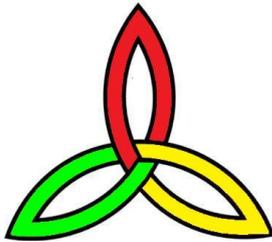


Trinity Times

December
2019

Issue No 227



Diary for December		
Friday 6th	3.30 pm	Trinity Tea and Chat
Sunday 8th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson, including Service of Holy Communion
	12.00 pm	Christmas Lunch
	5.30 pm	Evening Worship led by Chris Jones
Sunday 15th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Rev'd Graham Claydon-Knights
	5.30 pm	Evening Worship led by Rev'd Malcolm Peacock
	7.00 pm	One Truth Youth
Thursday 19th	6.15 pm	KFC Carol Singing around Knebworth
Saturday 21st	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 22nd		No Morning Service
	4.00 pm	Family Service of Lessons and Carols
Tuesday 24th	11.30 pm	Christmas Eve Communion led by Jackie Hall
Wednesday 25th	10.30 am	Christmas Day Family Service led by Kate Dickinson
Sunday 29th	10.45 am	Joint Morning Worship with Stevenage URC at Cutty's Lane
		No Evening Service
<p>Meeting Point meets on Thursdays: 10.30 am. See below for venues during December. Time for Prayer is held in the Vestry on Friday mornings from 9.30 – 10.00 am, except 27th December. 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: Position Vacant

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

Diary for January 2020		
Sunday 5th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Team Worship led by Gill Hughes KFC Epiphany Service at St Thomas More led by the KFC Team
Wednesday 8th	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting
Sunday 12th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Morning Worship led by Rev'd John Whittle, including Holy Communion and Covenant Service Evening Worship led by Graham Claydon-Knights
Saturday 18th	9.00 am 10.00 am	Men's Breakfast KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 19th	10.30 am 12.30 pm 5.30 pm	Morning Worship led by Sarah Peacock Come As You Are KFC United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St Martin's Church, led by the KFC Team
Monday 20th to Friday 24th	12.00 pm	Midday Prayers for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 26th	10.30 am 12.00 pm 5.30 pm	Morning Worship led by Rev'd John Steele Social Sunday Lunch KFC Holocaust Memorial Day Service at Trinity, led by Rev'd John Whittle and Christine Goodwin
Diary for February 2020		
Sunday 2nd	10.30 am 5.30pm	Team Worship led by Kathy Cole Evening Worship led by Peter Rogers
Wednesday 5th	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting
Sunday 10th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Morning Worship led by Jackie Hall, including Service of Holy Communion Evening Worship led by Rev'd Graham Claydon-Knights
<p>Meeting Point meets on Thursdays: 10.30 am. 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>		

*Please send items for the February issue of Trinity Times to
Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 23rd January*

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

As in previous years, this final Trinity Times for 2019 is a double issue covering both December 2019 and January 2020. The reason for this is that our friends at Triographics will be taking a well-earned holiday over the Christmas and New Year period and will not be back at their printing machines until early January. Many thanks to our usual contributors for ensuring that their reports or articles will carry us into the New Year.

Notwithstanding, may I perhaps be among the first to wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Graham Fothergill

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

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

Passion for Perfection

Have you found the perfect Christmas gift for each member of your family and friends? The advertisements urge you to buy this or that product, assuring you it is perfect gift - whether it is perfume, clothes, jewellery or toys for the children. And we seem to have a **craving for perfection**, driven in part by what we see on television, in films and, perhaps, most significantly for many, what they view on social media. For there people display their perfect bodies, homes, gardens, children, meals etc. etc.!

But, surely, perfection, like beauty, is, so often, in the eye of the beholder, which in turn, is determined by our home background and the surrounding culture. For example, to me, a man with a jacket on needs a tie, or even a cravat, but NOT an open neck shirt! That reveals my age and my home background!

Back to the first Christmas, when the perfect gift was given to the human race in the form of a child, in whom all of God that could be contained in a human person, was to be found. The embodiment of divine love later supremely displayed in the cross and its vindication at the Resurrection.

Christina Rossetti captures the true significance of Christmas in her carol:

'Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.
Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and all the world, love for plea and gift and sign.'

And it came not wrapped in the glitter of earthly pomp but in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Or as Charles Wesley expressed it:

'He laid his glory by, he wrapped him in our clay;
Our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man.'

Have a wonderful Christmas even if your presents turn out to be less than perfect, remember it's the thought that counts!

Rev'd John Whittle

CHARITY AND MISSION NEWS

Action for Children

This is our Outreach project for December. Action for Children is the UK's leading children's charity, working with over 50,000 vulnerable and neglected children.

They are there for:

- those whose families need support
- those who cannot live with their birth families
- those who are disabled
- those who are experiencing severe difficulties in their lives.

The collections at the Carol Service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services will go to this charity, as well as the usual coffee money. Please see the notice board for information about Action for Children.

Christmas Cards



Once again you will have the opportunity to send a greeting to Trinity friends and family, by writing your message on a cardboard "bauble" and pinning it on the "tree" in the foyer. You are invited to donate some of the money that Christmas cards would have cost and this will then go to Action for Children. This charity, formerly 'National Children's Homes', works with over 50,000 children and young people of all ages.

Food Bank

Christmas Food Appeal



Stevenage Community Food Bank has been set up to provide a safety net for Stevenage & Knebworth residents who find themselves in sudden financial crisis - for example: redundancy, benefit change or delay in benefit award or unexpected financial crisis meaning they are unable to put food on the table

The Food Bank provides nutritious food for a short period of time, so to support families in crisis.

I can't begin to imagine being a parent with little or no money for the cost of Christmas. So the Stevenage Community Foodbank has launched its annual Christmas Appeal to make Christmas a little less stressful for those families and people facing food poverty over the festive period.

We are appealing for festive and/or stock cupboard donations.

Thank You for your time and donation.

National Brain Appeal

On Tuesday, 5th November, Colin Stringer gave a slide presentation showing the landscape and flora and fauna from a recent holiday that he and Liz had taken in Patagonia. The evening was dedicated to raising funds for the National Brain Appeal, a charity that supports advances in treatment and research at The National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery and the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology – together known as 'Queen Square'.

Donations from the evening raised a total of £195 and Kate, who has benefitted greatly from treatment at Queen Square, gave the following vote of thanks.

Thank you to Colin and Liz for a very interesting talk and for offering to support the National Brain Appeal, a charity close to my heart and also my head!

The National Brain Appeal is the charity that raises funds for the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in Queen Square, London.

I have been a patient at the National since 2005 and am treated for chronic daily migraine and two very rare forms of headache. When I first attended the hospital I spent most of my time in bed in a darkened room in constant pain. My condition has been very difficult to manage and I have spent the equivalent of a year of my life having treatment at the National.

After a fight for funding, I received an occipital nerve stimulator or ONS in 2011. This is where impulses from a battery in the chest are sent via wires linked to the occipital nerves at the back of the head in order to try and confuse the pain signals. Although not cured, the ONS along with multiple injections of anaesthetic into my head every eight weeks, have made the condition easier to live with. However, an ONS is susceptible to failure and I am currently waiting to have my fourth surgery, when the whole unit will be replaced.

Over the years I have seen an awful lot of changes at the National and many have been funded by the Brain Appeal. All the wards have been refurbished and many moved around, in fact there have been a number of times when I have gone to my usual ward only to find that it has moved somewhere else. These moves have allowed for specialist wards to be built for those with brain tumours, those with neuromuscular conditions and, just recently, a high dependency unit for those recovering from strokes.

There is now a brand new theatre area. I can remember when I had my first operation, having to wait in what I could only describe as a cupboard with a couple of wooden chairs and an outdated copy of the Metro. Now there is a large waiting room with comfy chairs and magazines, although you do still find the odd one from a few years ago. The only downside is that the new theatre area is above the canteen and you can smell the food, especially the chips, which is not ideal when you have not eaten for hours. As well as a waiting area, there is now a new recovery area meaning you don't come round from your operation in a corridor.

The hospital is seen, for many, as the last point of help, as patients are often referred after their local hospital has run out of options to help them. However, again thanks to funding, research is taking place looking into conditions such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and vascular dementia. New techniques for rehabilitation are also being developed using the latest technology. For example, people are re-learning how to use their arms after a stroke or brain injury, using virtual reality software.

You may think that a hospital that deals with people with life-changing and life-limiting conditions is a rather depressing place, but the National is not like that. Patients seem to share a common bond and, for me, going for treatment every eight weeks is also a chance to socialise. It is a place where achievements, however small, are celebrated. I will never forget the moment, as an inpatient, seeing a young lady who had had a severe brain haemorrhage take her first steps on the ward unaided - we all cheered and congratulated her.

Staff turnover is not as high as it is elsewhere. A number of staff, including my neurologist, neurosurgeon and specialist nurses, have been there since I first came in 2005 and I think that having such a good environment to work in with the latest equipment must help.

During my 14 years at the National, I have seen just how people have benefitted from resources that have been funded by the National Brain Appeal. I know for certain that I would not be here today without the care and treatment I have received. I don't want to sound like a television appeal, but any money raised tonight will certainly be put to good use.

Kate Dickinson

Crisis

At the recent afternoon tea to celebrate her 70th birthday, Rosie asked that instead of presents, she would welcome donations for the charity "Crisis". As a result of this, she raised the magnificent sum of more than £500. She sends her heartfelt thanks to all who donated to such a worthy cause.

The Editor

Soup & Cheese Lunch in support of Trinity's January Mission Outreach project (Samaritans) on Thursday, 23rd January 2020

We are rapidly approaching a new calendar year so it is time to give advance notice that we plan to hold our traditional Soup Lunch event on Thursday, 23rd January 2020. Our home will be open from 12 noon until about 2.00 pm for a time of warmth and fellowship, food and chat, with the usual varieties of home-made soup, plus rolls and cheese, followed by fruit and cake, tea and coffee. Tickets will be available in the New Year. This event is free from charge, but if you are able to make a donation on the day in support of the Samaritans of North Herts and Stevenage it will be greatly appreciated by the local branch, which is staffed completely by volunteers, and relies on fundraising to maintain the premises and the round-the-clock work. As well as the usual mix of food and friendship there will be the opportunity to visit Gill Atkinson's legendary "Bring & Buy Department Store" - with all her takings also supporting Samaritans.

Do put the date in your diary, and see me in January for tickets. All are welcome at this event, feel free to invite or bring friends, but tickets do give us some clue for catering numbers and whether we might need to put a time restriction on some of the seats!

Calls to Samaritans are free and provide confidential emotional support without judgement. For more information on the organisation, and how to contact them, see www.samaritans.org

Gill and Brian Hughes

DIARY INFORMATION AND NEWS ITEMS

Meeting Point

There will be just three meetings of this group during December, but with a change of day for one of them:

- Thursday, 5th December at Kate's (53 Meadway)
- **Friday, 13th December** at Hilary's (8 St Martin's Road)
- Thursday, 19th December at Hilary's
-

Hilary Dyster

Trinity Traditional Christmas Lunch

This festive event is to be held on **Sunday, 8th December**, after the Morning Service. There will be a poster and a list on the notice board for people to sign so that we will have an indication of numbers. For further information please contact Kathy Cole.



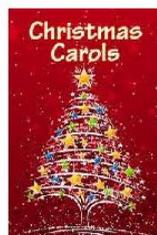
KFC Carol Singing

Come and join in!

*Knebworth Family of Churches
will be singing carols around Knebworth
on Thursday 19th December.*

*Meet at Deanscroft at 6.15pm or join us
at the station at 6.50pm*

Finishing at Constance Place



All are welcome

Refreshments at start (Deanscroft)



Midnight Service at Trinity

Please be aware that there are some changes to our Christmas Eve Midnight Service at Trinity. It's now "under new management"! It starts at 11.30 pm, to be led by Jackie Hall, and will include Holy Communion; it should last no more than 30 to 40 minutes in total.

Knebworth Family of Churches

United Epiphany Service



5.30pm Sunday, 5th January 2020

at St Thomas More Church, Knebworth

Men's Breakfast – Saturday, 18th January



**“Start the day”
Gentlemen’s Breakfast**

*Join together for a wholly social gathering
discussing the day’s main topics between mouthfuls.*

**Starts 9 a.m. Saturday 18th January 2020
at Trinity Church, Park Lane, Knebworth**

*Please let Graham Fothergill or Peter Bodden
know in advance.*

**Tel: 01438 813371 or 01438 811949 respectively –
if you want to attend AND eat!**

KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES (KFC)



THE KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES DECEMBER AND JANUARY EVENTS

Carol Singing in the Village

Thursday, 19th December

An opportunity to join in some favourite carols or just come along to listen. We'll be at Deanscroft at 6.15 pm, then at Knebworth Station at 6.50 pm and finishing at Constance Place.

Coffee Morning

Saturday, 21st December, 10.00 am – 12 noon at the Parish Centre

Why not take some time out from the pre-Christmas rush and come along for a drink and some cake and a chat? You will still be able to do some shopping at the Traidcraft stall.

Epiphany Service

Sunday, 5th January at 5.30 pm at St Thomas More, led by the KFC Team

The Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the world and is the time when we remember the visit of the wise men to Jesus.

United Service for Christian Unity

Sunday, 19th January at 5.30 pm at St Martin's Church, led by the KFC Team

Prayers for Christian Unity

Monday, 20th January to Friday, 24th January

Midday Prayers in the Committee Room at St Martin's Parish Centre

Holocaust Memorial Service

Sunday, 26th January at 5.30 pm at Trinity Church, led by Rev'd John Whittle and Christine Goodwin

Holocaust Memorial Day, on 27th January, is particularly significant this year because it marks the 25th Anniversary of the Bosnia Genocide and the 75th Anniversary of liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

If you would like any more information, you can contact me on johnwhittle@cleworth.plus.com or on 1438 813517

John Whittle
Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches

SOCIAL NEWS

Christmas decorations will be put up in the church on Friday, 6th December, prior to the Christmas Lunch on **Sunday, 8th December**, which follows the Morning Service.

There will be a DVD afternoon on **Friday, 21nd February**, followed by refreshments. At this stage, there are no details of the film that will be shown.

On **Sunday, 29th March**, One Truth Youth will be hosting a meal and service at Trinity in aid of the charity, Winston's Wish.

The St George's Night celebration is still on track for **Saturday, 25th April**, with entertainment and food during the evening.

Roast Lunches at Trinity

A while ago, I finally worked out two possible dates for a roast lunch at Trinity. I had intended to do this for quite some time, especially since we got the super new oven. The plan was to restrict numbers and give out tickets, so I would know how many to cater for.

In October, we had a great turn out, over 30 people; on the second occasion we had slightly fewer, mainly because the timing clashed with the Remembrance Service in Old Knebworth. However, we had a second serving for the folk who had been to the service.

I would like to thank all who helped in any way, too many to mention! Special thanks to Trussels butchers for the excellent meat, and to Lizzie for the apple crumble.

I would stress these lunches are for anyone in the community, young and old alike. Some food was taken to some housebound ladies, we also fed a young homeless chap who was very appreciative.

In December it is the Trinity family Christmas lunch, but the Social Committee, at their recent meeting, decided that the lunches will continue; the next one will be on Sunday, 26th January, and there will be further ones in February and March.

Kathy Cole

METHODIST CIRCUIT NEWS

Malcolm's Message

We have an election on the 12th December. I wonder what will become most annoying, endless Christmas ads or constant party-political broadcasts. We will be told by our politicians that there will be many issues at stake - healthcare, education, social care - all of the many issues that affect modern living. Yet I am sure that what we will talk about and what we will be persuaded to do is think about Brexit.

Why has Brexit taken so long to sort out, we have been caught up in the process for three years and it seems that all the nation has talked about is Brexit. There was a referendum and there was a result - a majority wanted to leave; not a huge majority but a majority. I wonder if the lack of progress has to do with the size of the majority. So, we now have a general election and it will feel like a "referendum, take two".

There is a deep sense of apathy around concerning Brexit and politics, there is a deep concern that people will not engage with an election because they are tired of the bickering and allegations of dishonesty across all parties. An election of low engagement and low turnout will not help our nation.

It is my belief that, as Christians, we have a duty to engage with the political process. I would say we have a duty to vote and make our opinions known. I don't think that Christians have to agree about political stances; I don't think that there is one political party that Christians 'ought' to belong to. I do believe that we have to engage, and we have to vote. For this election, I believe we have to encourage everyone to vote. It is only if we have a high turnout that we will have confidence in the process we are engaged in. We need that confidence to begin to bring healing to our nation. A clear mandate will allow there to be confidence in the direction of travel; with confidence in the direction of travel the need for extremism in views and extremism in the expression of views will diminish.

It is important that our nation is a place where people will be welcome and where people will feel safe when they live here. This has to involve every aspect of human life, including race, gender, and disability. We have to create a culture where diversity is welcomed and where people can hold differing views in safety without being victimised. This sense of inclusion is important because it reflects our understanding of the love of God.

So, as the election draws near, please don't switch off and say, "Nothing I do will make a difference". At the last local election, a young person voted for the first time. There was a tie in the ballot and after a toss of the coin the candidate who the young person had voted for was elected and changed the balance of power in the local constituency. One person made a difference. We can all make a difference but only if we vote and I believe that it is part of our faith in God that we should.

Malcolm

[This item has been reprinted from the November issue of the North Herts Methodist Circuit Newsletter (Ed.)]

Daffodil Day - Monday, 2nd March 2020

Dear Friends,

I have provisionally booked a coach for the Daffodil Day next year. I know it seems a long way off, but we are nearly into December and I need to confirm the coach in the first week of January. This is only nine weeks away!

So please try and encourage people to book early. We can still do it for £15 per head.

Picking up as usual: 10.00 Letchworth Central Methodist Church,
10.05 The pick-up for St Faiths
10.10 Hitchin Christchurch
10.20 Stevenage; at Matalan
10.30 Knebworth; London Road, near the junction with Watton Road

I am taking names, numbers and money as soon as possible.

Many thanks,

Margaret Noble



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

**You are invited to attend the Free Church Services
in The Lady Chapel at St Albans Cathedral on:**

Wednesday, 4th December at 11.00 am

Preacher: The Reverend Meryl Court

Minister of the United Reformed Church, North Thames Synod

Wednesday, 8th January at 11.00 am

Preacher: The Reverend Simon Carver

Senior Minister, Dagnall Street Baptist Church

Free Church Chaplain, 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

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2020

*“Don’t be content with your life, just to do no wrong, be prepared every day to try and do
some good.”*

Sir Nicholas Winton, who rescued 669 children from Nazi-occupied Europe

Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz –
this is a significant milestone and is made particularly significant by the dwindling number of
survivors who are able to share their testimony. It also marks the 25th anniversary of the
Genocide in Bosnia.

Each year, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust chooses a different theme to enable
audiences on Holocaust Memorial Day to learn something new about the Holocaust and
genocide. The theme for 2020 is “Stand Together”. It explores how genocidal regimes
throughout history have deliberately fractured societies by marginalising certain groups, and
how these tactics can be challenged by individuals standing together with their neighbours
and speaking out against oppression.

Today there is an increasing division in communities across the UK and the world. Now,
more than ever, we need to stand together with others in our communities in order to stop
division and the spread of identity-based hostility in our society. Everyone can take some
action to support others – by using our voices, presence, platform or influence.

{Quotes taken from the newsletter of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust – Ed.}

**Holocaust Memorial Day is on Monday, 27th January 2020. The Evening Service at
Trinity on Sunday, 26th January – shared with Knebworth Family of Churches – will
mark this important event.**