Preacher and Trinity Church has certainly helped to raise me and shape who I have become.

I am planning to have my accreditation service (subject to the Circuit meeting agreeing, which I am told is a formality!) on Sunday, 15th September at 4.00 pm at Trinity. The service will be led by Rev'd Malcolm Peacock, and Rev'd John Whittle has kindly agreed to give the address. Following the service, there will be tea, coffee, soft drinks and cakes. Those who know me know that there has to be cake! Everyone is welcome and it would be lovely to share in this special occasion with those of you that are able to come. If anyone would like to come but will have difficulty getting to church, please let me know. Also, if you could provide a cake, please let Kathy Cole know.

Thanks again,

Kate

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

Tea and Concert in aid of The Living Room

We are delighted to announce that the fund-raising tea and concert held on Saturday, 22nd June was very well attended and raised £517.60 in aid of the Living Room charity, which has centres in Stevenage, St. Albans and Watford. Mark Wiseman, their fund-raising manager, came along and gave a brief description of the work of the charity helping people to fight all types of addiction, and Ross, a client, spoke convincingly about the way his life and the life of many others had been transformed.

The event was dedicated to the loving memory of Bev Barovitz, who had been Mission Group secretary for many years, and had organised many coffee mornings in aid of the Living Room. We were very pleased that her sister, daughters, grandson and other family members as well as close friends and former colleagues were able to attend.

The Mission Group would like to thank the Eden Consort for singing, and Chris Maguire for playing the organ, and all those who helped with the event. We had a splendid feast of cakes, so a big thanks to all those who made and contributed them. Particular thanks go to Kathy Cole and team for organising the refreshments, and those who helped set up and clear away.

Anniversary Offering - July 14th

We celebrate our Church Anniversary on Sunday, 14th July, when Steven will lead worship at Trinity for the last time before moving to his new appointment in London.

The Mission Group has chosen the charity "Christian Solidarity Worldwide" for our anniversary appeal. This charity supports Christians who are being persecuted throughout the world. There will be more information on the notice board, and gift aid envelopes will be available.

Maureen Bodden

All We Can

The outreach charity for July is 'All We Can'

The vision of 'All We Can' is that every person's potential should be fulfilled. It is an international development and emergency relief organisation, focussing on those in greatest need. It is inspired by Christian principles and is part of the Methodist family.

The charity's purpose is to find solutions to poverty by engaging with local people and organisation in some of the world's poorest communities. The aim is to end the suffering caused by inequality and injustice and to strengthen and enable local partners and also to respond to humanitarian crises with emergency relief. Another underlying aim is to engage in global education to enable people to take a stand against poverty and injustice.

Hilary Dyster

DIARY INFORMATION

Meeting Point

The arrangements for Meeting Point this month are as follows:

Thursday, 4th July – at Kate Dickinson's
Thursday, 11th July – at Kate Dickinson's
Thursday, 18th July – at Kate Dickinson's
Thursday, 25th July – at Hilary's

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

Hilary Dyster

SOCIAL NEWS AND EVENTS

News from the Social Committee

There will be an afternoon tea on **Friday, 16th August**; no charge will be made but donations will be requested.

Looking further ahead, the Harvest Lunch is set for **Sunday, 12th October**, further details nearer the date.

KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES

KFC Coffee Morning: Saturday, 20th July, 10.00 am – 12 noon

Please drop in to St Martin's Parish Centre; it's always a good opportunity to meet up for a chat over a drink and cake. There will be the usual Traidcraft Stall.

United Taize Service

This is being held at St Martin's Church at 5.30 pm on Sunday, 21st July. All are welcome.

If you would like any more information, you can contact me on christine.goodwin51@btinternet.com or 01438 365918.

Christine Goodwin

METHODIST NEWS

Malcolm's Message

Dear Friends,

I have early memories of being at school and not enjoying playtime one day. For some reason there was a reorganisation of friendships and the 'popular' children led groups of friends around chanting, 'do you want to be in my gang'. I didn't want to be in anyone's gang and felt quite frightened as the chanting and posturing became increasingly loud and aggressive.

Childish, playground behaviour - I really hoped I would never see the same in adult life. Sadly, that is exactly the feeling I have as I watch the start of the leadership process to find a new leader for the conservatives and a new Prime Minister. I see childish behaviour in a group of people seeking personal fame and fortune and while they do the needs and welfare of the nation are disregarded.

While government is fighting over Brexit, the poorest on benefits are still having to use food banks. The Health Service continues to be over stretched and underfunded. Schools that serve the areas of greatest need are under-resourced and intolerance and racism are splitting our nation apart, and the demands for independence from Scotland and Wales continue to grow.

What can we do? We cannot afford to do nothing. Lessons from history remind us that good people being silent is an invitation for the extremist to take control and cause mayhem with consequences that have repercussions into the present. What we should do, and this is far from easy, is ensure that our faith and the values of our faith inform and shape the words we say and the things we do.

There are some ideas that lie at the heart of the Christian faith - justice and mercy, but also compassion and forgiveness and the need above all to love as God has loved us. We see that such love has the power to transform and the power to redeem. There is a cost - but surely following Jesus is about seeing the cost and being prepared to pay it, for the simple reason that we love, and we can see no other way. So we need to have words that are words of challenge but also compassion; we need actions that make a difference. There is a price but Christ has paid it, we simply walk by his side.

Wishing you every blessing
Malcolm

{The above item was reproduced from the June edition of the North Herts Methodist Circuit Newsletter}



Following the success of our 'Singing Our Faith' event in March, join us as our director of music, Victor de Paula, and minister Steven Cooper lead this special event, with musical guests, at Trinity Church starting at 2pm on Saturday, 13th July. All are invited, for what will be a joyful and praise-filled opportunity to share in the joy of sung praise. Come to sing, or to hear! It will be an opportunity to learn more new songs that will enhance and enrich our weekly worship at Trinity, and to join in more of the favourite hymns and praise songs that we know and love. The event will run until about 4pm; refreshments will be provided, and all are welcome!

Please send items for the August issue of Trinity Times to Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 18th July:

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth