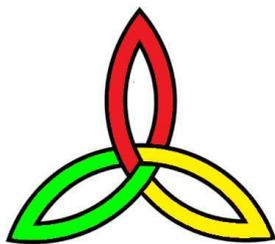


# Trinity Times



February 2020

Issue No 228

| <b>Diary for February</b>  |          |   |
|--|----------|---|
| Tuesday 4th  | 7.30 pm  | Elders Meeting  |
| Saturday 8th   | 10.00 am | Introduction to Report of Marriage and Relationships, at Trinity                  |
| Sunday 9th   | 10.30 am | Morning Worship led by Jackie Hall, including Service of Holy Communion           |
|  | 5.30 pm  | Evening Worship led by Rev'd Graham Claydon-Knights                               |
| Saturday 15th  | 10.00 am | KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre                                   |
| Sunday 16th  | 10.30 am | Informal Church Meeting led by Jennifer Rogers                                    |
|  | 12.00 pm | Come As You Are   |
|  | 5.30 pm  | Evening Worship led by Rev'd Malcolm Peacock                                      |
|  | 7.00 pm  | One Truth Youth   |
| Sunday 23rd  | 10.30 am | Morning Worship led by Cath Edmonds   |
|  | 5.30 pm  | Evening Worship led by Rev'd Chandrika Perera                                     |
| <b>Diary for March</b>   |          |   |
| Sunday 1st   | 10.30 am | Team Worship led by Maureen Bodden  |
|  | 12.30 pm | Christian Aid Frugal Lunch at Trinity   |
|  | 5.30 pm  | Evening Worship led by Rev'd Nancy Babarinde, including Service of Holy Communion |
|  | 7.00 pm  | One Truth Youth   |
| Wednesday, 4th   | 7.30 pm  | Elders Meeting  |
| Sunday 8th   | 10.30 am | Morning Worship; TBA  |
|  | 5.30 pm  | Evening Worship; TBA  |
| Saturday 14th  | 10.00 am | KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre                                   |
| Sunday 15th  | 10.30 am | Morning Worship at St Paul's ( <b>No Service at Trinity</b> )                     |
|  | 12.00 pm | Come As You Are   |
|  | 5.30 pm  | KFC Taize Service led by Christine Goodwin, at Trinity                            |
|  | 7.00 pm  | One Truth Youth   |
| <p><b>Meeting Point</b> meets on Thursdays: 10.30 am. See below for venues during February<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

The first issue of Trinity Times for 2020 and, in fact, for a new decade is full of interesting items and reports – thank you for all your contributions. But what I find to be significant is the number of different charities that the church supports. This is exemplified in the various short notes and reports on Pages 4 – 7 and then encapsulated in the final part of Chris’s report on Trinity Finances. Well done to everyone concerned – supporters, organisers and others; keep up the good work!

*Graham Fothergill*

## FAMILY NEWS

As we begin 2020, several members have been treated in hospital, are currently in hospital or are waiting to go in for planned treatment. As a church community we try to support each other in whatever ways are appropriate through prayer, pastoral support and helping with practical matters when needed. This is not always easy to do as well as we might hope when we are without a designated Minister, and sometimes we seem to be stretched for available members. My experience often reveals (with hindsight) that resources arrive from somewhere and anxiety was unnecessary. This is an example of when I feel challenged to be more trusting in how God responds to prayer.

Kate Dickinson had major neurological surgery in December, but unfortunately has had to return to the hospital in Queen Square where they are currently dealing with the setback of infection. Kate has spoken often of the amazing work they do (see her article in December Trinity Times) and she is currently once again on the receiving end of it.

Becky Amy expects to have surgery in February and will be off work for some weeks to recover.

Gill Atkinson is waiting for confirmation of timing for her renewed hip surgery, which will limit her activities for several weeks.

So we continue to pray for these and for others less publicly known, as we work together to encourage each other and witness God's love and care within our community.

We are always encouraged to have new people worshipping with us, as has happened over the last couple of weeks. We have some plans in the pipeline for at least one family baptism in coming months, so watch out for more detail so that we can help for it to be a significant time for the families.

*Gill Hughes*

## PARISH NEWS ARTICLES

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

Some people think of February as a depressing month - "February fill-dyke" as the old poem says. One bright spark in February is St Valentine's Day - but who was he? Some sources state he is the patron saint of lovers, epileptics and beekeepers, an interesting mix! A Roman priest who was martyred in the 3rd century, he was also a physician.

According to legend, he signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter whom he had befriended and healed from blindness. Another common legend states that he defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husband from war.

I have two favourite saints I call on when in need. St Anthony is the patron saint of lost things - useful when you mislay your keys or documents. St Jude is the patron saint of lost causes, effective in myriad situations. Once I have handed over the issue I can relax and think calmly, reducing my anxiety. I am sure this helps me focus on the solution. Perhaps this is an offshoot of mindfulness?

For those who like modern music, Florence and the Machine have a reflective song about St Jude. Its meaning has several levels including the storm of some months ago. You can hear it on [https://youtube/CSS7YY\\_mg4Q](https://youtube/CSS7YY_mg4Q)

Not sure about saints? You can always pray direct to our heavenly Father or to our Lord Jesus Christ. They are available 24/7, always ready to listen.

God bless

*Rosie Berry.*

*An Elder, Trinity Church*

Since there wasn't a January issue of Trinity Times, and for those readers who don't see a copy of the Parish News, here is Kathy Cole's article that appeared in the **January** edition of the Knebworth Parish News. (Ed.)

Happy New Year! You will have heard that a lot over the last few weeks. Did you make any New Year Resolutions? Have you kept them up?

When my younger son was small, he told me he was making New Year 'Revolutions'! Perhaps we should adopt his idea and turn ourselves round, look at life from a less jaundiced point of view, look at the positives rather than the negatives.

Sometimes it's easier to make a small change and stick to it rather than make a huge change which isn't sustainable. So this new year I challenge you to try something new, whether it be a different food, a new hobby, or reading that book you've always meant to read but never got round to.

If you have never visited Trinity church before, come along to one of our social events; we try and have an event each month, usually involving food at not too great a cost. Better still, try one of our informal café services, hot drinks and pastries, with papers to read if you don't feel like joining in.

All details are available on our website and in our monthly news sheet, there is a copy in the library.

Happy New Year!

*Kathy Cole (one of the Elders)*

## MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

### Soup Lunch in January

As I write this, we have just cleared up after our 10th annual soup lunch in support of the local Samaritan branch in Hitchin. I hope that the guests enjoyed this event as much as we always do... and although I don't yet know the amount raised, I am encouraged to believe it will be a very significant sum towards the running costs of this 24/7 support for anyone in emotional distress. Whatever that total turns out to be, I want to say a huge thank you to all who supported the event in any way. Gill Atkinson must get a special mention for the retail outlet she organises every year, which brings in a staggering amount. I am also deeply indebted to the informal team of a few who intuitively cover all the "keep things moving" roles – so the door gets answered, coats get hung up, people find a seat (usually!), soup gets served, food gets replenished, tea and coffee gets distributed, tables get cleared, and all I have to do is ladle out soup and put stuff back in the cupboards when you have all gone! Thank you – we could not run the day without all this help.

Over the years this event has evolved beyond Trinity members, and I was delighted to again see some first-timers this year, and to see them welcomed and included in the informality of "just" chatting and eating together. We should never underestimate the importance of spending time talking and listening. For those who were there, I remind you of Sarah Peacock's encouragement to tell our faith stories to each other, however insignificant we might feel they are.

**Stop Press** - The count at the Samaritan Branch has revealed a total of £921.43 from the Bring and Buy and total donations. What a very generous bunch of soup drinkers you all are! Although this does not go through Trinity Church Accounts, it is predominantly a Trinity-run event – thank you all!

*Gill and Brian Hughes*

### Charity of the Month for February – Bridge Builders



Bridge Builders Christian Trust works in partnership with primary school teachers, church leaders and many committed volunteers in Stevenage and the surrounding area to provide:

- opportunities for children to explore the Christian faith through [SCHOOLS' PROJECTS](#) such as assemblies and class work
- opportunities for class visits to local churches for themed events such as [THE EASTER JOURNEY](#) and [THE CHRISTMAS JOURNEY](#)

If you would like to find out more please do not hesitate to contact them at The Bridge Builders Resource Centre.

*Maureen Bodden*

## **One Truth Youth Meal in Aid of Winston's Wish**

On Sunday, 29th March, the members of One Truth Youth will be organising an evening meal to raise funds for their chosen charity, Winston's Wish, which supports bereaved children.

The main course will be served at 4.30 pm but guests are invited to arrive from 4.00 pm when appetisers will be available. Following the main course, there will be the opportunity for guests to join in Evening Worship which will be led by the members and leaders of One Truth Youth. Everyone, even if they did not have the main meal, is then invited to share in dessert.

The members of One Truth Youth will be planning, preparing, cooking and serving this meal and would really appreciate your support. Tickets for the main meal will soon be available and a list for those who would just like to join us for dessert will be on the noticeboard in the church foyer.

Everyone is welcome, not just those who attend church, although numbers for the main meal will be limited to 40. There is no set charge but there will be a plate for donations on the day.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible,

*Members and Leaders of One Truth Youth*

## **Sunday Club has been Spending Again!**

Yes, thanks to your support at another of our cake sales, we raised £136.65 for the charity 'All We Can' on 1st December!

Thank you for your generous donations – as usual, we enjoyed browsing through the charity's current catalogue. Water being the foundation of life, we chose to provide families in Zimbabwe with access to clean water and also with the support and training they need to build toilets and learn good hygiene practices, helping to protect themselves from deadly diseases!

Another gift will enable a teenage mother in Malawi to return to school and achieve her full potential, thereby improving her children's chances in life.

Some of us love pigs – so two vulnerable families in Uganda will each receive a piglet to start a small business, providing them with a reliable income.

We hope you approve of our choices!

*Leaders and Members of Sunday Club*

## **Carol Singing for Christian Aid**

Knebworth Christian Aid Committee is pleased to announce that the carol singing on 19th December raised the grand total of £110.

A big thank you to all the singers and to the donors at the railway station, at Deanscroft, at the British Legion and at Constance Place.

*John Whittle*

## Tanzania: One Dentist per 500,000 People

The trip to Shirati in the North-Eastern corner of Tanzania in early December was my thirteenth trip with Bridge2Aid, the dental charity, and it will not be my last as I am already scheduled to go out again this September.

The outbound journey this time to Mwanza, where the charity has its Tanzanian hub, was longer than usual (23 hours via Addis Ababa and Dar-es-Salaam) but, at least, by avoiding Nairobi, we did not suffer the issues of the previous year when our luggage arrived about ten hours after we did! Shirati is a small town near the Kenyan border, about five hours drive from Mwanza and we were billeted in a small but comfortable hotel which looked after us very well for the ten days we were running the clinics.

The first clinic was in the local hospital and we were able to walk to work along the murram (compacted earth) road (see below), which was a welcome change. This time we saw some very sad cases of incurable mouth cancer, cases which would have been equally incurable in the UK but which, hopefully, would have been spotted a lot earlier over here.



The dedication of the Clinical Officers whom we train never ceases to amaze me. We start at about 09:00 every morning and one morning one of the Clinical Officers had been up supervising a difficult child-birth until 05:00 and then had to join the other trainees for the dental tutorial at 08:00.

The second clinic was in Utegi, about 45 minutes away by minibus, and we were made very welcome in the as-yet-unopened maternity ward. One elderly woman fainted after having a tooth out and took 15 minutes to come round. Only then did it come out that she had high blood pressure, had not yet eaten that day and had walked 10 km across the border from Kenya to attend the clinic. She had not wanted to say anything unless we wouldn't treat her. We gave her some food and the £1 bus fare home.

I am delighted to report that all six of the Clinical Officers (see below) passed their examination and that, as a result, some 60,000 people now have access to basic dental treatment, where previously there was nothing.



Many thanks for your continuing support. We have already booked the Village Hall for the next Quiz which will be held on 10th October 2020.

*Liz Stringer*

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## **CHURCH FINANCES**

Trinity's accounts for the year ended 31st August 2019 are currently being checked by an Independent Examiner. It is hoped that his examination will be completed very soon.

Below is some detail on the congregation's giving during the past year, both for general church purposes and for external organisations.

For general church purposes, some members of the congregation give by monthly Direct Bank Credit, some give regularly in the weekly envelope scheme and some give through open offerings. The total given for general church funds in the year 2018/19 was £30,057 (excluding Gift Aid) which was a little higher than in the previous year. Gift Aid added £6,200 to this, making an overall total of £36,257.

In addition to income received via general giving, we also receive donations and are in the fortunate position of being able to receive income by way of Hall Hire. This figure for the year came to £7,098 (donations being £534 of that figure). Next year we will hopefully have additional income from the Manse being rented out.

If I can make a point of saying ...

- Please maintain and, if possible, increase your regular giving.
- If you pay income tax and have not previously signed up for Gift Aid, please do consider signing up for this for future years. Jenny Wright or I will gladly explain what is involved.

## **Legacies**

During the past year we have not received any legacies but we are thankful to former members of Trinity's congregation who have in the past, these legacies still form part of our outreach and mission.

If you are making or reviewing your will, do think kindly towards including a bequest for your church.

## **Offerings for Special Purposes**

As a church, we collect money for outreach to various charitable causes through the year. The total raised for last year was £2,130. Here is a list of all those organisations for which the congregation have made gifts during the past year and the amounts passed on:

- |                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| • N. Herts & Stevenage Samaritans | £143 |
| • All We Can                      | £112 |
| • Bridge Builders                 | £319 |
| • The Living Room                 | £518 |
| • URC Commitment for Life         | £582 |
| • Methodist Easter Offering       | £470 |
| • Action for Children             | £171 |
| • Farming Community Network       | £63  |
| • Stevenage Haven                 | £70  |
| • Anniversary offering            | £110 |

*Please note these are the totals raised during the year ended 31st December 2019.*

If you have any questions about church finances or about any of these special collections do not hesitate to ask me.

*Chris Oyetunde*  
*Church Treasurer*

## **DIARY INFORMATION**

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

The dates for the coming month are as follows:

Thursday, 6th February at Hilary's (8 St Martin's Road)

Thursday, 13th February at Hilary's

Thursday, 27th February at Hilary's

There will be no meeting on 20th February.

### **World Day of Prayer - 2020**

This will be held at the Church of St Hugh and St John at Chells on Friday, 6th March at 2.00 pm. The theme is "Praying with Zimbabwe".

All are welcome for refreshments at 1.00 pm; there will be a Bring and Buy stall to cover expenses.

*Hilary Dyster*

## **SOCIAL NEWS AND EVENTS**

### **Men's Breakfast**

Unfortunately, for reasons beyond our control, the Men's Breakfast planned for Saturday, 18th January had to be postponed to a later date. At this stage, it is not possible to confirm a new date but it looks as though this event will now not take place until after Easter. We will, of course, let you know in good time when we have a new date.

*Peter Bodden & Graham Fothergill*

### **St George's Day Celebration**

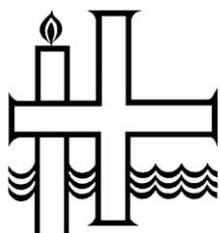
Due to family commitments, we are going to have to rethink the date for the evening social event to celebrate St George's Day. It was originally planned for Saturday, 25th April, but we are now having to consider either Friday, the 24th or Saturday, 2nd May. We will confirm the new date as soon as possible.

### **Social Committee**

The next Social Committee Meeting, to plan for April onwards, is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, 11th March** at 2.30 pm (venue to be confirmed). All are welcome, new ideas needed please!

*Kathy Cole*

## KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES



## THE KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Coffee Morning

**Saturday, 15th February, 10.00 am – 12 noon at the Parish Centre**

Come along for a drink and some cake and a chat, and to do some shopping at the Traidcraft stall.

### Christian Aid Frugal Lunch

**Sunday, 1st March, 12.30 pm at Trinity Church**

All are welcome to join us at the start of this year's fund-raising for Christian Aid

### Lent Study Groups

These are due to commence in the week beginning **2nd March 2020**.

The subject for this year is:

*“Opening the scriptures: setting our hearts on fire”*

*What biblical texts set your heart on fire?*

This Lent course has been prepared by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). The groups are made up of people from the different churches in Knebworth and applications are welcomed from anyone with or without a regular church connection. There will be seven sessions: one for each week of Lent, and two additional sessions for Holy Week and Easter week for private study. A copy of the Application Form can be found on Page 13 of this newsletter.

### Taize Service

**Sunday, 15th March at 5.30 pm at Trinity Church, led by Christine Goodwin**

The Taize Service is an opportunity for reflection and prayer with chants, readings and silence.

If you would like any more information, you can contact me on

[johnwhittle@cleworth.plus.com](mailto:johnwhittle@cleworth.plus.com) or on 1438 813517

John Whittle

Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches

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## METHODIST NEWS

### Malcolm's Message

Dear Friends,

Christmas has come. Christmas has gone. The new year is upon us. Growing up there was always a frisson of excitement about the New Year - a new start, new possibilities and things being different. The making of resolutions and parties that rivalled Christmas underlined the importance of the New Year.

Of course, experience reminds us that resolutions would be broken, and things might appear unchanged - just the same. The frisson of excitement is the power of hope, that things can be different.

Things can be different. Our hope, though, is not the passage of the calendar, our hope is in the presence of Jesus and those things God has done. Christian hope is not about a blind optimism where things might be different, Christian hope is about faith in the things God has done.

What are these things we affirm that God has done? In Jesus God became incarnate. Most of our hymns writers and theologians become lost for words when we try to talk about the incarnation, and rightly so for we are talking about profound mysteries that defy a simple explanation. The one who is divine became fully human; the one who is uncreated became constrained fully in creation. It is a mystery and a wonder that defies our ability to understand but at profound levels it resonates as truth. God loves everyone; incarnation is about inclusion and welcome at its most profound and deepest.

God forgives our sins. We live a world where winners are feted yet we try to avoid notions of blame. To admit to being sinful is to admit to blame, it is to admit to being at fault, it is admission that we are not winners. Making such admissions makes us vulnerable on many levels. God though forgives us our sins and in doing so takes away the vulnerability and leaves us with a proper self-awareness that is not bolstered by the skewed notions that winning can give us of being better than we are; or fractured by the skewed notions of feeling a failure and so less than we truly are.

Forgiveness restores us both in terms of relationship with God and in the proper sense of self-awareness and understanding. Learning to forgive each other - as a consequence of being forgiven gives a way of transforming the world because it allows for honesty and acceptance of each other - not having to say one is better or worse or winner or loser; but being able to admit difference without being jealous of difference. That is God's gift to us.

There are many other ways in which we could talk about the way God has interacted and changed the world - the place of sacrifice as an agent of change; how powerful non-violence is as a way of bringing about lasting change, how love is more powerful than anything else.

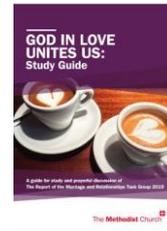
We may need to relearn some of the lessons God has shown us but the challenge remains and it is God's gift to us. As many of us will renew our covenant with God early in the Church year let us reflect on God's love, God's forgiveness, God's second chance and live in hope at all God has done and have the excitement of new life and a new world held before us.

*Malcolm*

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

## ***Report of Marriage and Relationships***

An introduction to this report, led by Malcolm Peacock, Val Reid and Graham Claydon-Knights, here in Trinity Church on **Saturday 8th February 10.00 – 12.00**



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



THE CATHEDRAL AND  
ABBEY CHURCH OF  
SÄINT ÄLBÄN

**Wednesday, 5th February at 11.00 am**

Preacher: **The Rev'd Rosemary Fletcher**

Superintendent Minister, St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit

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

Preacher: **Mr Stephen Poxon**

Salvation Army Officer and Freelance Writer

**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](mailto:simoncarver@btinternet.com)

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***Please send items for the March issue of Trinity Times to Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 20th February:***

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

***Telephone 01438 813371***

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

**Knebworth Family of Churches Lent Groups**  
**Commencing week beginning 2nd March 2020**

**Opening the scriptures: setting our hearts on fire**  
**What biblical text sets your heart on fire?**

This Lent course has been prepared by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI).

Groups are made up of people from the different churches; applications are welcomed from anyone with or without a regular church connection. There are seven sessions: one for each week of Lent, and two additional sessions for Holy Week and Easter week for private study.

**There are five sessions of approx 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours. The themes are:**

*Lent 1: The Fire and the Name*

*Lent 2: And all the earth shall cry Glory*

*Lent 3: Face to Face*

*Lent 4: Heart to heart: sorrow and joy*

*Lent 5: Bound together in love and sacrifice*

*Holy Week: How then would the scriptures be fulfilled? (for private or group study)*

*Easter week: Eyes opened, eyes enlightened (for private study)*

Forms to be returned no later than **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020** to the boxes in one of the churches (St Martin's, St Mary's, St Thomas More or Trinity) or via email to Rev John Whittle at the address below

For any enquiries/late applications: please contact  
 Rev John Whittle: [johnwhittle@cleworth.plus.com](mailto:johnwhittle@cleworth.plus.com) or 01438 813517

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

| DAY | MORNING | HOST | LEAD | AFTERNOON | HOST | LEAD | EVENING | HOST | LEAD |
|-----|---------|------|------|-----------|------|------|---------|------|------|
| MON |         |      |      |           |      |      |         |      |      |
| TUE |         |      |      |           |      |      |         |      |      |
| WED |         |      |      |           |      |      |         |      |      |
| THU |         |      |      |           |      |      |         |      |      |
| FRI |         |      |      |           |      |      |         |      |      |

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

Address.....Post Code .....

Tel:.....Email:.....