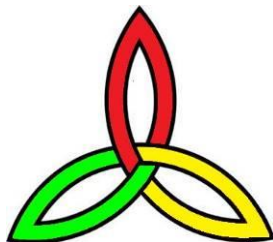


Trinity Times

December
2020

Issue No 238



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

As in previous years, Trinity Times will not be published in January; as usual - and good for them - our friends at Triographics are taking a well-earned holiday over the Christmas and New Year period and will not be back at their printing machines until early January.

Your editor has taken on board one of the "Tasks" that was on the original list from the Elders (see Page 7). I am now responsible for uploading information to the Calendar section of the Trinity website. I appreciate that, for obvious reasons, very few events are taking place at the moment, but I would like to take this opportunity to ask that if you are organising anything, or you hear of something taking place that is of interest to Trinity Church, please send me the details so that it can appear on the website.

May I perhaps be among the first to wish you all a happy Christmas and better things to look forward to in the New Year.

Graham Fothergill

TRINITY FAMILY NEWS

After several projected dates for her postponed neurosurgery, Kate Dickinson finally made it to the familiar hospital in Queen's Square early on 2nd November. Surgery went well and she was home after a few days, with instructions to take it easy for six weeks. The practical support we can offer is more limited than usual, but phone calls, messages and food top-ups are all appreciated, and especially prayer for managing the challenging level of pain during her recovery and healing.

Our best wishes and prayers are also with Margaret Webb who is now settling in to living at Martins House in Stevenage.

Sharing news of each other remains mostly dependent on phone calls, messages and seemingly random encounters while taking exercise. Sometimes it can feel as if there is no news to share, but the value of making and receiving contacts with others is immeasurable in these times, especially for those who are not able to be out. While we wait for the opportunity to safely meet together again in our homes, at clubs and in church may we continue to share the commitment to keep the community and fellowship connected in all the ways we can.

Rhoda Cole

As we go to press, we have just learned of the peaceful death of Rhoda Cole in Monread Lodge, where she has been well cared for during the last few years of her long life. Since moving to Knebworth ten years ago, Rhoda engaged happily with our fellowship alongside the generations of her family. We miss her and our condolences and prayers are with all of the Cole family.

Gill Hughes

TRINITY SERVICES PLANNED FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

13th December, 10.30 am; Morning Service led by Helen Dearn
Duty Elders – Mel Mitchell and Rosie Berry

25th December, 10.30 am; Christmas Morning Service led by Jackie Hall
Duty Elders – Rosie Berry and Kathy Cole

27th December, 10.30 am; Communion Service led by Rev'd Malcolm Peacock
Duty Elders – Mel Mitchell and Camilla Straughn

10th January, 10.30 am; Morning Service led by Christine Warren
Duty Elders – Kathy Cole and Jackie Hall

24th January, 10.30 am; Morning Service led by Catherine Edmonds
Duty Elders – Maureen Bodden and Rosie Berry

Trinity Church will follow Government advice on the Covid-19 restrictions that are imposed at the time of these Services. In all probability, if Services are allowed, there will be no singing, no refreshments and social distancing will be observed, thus limiting the number who can attend. Anyone wishing to attend should contact one of the Duty Elders.

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

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

In my last article for the Parish News, I reported the arrival of a zebra finch at my daughter's Irish home. Her partner visited a friend in Cork and came back with a hen zebra finch; they named them Dave and Sharon. A coconut shell provided a nest lined with feathers from a cushion, and soon Sharon laid five eggs, three of which were viable. The parents took turns at sitting on the eggs and, in due course, three chicks hatched: Snowy, Storm and Thunder. These names were gender neutral because it takes six weeks for the distinctive bill colour to develop - red for a male, orange for a female.

I have brought you up to date because I think this little family symbolises hope - sometimes I can hear them chirruping over the phone. They certainly have given a new focus to Helena and Damien. What of events nearer home? By the time you read this, the second lockdown will have just ended, its success or otherwise depending upon everyone's cooperation. Have you felt better prepared this time? What have you missed most? Apart from the lack of freedom to roam, I miss most the ability to attend church on a Sunday morning. This has social aspects, as well as spiritual. Services managed by Zoom have their limitations. I miss the spontaneity of sharing a hug, when words seem inadequate. My mental health has suffered through the lack of corporate worship and absence of my church family. I am grateful for the telephone and friends' compassionate ears.

How are we going to celebrate Christmas while two metres apart? What about mixed households? The positive news that we are nearing a vaccine must give us hope. It sheds a ray of light on a gloomy lockdown. I can at least ask a blessing for our readers during these strange times.

Rosie Berry, an Elder at Trinity.

DRIVE-IN CAROL SERVICE

St Mary's and St Martin's invite you to a

DRIVE-IN CAROL SERVICE

6.30 pm, Saturday 12th December
in Knebworth Park
in The Barns car park

Guest Speaker - the Bishop of Hertford
Admission is free, but **MUST** be pre-booked

**Singing led by the
EDEN CONSORT**

**Wrap up warm,
bring a blanket!**

COVID-19
This event will only take place if Government restrictions allow.

WEATHER
The event is weather dependent.

IMPORTANT...

- Pre-booking is **essential** (see below).
- Arrive from 6.00 pm. Entry via back gate by St Mary's.
- Cars will be spaced at a safe distance.
- You must stay in your car.
- Your **car engines must be off** for the event.
- Larger SUV's will be parked further from the stage.
- Windows may be opened to hear the singing.
- Wrap up warm!!
- A voluntary retiring collection will be taken.

Booking: To book your space, please call 07308 068617.
You will be asked for your name, a contact number in case of cancellation.
If the event is cancelled, we will try to rearrange for Saturday 19th December.

We are very grateful to Martha and Henry Cobbold for the use of the grounds and to Robert Wilson for providing the lighting and sound equipment.
And finally, a BIG thank you to our guest singers, the Eden Consort, and to Andrew Lewis for the backing music.

Although this event is being organised by Canon Jane Hatton on behalf of St Martin's and St Mary's Churches, everyone is welcome, it is essentially for Knebworth Family of Churches. The important things to note are that places **MUST** be reserved, and they are already being taken up – call 07308 068617 – and to wrap up warm! It is estimated that there will be room for about 100 cars.

With all the best planning in the world, this event is dependent on both the weather and the Covid restrictions in place at the time. If it has to be postponed because of unreasonable weather, it is hoped that it could be bumped forward a week to the 19th although, admittedly, that is the weekend before Christmas, which brings other potential complications!

Graham Fothergill

CHARITY AND MISSION NEWS

Action for Children



Action for Children is the UK's leading Children's charity and Trinity's Charity of the month in December and the collections at the Christmas Day Service will go to this charity. It supports UK's most vulnerable and neglected children, young people and their families, so that they can reach their full potential. Some are unable to live with their birth families, while others are disabled or experiencing severe difficulties in their lives.

Action for Children's vision is a world where all children and young people have a sense of belonging and are loved and valued.

You can donate to them directly by phoning **0300 123 2112** or go to their website and sign up to be a Secret Santa at

www.actionforchildren.org.uk

Also, you could join in a **Virtual Carol Concert** on **8th December from 6.30 to 7.30 pm.**

Join families across the UK for an evening of Christmas carols, fun and festive cheer hosted by Jon Snow from Channel 4 News.

Tickets are £10 per household and will give you access to exclusive entertainment, classic carols sung by The Epiphoni Choir, and appearances from some very special guests, including Leona Lewis, Angellica Bell and Call the Midwife's Jenny Agutter OBE. All this from the comfort of your own home.

You will also have the chance to take part in the Starry Night silent auction and prize draw!

Thousands of children and young people face Christmas without a hot meal, a present or a safe place to sleep. With your help, we could change this.

Last year, the Secret Santa appeal helped us reach almost 100,000 children in the UK.

Email specialevents@actionforchildren.org.uk

Samaritans

The Mission Outreach for January is "Samaritans of North Herts and Stevenage". The traditional Soup Lunch event is "on hold" until an appropriate time for meeting and socialising. Within government guidelines, Samaritans have continued to provide emotional support by phone and email throughout the months of the Covid -19 restrictions (calls are free on 116123). Please see <https://www.samaritans.org/branches/hitchin/> to find out more about the branch or if you wish to make a direct donation.

Gill Hughes

HAPPINESS, THE GREATEST GIFT?

Now, I wonder if you were privileged, as I was, to hear an interview on the '**Today Programme**', broadcast on Radio 4 on Thursday, 12th November? It was with Eddie Jacob, who at 100 years of age, has just published his first book entitled '**The Happiest Man on Earth**'.

Eddie is a Jew who, 82 years ago, experienced first-hand Kristallnacht, when Nazi storm troopers broke into his parent's house, killed his parents and severely beat Eddie, and when his dog came to his aid, they killed it!

Eddie was sent to Auschwitz where he witnessed inmates throw themselves onto the electric fence to escape the horrors they were suffering. But Eddie was determined to survive and, when the camp was freed, he spent time in a cave, surviving by eating slugs and snails! Then he was picked up by an American Army patrol and taken to hospital where he was treated for severe malnutrition and serious illnesses. In there, he determined that if he should survive, he would live a life of kindness, tolerance, and helpfulness to all, so living out the very opposite characteristics of the Nazis.

He has survived, along with his wife of 74 years, living together now in a care home, where some speak of it as being like a concentration camp, something he most fervently rejects - '**You have food, you have warmth, you have care and a bed. I had nothing**'

Eddie says he lives by three Hs – **Hope, Health and Happiness**, and claims to be the happiest 100-year-old of 2020! One H he rejects is **hate**, saying, '**It is a poison which harms the hater and the hated**'.

Eddie found happiness having passed through the dark valley of the shadow of death, suffering and indescribable horror.

Now, I have to confess that I find the term 'happiness' illusive, and a state that speaks of something which transient. Some of you may recall that when the **Good News Bible** was produced, it replaced the term '**Blessed**' in the Beatitudes with '**Happy**', so we have '**Happy are those who mourn**' etc. But behind the word **Blessed** is an Aramaic word (the language Jesus spoke) meaning '**Oh the bliss**'. This is seen by Jesus not as transient but permanent, for those who receive Him and His message. One commentator wrote on this text that it teaches, '**There can be no full appreciation of the consolation found by the blessed, except by those who have known the opposite, and it is immeasurably better to have suffered and been consoled, than never to have known distress at all**'. Is this not what Eddie testifies to, and why he is the happiest man on earth?

Here is comfort for those who have lost loved ones to Covid or by some other happenstance, for in the mystery of sorrow we find God shares the sorrow, and He holds the key to the mystery. As we face 2021 there is sure to be some sorrow awaiting us, so let us remember, '**Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted**'.

John Whittle

TRINITY TASK LIST

At the recent Church Meeting, the Elders presented a list of outstanding church tasks which had previously tended to be undertaken by the Secretary but, in the absence of anyone in that role, volunteers were asked to step up, where possible.

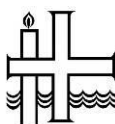
At the Meeting, a few of the tasks were allocated but the following still remain to be taken on board:

- Completing denominational returns – the Methodist one is open now for this year.
- Taking numbers for services
 - While Covid restrictions are in place, space at services is limited. This task involves being the individual who people inform if they wish to attend a service and maintain a register of those intending to attend.
- Producing duty rotas
 - Members of the congregation take on various tasks that ensure services run smoothly. This includes elders, transport and communion preparation among other things. This task involves gathering information by sending out a Doodle poll and compiling and distributing tables.
- Sending messages out via website
 - This involves being one of the people authorised and trained to send out emails from the church's website.
- Reproducing, distributing and publicising information.

If you feel that you can help with at least one of these tasks, please contact me and we can discuss it further.

Brian Hughes

KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES (KFC)



The Steering Group of the Knebworth Family of Churches recently met briefly, by Zoom, and although they are able to do very little in the way of planning and organising services and events in the foreseeable future, the Group made a commitment to finding ways to recognise forthcoming events in their calendar. To this end, consideration is being given to the possibility of having a virtual (by Zoom) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from 16th to 23rd January and of being able to run the Lent Groups in a similar way during February and March. The Steering Group will meet again shortly to try to develop these ideas.

Because of reasons beyond our control, the KFC Annual General Meeting scheduled for Saturday, 28th November, had to be postponed. It will now be held early in the New Year; because of Covid-19 restrictions, the Meeting will have to be online, using Zoom technology.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at gafothergill@gmail.com (or on 01438 813371) if you require information regarding Knebworth Family of Churches.

Graham Fothergill

Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches

Yvonne and Saxon – An Appreciation

Knebworth is shortly to lose two members of its community – Yvonne and Saxon Denning are moving up to Kenilworth to be nearer to their daughter, Sheila. Their departure from the village couldn't be allowed to happen without some recognition and appreciation of almost fifty years involvement in St Martin's and St Mary's Churches and related activities.

Saxon and Yvonne first met at Llanishen Baptist Church in Cardiff in 1950 and eventually married in the same church in 1963. At that time, Saxon was working as a telecoms engineer for the GPO – now known as British Telecom – and he was posted to their headquarters in London to pursue his career there. The young married couple were, therefore, obliged to move from South Wales and in 1964 settled in Ware, from where Saxon was able to commute to the office in London. It was there that they first became involved in Christian Aid, at the invitation of their next-door neighbours, an involvement which they have continued until very recently. They joined the United Reformed Church in Ware but in 1972 they moved to Badminton Close in Stevenage, just a mile from Knebworth. By then, Yvonne, who was a state registered nurse and midwife, had restarted her nursing career in North Hertfordshire.



Because of their love of church music, they joined St Martin's Church which, at that time, had a flourishing church choir supported by a fine organist. Very quickly they became immersed in church activities; Yvonne started to help out at with the Lunch Club, and at various coffee mornings, and she was involved with flower rotas and Messy Church. Both Saxon and Yvonne were members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC); Saxon served on the old Hall Committee, which then became the new Parish Centre Committee, and was chairman of the latter for about fifteen years until 2014. Whilst on the PCC, Saxon was involved in the work leading to the new organ in St Mary's, the replacement of the sound system in St Martin's and the installation of an auto water-boiler in the Parish Centre.

Alongside this, he continued his involvement with Christian Aid through the Knebworth Christian Aid Committee, becoming Chairman, and organised local events and house-to-house collections for about thirty years until 2018. A few years ago Yvonne and Saxon - together with Hilary Dyster and Pat Peters - were given Long Service Certificates by Jenny Ayres (Oxford Regional Office of Christian Aid) for their contributions to the charity.

They were both enthusiastic supporters of Knebworth Family of Churches from its inception in 2008 and attended many of its services and events and, in particular, Yvonne helped with the Good Egg Club on many occasions. They were strongly ecumenical, and felt very much at home in all of the Knebworth Churches, particularly Trinity, where they have been worshipping recently.

Yvonne and Saxon, having contributed so much to the Knebworth community over a considerable period of time, will be sadly missed in the village, and Knebworth's loss will be Kenilworth's gain. We wish them both a long and happy continuing retirement as they settle into their new home in Warwickshire.

Graham Fothergill, on behalf of Knebworth Family of Churches and Christian Aid

{This article was written for inclusion in the December issue of the Knebworth Parish News}

METHODIST CIRCUIT NEWS

Malcolm's Message

We all knew it was coming, lockdown not Christmas. It is different to the Spring but the impact for many will be the same. No sooner have we heard the end date of December 2nd, we are being warned it may not be the end. Better realism than false hope. It is a stark reminder that until there is a safe, effective vaccine for Covid-19 we will have to manage with the impact this disease has on our living.

The reality of a new normal is inevitable until the vaccine arrives and when it arrives there will be another new normal. My crystal ball will be no better than many others, but I can see social distancing, the washing of hands and wearing of masks becoming a regular part of our lives. We will accept these because it is right. As followers of Jesus to do things that others might benefit is a given. We may feel resentful that our freedoms are being restricted, we may feel that our right to worship is being eroded but those considerations of self become secondary when we realise that the sacrifices we make will prevent other people from dying, will prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed and generally make society safer.

We will accept lockdown, we will close our Churches - even if it reluctantly, and we will do so because we know it is part of the fullest expression of Christian commitment, that we will love others, even as we love ourselves. I am sure that one of the major concerns about lockdown this time around is the impact it will have on Christmas. Like everyone else I am sure that we will be celebrating Christmas differently this year. I suspect that travel will be difficult. Sarah and I will probably miss out on seeing our grandchildren on Christmas Day, we are even uncertain as to whether we will see any of our children over Christmas. It will be difficult and sad. It won't stop us sending gifts and cards and greetings. We will make the most of video-conferencing and calls. It won't alter the love we have for our family and for our friends. We will be creative, and we will find ways to affirm each other and celebrate together. It won't be the same, but it will not be the end of all things.

Christmas has become a wonderful time of family meeting, feasting and enjoyment. These are all good things, but these things are built on the wonder of God entering the world and being born as a child in Bethlehem. This is good news. It is the wish to share good news that makes all the rest so good.

God coming into the world as a child will be celebrated this year as it always is. The good news won't change, the way we celebrate might. The hope that is part of God's gift for us at Christmas won't change. We are still loved by God, we are still considered precious in his sight, our sins are still forgiven, and we are reminded that there is nothing more important in the world than the celebration of love. The way we celebrate may change but the good news doesn't; and because the good news is unchanged we can still rejoice at the gift of peace and the gift of hope and these together will give us something special. Lockdown may make us worried and anxious, even resentful but the peace and hope that God brings can help us manage and cope with the present as we create the future.

Malcolm

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

A CHRISTMAS RECIPE FROM HANS

As you probably know, Hans is a very good cook and his culinary contributions to the KFC Coffee Mornings were always well received. Of course, he is unable to use that talent these days and so, instead, he suggested that he would like to contribute some of his recipes to Trinity Times.

Here is the first one, and very timely. It is for a type of biscuit called ZIMTSTERNE, which translates as Cinnamon Stars, and it is traditionally made around Christmas time. ZIMTSTERNE originates from Schwaben in Germany, which is just over the Swiss border from Schaffhausen where Hans was born and brought up.

The quantities in this recipe will make about 50 biscuits. Total time, inclusive of drying, is approximately three hours.

Ingredients:

- three egg whites (medium eggs)
- pinch of salt
- 250 gm icing sugar, and more for dusting
- 250 gm ground almonds
- two tsp. cinnamon

Method:

Beat together the egg whites and salt. When the egg whites form stiff peaks, add the sifted icing sugar one tablespoon at a time, beating at high speed; the meringue should be glossy but not stiff.

Remove about one-third of the meringue for coating and put it in the fridge. Stir the cinnamon into the ground almonds and add to the remaining two-thirds of the meringue. Mix with a spatula to obtain a thick dough. Chill in the fridge for about 45 minutes (this makes it easier for rolling out).

Prepare two baking sheets lined with parchment. Dust the work surface with icing sugar and roll out the dough to a thickness of 8-10 mm. Using a star-shaped cutter dipped in water, cut out the biscuits and cover them by brushing the meringue coating over them. It is essential then to allow the biscuits to dry for about an hour until the meringue is dry to the touch.

Preheat the oven to 125 degrees Centigrade. Bake the biscuits in the lower part of the oven for 15-20 minutes and check that the meringue top is no more than slightly coloured when baking.

Cool on a wire rack. The biscuits should be stored in a closed container and can be kept for a maximum of three weeks.

Bon appetit!

PAULINE AND IAN'S CELEBRATIONS

Pauline Pearson and her husband, Ian, have been celebrating some family events this year. In April, it was their 40th Wedding Anniversary but, because of Covid, they had to delay a trip to Iceland where they went to on honeymoon 40 years ago.



Iceland 1980, Pauline at the site of the Krafla eruption



Iceland 2020, Pauline at the same spot where Krafla erupted

They also made a family trip to Scotland to visit the Isle of Arran during August.

In October, Pauline celebrated her 70th birthday with just six members of the family. In the same month they took a short trip to Scotland to travel on The Jacobite steam train to Mallaig; this was an anniversary present from the family.



Isle of Arran



The Jacobite

*Please send items for the February issue of Trinity Times to
Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 21st January*

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth

STOP PRESS



**Circuit Advent Service
Sunday 29th November 2020**

4.00pm using Zoom

Zoom login details available
via circuit churches



Guest Preacher

**Mrs. Carolyn
Lawrence**

**Vice President
of The Methodist
Conference**



The **Methodist** Church 

Zoom login: Meeting ID: 876 9578 6707
Passcode: 747188

Or click on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87695786707?pwd=RTdjYTVxMGJxL3g3c2JRME5BWVNqUT09>

Traidcraft

Take a look at the Traidcraft online catalogue at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk and then order through David Smith by phone, 01438 721942, or by email to davidsheilasmith@aol.com. When ordering, David needs the product code and a brief description. David or I can deliver your orders or they can be collected from me.

John Whittle