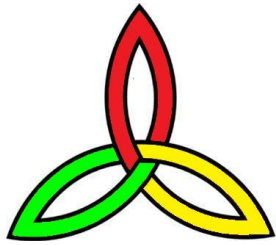


Trinity Times



March 2021

Issue No 240



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

The dramatic photograph on the cover of this month's Trinity Times was sent to me by Hans Meister. It was taken by his son, Peter, who lives with his family up on the Isle of Skye. If anyone who reads this newsletter has any photographs that they think will look good on the front cover, please let me have them. I think it will be a few months yet before we can revert to the original coversheet – the diary of Trinity services and events for the month ahead!

Graham Fothergill

TRINITY SERVICES

Until there is an easing of Government restrictions in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, it will not be possible to open Trinity Church for Sunday services. The Elders will continue to review this situation and will keep its members and congregation informed of any changes.

However, it will still be possible to join us in worship via Zoom. At 10.30 am on Sunday, 7th March, Mel Mitchell and Kate Dickinson will be leading a short service with the theme of "Being church in a pandemic" and there will be another Zoom service on Sunday, 21st March, again at 10.30 am.

The Zoom link will open at 10.15 am to give people a chance to chat before the service begins at 10.30 am. There will also be time to chat after the service.

The Zoom joining details can be obtained by contacting Kate via the Trinity website.

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

This is the text of the Trinity article that has been prepared by Becky Amy for the March edition of the Knebworth Parish News. (Ed.)

Who amongst you has heard of the app Spotify?

I was introduced to this app by my 15-year-old at the end of 2020. It is an app you pay a monthly subscription to and you then have access to millions of songs and podcasts. I was already paying for my child's subscription so a small increase meant I could subscribe too.

So, since late November last year I have been navigating my way around this app discovering music from my childhood, amusing podcasts to keep my mood boosted, sharing music with my 15-year-old and them saying, "Wow I like that"! But the best thing I have found is a wealth of Christian music, I make a regular beeline for this everyday as it truly uplifts me. I have a few favourite songs, but one which speaks to me, and I know it does to others in Trinity Church, is 'In Christ Alone' by Stuart Townend. The tune has always just popped into my head and I cannot help but hum it out loud; and in this last year it has become a bit of an ear worm and I will find myself just suddenly humming away wherever it pops into my head, usually when I least expect it to happen. It is the first verse which has brought me comfort during this pandemic, reminding me that Christ is there for us whatever we are going through.

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

If you would like to hear a rendition I particularly like, and can go online to YouTube, here is the following link <https://youtu.be/8kvFtXphmMU>

Rebecca Amy
A Trinity Church Member

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.
- 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.
- 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

TRINITY CHURCH FINANCES

This time last year we were surrounded by uncertainty with the news of a virus spreading in Asia. We did not know whether it would impact us, and if it did what the consequences would be and for how long we may or may not be affected. Here we are now living a new normal, experiencing things that we have never had to experience before, and having come to terms with new words like 'Covid-19', 'social distancing', 'lockdowns' and a 'tier system'. We do not know how long this restricted way of life will continue, and yet we are hopeful that this time next year restrictions will certainly be less now that the vaccine is working its way through the population.

Because of the Coronavirus, church life has been anything but normal. We have only had a handful of Sunday services and church events in the last year. Yet fortunately, our church family has continued to support Trinity financially which has been nothing short of fantastic. The figures quoted are for the year before Coronavirus hit, so we won't see the real impact until next year. Giving (by bank transfer) is down a little over the last year with £23,822 having been received (which compares with £30,057 for the previous financial year).

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 consider this for future years. Jenny Wright or I will gladly explain what this involves.

Our other source of income has been hall hiring, this has pretty much ground to a halt now due to Coronavirus. Last year we have received £5,696 from hall hiring which compares with £6,564 in the previous year. What has been fantastic though is that we have had the manse rented out for just over a year now which has yielded £12,792 and, as you can see, will more than negate the reduction in hall hiring income.

We have spent an above average amount on the church building over this last year due to several jobs taking place (removal of trees, painting both internal and external, carpet cleaning, fencing). This has totalled £10,861.74 and compares with £6,432 in the previous year. It is unlikely that costs will be near this level in the coming year.

Our accounts are taking longer than normal to be audited due to the restrictions in place, once they have been agreed they will be made available for those to wish to see them.

If you have any questions about church finances, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Chris Oyetunde
Treasurer, Trinity Church

07983 408841
chrisoyetunde@yahoo.co.uk

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

March Outreach Charity



Our Outreach charity for March is **The Living Room**, which we have been supporting for many years, and is still carrying on with its good work during lockdown, using zoom and other means to communicate. They have not been able to undertake their usual fund-raising activities, but are holding another quiz. Have a look at their website for more information about what they are doing.

The Living Room premises are at the Glebe in Stevenage and the organisation helps young people with addiction problems. For a number of years now they have provided a day care service for adults receiving about 200 referrals each year. Thanks to a grant from the Hertfordshire Community Foundation the service has been extended to 13 to 17 year-olds.

To make a donation, go to www.livingroomherts.org or phone 0300 365 0304 or email enquiries@livingroomherts.org .

Water Aid

When a community gets clean water for the first time, it's the start of something truly life-changing.

Right now, some of the world's poorest and most marginalised people don't have [clean water](#) to drink, [decent toilets](#) or [hygiene](#). Without these basics, overcoming poverty is just a dream. But when you help us to dig a well or install a tap stand in a community, you're changing lives. They can dream again.

785 million people in the world – one in ten – do not have clean water close to home. We'll keep working until everyone, everywhere, has clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene. But we can't do it without you.

PLEASE SUPPORT KFC AS IT SEEKS TO RAISE FUNDS OVER LENT USING THE JARS OF CHANGE INTO WHICH A SMALL DONATION IS PLACED EACH TIME WATER IS USED OVER LENT.

John Whittle

Christian Aid



Since it is anticipated that the usual house-to-house collections in mid-May could be problematic this year because of Covid, the local Christian Aid Committee has come up with an alternative strategy. They plan to deliver envelopes to every household in the village, with a note indicating that these can then be returned to a couple of collection points – probably the Co-op and the Post Office – during Christian Aid Week, **10th to 16th May**.

On **Sunday, 9th May**, it is hoped that it will be possible to hold a Service to recognise the start of Christian Aid Week. The format of the Service – by Zoom or face-to-face – will be dependent on the Covid-19 regulations in place at that time. Further information on this will be provided nearer to the date of the Service.

In order to raise funds for Christian Aid, the ever-inventive Colin Stringer has kindly produced what is essentially a village treasure hunt, entitled “Knebworth Knowledge” with clues to be solved around the village, such as the number of a telephone pole or the manufacturer of a manhole cover. Details of this can be found on the back page of this issue of Trinity Times.

Colin is now in the process of sorting out the clues for his annual Christian Aid Quiz; there will be further information on this in due course.

Christian Aid Special Event: Saturday, 15th May - save the date!

Graham Fothergill, on behalf of the Knebworth Christian Aid Committee

2021 URC Prayer Handbook “Conversations”

I have one spare copy of this very accessible prayer resources based both around weekly lectionary readings from January, and also reflections on many of our real life situations.

2020/2021 Methodist Prayer Handbook “The Earth is the Lord's”

I also have a spare copy of this resource published for the year from September 2020.

Please let me know if you would like either of these before they gather too much dust on my shelf!

Gill Hughes

Reform

For many years we have subscribed to this. It is well described as ‘*a fresh and challenging magazine from the United Reformed Church exploring theology, ethics, personal spirituality and Christian perspectives on social and current affairs*’. Subscription is for ten issues a year which can be received by post, digitally or both. It always features material on contemporary issues with contributors ranging widely in age and perspective. Examples in the recent issue include an article on how churches might welcome and support parents and carers with feeding infants in church settings, four different personal answers to the question “How will churches look after the pandemic?”, an interview with Miriam Turner the co-CEO of Friends of the Earth, and much more besides. To find out more visit <https://reform.escosubs.co.uk/> or call 01371 851 886.

Gill Hughes

KATE'S BLOG

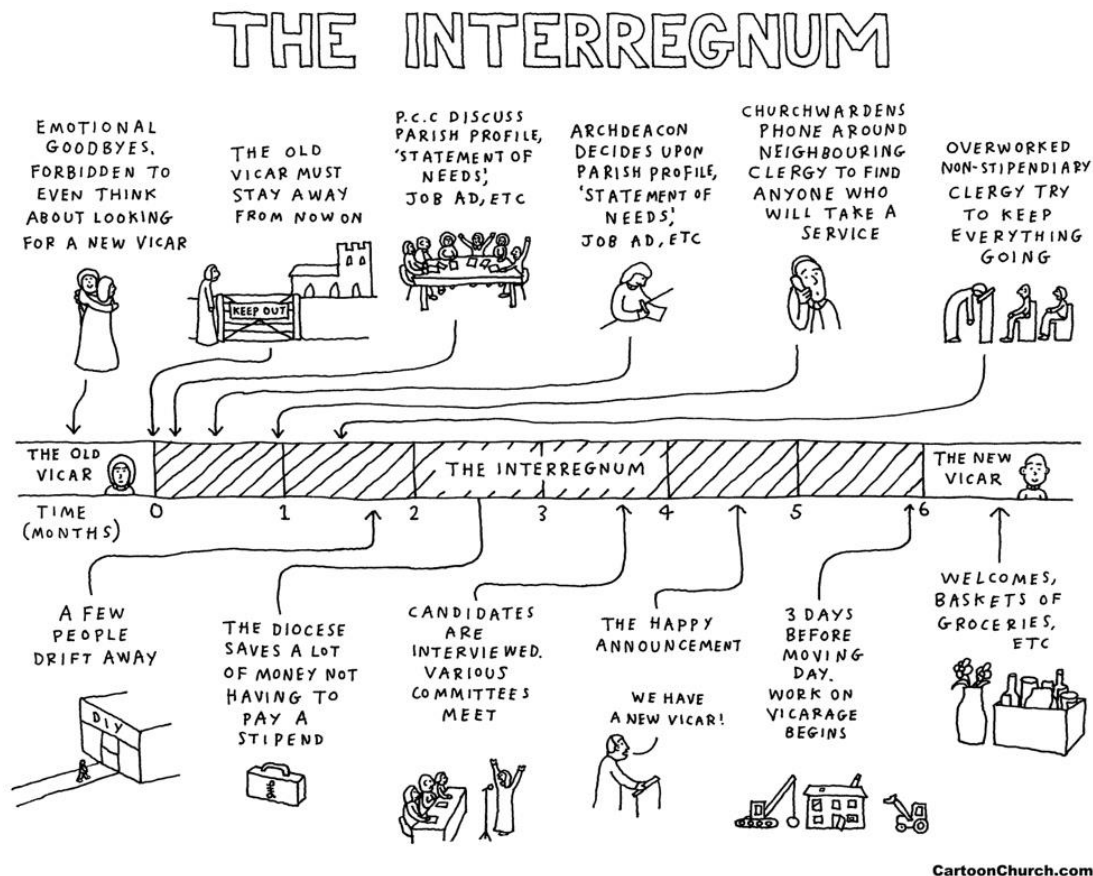
Kate Dickinson continues to update her blog on a daily basis. She has been doing that for almost a year now and still finds something new to tell us about. You can find the blog, with all her postings, on the **Community Engagement** menu on the Trinity website. Take a bit of time to browse the site, 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

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

Thursday 18 February

Although the cartoon below applies to Anglican Churches, I felt that it also applies somewhat to Trinity Church as we are currently in an interregnum.



I end with a prayer taken from the website of St Barnabas Church, Epsom:

Loving God, as we journey together through this period of Interregnum, we thank you for your everlasting faithfulness to us.

At this time of uncertainty and change we ask that you send us your Holy Spirit, to fill us with your vision, energy, and faithfulness in prayer.

We ask that you will help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need and have courage to face our future and embrace the unknown, with praise in our hearts, in loving obedience to you.

Amen

Stay safe, strong and secure in God's love

Kate

KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES



Annual General Meeting

The belated Knebworth Family of Churches (KFC) AGM for 2020, held by Zoom on Sunday, 31st January 2021, was a well-attended event. Not surprisingly, reports from groups associated with KFC demonstrated that, because of Covid, there had been very few activities within their ranks. Although income was somewhat reduced during the year, the Treasurer was able to report that a reasonably healthy surplus of funds had been maintained. In the absence of other nominations, Pastor Yinka Oduwole was re-elected as Chairman, Jenny Wright continues as Treasurer and Graham Fothergill remains as Secretary.

2021 Events

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on 18th to 22nd January, held by Zoom, was a successful venture with a total of twenty people joining in on various days.

There has been sufficient interest in this year's Lent Course to be able to form three discussion groups; they started to meet by Zoom during the week commencing 22nd February.

Whilst it will clearly not be possible to hold usual the Good Friday Walk of Witness from St Thomas More to Trinity, via St Martin's, plans are in hand to have a digital version of the walk - with contributions from the three churches – which will be put onto YouTube. Further details of this will be made available as the plans develop.

Commemorative Silver

In the early days of the Knebworth Family of Churches, the late Alan Richardson kindly commissioned the production of a considerable number of solid silver brooches, stick pins and pendants incorporating the KFC logo in the design. They were made by Heather, his daughter, whilst she was working as a silversmith, and they were hall-marked. They were then offered for sale to members of the congregations of the Knebworth Family of Churches. Examples are shown in the photograph below, each one is approximately one inch in diameter.



Heather recently discovered the unsold brooches, pins and pendants among her late father's effects during the house-clearance at "Green Pastures" and she has agreed that they may be sold to raise funds for Christian Aid.

They will cost £5.00 each – very reasonable considering the current price of silver. If you would wish to purchase one, please phone me on 01438 813371 or contact me by email at gafothergill@gmail.com.

Graham Fothergill
Secretary, The Knebworth Family of Churches

METHODIST NEWS

Message from Rev'd Malcolm Peacock

It never ceases to amaze me that no matter what I am doing or how caught up in things I am, the cycle of the year never stops. It is February and all around there are the signs of hope that winter is past - there are spring flowers blooming, buds unfurling and it stays light for longer.

This year I have found the promise of hope even more precious because the gloom of Covid-19 and lockdown has been heavy and even now uncertain. There is good news, so many people have been vaccinated, the peak of the current wave seems to have passed and there are signs of hope - even if they are not fixed as yet.

Schools are due to go back next month, so the current lockdown has an end in sight, the vaccinations promise a pathway to a less restrictive way of being, not a way back to how things were but a way to a future that may be less restricted.

We still need to be patient. The vaccines will protect to a point but we will still need to be careful. As yet we don't know what life will be like when we are able to meet and mingle. We don't know yet about social distancing, the wearing of face coverings, whether church can resume as we would wish and like it to be, We are still waiting to find out about singing, how close we can gather, how long we can be together, when we will be able to share in meals together, or even share in tea and coffee after a service.

For some reason my mind has been drawn to the second coming of Jesus and the end times and asking if there is something here that can help as we manage and prepare ourselves to move on to a different way of life and living in the future.

The second coming of Jesus is something embedded in our faith, in our creeds and in the pages of the Bible. The challenge for us is to recognise that the second coming of Christ is a reality but the when of it is uncertain and the need for the Christian is to live in the present, not to live in the past, not to long for the future, not to withdraw from the present but to live and be in the present. That is the challenge we need to respond to as we manage and cope in our current context. We will not be able to go back to how things were this time last year, no amount of longing will take us back to that situation. We do not know what the future will hold - we can make intelligent guesses and assumptions but we don't know - our experience over the past year serves to underline that. We have to learn to live in the present and to seek the presence of God in the present and to ask how we can be the people of God today. The need to live in the present is part of the teaching of Jesus - we are not to worry about tomorrow, today has enough challenges.

How do we live in the present? When we are not locked down that is something we do almost without thinking about it. When we are locked down that becomes much more difficult because we are deprived of the routines and regular contacts that make up our lives. There is a need to create structure for the day - if we resort to watching TV all day we find hours merge and days blur and we miss something important. The structure we can create is obviously up to us, but the things we can do include fixing time for prayer. The use of fixed time of prayer is something that has shaped and formed the day for believers for many years. I am not suggesting that we become as rigid as monastic communities and pray every few hours, but the structure of praying at the morning and the evening helps us to manage our days. There is the need for exercise. Having our meals at similar times each day. These simple things help us to keep the day structured and prevents a blur of timelessness as we cope with lockdown.

We can also choose times to talk with friends and family, smart phones and the internet give us capacity to see each other and talk with each other - sometimes even just being able to see a friend and drink a cuppa at the same time can make a difference - we may not even feel the need to talk, but be able to see each other can remind us of contact and presence that is precious.

Without question we need each other as we have always needed each other as family, friends and those who care. Without question there are things each and every one of us can do and do for ourselves and each other, let us take time to think, ask what would help me and then see if that is something we can do with someone else.

Malcolm

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

COVID VACCINATION GUIDANCE

Are the Covid-19 vaccines effective and what are the side effects?

Both vaccines currently being used are for adults over the age of 18 years and have been shown to be effective in protecting against Covid-19. Further studies are being carried out to assess their effectiveness in stopping the transmission of Covid-19 and for how long their protection lasts. There is a chance you might still get or spread coronavirus even if you have the vaccine. This means it is important to continue to follow social distancing guidance.

A very small number of people are at risk of an allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) when having the Covid-19 vaccine. This includes people with a previous history of allergic reactions to the ingredients of the vaccine. Before receiving the vaccine, people will be asked questions about their medical history and if they have serious allergies.

If I have had the vaccine, do I still need to wear a face covering and follow Covid-19 safety requirements?

Yes. To protect yourself and your family, friends and colleagues you still need to:

- Socially distance
- Wear a face covering
- Wash your hands carefully and frequently
- Follow the national and local guidance.

Graham Fothergill

Lost Property

Unfortunately, at Rhoda Cole's Memorial Service in December, my umbrella was taken in error – someone who was at that Service took mine and I was left with theirs. Mine was a gift from my daughter and so has a sentimental attachment; it is black and I think it has the logo "Royal Parade" or something similar.

I would be very pleased to swap back the umbrellas as soon as possible!

John Whittle

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

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth



Knebworth Knowledge

So you think you know your way around the village!

This is a fun quiz for all of the family to do together. There are **50** questions for you to answer, whilst walking around the village. The answers are all in plain sight. An example might be the number of a telephone pole or the manufacturer of a manhole cover.

Entry is just a minimum donation of **£2.00** and there is a prize of a **£20** gift voucher for the winner.

Entry forms and clues can be downloaded from:

<http://www.parascosa.com/KnebworthKnowledgeQuiz.htm>

or you can collect a paper version from:

- Knebworth Post Office; or
- *Village News* in Station Road.

Happy hunting!