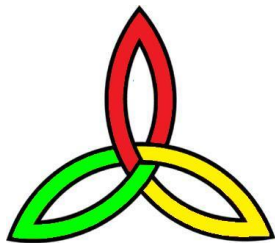


Trinity Times



April 2021

Issue No 241



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

It seems as though perhaps things are beginning to open up a bit as we, hopefully, come towards the end of the lockdown. However, for the time being, Trinity-related activities will continue to be somewhat constrained. This year's KFC Good Friday Walk of Witness will be a YouTube experience, the planned celebrations of the 25th Anniversary of the formation of Trinity Church will be rather muted – just an online presentation – and even Kathy's next "Big Brekkie" has to be "on Wheels".

Further information on all the above can be found within this newsletter.

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 the internet. At 10.30 am on Sunday, 4th April (Easter Day), there will be a live streamed service led by Jackie Hall; the link for this is

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=trinity+church+knebworth.

At 10.30 am on Sunday, 25th April, John Whittle has agreed to lead a service on Zoom. 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. A link with the Zoom joining details will be sent out nearer the time.

FAMILY NEWS

We share in profound sadness with Graham Fothergill. Graham and Maureen's son, Martin, grew up within the life of the URC Church in Park Lane and is remembered as child and teenager by several members from those days. Martin died peacefully in the London hospital where he had received treatment and care over recent weeks. Our prayers are especially for Graham and for Martin's wife, Nicola, as they prepare for his funeral on 13th April.

Over the last year medical treatment and appointments have of course been affected by the Covid situation and several members have had to wait longer or navigate difficulties to access support. Sue Burrell has finally had her postponed orthopaedic surgery in Pinehill Hospital, and we wish her well as she recovers over the coming weeks.

With news of the renewed possibility of some visitors being able to go in to care homes, it is good to hear that both Hans and Margaret have had personal visits. We look forward to the day when we are able again to visit these members of our fellowship.

As we gradually follow the road map back to being together for worship and fellowship, in the ways we crave, we continue to pray for each other and try our best to keep the networks of communication open.

Gill Hughes

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

This is the text of the Trinity article that has been prepared by Jackie Hall for the April edition of the Knebworth Parish News. (Ed.)

How do you pass your time? Do you stand and stare or fret about things that cannot be changed? Do you face the future with a smile as, full of confidence, you stride onwards? Is your teddy at the ready, as daily news reports fill the screen and the printed page is full of terrible things, both local and in the wider world?

Do you have an opinion on everything or simply not care as you make another cup of tea and reach for the biscuits you were going to give up once things got better? (Please be kind to yourselves, folks, we are still in a global pandemic). How about another way of trying to live in the world? One with both feast and famine. Are you ready to fast from criticism and feast on the good we see in others? Fast from anger: feast on patience. Fast from pessimism: feast on optimism.

Perhaps you could write down your fears, then your solutions and pray that you have the courage and strength or patience to act on those solutions. If nothing happens, honestly, were those fears real or simply fear of what MIGHT happen if it did? I'm sure you coped with it, perhaps receiving unexpected help along the way. When really scared, I've always found God a great listener - so patient, in the middle of the night, when fears seem so much worse.

Maybe saying your opinions out loud might help with your frustration, as you see solutions clearly when others are blind. But, of course, even if only the birds in the garden hear your wisdom, it can be helpful at least to you. And they don't argue or answer back! We cannot see into the future, which is just as well, or we may have been more scared of 2020 than we were and not able to act as well as we did.

There were some nice times in 2020. Remember the neighbours, who did shopping or 'phoned for a chat. The tech skills we developed; who knew we could do that? Well done us! And think of more nice times to come. Just think of all those delayed family gatherings, the birthdays when we couldn't meet last year. So plenty of making up fun ahead (cake may be involved!). I have already warned my family of the 'hugathon' to come. When one queried what happened if they ran, I replied that I've got my running shoes ready! Their reply was a great big smile and a virtual hug; good, but not as good as a real one. Can we look forward to a 'new normal', where hugs are allowed but also tech helping us at meetings so all can attend in safety, where we have a choice to stay at home and chat with friends or meet face to face or a mixture of both?

Happy Easter!

Keep faith and keep safe.

Jackie Hall, Trinity Elder

Trinity@25

1996-2021

On 25th March 1996, the United Reformed (URC) and Methodist Churches in Knebworth officially joined together in a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) which, thereafter, was recognised as Trinity Church. Friday, 25th March 2021 was, therefore, the 25th Anniversary of that union.

To celebrate this anniversary Trinity Church had planned a series of services and events but, because of the restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of these have had to be postponed but with every intention that they should be held as soon as is practicable.

We have, however, been able to continue with one of the original concepts, although perhaps not in the format that was at first envisaged. This is to bring together the histories of the Methodist and URC Churches to the point at which Trinity Church was formed and then to follow a timeline, through its development, up to the present day. This was to have been in the form of a display in the church, and perhaps in other locations in the village, with relevant photographs and accompanying text and possibly a few artefacts. Instead, what we have been able to achieve is to bring together a coherent selection of that information as a presentation which will be available on the Trinity Church website shortly after Easter. It can be found by following this link:-

https://www.trinitychurchknebworth.org.uk/Groups/344412/Trinity_25.aspx

Do enjoy this example of how a significant part of the Faith community in our diverse village has developed, particularly since the end of the last century!

Peter Bodden, Colin Stringer and Graham Fothergill

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

Trinity's Easter Offering and Charity of the month of April is **The Methodist Church World Mission Fund** which supports projects and individuals around the world in the following programmes administered through Global Relationships:

Nationals in Mission Appointments (NMAs):

These appointments encourage and support local people in key mission projects in their own countries. Salaries are paid by the Fund for World Mission and enable new work to be developed.

Mission Partners:

Mission Partners are initially trained in this country and invited to serve for periods of at least one year by partner churches in the Caribbean, South & Central America, Africa, The Pacific, Asia and Europe.

Fund for Mission in Europe

Scholarship and Leadership Training (SALT) Programme:

This programme funds men and women to study advanced or post-graduate courses in a cross-cultural setting.

Annual grants for World Church Partners:

These are annual grants given to partner churches enabling the partner church to decide its own priorities for the work of the Kingdom.

General or Solidarity Grants:

These grants are to a partner who is facing particularly difficult circumstances or an emergency situation.

As we won't be in church this Easter, there will be no Easter offering envelopes, so please donate if you can online via *Just Giving, World Mission Fund (methodist.org.uk)* 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

Maureen Bodden, for the Mission Group

North Herts Methodist Circuit Good Friday Walk

Mel Mitchell and family together with Jackie and Steven Hall will be doing the Circuit's Good Friday Sponsored walk this year.

As usual, it will be supporting two charities. These are:

Bridge Builders, based in Stevenage and supported by Stevenage churches, they take the gospel to schools largely by means of dramatic presentations of Bible stories. <https://www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk/>

Action Udobo, which supports Udobo School in Durban, South Africa, in providing early years learning for disadvantaged children. It has been supported by members of this circuit for several years and funds are always needed not only for equipment but for teachers' salaries. <http://actionudobo.org.uk/>

We can't walk as a large group as we usually do, and enjoy a cup of tea and refreshments at the end; this year we will be walking alone or in our family bubbles locally and safely - whatever the weather throws at us.

Last year the Good Friday Walk was cancelled due to Covid, but we all thought we could do it in the autumn - we were wrong, of course. So this year we have found a way to make it happen. We are asking folk if they can to sponsor one or both families; we can arrange payment in many ways, all safe and Covid-secure.

So that we can fill in the sponsor form (vital if you are able to Gift Aid) please contact either Mel or Jackie with your pledge .

Many thanks, stay safe.

Jackie

PS. If you could pray for good weather over that weekend, that would be great!

Christian Aid



House-to-House Collection

Christian Aid Week is **10th to 16th May** this year and during the early part of the month, around the time of the May Bank Holiday, volunteers will be delivering Christian Aid 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 or soon after Christian Aid Week.

Christian Aid Service

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. We hope to be able to let you have further information on this in the May issue of the Parish News.

Big Brekkie on Wheels!

Kathy Cole is again arranging one of her now-famous Big Brekkies, the proceeds of which will go to Christian Aid. But this time it's with a twist! The event, during the morning of Saturday, 15th May, will be organised around St Martin's Parish Centre. People will be able to phone in their order in advance for a bacon bap or a sausage bap, plus a cold drink, and either have it delivered or collect it themselves from St Martin's car park. All this for a suggested donation of £5.00 for a very worthy cause!

Knebworth Knowledge

As another Christian Aid fund-raiser, and for something to occupy children (and adults!) over the Easter break, Colin Stringer has produced what is essentially a village treasure hunt, with clues to be solved around the village, such as the number of a telephone pole or the manufacturer of a manhole cover. This is proving to be very popular – we have already had to restock the Post Office and Village News with copies of the questions.

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.

Graham Fothergill, on behalf of the Knebworth Christian Aid Committee

KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES



Good Friday Walk of Witness

For many years, members of the Knebworth Family of Churches have come together on Good Friday to accompany Christ on his way to the Cross by making a Walk of Witness through the village. In 2020 and again in 2021, we witness to our love of Christ and of neighbour by keeping one another safe and avoiding large gatherings. So, this year our Walk of Witness will be a virtual one, with members of the individual churches providing recordings of the prayers, hymns and scripture readings that would normally be shared at each stop along the walk. Please visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmBPTViTm6R0mo0whxeisgg> on Good Friday to experience our virtual Walk of Witness as we remember Jesus' death on the Cross in preparation for the joy of Easter Sunday.

Commemorative Silver

There are still a few solid silver hall-marked brooches, stick pins and pendants available that the late Alan Richardson kindly commissioned in early days of the Knebworth Family of Churches.es, 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. 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 are £5.00 each – very reasonable considering the current price of silver. If you would like to purchase one, please phone me on 01438 813371 or contact me by email at gafothergill@gmail.com.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Knebworth Family of Churches was held by Zoom on Sunday, 31st January and the Minutes have now been finalised and approved. Please contact me (01438 813371 or gafothergill@gmail.com) if you would like a printed or electronic copy.

Graham Fothergill
Secretary, The Knebworth Family of Churches

METHODIST NEWS

Message from Rev'd Malcolm Peacock

I am writing this on a glorious Spring day. The sky is brilliant blue, there is hardly a breath of air and it is warm. All around me I see signs of new life; birds are nesting, buds are unfurling, bulbs are in flower. Signs of hope that winter is over and that good things are on their way. I find the longer days a blessing.

I know that even though the signs of hope are all around me that the possibility of cold, snow, frost and flood still exist, and those of us who have had outdoor Easter Day services wearing wellies and winter woolies know that.

We have signs of hope of a different nature at the moment, many of us have been vaccinated against Covid and we see the figures all going the right way and we have been given a road map out of lockdown and back to a more normal life by the end of June.

As a nation I hope that we can wait with patience for the various steps to happen - it would be so easy to relax too soon and allow the virus a chance to spike again. Yet even that would simply move the end of lockdown back, it won't take away our journey to a more normal life.

What we will need to do as a church is ask what do we want? Many will say let us return to our buildings, let us enjoy singing praises to God, let us have fellowship around coffee, over meals once again. Let us meet for our bible studies and social events. I hope that all of those things will happen. We have to wait and see what the guidelines are, but we remain hopeful.

Lockdown has been difficult, no question of that, but lots of positive things have happened. For some, worshipping through Zoom or streamed worship has meant a chance to be part of church which they might not have had. For some, to be able to worship at a time which fits in with the demands that their lifestyle brings. For some, it allows them to be present even though they are many miles away. For some, it is a chance to share in something when their health would otherwise keep them at home.

We have also seen many churches adapt their patterns of pastoral care and we have become aware of those who would be isolated because of health or lack of technology, and other patterns of regular contact have been put in place.

We have also discovered the joys and pleasures of holding meetings by Zoom; for some meetings, Zoom works well, especially when we don't have to travel on dark cold evenings and we are able to save on travelling time. For some meetings, Zoom doesn't work so well - we have to learn the difference.

The Coronavirus pandemic has had a profound impact on us. As we look to return to a more familiar and more comfortable way of being church we need to reflect and learn from our experiences.

Each Church needs to ask what have we learnt from our experiences of lockdown and what can we do differently because of it. The response of each church will be different because the needs and experiences of each will be different, but we do need to ask about how we will worship, how we will do our pastoral care and how we will do our meetings. Most of all we need to ask how can we continue to reach people who are not part of our fellowship so we can continue to share our faith and our good news?

Malcolm

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

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

Wednesday, 7th April at 11.00 am
Preacher: **Reverend Simon Carver**
Senior Minister, Dagnall Street Baptist Church
Free Church Chaplain, St Albans Cathedral

Wednesday, 5th May at 11.00 am
Preacher: **Reverend Stephen Copson**
Regional Minister of the Central Baptist Association

Wednesday, 2nd June at 11.00 am
Preacher: **Doral Hayes**
Ecumenical Facilitator, Churches Together in Hertfordshire



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBAY CHURCH OF
SAINŦ ALBĀN

Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain: Reverend Simon Carver,
Email:simoncarver@btinternet.com

COVID VACCINATION GUIDANCE

I make no apologies for repeating this information which appeared in the March issue of Trinity Times – it is still absolutely valid, (Ed.)

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

Please send items for the May issue of Trinity Times to Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 22nd April:

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth

**BIG BREKKIE
ON WHEELS!
SATURDAY 15TH MAY
FROM 9 AM**

ORDER A BACON OR SAUSAGE BAP
AND A COLD DRINK FOR A
SUGGESTED DONATION OF £5
THIS CAN BE PICKED UP FROM
ST MARTIN'S PARISH CENTRE
OR DELIVERED TO YOUR HOUSE

**RING 07892 936841
TO PLACE YOUR ORDER
BY FRIDAY 14TH MAY**

