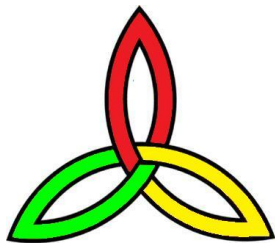


Trinity Times



November 2020

Issue No 237



(Photograph submitted by David Cole)

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

Just enough space to mention that, as in previous years, there won't be a January issue of Trinity Times – our friends at Triographics will be taking their usual extended Christmas break and will be closed for business for the last two weeks in December. Therefore, if you have any news or items that you were considering for the early part of 2021, it would probably be a good idea to let me have them for the December 2020 issue.

Graham Fothergill

Trinity Services in November

8th November, 10.30 am; Remembrance Service led by Sarah Peacock
Duty Elder – Maureen Bodden

22nd November, 10.30 am; Communion Service led by Jackie Hall
Duty Elder – Kathy Cole

N.B. Seeking to follow Government advice, there will be no singing, no refreshments and social distancing will be observed, thus limiting the number who can attend. Anyone wishing to attend is advised to contact the Duty Elder.

FAMILY NEWS

We continue to remember those in the fellowship recovering from falls and injuries. Zena Watts, Patricia Radley and Libby Oyetunde are continuing to make progress. Margaret Webb sustained an extensive cut to her head in a recent fall. It has healed well and after a couple of weeks in Lister she is having a period of rehabilitation at Martins House, Stevenage. Gill Atkinson is at home after her fourth hip replacement, with the challenge of being ready for gardening duties as soon as she can manage.

We are all experiencing life in unrehearsed ways as reduced social interaction continues to restrict us into the future. May we trust in God that we can each find resources to support and care for others and ourselves in times of need. We hold members of our fellowship in prayer. Some recent situations include Becky who had a brief recent stay for investigations in hospital, and the Price family following the peaceful death of Polly's dad whose faith remained strong at 101.

Some of you know that Saxon and Yvonne Denning are preparing to move (hopefully in mid- December) to a new home in Kenilworth, near their daughter. Many in this community will greatly miss their presence here, after many years of such active involvement in Knebworth Family of Churches and Christian Aid and their close connections with Trinity for those years. Our prayers and best wishes are with them as they navigate the practical and emotional details of moving and settling in to a new community, where I am sure they will find 'work' to engage with. (Juggle the letters of Kenilworth a little and swap 'il' for 'b' and it is not far different – so I am sure it will be a good destination!).

Gill Hughes

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

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

Have any of you ever tried Yoga?

The very word conjures up images of people contorting their bodies into strange positions, with a slightly mystical air. Some Christians do not approve of Yoga because the spiritual elements do not seem to have a Christian basis.

However there is no doubt that keeping your body (and mind!) flexible with exercise has a positive effect physically and mentally. A good teacher is essential, one who can demonstrate the moves, give clear instruction and correct any errors of posture etc. I am fortunate to have an excellent teacher, who is always positive, takes an interest in his students and also has a sense of humour.

One thing he says which resonates with me is, "Try the move, if you need to take a rest then do so, but then try again, don't give up, persevere." This I feel is a good philosophy for life, try something, take a break then try again.

This could be a metaphor for the Christian life, it's not easy, but we must try and follow the teachings of Jesus... It may be difficult, but we have a voice in our heads saying, "Don't give up, keep trying, I am with you." In these strange times we have all had to try new things, Zoom meetings, on-line shopping, keeping ourselves entertained and active indoors.

So keep trying, have a break if you need, then try again!

Kathy Cole, Trinity Elder

TRINITY CHURCH MEETING, 11TH NOVEMBER

You are invited to attend the next Church Meeting to be held via Zoom on 11th November 2020, starting at 7.30 pm. Please feel free to join with others for fellowship from 7.15 pm onwards so that the meeting proper can start promptly. Full joining instructions will be sent out by email in advance of 11th.

This is an important meeting for our church and will run according to the Agenda below.

You will also note that there will be discussion about the sharing of tasks around the church membership. A list of these tasks follows the agenda.

The current group of Elders is small in number and they are appealing to you as a member of Trinity to consider helping out in any way you possibly can. Your church needs you!

NB. If you don't receive the joining instructions, contact Maureen Bodden via email maureen.haycock@gmail.com or telephone her on 07949 533880.



Trinity Church Knebworth

Agenda for the Church Meeting on 11th November 2020 7.30pm

Chair: Brian Hughes (BH)

Opening Worship: Mel Mitchell (MM)

Secretary: Maureen Bodden (MB)

	Who	Item	
7.30	BH/MM	1	Welcome and Opening prayers
	BH	2	Apologies for absence
	BH	3	Approval of minutes of the last meeting – 21 st September 2020 (extraordinary meeting)
	BH	4	NOTIFICATION of AOB (to secretary if possible in advance)
	BH	5	Matters arising from previous meeting.
	BH	6	Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Church secretary- thanks to Becky and Kate. - Task list
	GH	7	Pastoral Care
	CO	8	Church finances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Expenditure occurred this financial year -£4000 predicted deficit
	BH	9	Elders – approval of Maureen’s co-option <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JH and BH continue until elections
	KC	10	Property- work completed this year on church and Manse.
	BH	11	Youth Work
	BH	12	Ministry vacancy update
	PB/BH	13	25 th Church anniversary celebrations
	BH & group representatives.	14	Church Groups and Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.1 Mission Group - CS 10.3 Sunday Club – JH/CO 10.4 Social Committee- KC 10.5 Worship Planning Group - BH 10.6 Faith, Nurture and Development-
	BH MB BH/JH	15	The Wider Church (as available) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Herts Ecumenical Area - Knebworth Family of Churches - Wider Methodist Church - Wider URC Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NHGC 2. Thames North Synod - CTIS and CTiH
	BH	16	Dates of next meetings – Church Meeting – full church meeting suggested to increase to 4 times a year. Next date- after service 14 th Feb. 2021
	BH	17	AoB
	MM	18	Close with prayer and the Grace

Task list

Completing denominational returns – Methodist one is open now for this year.

Taking numbers for services

Maintaining and updating the calendar of events

Producing duty rotas- (this will soon be urgent. We need to find out all who are on rotas and email with Doodle poll).

Sending messages out via website

Maintenance of central files

Reproducing, distributing and publicising information

Retaining documents of value and liaising with County Archives

Monthly service poster for wayside pulpit

Worship planning:

Secretary at WPG, will request preachers to fill plan, sort local arrangements via Elders and will then upload service details to website- *plan currently being done for Dec onwards.*

Minute taker at Trinity@25- *to be agreed at next @25 meeting.*

PROGRESS ON OUR SEARCH FOR A NEW MINISTER

Many of you will know that since Steven's departure in August 2019, work has been going on to prepare to call a URC minister to our vacancy. In the URC, ministers are called to serve a pastorate, whereas in the Methodist Church ministers are stationed to a Circuit, and the two approaches are quite different.

What characterises the URC process is that it demands a large quantity of documentation to be produced, which has to be approved by church meetings of all the churches involved and then, by the Thames North Synod Pastoral Committee. Four churches - Trinity together with Baldock, Walkern and Ashwell United Reformed Churches - have come together to create a joint pastorate, so we are seeking a minister to serve these churches.

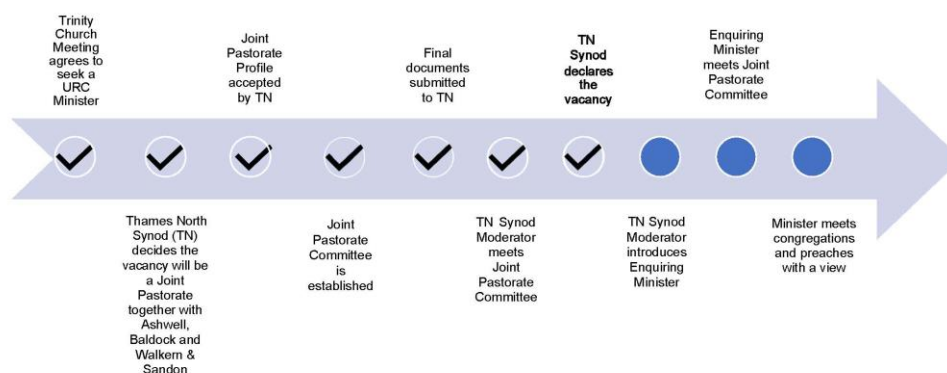
Of the four, Trinity is the only one in possession of a manse, so the minister will reside in Knebworth. I am pleased to report that all stages have now been completed and the vacancy appears on the URC website and is available for all ministers to view. The detail available on the URC website is a one-page summary of the Joint Pastorate Profile – detailing each of the four churches – and this is a document of some 33 pages!

A minister interested in our vacancy will contact their Synod Moderator who then, in turn, will arrange for the full 33-page profile to be made available. Unlike the Methodist approach, the movement of URC ministers is a continuous process. An interested minister would follow a series of introductions, in our case this will include a “joint” meeting with all four churches involved, and eventually preach with a view. That is what happens in a “Covid-free” world but there is no knowing how long the pandemic will persist. However, our Synod Moderator assures us that “Covid-compliant” alternatives to preaching with a view are available. Most traditional non-conformist denominations are experiencing a shortage of ministers so we should expect to need to be a little patient.

Brian Hughes, on behalf of Trinity Elders

PS. The now familiar graphic below has been updated to illustrate the progress made to appoint and share a new minister with Baldock, Walkern and Ashwell United Reformed Churches. Progress will be fully reported in Trinity Times as well as on our website.

Trinity Church – seeking a new minister



Trinity Church, Knebworth, November 2020

REMEMBRANCE DAY

As most of you will probably realise, because of social distancing and other Covid-19 restrictions, this year it will not be possible for the British Legion Remembrance Day Service to be held as usual at the War Memorial in Old Knebworth. However, the British Legion has suggested that those who wish to lay wreaths on behalf of their local organisations or groups should do so at some time during the day (Sunday, 8th November).

On behalf of the churches in the village, members of the Steering Group of the Knebworth Family of Churches will be laying a wreath at approximately 12.30 pm on that day.

The Editor

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

November Outreach Charity

This month sees us raising money for The Methodist Church Fund for World Mission, which was to have been our chosen Easter offering earlier this year, but did not happen due to lockdown.

The World Mission Fund (WMF) supports projects and individuals around the world.

You can donate online via [Just Giving](#), or send cheques (making them payable to 'Methodist Church World Mission Fund') to:

Methodist Church World Mission Fund

Methodist Church House
25 Marylebone Road
London NW1 5JR

Here is a prayer from the WMF website:

God of all hope we call on you today.
We pray for those who are living in fear:
Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.
May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.
For those people who are worried about attending worship.
For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others
For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.
Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that
Nothing will separate us from your love - demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

Amen

The Living Room

This is a letter received by me from the Fundraising Manager of The Living Room, one of the worthy causes that Trinity Church has supported for a number of years:

Dear Maureen,

We entered 2020 with high expectations for The Living Room as this is the year we celebrate our 20th anniversary. We had parties planned, thanksgivings organised and community events scheduled throughout the year. Unfortunately Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown put paid to much of that (although we are still managing to organise some events, including our [Halloween Quiz on 29th October](#) - please consider getting a team together).

But our focus has always been on the wellbeing of the people who attend The Living Room and a global pandemic hasn't changed that. We are enormously proud of our staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to adapt to this new environment and ensure that people who rely on our programme (now more than ever) continue to get help to overcome their addictions.

We are also very grateful to you, our donors, who continue to support us during this period of economic uncertainty. I thought it was important to share with you how we have adapted our service over the past six months so please take time to read our [Covid-19 Response Report](#).

Thank you and kind regards,

Mark Wiseman

Fundraising & Marketing Manager
The Living Room
Stevenage – 01438 355 649
Mobile – 07808 720 870
markw@livingroomherts.org

Maureen Bodden

TAXES - SHOULD WE PAY OR AVOID PAYING?

Tax evasion takes place on an industrial scale, with many making a living out of helping the rich, or not so rich, to avoid the responsibilities to the State and their fellow citizens. It is illegal because it is a form of fraud by which the true state of a person's finances is misrepresented to reduce their tax liability. This may include declaring less income, profits or gains than the amounts actually earned, or overstating expenses/deductions. Alongside this, is tax avoidance, which is legal, and uses legitimate means of avoiding paying tax.

Of course, those who set up the tax regime also set an example to us all of never avoiding, and certainly never evading, paying their full tax bill! Equally, all those in the public eye, such as celebrities, always pay their full taxes never living out of the country or hiding their wealth! Also, surely, we can be sure all large corporations pay the amount due on the profits they make in the UK!

Jesus was not unaware of the taxes! How could he be when he was living under Roman rule? For they were experts at taxing their subject peoples - so there was the **ground tax** made up of one tenth of grain grown and one fifth of the oil and wine produced. There was also **income tax** - one per cent of a person's income, and then there was the **poll tax**! This had to be paid by every male from the age of 14 to 65, and by every female from 12 to 65.

One day the Pharisees asked Jesus '**Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?**' They were setting a cunning trap! For if he said 'No', they would report him to the Roman authorities on the charge of sedition; if he said 'Yes', then his fellow Jews would see him as a traitor or heretic, for them paying taxes to an earthly ruler was to a betrayal of the duty owed only to God.

Moreover, at the time Matthew was writing his Gospel, the Temple had been destroyed and the half-shekel Temple tax, previously paid by every Jew, was now demanded by the Romans to be paid for the upkeep of the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus in Rome! So years after Jesus was asked this question, taxes were still a problem for the early Christians, who were regarded by Rome as a Jewish sect.

Jesus, of course, replied, in the light of the fact the coins used were stamped with the Emperor's head, "**Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's**".

Elsewhere in the letters of the New Testament, Christians are urged to recognise their duty towards the State. We want its protection, its help for the poor, the sick, the aged and in the education of the young.

So unlike the US President, who seems to be a hopeless businessman who makes no money, hence pays little by way of taxes to make 'America great again', let us with a 'cheerful spirit' pay what is our due; always with the caveat that where we see an unjust tax being demanded, especially when it falls hardest on the poorest in society, we put pressure on Parliament to make changes.

*'God of the poor friend of the weak, give us compassion we pray,
melt our cold heart, let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love from a spark to a flame' (Graham Kendrick)*

Rev'd John Whittle

Trinity@25

1996-2021

THE HISTORY OF TRINITY CHURCH AS A LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP (LEP)

1. A decision was made at the beginning to research the history by gathering information under two headings:-
 - **Trinity Church as an entity** - looking inwards and gathering information about the two churches up to 1996 and the development of the LEP before and after that year. Included would be our relationship with the North Herts Methodist Circuit, the North Herts Group of URC Churches, the Knebworth Family of Churches, Churches Together in Stevenage etc.
 - **Knebworth as a village** - looking outwards to the external environment in which Trinity as an LEP has grown. This would be primarily secular and focus on the way the village itself has developed and the role that Trinity plays in the community, e.g. hosting Knebworth Pre-School etc.
2. Methods employed to date:-

- **Trinity as an entity:-**

Source information, memorabilia, photos etc from :-

- Current Membership – via email, website, Trinity Times and word of mouth – *results nil*
- Previous ministers/members – *work in progress*
- Trinity records and “archives” – *work in progress*
- NH Methodist Circuit and NH Group of URC Churches – with the offices closed for both (the latter reference is to URC HQ and North Thames Synod) and little, if anything, accessible digitally, we have begun by relying on input from individuals, e.g. Rev’d John Steele – *work in progress!*

- **The village of Knebworth:-**

This is very much work in progress and communications have been opened with former members, the Parish Council, the business and retail side of the village etc. and the results so far have been encouraging.

3. **How will the history be presented?**

The least that will happen is the production of a timeline illustrating the 25 years being celebrated, with relevant information about events as they occurred. Decisions as to how this will best be presented will probably depend on costs, but the methods could include a physical display on the premises and/or the same information digitally reproduced and available to members as a hard copy, via the website etc. A budget for this and any other feasible aspects will be presented to the Treasurer and Elders for approval before January 2021.

4. What next?

Apart from working on the material gathered so far and the “live” sources mentioned above, the church membership needs to be reminded and, almost certainly, individuals need to be approached to get results. Any further suggestions are welcome and will be considered by the Steering Group.

NB Realistically, the final outcome(s) will also depend on how the way Covid-19 develops, or doesn't.

Graham Fothergill and Peter Bodden

Graham: e-mail gafothergill@gmail.com , post to 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth, SG3 6BG

Peter: e-mail peteribodden@gmail.com , post to 2a Hawkins Hall Lane, Datchworth, SG3 6TF

KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES



Annual General Meeting

The Knebworth Family of Churches Annual General Meeting is to be held on **Saturday, 28th November**, starting at 11.00 am. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, this will be an online, sometimes called “virtual”, meeting using the technology known as Zoom.

If you would like to join this Meeting on the 28th, please contact me at gafothergill@gmail.com (or on 01438 813371) with your email address so that I can send you the Agenda, together with the very important Zoom link, ID Code and Passcode.

Graham Fothergill
Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches

METHODIST NEWS

Message from Rev'd Malcolm Peacock

For many years now we have been challenged as a Church to consider what we need to do to be more effective in sharing the story of our faith. We have been challenged with 'Fresh expressions', 'Pioneer ministries', mission plans - a plan for growth or a plan for ending. We have responded positively to these challenges.

We have another challenge to respond - it is the challenge of Covid-19. Without question we wish to return to things as they were before March. Without question we can't. We have restrictions placed on what we can do - some of these restrictions are based on health issues, shielding and being careful if we are in vulnerable health groups. Some of the restrictions are imposed as legal requirements upon us with varying levels of lockdown in place around the country. Some of the restrictions are strongly worded statements of advice, designed to keep people safe, not legally enforceable but expectations are high that they are kept. Most of these are from government, some from our church, some our own judgement.

In recent days we have seen the consequences of people choosing to make their own judgements, follow their understanding of common sense and do their own thing. We have seen incidences in the number of cases of Covid-19 grow and, in response to the change, guidelines have been changed from advice to being legally enforceable. Why? Because too many people were saying we know best and in doing so put many people at risk.

As a church and as those who follow Christ, what is our response to this challenge? We have, as a priority, the need to care for the well-being of other people. This flows from our experience of the love of God and the command we have to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. This love is sacrificial and self-denying, in emulation of the love of Jesus. What matters is not that I get what I want, or even that I am right, but that other people have the opportunity to thrive. Meeting the needs of others is a greater priority than demanding that my needs be met. On a practical level it means we can hold the view that guidance does not make sense to us, but we choose to keep the guidance rather than break the guidance because morally we believe that we should, as a way of demonstrating our commitment to the well-being of others. We also need to avoid the charge of hypocrisy, should we condemn in others what we do ourselves.

Covid-19 raises a challenge for us on a day to day basis in how we cope with the restrictions we have to live with. It also raises a challenge about how we do what we should do as a church. We want to meet and worship, and this meeting and worshipping has been the bedrock of how we express ourselves as a church and we have rightly made much of being open, welcoming and there for everyone, and particularly for those who will happen to pass by and come and be part of what we are. How do we now share the story of the love of God? How do we care for those who are vulnerable and shielding and for whom meeting others is a thing of fear and not joy? How do we help people grow in their faith when we are so limited in what we can do? Following the guidelines we have, our time together is short, 30 - 45 minutes at the most; there is no singing; there is no time or space for socialising; there are no refreshments being served - how can we share the love of God? How do we draw others into an experience of the love of God? The need to answer these questions and how we answer them is the challenge confronting us as seek to grow the kingdom of God in a world dominated by Covid-19.

Malcolm

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

Lloyds New Pharmacy

On Monday, 16th November, the Knebworth branch of LloydsPharmacy is relocating from London Road to their new premises, adjacent to Knebworth Surgery.

Their telephone number remains unchanged at 01438 813008 and their opening hours stay the same as at present.

As well as the pharmacy, Lloyds will continue to stock their usual range of over-the-counter medications, together with products for skincare, haircare, etc.

Although the pharmacy is in the same building as the surgery, from a business perspective LloydsPharmacy is quite independent of the Knebworth and Marymead Medical Practice but, of course, they will continue to welcome and serve the patients from the Practice who usually have their prescriptions dispensed by Tobi and his team.

The Editor

TAILPIECE

I'm grateful to have been pointed to this prayer for when we wear our masks. It's written by the Right Reverend Richard Bott, the current Moderator of the United Church of Canada, and shared with his permission.

Creator,
as I prepare to go into the world,
help me to see the sacrament
in the wearing of this cloth –
let it be “an outward sign
of an inward grace” –
a tangible and visible way
of living love for my neighbours,
as I love myself.

Christ,
since my lips will be covered,
uncover my heart,
that people would see my smile
in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled,
help me to speak clearly,
not only with my words,
but with my actions.

Holy Spirit,
as the elastic touches my ears,
remind me to listen carefully –
and full of care –
to all those I meet.
May this simple piece of cloth
be shield and banner,
and each breath that it holds,
be filled with your love.

In your Name
and in that love,
I pray.

May it be so.
May it be so.

Sandra Robey

***Please send items for the December issue of Trinity Times to Graham Fothergill
by Thursday, 19th November:***

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth

