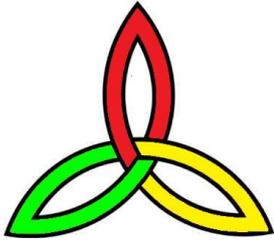


Trinity Times



August 2019

Issue No 223

Diary for August		
Friday 2nd	3.30 pm	Trinity Tea and Chat
Sunday 4th	10.30 am 5..30 pm	Team Worship led by Gill Hughes Evening Worship led by Rev'd Nancy Babarinde, 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
Friday 16th	3.00 pm	Strawberry Tea
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
Sunday 25th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Morning Worship led by Jennifer Rogers Evening Worship led by Rev'd Chandrika Perera
Diary for September		
Sunday 1st	10.30 am 2.30 pm	Team Worship led by Becky Amy Rev'd Steven Cooper's Welcome Service at Wesley's Chapel, London <i>(No Evening Service at Trinity)</i>
Friday 6th	3.30 pm	Trinity Tea and Chat
Sunday 8th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson, including Service of Holy Communion Evening Worship led by TBA
Wednesday 11th	2.00 pm	Social Committee Meeting
<p>Meeting Point meets on Thursdays: 10.30 am. See below for venues during August There are no Time for Prayer meetings during August There are Youth Club Meetings at Trinity only on Friday, the 2nd and Friday, the 30th of August</p>		

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

Minister: Position vacant

Please contact one of the Elders or via the church website or office telephone

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

When I reflect on the content of recent issues of Trinity Times, I am encouraged by the way our newsletter, instead of being just a dry listing of church events, occasionally contains more “newsy” items and personal messages. I am all in favour of that, so please feel free to send me items of that nature.

I would, however, temper that remark by saying that it is at the editor’s discretion whether or not a particular item is included, although in all the years that I have been doing the job I have not yet had to refuse any articles!

Graham Fothergill

FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to Margaret and John Whittle who have just celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Celebrations included a bridesmaid from the event – quite a record for the family! At the end of August congratulations to Polly and Ashley Price who will be celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

On Steven's final Sunday morning worship in Trinity it was a joy to welcome Paul and Betty Edwards and Rosemary Rudkin into membership. I hope there may still be others who will formalise transferring membership to Trinity, or maybe even join on confession of their faith over coming months. It is certainly a real sign of encouragement to the fellowship whenever this happens.

We all, of course, share deep sadness with Rita Davies following Ron's death on 19th June. The service of thanksgiving for his life was a fitting tribute to a much loved man. The packed church witnessed the high regard in which he was held, not just by his extensive close family who captured memories of Ron so well, but also by church friends from their Winchmore Hill era and from Trinity where Ron was so key to the initial redevelopment of the buildings we are happy to enjoy using today. He and Rita have been active and supportive members in so many ways over the last 20 years, and Ron so often found the right words to say at a meeting, and the right places to go for practical help. And, not least, the right way to bring humour into a situation. Some of us recall the day before our buildings were to be opened, when Ron managed to say the right word to the right person to ensure gas was connected in time! There were so many instances shared in the service and in conversation that demonstrate the deep impact his Christian life had on people he encountered through his family, his profession, his time in scouting and his life in general. Ron's memory will certainly live on for many years through many conversations and recollections. May Rita and their children Elaine, Gill and Martin, grandchildren Robbie, Katy, Joe, Rosie, Anna, Ben, Tom and Ellie, not to mention their partners and 5 great grandchildren know that we hold them all in prayer as they mourn their profound loss.

Our prayers are also with many members of the fellowship, some returning to church life after illness, others continuing treatment and monitoring, and some with difficult decisions to make. May each know the love of God that surrounds us all.

Gill Hughes

THANK YOU

Hi folks,

Just to let you know that we raised £550.00 in aid of Papworth Hospital at Bill's funeral. This has now been sent to them. It will make a great difference to the patients, relatives and staff. At a time when budgets are squeezed, this money will make life better for so many people.

So, many thanks, friends.

Jackie Hall & family

Diamond Wedding

We would both like to thank you for your cards, messages and congratulations on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 18th July. We were very touched by your kind wishes for our special day.

Margaret and John Whittle

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

This is the text of the Trinity article which was prepared by John Whittle for the August edition of the Knebworth Parish News. (*Ed.*)

Race - A Myth?

One of the worst features of the Nazi regime was its gross misuse of the concept of race! Not that it stood alone in believing that there are innate differences between races, with the widespread assumption that some groups of humans were superior to others in such areas as intelligence on the one hand and physical stamina and strength on the other.

However, following the horrors of the Second World War, anthropologists showed that what we think of as racial differences are, in fact, not so much genetic as cultural and linguistic. 90% of the genetic variations seen between humans lie within the racial categories which we use to identify people such as black, Jewish, Native Indian, Basque or Kurd etc. The simple fact is that being of the same race doesn't necessarily make two people more genetically similar to each other than either of them would be to someone of another race. This is a trap which is not easy to free our thinking from; that of treating some populations as biologically special and distinct. Moreover, there has always been constant mixing between human populations, which is why we are so similar today. So, ironically, some of the Nazi leaders had Jewish blood in them, and that seems to have included Hitler.

The Human Genome Project has revealed that there are no genes that appear in all the members of one race and not in another. So, for example, the genetic variations associated with light skin are common in Europe but also in parts of Asia and the San hunter-gatherers of southern Africa.

Medical researchers have shown that racial distinctions are a poor guide to what diseases we suffer; so, for example, we associate sickle-cell anaemia with those of African descent but, in fact, it is found in all ethnic groups.

Without going further into the myth of race, let me quote words of a well-respected authority on genetics and race - Luigi Cavalli-Sforza (who died only in August 2018 at the age of 96) who spent his life fighting publicly against racism and fascism, having himself lived during the war in Italy, and just before his death he wrote: **'Racism is born of ignorance, fear of the stranger and desire for power: it has to be fought, first by showing its nonsense and its real roots.'**

All this should not surprise those who are familiar with the Bible, for from the outset we are told that all human beings are made in the image of God, the Creator. Further in Acts of the Apostles, when Paul is facing the people of Athens, he proclaims to them that: **'God who made the world and everything in it-- (also) made of one blood all the nations to inhabit the whole earth.--- For, 'In him we live and move and have our being'. (Acts 17 v.24f).**

It is surely time to rid ourselves of the myths that surround the whole concept of race and racial superiority or inferiority, and rather rejoice in the rich diversity which is found in the human race.

'Lift up our hearts, O King of kings, to brighter hopes and kindlier things, to visions of a larger good, and holier dreams of brotherhood'.

Rev'd John Whittle

GOODBYE, STEVEN

On Sunday, 14th July, a farewell service was held for Rev'd Steven Cooper who, after five years at the helm at Trinity is moving to pastures new – Wesley's Church in the borough of Islington, London.

The service was conducted by Rev'd Malcolm Peacock, the North Herts Methodist Circuit Superintendent and included short presentations of thanks from representatives of the local groups with which Steven had become involved during his time with us. These included Pauline Maryan on behalf of Churches Together in Stevenage, Janet Bird on behalf of Churches Together in Hertfordshire, Pastor Yinka Oduwole on behalf of Knebworth Family of Churches, Sue Burrell on behalf of St Paul's Church and Christine Warren on behalf of the North Herts Methodist Circuit.

The address on behalf of Trinity was given by Kate Dickinson and she has allowed me to reproduce the full text of her "speech" for the benefit of those who were unable to attend Steven's Farewell Service:

"When Gill rang me on Friday afternoon asking if I would say some words on behalf of Trinity, my immediate thought was 'That's a bit last minute' but, having worked with Steven as church co-secretary and elder for the past three years, I have learnt that last minute is very much Steven's style and something I have become used to!

Steven has been with us at Trinity for the past five years and in many ways has enhanced the life of this church. I want to briefly mention some of those ways now. These are from my own perspective and I am sure if you were to talk with other church members, they would be able to tell you other ways in which Steven has made a difference to them and their faith life.

It can be difficult for a new minister to make changes to Sunday worship, especially when a congregation has been doing things the same way for many years. Steven has gradually been able to introduce changes, which have included the introduction of a pascal candle and the children not only being present for Holy Communion but having a role by bringing in the elements. We also have a regular café worship service which has become very popular, especially amongst families who do not regularly attend services.

Steven's passion for music has been evident from the beginning and he has encouraged us to learn new hymns whilst still retaining the old classics which the older members enjoy.

Steven has a strong theological understanding and has endeavoured to pass some of this knowledge onto us, not just through services but through the disciple course which he ran with Peter Rogers and the regular bible study group 'Come as You Are'. It has taken time to find a suitable slot for this group but, having borrowed the idea from St Paul's, we are now meeting following a soup lunch once a month.

Steven has also been imparting his knowledge to the young people as he has been instrumental in setting up a youth fellowship group on a Sunday evening which has six regular members. Each session has included a discussion on a certain question relating to our faith, which has provoked a lot of thoughtful comments from the young people. It also involves the eating of doughnuts and drinking of fizzy drinks; I do feel slightly sorry for the parents when we send their children home high on sugar, as well as playing games with pick- up sticks and jenga proving popular, especially with Steven! I never knew a game such as pick- up sticks could be so intense.

Steven chairs the monthly meeting of elders and during his time at Trinity a number of members in their thirties and forties have become elders, bringing in new ideas especially with regard to making worship appealing and accessible to all.

Steven has been involved with and also encouraged us to be involved with all aspects of church life including church upkeep and improvement, such as new lighting for this part of the building. You will probably notice just how brighter it is in here and we even have spotlights! Other areas include planning meetings and worship and developing the new church website, all of which enables us to reach out not just to our members but to the community as a whole.

As Steven leaves us, we will be entering a period of interregnum which can be difficult for any church. However, I feel that Steven has equipped the eldership with the skills needed to cope in this situation.

As well as getting to know Steven and Ruth, we have had the pleasure of watching Seraphina grow from a baby into a toddler. The whole family have been very much part of life of Trinity, especially café worship and social events.

From a personal point of view, I must mention the encouragement and support Steven has given me, not just in helping me to find my role here at Trinity but also in tutoring me as I have trained to become a Local Preacher. I may have had lots of doubts but Steven never seemed to, at least he didn't show it if he did! He has helped me to reach beyond my comfort zone, enabling to do much more than I ever thought.

Steven, I and the rest of the congregation at Trinity church are very grateful for all you have done for us and enabled us to do over the past five years. We wish yourself, Ruth and Seraphina every blessing as you move to your new role at Wesley's Chapel."

The Editor

KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES GOOD EGG CLUB IS TAKING A BREAK – WE HAVE NOT GIVEN UP!

You may be wondering why you have not heard about a Good Egg Club event this summer. Just to let people know that, in the light of nearly 20 years' experience of our outreach to the children of the community, we are taking a break to review and refresh how we move on in the planning of our events. One of the key things that has developed over the last few years is the growth of a wonderful team of young helpers who bring an energy and vitality to the Christian witness evident at Good Egg Club. Some have been part of that team so long that now they are part of the adult team. As we take an opportunity to reflect on that, and other changes in the 21st century, we would welcome any thoughts parents, young people and others from our churches may have on how we have worked in the past, and what we might look at trying in the future. If anyone is at all interested in being any part of our planning (maybe with administration, advertising, craft, drama, cooking, *any* general interest) please let us know. It is always refreshing and energising to have new life in the team. It is very rewarding to be a small part of what happens at the events.

We give thanks for the loyalty, interest and support many have given us in the past, especially for the wonderful children who have come along and shared with enthusiasm in our expressions of God's love for us all. We are now looking forward to discovering God's plan for our way forward. We wish you all a happy and refreshing holiday time and watch this space for our next message....

Please express interest or contact us by email at GoodEggClubBookings@gmail.com or through any team members

Knebworth Family of Churches Good Egg Club Planning Team July 2019

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP – TO BE OR NOT TO BE!

After some consideration, and possibly a cup of tea or three - bikkies/cake may also have been involved - as I pondered on the privileges and responsibilities of church members, and really I think there is only one worth considering, and it's a vital one. It is that whilst everyone is welcome to attend church and the many varied groups, serve or not as they choose in lots of different ways, and everyone (!!) is encouraged to attend meetings and put in their two pennyworth (voice their opinions, ask questions) only, and this is the vital point, only members can actually vote. So you may feel passionate about something but if it's lost by one vote - your missing vote - then you may moan, but sympathy will be limited! But if you are a member and your passion is lost in a fair vote (and you were able to vote) you might get sympathy and would certainly be entitled to moan - but not too much, please.

Just a thought, also only members can become elders but I'm not sure if that's a privilege or a responsibility, or possibly both.

Jackie Hall

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

Farming Community Network (FCN)

The outreach charity for August and September is the Farming Community Network, for which John Whittle is the Trinity contact. Brian Burgess, the Hertfordshire Group Co-ordinator, has kindly sent us the following:

The Farming Community Network (FCN)

'It's good to have someone to talk to.'

FCN has an ecumenical Christian ethos with over 400 volunteers within 33 Groups throughout England and Wales. It supports farmers, their families and farm workers within the farming community through difficult times, offering practical and pastoral support for anyone who seeks help.

Volunteers "walk with" anyone who seeks support to help them find a positive way through their problems - for as long as it is needed. Common issues are:

Business - finance, banking, tenancy, partnerships, property
Family - succession, retirement, relationships, pension
Health - stress, depression, isolation, suicidal feelings
Farm - animal welfare, animal health, disease

Support is free and confidential and can be accessed through our national helpline on 0300 111 999 (7am-11pm every day of the year) or by email:

help@fcn.org.uk

We thank Trinity Church for their continuing support.

Brian Burgess
FCN Herts Group Coordinator

WATERAID

This is a letter that I received from the charity, WaterAid; I think it is self-explanatory. Thank you to all who contributed to this worthy cause.

John Whittle



Null WaterAid Supporter
Knebworth Family Of Churches
HAVANT
Gipsy Lane
KNEBWORTH
SG3 6DJ

09 July 2019

Dear WaterAid Supporter,

Thank you so much for your group's donation of £110.30. Your congregation's fundraising will help communities like Maliya's get clean water for the very first time, transforming their health, education and livelihoods.

A source of clean water near home will change everything for Maliya, like it has for 10-year old Malita.

Since a water kiosk was installed in her village, Malita has begun to thrive. She now has time to study and play with her friends; she spends more time with her family, and her grades at school have vastly improved.



Being able to attend school and study will help Malita find employment later on, and her life chances will improve. Installing clean water is the first crucial step towards a healthier, happier life.

Thank you so much for your support. By joining Jars of Change, you can make sure that the lives of many more children like Maliya can be transformed by the astounding difference clean water makes.

Best wishes,

Judit Palotai
Community team, WaterAid
020 7793 4594 / lent@wateraid.org

PS. If you would like to find out more about the difference your support makes or wish to stop receiving communications from WaterAid, please call our Supporter Care team on 020 7793 4594 and they will be happy to help.



WaterAid transforms the lives of the poorest and most marginalised people by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.



WaterAid, 47-49 Durham Street, London SE11 5JD Tel: 020 7793 4500 Fax: 020 7793 4545 Email: wateraid@wateraid.org www.wateraid.org

Charity registration numbers: 288701 (England and Wales) and SC039479 (Scotland) President: HRH The Prince of Wales Registered office: as above Company registration number: 1787329 VAT registration number: 736 1798 C

INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF CHURCH SERVICES

As you are probably aware, since they moved to Lanzarote we have regularly included Polly and Ashley Price in Sunday morning services by establishing a video/audio link with them via *Skype*. By and large, this has worked well but the use of *Skype* has certain disadvantages:

- If the link is broken then it is difficult to establish the link, once the service has started, without interrupting hymns, etc.
- If additional people should want to link up, this would necessitate establishing additional *Skype* links individually and result in degraded display.
- For funerals, weddings, etc. *Skype* recordings can be made available to people who could not make the service but the display is degraded and unsuitable for the purpose.

With these shortcomings in mind, we have started to use *YouTube* to 'stream' services live and to record them. Access to a recording is by request and the recording is then only available for a period of two weeks after which time it is deleted. In exceptional cases it may be retained for a longer period. Services which are being streamed live are available on *YouTube* without restriction and may be found by searching *Trinity Church Knebworth* on the *YouTube* website. If you opt to subscribe to the church's channel you will receive email notification that transmission has commenced.

Use of *YouTube* means that multiple people can watch the service, either in real time or later, as required.

The video camera only covers the dais and a section of the front two rows of the congregation.

The Church Elders are aware of the sensitivities surrounding the streaming/recording of church services and, with this mind, the topic was discussed and it was agreed that we would continue to use *YouTube* but to communicate this effectively; hence this note.

The AV instructions have been amended so that anyone operating the AV is aware of what to do to initiate/end the streaming.

In order that visiting preachers are aware of this policy, the Methodist Circuit and the North Herts Group of United Reformed Churches are being informed of this policy.

Brian Hughes, on behalf of the Church Elders

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 and I will be having my accreditation service 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. 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

DIARY INFORMATION

Meeting Point; Thursdays, 10.30 am – 12 noon

At this stage, there are no firm venues for our meetings in August and these will be arranged in an *ad hoc* manner. Please contact Hilary or Kate for details.

Hilary Dyster

SOCIAL NEWS AND EVENTS

News from the Social Committee

A big thank you to all who helped in any way at recent events. The singing on Saturday, 13th July, was helped along by plenty of cake and drinks. The barbecue the next day was great fun, and we were blessed with good weather. Thanks to the chefs.

Our next event is the strawberry tea on **Friday, 16th August**, from 3.00 pm - 4.30 pm; no charge will be made but donations will be requested.

Looking further ahead, the Harvest Lunch is set for **Sunday, 13th October**, further details nearer the date.

Our next Social Committee Meeting, to plan for September onwards, is on Wednesday, 11th September at 2.00 pm at Kate's home. All are welcome, new ideas needed please!

Kathy Cole

Tea and Chat

Trinity Tea and Chat has been taking place monthly on a Friday afternoon at Trinity Church between 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm for several months now. It has proved to be very popular and has given people the chance to meet with old friends as well as make new ones, share experiences and to sit and chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

Trinity Tea and Chat will continue to meet on the first Friday of the month for the remainder of the year at Trinity Church from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm. For further details, please contact Kate on (01438) 225399.

Kate Dickinson

KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES

KFC Coffee Morning: Saturday, 17th August, 10.00 am – 12 noon

You will be very welcome to drop in to **St Martin's Parish Centre** for a drink and a chat. There will be the usual selection of cakes and you'll also be able to do some shopping at the Traidcraft stall.

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

Christine Goodwin

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



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBAY CHURCH OF
SÄINT ÄLBÄN

Wednesday, 7th August at 11.00 am
Preacher: **The Very Rev'd Dr Jeffery John**
Dean, St Albans Cathedral

Wednesday, 11th September at 11.00 am
Preacher: **The Rev'd Canon Kevin Walton**
Canon Chancellor, St Albans Cathedral

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

METHODIST NEWS

Malcolm's Message

Dear Friends,

We heard good news this week. We became the proud grandparents of our first grandchild, Casper. As people do, we have shared the good news with all and sundry and in these days of smart phones and digital photographs we have been able to show lovely pictures of Casper.

What this has shown me again, is that people like to hear good news, to share in good news and be part of good news.

Nobody minded being told the good news and everyone was prepared to listen, and many people were asking about the news. Now that the news has had a chance to get around many people are approaching us and sharing congratulations. That is normal, and every day and it is how we are with everyone.

Whenever I have experiences like that I wonder and reflect on the Christian message. The word Gospel simply means good news. If the Christian message is good news, why do we have such anxiety about telling other people and why do we fear how people might react? Yet we do struggle to tell people about the beliefs we have, and we do fear how people might react.

What is good news today? To say our sins are forgiven may not mean very much to people - we are not really comfortable with language of blame and guilt, often we are not really concerned about right or wrong. Getting discovered is an issue. To tell people that our faith is about truth doesn't resonate with a lot of people - our politicians tend to tell us what we want to hear rather than tell us what might be true or not. Sadly, the whole Brexit debate over the last three years is a case in point.

We need to find different ways of sharing the stuff that is good news; good news is shared easily and responded to positively. We have to reflect on that which makes us feel good as we think about the life of faith and learn to share that, because the stuff that makes us feel good will be good news for others.

Wishing you every blessing

Malcolm

Helping to Lead Worship

There is good news of a Course for anyone interested in finding out more about helping to lead worship and what it involves. It will begin on Thursday, 3rd October and run for seven weeks. The venue is Christchurch and each session will begin at 7.30 pm. This should be of interest to anyone who would just like to 'dip their toe in the water', for stewards and others who are unsure how to lead a Local Arrangement service at their church and would like more guidance, and for others who are seeking whether they are being called to lead worship and eventually to preach. More details are available from Cath Edmonds catherine@ed2ed.net and Christine Warren christine.warren@ntlworld.com.

Christine Warren, on behalf of the Circuit Stewards

{The above items were reproduced from the July edition of the North Herts Circuit Newsletter}

Please send items for the September issue of Trinity Times to Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 22nd August:

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth
