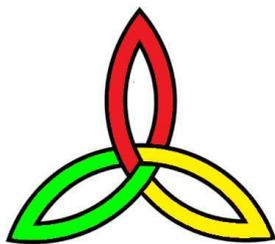


# Trinity Times



November 2019

Issue No 226

| <b>Diary for November</b>  |                                 |  |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Friday 1st   | 3.00 pm                         | DVD Afternoon "Enid"   |
| Saturday 2nd   | 10.00 am                        | Knebworth Family of Churches AGM at Trinity  |
| Sunday 3rd   | 10.30 am<br>5.30 pm             | Team Worship led by Maureen Bodden<br>Evening Worship led by Christine Warren, including Service of Holy Communion                       |
| Monday 4th   | 7.30 pm                         | "Patagonia" – a slide show presented by Liz and Colin Stringer   |
| Saturday 9th   | 9.00 am                         | Christian Aid Big Brekkie at Trinity   |
| Sunday 10th  | 10.30 am<br>12.00 pm<br>5.30 pm | Remembrance Service led by Jackie Hall, including Service of Holy Communion<br>Social Sunday Lunch<br>Evening Worship led by Paul Burgin |
| Wednesday 13th   | 7.30 pm                         | Elders Meeting   |
| Saturday 16th  | 10.00 am                        | KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre  |
| Sunday 17th  | 10.30 am<br>5.30 pm             | Morning Worship led by Jennifer Rogers<br>Evening Worship led by Rev'd Graham Claydon-Knights  |
| Wednesday 20th   | 2.30 pm                         | Social Committee Meeting at Kate Dickinson's   |
| Sunday 24th  | 10.30 am<br>5.30 pm             | Morning Worship at St Paul's ( <b>No Service at Trinity</b> )<br>Evening Worship led by Jennifer Rogers                                  |
| <b>Diary for December</b>  |                                 |  |
| Sunday 1st   | 10.30 am<br>5.30 pm             | Team Worship led by Rosie Berry, including Toy Service<br>KFC Advent Service at Trinity, led by KFC Team                                 |
| Friday 6th   | 3.30 pm                         | Trinity Tea and Chat   |
| Sunday 8th   | 10.30 am<br>5.30 pm             | Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson, including Service of Holy Communion<br>Evening Worship; TBA                                       |
| <p><b>Meeting Point</b> meets on Thursdays: 10.30 am. See below for venues during November<br/> <b>Time for Prayer</b> is held in the Vestry on Friday mornings from 9.30 – 10.00 a.m.<br/> <b>Youth Club Meetings</b> 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: Position vacant**

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

Church Website: [www.trinitychurchknebworth.org.uk](http://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

Have you ever been to a formal Trinity Church Meeting? I hadn't until I went along to the recent one. It was an interesting experience – not at all painful – and I learnt quite a bit about some aspects of the church that don't get aired in other quarters (such as Trinity Times!). In fact, as editor of this newsletter, I was able to pick up on a few items that might make interesting reading in future issues. Watch this space!

*Graham Fothergill*

## FAMILY NEWS

As members of Trinity we continue to seek ways to be alert and sensitive to times when others (within and beyond our fellowship) may need support that we can offer. We each have a place in the pastoral care of our church community and I welcome any suggestions of areas in which we might develop how it works, especially during the time when we are living without our own Minister. Please speak with me or one of the Pastoral Care Team with any concerns you have.

I am pleased to report that Hans Meister has recently moved to Wymondley Care Home where he seems very comfortable and has a determination to improve his mobility through continuing physiotherapy. Hans is always appreciative of people calling in to see him.

*Gill Hughes*

## MARION THE ENCOURAGER!

(Memories of Marion Bennett)

Marion has been a member at Trinity for some 20 years and over that time has left many in that church community with lively memories of her. One word seems to encapsulate the thoughts many have of her, and that word is '**encourager**'.

So **she encouraged individuals to pray**, and many of us can picture her with Rosie or Ruth lighting the candle at the end of an evening service and inviting others to come and pray with them if they had any particular concern or need they wished to take to the Lord in prayer. The Friday prayer meeting was a regular slot on her weekly activities, until infirmity made it hard for her to get there for an early start.

**She encouraged young and old to learn more about the Bible** and the Christian Faith, helping for a number of years with Good Egg Club. She was always learning, and one of her favourite phrases, I remember her frequently uttering, was '**That is/was very interesting!**'

**She encouraged folk across the circuit** when she led services and is remembered with fondness in places like Benington and St. Paul's

**She encouraged visitors and potential members** by her warm welcome and winsome smile. She encouraged them to become part of the fellowship and to attend church events such as Meeting Point, where she was always a voice of encouragement. And not a few became fully integrated into the life of Trinity very largely due to Marion's friendship and encouragement.

As an Elder, **Marion encouraged the church** to think actively about embracing change and new initiatives. Marion was very committed to the ecumenical movement so, for example, she met for 13 years in an ecumenical house group, **and there encouraged members to reflect and pray and to read the Bible**, a habit she had inherited from her mother, who daily read from the scriptures. In addition, members of the Meditation Group, led by Peter Glenn at St Thomas More, greatly appreciated Marion's presence in the group. Members of the KFC remember Marion's commitment to that ecumenical group, for she served on the worship planning group, and encouraged others to attend and support KFC events.

**She encouraged people to give**, by her own open generosity, to the food bank, to charities of all kinds.

Many outside the church will, I am sure have lovely memories of Marion at such places as the surgery, Caffé Vero, the chemists, the Co-op and Village News - where she is remembered as a lovely lady with a warm smile, whatever the weather; and she could frequently be seen smiling and cheerful, even when standing waiting on the draughty platform at the station, for a train that sometimes was late and at other times never arrived!

Or, others would have seen her walking down to the paper shop or to the café or toiling back up the hill. I remember one day seeing her walking up with bags and a young man came up behind her and took one of the bags - he lived in her flats and offered his help to her in such a kindly manner. She brought the best out of others because the best was in her.

**The best**, stemmed from her sincere and active commitment to following, and serving her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank you Marion for all your encouragement in, so many ways, to so many people; our memories of you will linger long in our minds and our love for you in our hearts.

*John Whittle*

## PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

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

This year has been full of ups and downs for me, as I am sure it has been for all of you. As we come into this Advent season my mind turns to family, both near and far, blood relations and not. I don't have childhood memories of Advent, vague memories of Advent services as a teenager being asked to read at the traditional lesson and carols service, practising in a large church and being told to talk to the organ pipes then all will hear you!

Advent is also a time when many hospices hold their annual 'Tree of Light' service. These services are so very special for the families and workers to remember those who have passed; I attended my first when my father passed away. I remember the service as a place of true calm, where you could cry and no one looked at you, speak or be quiet, take part or sit out, whoever you were you were welcome to be there and welcomed as a member of a very large family.

Sometimes we all need to be reminded that we belong to the large worldwide family of Christians, who all, at this time, remember the gift that was given by our Father, his Son. He brought light into the world and was destined for great things in his life, but I think so are we; as Christians we touch a lot of people's lives and we will not realise it. This has really come home to me recently with so many people passing on at Trinity, and realising how much their lives had touched mine, how much support they had given, how much a part of my journey they had been. When I moved to Knebworth in 2012 I felt alone, but now, in 2019, I feel more enfolded in a family's love than ever before. With my Trinity Family I feel strengthened to move along my faith journey and be guided along its path.

Friends of faith with every step  
As I walk along  
My path, keeping me  
In touch with our  
Lord Jesus Christ  
Year after year.

*Rebecca Amy, Trinity Church Secretary*

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Mum and I have been in discussion and wondered if the congregation would be interested in buying a silk white rose in memory of someone, to be used in the Christmas flower display, and then once the festive flowers are taken down you can have your rose to keep? In our previous church they would do a display just for one Sunday during Advent and again at Easter, where you purchased a single real bloom; however we thought you might like the opportunity to keep your bloom. If you think this is something you would like to do, then speak to mum or myself after church any Sunday or phone (Becky on 07908 288037, Patricia on 01438 213699) or email ([becca78radders@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:becca78radders@yahoo.co.uk)). The cost will be just £3.00 per rose.

## MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

### Charity of the Month - November

For the last few years, Trinity has supported the Tariro project in Kadoma, Zimbabwe, building and improving facilities for the orphanage there, work which has now been completed. Kadoma is twinned with Stevenage, and the Stevenage-Kadoma Link Association is running a scheme to support children by helping with school fees. The Church Meeting in October agreed to support this scheme for the month of November. Further information will be on the Mission News notice board in November.

*Maureen Bodden*

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## You're invited to join our BIG Brekkie

**Want to change the world over breakfast?**

Then come and fill up at our BIG Brekkie  
We'll be serving up a delicious hot breakfast,  
and raising money towards the current  
Christian Aid Appeal

**Where? Trinity Church, Park Lane, Knebworth SG3 6PD**

**When? Saturday, 9th November 2019**

**When? 9.00 am – 10.30 am**

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### One World Week

Some 50 people attended the KFC Service at Trinity on Sunday, 20th October, to mark One World Week, with the topic of Climate Change running through the Service. Just over £160 was raised for the Charity, Green Christian.

*Maureen Bodden and John Whittle*

## **Christian Aid Coffee Morning**

The Coffee morning held at the Parish Centre on Saturday, 19th October, raised a total of £247 for Christian Aid. Thanks to all who helped to prepare for the day and those who attended.

*John Whittle*

## **Christian Aid Quiz**

Many thanks to all who participated in this year's quiz. I hope that you enjoyed trying to solve the clues and look forward to challenging you again next year. The maximum that you could have scored this year was 98, as I had to scratch two questions for various reasons. THREE people solved all clues correctly which, in theory, should have meant that I had to decide between three cryptic clues for DJIBOUTI. Unfortunately, one of the entrants had not completed this section which left me a straight choice between two. I am delighted, therefore, to announce that the winner is Gill Bunker from Milton Keynes, who submitted what is, I think, a very neat clue:

*Agitated, outbid, Jim loses a thousand*

Many thanks, again, for helping to raise funds for Christian Aid.

*Colin Stringer*

## **Action for Children**

**The Pines in Hertford** is a purpose-built single-storey facility run by Action for Children which provides short breaks for young people. There are six large single bedrooms, a lounge, soft play-room, chill out room, large sensory room, toy room, kitchen and dining room, along with an enclosed garden with various pieces of outdoor play equipment. It can support up to six young people at one time between 5 and 18 years of age.

On **Sunday, 1st December at 10.30 am**, we will be holding a **Gift/Toy Service**, the proceeds of which will go to **The Pines**. We would value your attendance and support with gifts suitable for teenagers, who are much younger than their years, and so toys for younger children are most suitable, such as musical toys, sensory toys, large puzzles etc. Hope to see you there!

Also, there are charity boxes in local Tesco supermarkets into which customers place tokens in support of different charities. For the next couple of months, up to the end of December, the first box is for support for Action for Children, so please place your token in that box when you patronise the supermarket.

*John Whittle*

## **Charity of the Month – October; The Haven**

Thanks to all who contributed gifts for the Haven in Stevenage at our Harvest Service on Sunday, 13th October. We duly delivered these gifts when Richard and I called on the Monday after the service. They were much appreciated.

*Hilary Dyster*

## Food Waste; A Reflection - Farming Community Network (FCN)

"God, whose farm is all creation,  
Take the gratitude we give...." (John Arlott)

Food waste has become a well-documented concern in our time. Recently I have "eaten out" more frequently than usual, and have often noticed plates being returned to the kitchen with large amounts of leftovers headed for the bins. Side salads are edible, but many do not seem to think so! Long gone are the days when this waste would have found its way back through the food chain as pig swill! And in homes across the UK, how much waste results from "Buy one, get one free" promotions which tempt people to purchase beyond their needs? A population with access to food in abundance soon becomes complacent about its supply and quality. I have been surprised to note how even some users of food banks are picky about what they will and will not use, seemingly preferring ready meals to basic healthy ingredients. This poses questions about the lack in recent decades of a fundamental appreciation of, and skill in, preparing food. It is ironic that this is the case when TV cookery programmes and sales of cookbooks are at an all-time high! In this, as in so many other ways, we are a divided nation.

Alongside all this, for an increasing number of people, the perceived sustainability of food production systems is something which determines their choices. The vegan lobby, and others clamouring to reduce meat consumption to combat climate change, ignore the evidence that grass-fed lamb and beef from the uplands is one of the healthiest and most carbon-friendly components of a balanced diet. (See <https://www.thescottishfarmer.co.uk/news/17794768.scotland-39-s-grass-fed-livestock-carbon-neutral/>)

For Christians, many of whom pray regularly, "Give us today our daily bread", food is of much more significance than just filling belly space. It is evidence of a good God who has provided a good Creation for the benefit of all. It is an acknowledged fact that - for now at least - the earth has the capacity to feed its entire population - it is the greed, distortion and exploitation caused by the human species which prevents that being reality. Wendell Berry, the American farmer / poet / novelist / philosopher wrote, "To live, we must daily break the body and shed the blood of Creation. When we do this knowingly, lovingly, skilfully, reverently, it is a sacrament. When we do it ignorantly, greedily, clumsily, destructively, it is a desecration".

By this understanding, life is a gift, food is a sacrament. Farmers are in partnership with God in nurturing that which sustains life. Then, in order for us to be fed, something must die - this is true whether we are vegetarian or omnivore. The act of eating thus becomes symbolic of the self-giving of God in his son Jesus Christ, whose broken body and shed blood are commemorated in the Lord's Supper or Eucharist.

Holy things indeed. So take care how you eat.

## **PRAYER:**

*Generous God, once again you have blessed us with the gifts of harvest - from the fens and the hills, from the glasshouses and the sea. Thank you for the variety of your creative provision.*

*May all who work with You to produce this harvest do so with love, skill and reverence. And may all of us who enjoy its abundance do so with gratitude. May our eating thus become a means of grace, drawing us closer to Yourself, through Jesus Christ whose body was broken and whose blood was shed in order to make us whole. Amen.*

*An FCN Volunteer  
{From John Whittle}*

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## **DIARY INFORMATION**

### **One Truth Youth**

One Truth Youth started again on Sunday, 6th October, and it was good to welcome Sophie and Beth to the group. The members worked together to come up with some group guidelines which included: respect each other, no long words and, my favourite, no mobile phones! They also came up with a list of topics to discuss including bullying, self-image, our carbon footprint, recycling and poverty. Each issue will be discussed in one session and then the following session will involve a practical project. For example, after talking about poverty and the use of food banks, the members will be given a list of items in a food bank parcel and asked to come up with a menu for the week.

One Truth Youth would also like to raise some money for charity so we are going to have a 'Charity of the Year'. Those that want to will 'pitch' a charity of their choice to the group and we will then all vote on which charity we wish to adopt.

Over the next few meetings, we will be putting together a Christmas tree for the Christmas Tree Festival in Letchworth in December. It has been decided to make this from recycled objects so please could you let us have the following, if you have any:

- Sheet music
- Metal bottle caps
- Corks
- Toilet rolls
- Sweet wrappers - Roses and Quality Street
- Odd bits of wool and ribbon

Also, if there are volunteers to perhaps help with a session once or twice a term, please let me know. We meet on the first and third Sunday of each month between 7.00 pm and 9.00 pm.

Thanks

*Kate Dickinson*

## Meeting Point; Thursdays, 10.30 am – 12 noon

The dates for the coming month are as follows:

Thursday, 7th November at Hilary's (8 St Martin's Road)  
Thursday, 14th November at Hilary's  
Thursday, 21st November at Hilary's  
Thursday, 28th November at Kate's (53 Meadway)

*Hilary Dyster*

## SOCIAL NEWS AND EVENTS

### News from the Social Committee

The tea and chat afternoons continue usually on the first Friday of the month although the next one is not until **6th December**. For further details, please contact Kate on (01438) 225399.

There is a DVD afternoon on **Friday, 1st November** at 3.00 pm. The film is "Enid" which is described as a surprising and illuminating drama about the life of the children's storyteller, Enid Blyton; it stars Helena Bonham Carter in the leading role. A further DVD afternoon will be held on **Friday, 21st February 2020**.

Colin and Liz Stringer will present a slide show about their Patagonia trip on **Monday, 4th November** at 7.30 pm. Proceeds in aid of the National Brain Appeal, a charity that has been very helpful to Kate. (*See poster on Page 12*)

The Christmas lunch will be on **Sunday, 8th December**, a week later than usual due to another hall booking. It will take the usual format, a traditional lunch, with all the trimmings. A donation of £5.00 per person is suggested.

A St George's Night celebration is planned for **Saturday, 25th April 2020**; food will be served and there will be some form of entertainment.

The next Social Committee Meeting, to plan for December onwards, is on **Wednesday, 20th November** at 2.30 pm at Kate's home. All are welcome, new ideas needed please!

*Kathy Cole*

## KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES

**Knebworth Family of Churches AGM: Saturday, 2nd November at Trinity**  
**Refreshments from 10.00 am; AGM commences 10.45 am**

This year, there will be no guest speaker, which will allow more time to review the events of the last year and consider how we move forward in the forthcoming year. If you have any thoughts or suggestions and cannot get to the meeting, please feel free to get in touch with me beforehand.

**KFC Coffee Morning: Saturday, 16th November, 10.00 am – 12 noon: Parish Centre**

Come and meet up for a chat over a drink and some cake – there is always a wonderful selection. There's also the chance to do some shopping at the Traidcraft stall.

*I shall be stepping down as Secretary of the Knebworth Family of Churches at the AGM, so it will fall to others to keep you informed about KFC activities. However, I hope to see many of you at our ecumenical fellowship and worship in the future.*

If you would like any more information, you can contact me on [christine.goodwin51@btinternet.com](mailto:christine.goodwin51@btinternet.com) or 01438 365918.

Christine Goodwin

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



THE CATHEDRAL AND  
ABBEY CHURCH OF  
SAINT ALBAN

**Wednesday, 6th November at 11.00 am**

Preacher: **The Rev'd Gareth Garland**

Minister of High Street, Rickmansworth Baptist Church

**Wednesday, 4th December at 11.00 am**

Preacher: **The Rev'd Meryl Court**

Minister of the United Reformed Church, North Thames Synod

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

*Christmas is nearly upon us - yes really! - and so it is time to start making arrangements for the distribution of the tickets for the Cathedral Carols Services on 20th and 22nd December. I will have these available - four per household - at the next Free Church Service on Wednesday, 6th November.*

*If you will not be at this service and would like tickets, please send me a stamped addressed envelope and I will send these to you. **I will need to have your request by 20th November as surplus tickets will go back into the public ballot.***

**Please note: there will be NO tickets available at the December Free Church Service.**

Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain: Reverend Simon Carver,  
Email: [simoncarver@btinternet.com](mailto:simoncarver@btinternet.com)

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## **METHODIST NEWS**

### **Malcolm's Message**

Dear Friends,

At this time of year, we celebrate harvest; it is good to remember that God provides for us and meets our needs. At harvest it is sometimes good to be challenged by the need for fairness and justice - it is not acceptable that people should be starving to death, either in our own nation or in other countries, simple humanitarian compassion should underline that for us.

Harvest though is also a time when we remember that we reap what we sow. It is such a simple thing to remember and also to reflect on - we reap what we sow.

As a social worker, I worked with young people in care, many of whom were coming from abusive and broken families. Reading the histories of these young people it was apparent that the parents who were abusing them, and the parents who couldn't keep relationships going, were often victims themselves of similar behavior. We have a number of cliches which reflect this understanding - the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, you reap what you sow, to quote some of them.

In the past week I have seen appalling behaviour from within the House of Commons. We have the Prime Minister making apologies to the Queen regarding his misleading of her - as determined by the Supreme Court. If the group of people who are elected to be leaders of our nation behave in such a manner, using language that is misleading and aggressive, dismissive of character and genuine concerns expressed by others; where people talk of a climate of fear, then we have to ask what will we see in our streets?

Also, whether we like it or not, every Christian who makes a profession of their faith - in the words they use, in the things they do, they represent Christ to those who do not share faith. In the broadest sense, if people ask the question, 'What is Jesus like?', the answer is look at those who believe.

Likewise everyone who aspires to leadership is a representative person and in their living and conduct embodies the values which they say are important for society. Do we want a society which values truth and fidelity? Then our leaders have to model honesty and faithfulness in the way they live. Do we want a society which is safe and inclusive? Then our leaders must not be bullies and contemptuous of those who do not think or look like they do. It is not enough to be told, 'Look at my policies, but take no notice of how I communicate those policies or even how I choose to live'; those who hold public office need to embody their core values and their core policies.

When we see leadership embodied in such a way we will see changes in society. When our leaders behave like children in a school playground, then that is the sort of behaviour we will see in society - we reap what we sow. When our leaders represent what is best and richest in their behaviour, that is what we will see in society - we reap what we sow. To reap tolerance, we must be tolerant; to reap fairness we must be fair.

Regardless of position or party, we must hold our elected leaders to account - that they model in their conduct the best of our society, in troubled days that is the least we can do as we make our own faith a reality.

Malcolm

*{The above item was reproduced from the October edition of the North Herts Circuit Newsletter}*



## **Patagonia**

**A land of glaciers, lakes, rivers, waterfalls and volcanoes**

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**Monday 4 November**  
**Prompt start at 19:30**  
**Trinity Church, Park Lane, Knebworth**

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Colin and Liz Stringer will talk about their trip to Chile and Argentina earlier this year; the talk will be accompanied by photographs of their travels.

Refreshments will be provided in the interval. There is no need to book and there is no charge for the event; there will be a collection at the end of the evening to raise funds for the National Brain Appeal, a charity that raises funds to advance treatment and research at The National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery and the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology – together known as 'Queen Square'.

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***Please send items for the December issue of Trinity Times to Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 21st November:***

***E-mail [gafothergill@gmail.com](mailto:gafothergill@gmail.com)***

***Telephone 01438 813371***

***or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth***