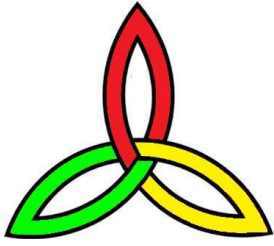


# Trinity Times



February 2021

Issue No 239



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

I'm pleased to have been able to put together yet another good-sized and varied newsletter, as the first one in 2021. Although we have been unable to hold services and other church events face-to-face, there is still a momentum about our activities, usually helped along by the wonders of Zoom.

With that in mind, I would just like to draw your attention to the important Open Elders Meeting on Thursday, 4th February. Unfortunately, and for obvious reasons, this has to be by Zoom but, if you are able to join the Meeting, please do so. You will find the Agenda, together with further information on Pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter.

*Graham Fothergill*

## TRINITY SERVICES

***Trinity Church Elders have decided that, in the light of the current increasing numbers of infections and deaths from Covid-19, services will be suspended until the end of February. They will meet again around the middle of February to review the situation in respect of March onwards. This has been done in the interest of keeping members and visiting preachers safe until the situation improves and the more vulnerable have had their vaccinations.***

## FAMILY NEWS

Of course the news on the lips of many at present is about who has had their vaccination. I know many in the church family have, or are waiting expectantly for an appointment soon. It is clear that there is no quick pathway back to resuming the personal gatherings and meetings that we long to be able to have, but surely it is a significant step towards those gradually and appropriately returning. Like longer days and spring buds it feels like the signs of re-birth that unfold with Spring and Easter.

We share in sadness again with members of the church family. We were shocked to learn that, as a result of a serious heart attack, Sheila Kidson recently spent a few days in hospital in Norwich where she died peacefully. Our prayers encompass Trevor, and her family and friends, near and far. In recent years Sheila and Trevor have shared their time between Knebworth and Norwich, where they have another church family. We also remember Ian and Becky and family following news of the recent death of Ian's mum, Joan. Along with concerns for the health of other members and connections in the fellowship as we press on through these times may we continue to encourage, support, pray for and care for one another in all the ways we can.

Saxon and Yvonne have now moved and are settling in to their new home, now much nearer to their daughter. We send greetings and hope circumstances enable them to make new friendships soon.

It is good to send greetings and report that Margaret Webb is settling comfortably in her new home and still receiving Trinity Times and other news from Trinity friends.

Those who use the internet have a variety of resources to choose from while we cannot meet together. The Saturday Zoom Coffee morning is a very informal drop-in where news and views can be shared. The younger members have a Sunday evening One Truth Youth meeting which also meets weekly. Some weeks members are volunteering to introduce and lead discussion on a wide variety of subjects they are interested in or passionate about. Some weeks are just informal drop-in chat and games (would you believe how popular bingo has become?!).

Many resources are available (from near and far) for worship, and of course accessing these is not restricted to a time slot on Sunday. There are various special services and meetings for prayer and Bible study which are advertised in this magazine and through the church mailing. If anyone needs more information or advice please ask one of the elders or others who may know.

*Gill Hughes*

### **FOUND property**

It appears someone lent a book by Richard Adams (And God Said to Me) to Marion Bennett? Marion's daughter would like to be able to return it to the lender.... if anyone can shed light on this, please let me know.

*Gill Hughes*

## **PARISH NEWS ARTICLES**

1. Since there was no Trinity Times last month, this is the text of the Trinity article, prepared by John Whittle, which appeared in the **January** issue of the Knebworth Parish News (Ed.)

### **Looking and Seeing**

**'Hear this, you foolish and senseless people, who have eyes but do not see, who have ears but do not hear' Jeremiah 5 v.21.**

As with hearing and listening, so too with looking and seeing, one part of the equation is purely to do with our ears or eyes; the second involves the brain. We sometimes say, "He only sees what he wants to see." Our minds determine what we actually see; for example, I was once travelling by train through some rugged countryside along with a fellow student who had studied geology, and he opened up to me a whole new way of seeing the scenery we were passing. His knowledge enabled him to see what I, in my ignorance, was unable to see.

We like watching "Antiques Road Trip" on television, and in one episode, two experts walked into the same shop, one walked across to a stand by the door that was containing discounted objects, thought to be of little value and which the other expert did not even stop to look at. But the first saw a glass bowl for sale at £1. He bought it, and at auction it sold for £600!

Our prejudices also govern what we see and how we judge it. Earlier this year, a highly qualified barrister was attending a courthouse, where she was involved in a trial, and three times in one day she was told to get out since, because she was black, she was taken for a criminal! Our cultural background also influences our seeing, so we might look at a plate of snails and go, "Ug!", whereas the French person may say "Lovely"!

The prophet Isaiah spoke of the Messiah as one who, **"will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth."**

We so often judge by outward appearances, so the story is told of a scholar, well versed in Latin, who fell on hard times and collapsed in the street. Two passing medical students, seeing him, said let us try our treatment on this worthless creature. The sick man responded in perfect Latin, **"Who do you call worthless; a man for whom Christ died?"**

So what you see is very much determined by your mind; you look and see; a person of colour, or a down and out, or a foreigner! We need a change of mind, a converted way of seeing. So let us during this New Year, seek by God's good grace, to look and see with the eyes of Christ. Seeing everyone we meet as one made in the image of God; one for whom Christ died that she/he might have everlasting life.

Indeed, go even further and pray that in each we may see in the other Jesus. So in the words of the old hymn, we pray:

**'Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus. To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.'**

*Rev'd John Whittle*

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2. Bringing us right up to date, this is the text of the Trinity article that has been prepared by Rosie Berry for the **February** edition of the Knebworth Parish News. (Ed.)

Picture the scene: my daughter in Ireland has just had a supermarket delivery, and her partner is busy checking the order. Twenty minutes later there's a knock at the door. It's the delivery driver - his van is stuck on the gravel. Now, there's no need to drive on the gravel - plenty of hard standing for two or three cars. There's weed-preventing mesh under the gravel, forming soft ground for unsuspecting wheels. There follow several unsuccessful attempts with planks of wood to give the wheels some purchase. It is now approaching three hours since the van became stuck. The delivery van driver had phoned for a rescue truck but that driver didn't want to risk his vehicle on the drive.

Suddenly, a vehicle pulls in on the drive. In my daughter's words "a random van driver" had noticed their predicament and offered help. The delivery van didn't have a tow-bar, so the rescuer attached cables to the back axle and managed to pull the delivery van clear. Helena, ever resourceful, took photos of the damage to the gravel and they are now pursuing an insurance claim with the supermarket.

What can we learn from this? It reminds me of the parable of the house built on sand where the foundations were washed away; the house built on solid rock stood firm. As the Sunday School chorus has it:

"On Christ the solid ground I stand,  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand."

P.S. Helena and Damien are still awaiting repairs. Ireland's still in lockdown and the builders' merchants are closed.

The family of zebra finches is doing well; Trixie the cat has learned how to turn off the television in mid-programme!

Rosie Berry, an Elder at Trinity

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## **TRINITY CHURCH MEETING, 4TH FEBRUARY**

*You are invited to attend the Open Elders Meeting to be held via Zoom on Thursday, 4th February 2021, 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 the 4th.*

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

***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](mailto:maureen.haycock@gmail.com) or telephone her on 07949 533880.*



# Trinity Church Knebworth

Agenda for the Open Elders Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 @ 7.30pm

Chair: Brian Hughes (BH)

Opening Worship: Mel Mitchell (MM)

Secretary: Maureen Bodden (MB)

	Who	Item	
7.30	BH	1	Welcome
	MM	2	Opening prayers
	BH	3	Apologies for absence
	BH	4	Approval of minutes of the last meeting – 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
		5	NOTIFICATION of AOB (to secretary if possible in advance)
	BH	6	Matters arising from previous meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Furlough</li> <li>- Safeguarding</li> <li>- Approval of Accounts</li> <li>- Task List</li> </ul>
	BH	7	Ministry Update
	GH	8	Pastoral Care
		9	Engaging with our community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth Club</li> </ul>
	CO	10	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expenditure on Property</li> </ul>
	GH	11	Faith, Nurture and Development
	PB	12	Property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manse Quinquennial</li> </ul>
	PB	13	Trinity@25
	BH	14	Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elder Election Timetable</li> <li>- Denominational returns</li> <li>- Appointment of church secretary</li> </ul>
	BH MB AF  BH/JH	15	The Wider Church (as available) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- North Herts Ecumenical Area</li> <li>- Knebworth Family of Churches</li> <li>- Wider Methodist Church</li> <li>- Wider URC Church <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NHGC</li> <li>2. Thames North Synod</li> </ol> </li> <li>- CTIS and CTiH</li> </ul>
		16	Dates of next meetings – chair, secretary and opening devotions Property Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2021
		17	AoB
		18	Close

## 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*

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## MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

### February Outreach Charity



**Bridge Builders** is a Christian Trust which works in partnership with primary school teachers, church leaders and committed volunteers in Stevenage and the surrounding area.

It provides:

- opportunities for children to explore the Christian faith through assemblies and class work;
- visits to local churches for themed events;
- mentoring and pastoral support for vulnerable children: and
- mid-week clubs for children in years 3-9.

To find out more, to donate or become a supporter, go to:

[www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk](http://www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk)

[Friends of Bridge Builders | Bridge Builders \(bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk\)](http://www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk)

Email : [admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk)

Telephone: 01438 314314 Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am - 3.00pm

*Maureen Bodden*

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## Used Postage Stamps

I am collecting used postage stamps – UK and foreign - for the charity Parkinson's UK. Please help me with this, if you can. Just cut round each stamp, leaving an edge of paper.

For more information, please phone 01438 815414.

*Kay Loveless*

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## KATE'S BLOG

Kate Dickinson continues to update her blog on a daily basis. She has been doing that for almost a year now and still finds something new to tell us about. You can find the blog, with all her postings, on the **Community Engagement** menu on the Trinity website. Take a bit of time to browse the site, it's well worth it. You can navigate to the blog via the menu or you can click on the following link:

[/Articles/569376/Kates\\_Blog.aspx](/Articles/569376/Kates_Blog.aspx)

Here is a just a small extract from one of her recent entries, it will give you an idea of what to expect when you "click on"!





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## **ANOTHER RECIPE FROM HANS**

This time it is for a Swiss biscuit that Hans calls MAILANDERLI (Mailand = Milan). The quantities in this recipe will make about 120 biscuits, depending on the size.

### **Ingredients:**

- 250 gm butter
- 250 gm caster sugar
- 500 gm plain flour
- Zest of one lemon
- Three medium eggs
- One egg yolk for glazing

### **Method:**

Stir together the softened butter with the sugar and the lemon zest until it has a foam-like appearance.

Then stir in the three eggs, one at a time, followed by the sifted flour. Work the mixture into a smooth dough (best done manually).

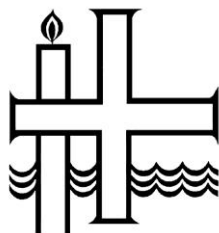
Wrap the dough in aluminium foil and place it in the fridge for about one hour.

Put some caster sugar onto a work surface and roll out the dough to a thickness of about 0.5 cm. Cut into various shapes and place them on baking paper; glaze the top with the beaten egg yolk.

Preheat the oven to 175 degrees and bake the biscuits for about 15 minutes.

Allow to cool on a wire rack, and then enjoy!

## KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES



### Lent Groups – February to March 2021

As in previous years, the Knebworth Family of Churches will again be running its Lent Course but this year, because of the restrictions and regulations imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have to do it differently.

Unfortunately we will not be able to meet in house groups this year, but there will still be need for a host and for a leader of each group (the host and leader may be the same person). The groups will meet online through the medium of Zoom, which has now become an accepted alternative to face-to-face for many kinds of meetings. Crucially, either the host or leader will be required to have a basic Zoom account.

The groups will start in the week beginning 22nd February; there will be five sessions, one a week, of approximately ninety minutes duration, leading up to Holy Week just before Easter. The groups will be made up of people from the different churches and anyone without a regular church connection is welcome to join.

Each session will start with a reading from Acts, followed by discussion and prayers. No great biblical knowledge is required, just come as you are. The course material can be downloaded from <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/bible/lifechangingstories/>. If anyone wants to take part but needs help to print the material, we will be able to assist.

There is further information in the attached form on the back page of this newsletter. To return a completed form, either scan it in to your computer and send it to me by email or, to return it as hard copy, take a photocopy of the form and drop it in to me at 7 Stockens Dell. Alternatively, you can simply email me with the days/times when you can meet, with your contact details, and let me know if you can be a host, a leader or both. Please let me have the information no later than **Friday, 12th February**.

*If you would like any more information, you can contact me on [gafothergill@gmail.com](mailto:gafothergill@gmail.com) or on 01438 813371.*

### A Message from Yvonne and Saxon

We have actually left Knebworth and have settled in happily to our retirement apartment. That does not mean we have no more boxes to empty, but at least we are comfortable and can find (most) of what we are looking for.

Thank you to our many friends and neighbours in Knebworth for their kind messages, cards and gifts. We thank God for a safe move (not without its problems - when our massive removal van arrived, it was too big to drive into the car park!).

We are very grateful for all the help we received from our family and friends, both in Knebworth and here in Kenilworth, where we are only 15 minutes away from our daughter, Sheila. Our new 'phone and broadband work, and we have been able to keep in touch with friends.

Our new address is 6 Finham Court, Waverley Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 1SA.

Keep well and Covid-free, and we hope to see each other one day.

*Yvonne and Saxon Denning*

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## **METHODIST NEWS**

### **Message from Rev'd Malcolm Peacock**

Happy New Year everyone, and I hope that this year proves better than last year. I don't know what traditions you had when the year reached its end. When I was a child I knew we often seemed to be underfoot in a way that made my mum a bit irascible. Mum wanted the house clean and fresh to welcome in the new year, all the washing done, dried and ironed and the house having an early spring clean. This was something important for her, to have everything tidy and finished - a feeling that as you finished the year that is how your new year would be. As children, we were sent out to go to our grandparents and look for the person with as many noses as days of the year. I spent several years not finding anyone with so many noses until my elder brother told me it was a joke and that there was one day left in the year and everyone has one nose.

We were also encouraged to make New Year resolutions, which were mostly kept in the breach. There was a feeling that New Year marked the end of Christmas and the holidays were over and that we needed to get back to living and, if I am honest, I think there was a sense of relief that the holidays were over and life was getting back to normal.

The covenant service traditionally held at the start of the calendar year marked the return to normal. It seemed appropriate that we should mark the return to normal with a profound expression of Christian commitment.

This year, more than in many years, has been difficult as a nation. There have been many years where individuals or families have had a difficult time. This year it has been all of us.

I don't know what feelings and thoughts you will be carrying forward. For me there is a sense of resentment that so much of what we considered to be normal life has been taken from us. We haven't seen family as we would like; we haven't travelled as we would like; we haven't celebrated as we would like; we haven't worshiped as we would like, for a long time there was no communal worship and then it has been restricted and even today, as we see the number of infections continue to grow, there is the fear that even the limited worship we have will be prevented before the safety and security of the impact of vaccinations works its way through.

There is also the anxiety/thought that going forward life will be very different for years to come. It is easy to think that face masks and social distancing will become part of the fabric of everyday life, even after the vaccines are all deployed.

There is a sense in which the past year has been a game changer in many different ways. I wonder what it is we have thought about this year as circumstances have made us think about our lives.

I wonder how much our appreciation of family has changed and the importance we put on family. I wonder how much our understanding of community support has changed. I wonder if our views about wealth and poverty have changed as people have been furloughed and food bank use has gone up. I wonder if our views of education and social care have changed. I wonder what we will make priorities, looking ahead?

Two thousand or so years ago there was also a major game changer. Jesus Christ was born. God became human, a game changer if ever there was one. Thirty three years later, with the death and resurrection of Jesus, we see the culmination of what it means when we say God coming into the world makes a difference.

The incarnation allows us to answer the question where is God in all of this, by affirming that God is with us. The incarnation and resurrection of Jesus reminds us of the power of forgiveness as a way of creating a different way to be. One of the many things we learn from Jesus is that to love is the most important thing we can do and that a love which is sacrificial is redemptive.

Going into the new year let us remind ourselves that we need to look to Christ and learn to love and, as we do, we will make this world richer.

*Malcolm*

*{The above item was reproduced from the January 2021 edition of the North Herts Circuit Newsletter}*

## COVID VACCINATIONS

The Knebworth and Marymead Medical Practice is now part of a consortium of Practices known as a Primary Care Network (PCN). The other Practices are Bedwell and Roebuck, Shephall and King George, known together as the Stevenage South PCN. The basic concept of PCNs is the sharing of certain resources that individual Practices would not normally have, such as physiotherapy, social prescribing, etc.

In fact, this idea has come into its own in the past few weeks as the result of the need for a cohesive Covid vaccination programme. Using the Roebuck Surgery as the vaccination centre, by the end of January more than 2000 patients from within the four Practices will have received their first jab and a further 1000 or more will also have had the follow-up dose of the vaccine.

The vaccination clinics, run over two- or three-day periods, have been manned by nurses, doctors and support/clerical staff from the four Practices, working together as a single team. Furthermore, they have been supported by volunteers from the four Patient Participation Groups, acting as marshals or car parking attendants and, again, the keyword has been teamwork!

The feedback that we have received from patients has been very complimentary, either whilst they were waiting in the short queues prior to their vaccination, or afterwards as they leave the Surgery.

By now, virtually all patients in the 80+ age group, and a large number of the 75 – 79-year-old ones, at the Knebworth and Marymead Practice will have received at least one dose of either the Pfizer or Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.

This programme is set to continue for many weeks, if not months, ahead. But it is important to realise that you will be vaccinated in accordance with the government's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) guidelines and priorities. Please don't phone the surgery; you will be contacted by the Practice and will be offered an appointment in line with these guidelines as more vaccine becomes available and when clinics are arranged.

*Graham Fothergill*

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***Please send items for the March issue of Trinity Times to Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 18th February:***

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

***Telephone 01438 813371***

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth

## LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE FOR LENT?

### Why not take part in a Lent Group on Zoom?

(Groups start in the week beginning 22nd February 2021)

#### THE MYSTERY OF GOD

This year, the **Knebworth Family of Churches Lent Course** has been prepared by Church Action on Poverty, and is called 'Life changing stories', with five studies based on the Acts of the Apostles.

There will be five sessions, one a week, leading up to Holy Week just before Easter. Depending on the uptake, different days and times may be offered. Unfortunately we will not be able to meet in house groups this year, but we hope some newcomers might be encouraged to take part if it is easier for them on Zoom.

Each session will last for up to 90 minutes, with a reading from Acts, followed by discussion and prayers. No great biblical knowledge is required, just come as you are. You can check out the course and download the material from <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/bible/lifechangingstories/>. If anyone wants to take part and needs help to print the material, please let us know.

The groups will be made up of people from the different churches and anyone without a regular church connection is welcome to join. Please note, either the host or the leader will be required to have a basic Zoom account.

**There are five sessions of approximately 1½ hours.**

Completed forms to be returned no later than **Friday, 12th February 2021** to Graham Fothergill by email at [gafothergill@gmail.com](mailto:gafothergill@gmail.com) or delivered to 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth. For any enquiries/late applications please contact Graham by email, or by telephone on 01438 813371.

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
MONDAY									
TUESDAY									
WEDNESDAY									
THURSDAY									
FRIDAY									

Name: .....Church (if applicable): .....

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

Telephone numbers:

.....

Email: .....

Please give email address so that we can send details.