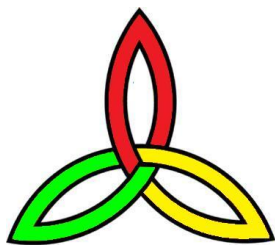


Trinity Times



May 2021

Issue No 242



Apple blossom

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 you will see from the list below, we as a church, and as a nation, are slowly coming out of the current lockdown period but it will, of course, be some time before there is a return to normal – whatever that normal may be. So I'm afraid that you will still have to bear with me in terms of the front cover of Trinity Times; there aren't yet enough services, meetings or events to make the publication of a "Diary" worthwhile. Therefore, for the time being, I will continue to find appropriate nature-inspired photographs for the cover, and if any amateur photographers out there have a snapshot that is suitable, please send it to me by email.

Graham Fothergill

TRINITY SERVICES

We are now able to return to Trinity Church for Services and these are the ones that have been arranged for May:

9th May at 5.30 pm; Christian Aid Service led by John Whittle

Duty Elders: Maureen Bodden and Jackie Hall

[This Service will be live-streamed on the Trinity YouTube channel]

23rd May at 10.30 am; Service of Holy Communion led by Rev'd Graham Claydon-Knights

Duty Elders: Jackie Hall and Mel Mitchell

30th May at 5.30 pm; Evening Service led by Rev'd Chandrika Perera

Duty Elders: Camilla Straughn and Rosie Berry

N.B. Seeking to follow Government guidelines, for these May services there will be no singing, no refreshments and social distancing will be observed, thus limiting the number who can attend. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to contact Kay Loveless at 21kayloveless@gmail.com or 01438 815414

FAMILY NEWS

Firstly, it is a delight to share news that, in April, Margaret and Bob Frost celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. I am sure we all wish to express the congratulations and good wishes of Trinity to them on this amazing milestone. According to my records, Margaret has been a member of the fellowship in Knebworth for nearly all of those 60 years!

In the last few days, two members have asked me to share their appreciation of our fellowship. Sue Burrell has made excellent progress after her hip surgery and wants to pass on her thanks for the ways in which she has felt supported and cared for over this time.

Marion Prow has also been in touch to ask me to pass on the news that she will be moving during May from her home in Codicote to a flat in Fordingbridge in the New Forest, close to where her granddaughter lives. Marion particularly wants to express her profound appreciation of the friendship and support of the fellowship here, where she has been a member for more than 10 years. I know we too share in thanking Marion for the many unobtrusive ways she has offered practical and spiritual support in Trinity, and pray that as she settles in to the new community she will again discover ways to join in a new fellowship.

It makes me wonder what other significant news we may have been less aware of sharing over these months of not meeting. If members have suggestions of what news and how we can best share it please do get in touch.

One of the things I have been aware of, continuing throughout the winter months of lock down, has been Kathy Cole leading the Wednesday Link-up lunch team in providing hot meals delivered to nearly 30 people each week. Others in the fellowship have been part of this operation (in the kitchen at the village hall, driving round with deliveries, and several are appreciative recipients). As things are opening up, I know other members who have been pleased to resume or take on voluntary or employed roles. These include Gill Atkinson and Kate Dickinson. Gill has returned to working at the distribution centre for the Garden House Hospice, and Kate is delighted to have just started a new job, one full day each week, initially from home until the office re-opens.

Our prayers continue for each other in all our various situations, especially for several of our members with ongoing medical appointments and treatment.

Gill Hughes

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their condolences and prayers in the past month or so following the sad death of my son, Martin. Your words and thoughts have helped me immensely during this very difficult period and have made me realise how important the fellowship of Trinity Church is to me.

Graham Fothergill

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

This is the text of the Trinity article that has been prepared by John Whittle for the May edition of the Knebworth Parish News. (*Ed.*)

As I write this there is rejoicing across the land as Care Homes are allowing a chosen person to meet directly with residents and are allowed to touch their loved ones. So many elderly people have in interviews, along with their loved ones, complained bitterly of months in which no touching was allowed. Covid may, in fact, have led to wider restrictions on such things as shaking hands, which may become permanent, replaced by elbow bumping!! (Secretly, I hope for an end to hugging!!!)

Whilst, there are those who have longed for touches, others dread them! There are the unwanted touches which, alas, so many women, of all ages, suffer from, often from men in positions of power; touching that can sometimes lead to terrible experiences even to murder on our streets. Also, during lockdown there has been a frightening increase in domestic violence, in which the touch can produce fear and trembling, rather than soothing and comfort.

So we can see that the simple action of touching is a very complex issue, and we seem to have created a society in which we fear offering the touch of comfort to a fallen child, even by a teacher, who may feel reluctant to offer comfort to a crying child for fear their actions may be misconstrued. This is an unforeseen product of well-meaning safeguarding legislation.

How sad that such a basic human reaction has to be checked! Thankfully, Jesus was not so constrained, for he touched the dead, the blind, the lame, the outcasts, even taking children into his arms and blessing them. He saw none as being an 'untouchable', for even the lepers experienced his healing touch. And the disciples at the Last Supper had him touch their feet in the act of washing them; the action of the Servant King!

So let us not abandon, for fear of infection or condemnation, that basic need to feel flesh on flesh, something even the new-born baby inherits as it is placed immediately on its mother's breast. Or in the case of Chris, in the Archers, when he was told to unbutton his shirt so Martha can rest on his bare chest. For so often the touch of the kindly hand can say more than words and, perhaps, help heal a mind broken by rejection.

I leave you with some words from an evening hymn written, by Henry Twells, when he was headteacher at Godolphin School, as he invigilated an examination!

*'And none, O Lord, has perfect rest,
For none is wholly free from sin;
And they who fain would serve Thee best
Are conscious most of wrong within.*

*Thy touch has still its ancient power;
No word from Thee can fruitless fall:
Hear, in this solemn evening hour,
And in Thy mercy heal us all.'*

Reverend John Whittle

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS



The outreach charity for the months of May and June is '**All We Can**'.

'All We Can' is a pioneering international development, relief and advocacy organisation that believes in the power of partnership. It has its roots in the British Methodist Church and is inspired by Christian principles to focus on those in greatest need. The charity works through partnerships to end the cycle of suffering caused by poverty, inequality and injustice.

The charity has been responding to the needs of vulnerable people as they face coronavirus. Essential personal protective equipment and hand sanitisers have been provided in Kenya and Cameroon, and in Zimbabwe. All We Can's partners are working to spread awareness of the importance of hygiene and social distancing, particularly in rural communities.

A recent campaign entitled "Change begins with a Bicycle" aims to supply communities in rural Uganda with bicycles as a key mode of transport, enabling people to access clinics, schools and workplaces.

Work with refugees is ongoing, especially in Jordan and Bangladesh. Covid-19 has placed refugees in even more precarious conditions than usual, where the virus spreads rapidly. The charity also recently responded to the devastating fire in March in the Bangladesh camp for Rohingya refugees by providing shelters and other emergency needs.

We realise that many households are facing financial difficulties during the current lockdown, but if you are able to and wish to donate to our chosen outreach charity, they need support now more than ever.

As we can't donate at the moment through church, here are the contact details:

All We Can, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR

Telephone 020 7467 5132 or email info@allwecan.org.uk.

Website www.allwecan.org.uk - it is easy to donate online.

Maureen Bodden and Hilary Dyster

Christian Aid



House-to-House Collection

Christian Aid Week is **10th to 16th May** this year and, under normal circumstances, following the delivery of envelopes to every household in the village, we would be calling to collect your donations a few days later. Unfortunately, it can't happen that way this year. Whilst we will still be delivering envelopes during the early part of this month, there will be a note on them asking you to return them - with your donation, of course - to the collection points in the Co-op or the Post Office. Alternatively, you can donate online at <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/tim-coulson?channel=copy>. Whichever method you choose, please give generously.

Christian Aid Service

At 5.30 pm on **Sunday, 9th May**, we will be holding a Service at Trinity Church to recognise the start of Christian Aid Week. Because of some continuing Covid restrictions, the attendance is limited, with social distancing and, unfortunately, no singing. If you would like to be present at the Service, please contact Kay Loveless on 01438 815414 or by email at 21kayloveless@gmail.com. This Service will be live-streamed on the Trinity YouTube channel.

Big Brekkie on Wheels!

Planning is well on the way for this innovative event - see the poster on the back page. It will be organised around St Martin's Parish Centre during the morning of **Saturday, 15th May**. 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 to Christian Aid, a very worthy cause!

Knebworth Knowledge

We thank Colin Stringer for producing the quiz in which individuals and families, in Knebworth and beyond, have participated over recent weeks. Thank you also to the Village News and the Post Office who helped with the advertising and distribution.

Several people had all the correct answers and our congratulations go to Celia Howarth of Watton Road who was chosen by ballot to receive the prize voucher.

As a result of the quiz, a total of £244 was raised and we thank all those who have contributed to that sum for the work of Christian Aid.

I understand that Colin will have no issue in doing the same again next year; he reckons that there are more than enough plaques and signs around Knebworth to act as material for another quiz.

Graham Fothergill, on behalf of the Knebworth Christian Aid Committee

North Herts Methodist Circuit Good Friday Walk

As you may be aware, last year's North Herts Methodist Circuit Good Friday Sponsored Walk was cancelled and although we thought we might be able to do it later in the year, that didn't happen.

This year the walk did take place, but not as we know it. Some Trinity folk walked locally in their bubbles so as to stay safe and obey the rules. Steven and I chatted as we walked round a 20km circuit that took us four and a half hours. It might have been faster but we drank coffee during part of the walk – well, we are used to a break at the half-way point! And, instead of tea and cake at the end, we had a takeaway!

The main thing is that we raised £100.00. We are not sure what the others raised but it will all go to the two charities, Bridge Builders in Stevenage and Udobo School in Durban, South Africa.

It was a nice walk, others helped to make it a good day and it didn't rain!

Jackie Hall

Trinity has something to celebrate
in 2021 and that is...



Trinity@25
1996-2021



Can you recall the origins of Church Close, off the Stevenage Road? Or remember what happened at the end of the 20th Century when the 'old' United Reformed Church building was remodelled, while the congregation worshipped in Knebworth School?



If your answer is "no" to either question, as a regular reader of Trinity Times you might be interested in the history leading up to the joining together in 1996 of the Methodist Church in New Close and the United Reformed Church on Park Lane. This brought Trinity into existence as a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) and has continued to provide significant benefits to the wider village community, as well as to the two Christian denominations concerned.

Trinity@25 is the overall title for projects that are being developed to celebrate this significant 'birthday' and the History of Trinity as an LEP is one of the projects.

To discover most, if not all, about what happened before and since 1996 to the non-conformist following in the village, you are invited to log on to the church web-site, www.trinitychurchknebworth.org.uk and then click on CHURCH LIFE then Trinity@25 from the drop-down menu and read on.

PS all feedback will be welcome c/o the Trinity Times Editor!

If you do not have access to a computer and/or would like a printed copy of the History, neatly bound, at £3.00 a copy, then please e-mail trinityat25@trinitychurchknebworth.org.uk including your address.

Alternatively phone

Graham Fothergill, 01438 813371 or Peter Bodden, 01438 811949.

A similar article appears in the Knebworth Parish Magazine for May

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. This year our Walk of Witness was 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. It was streamed on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmBPTViTm6R0mo0whxeisqq> on Good Friday and what an excellent production it was. At the time of writing, it was still available on the YouTube link; if it's still there when you read this note, please try to watch it if you haven't already done so.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to and took part in this "event", but particularly to Pastor Yinka Oduwole who joined all the parts together to produce the final version and then uploaded it to YouTube.

Commemorative Silver

There are still a few solid silver hall-marked stick pins and pendants available that the late Alan Richardson kindly commissioned in early days of the Knebworth Family of Churches and incorporating the KFC logo in the design. They were made by Heather, his daughter, whilst she was working as a silversmith.

They are £5.00 each – very reasonable considering the current price of silver, and all proceeds go the Christian Aid funds. If you would like to purchase one, please phone me on 01438 813371 or contact me by email at gafothergill@gmail.com.

Christian Aid Service

Although not strictly a Knebworth Family of Churches event, at 5.30 pm on Sunday, 9th May, there will be a Service at Trinity Church to recognise the start of Christian Aid Week. All are welcome but, because of continuing Covid restrictions, the attendance is limited, with social distancing and, unfortunately, no singing. If you would like to be present at the Service, please contact Kay Loveless at 21kayloveless@gmail.com or 01438 815414. This Service will be live-streamed on the Trinity YouTube channel.

KFC Coffee Mornings

Although there is nothing definite at this stage, there is a germ of an idea that before too long it may be possible to restart the much-missed KFC Saturday Coffee Mornings. Under the current guidelines, social distancing is likely to still be in operation until 21st June and so, hopefully, the first Coffee Morning could be in July. With that in mind, Sue has booked St Martin's Parish Centre for the third Saturday – our usual day for the Coffee Morning – and that will be the 17th. Watch this space!

Graham Fothergill; Secretary, The Knebworth Family of Churches

METHODIST NEWS

Message from Rev'd Malcolm Peacock

The clocks have sprung forward, and today at least, the sun is shining and the weather is warm and mild. We enjoyed fish and chips sitting in the garden. I feel that we are emerging from winter - and if I am honest a dark winter complicated by Covid. We are going to be celebrating a second Easter under Covid restrictions, who would have thought it? Entering springtime is always hopeful, new life being seen all around is hope. That we will soon be having increased freedoms as Covid restrictions are eased continues to bring hope.

There may be a sense of fingers crossed as we anticipate the lifting of restrictions, but we have hope that life will be more free as we travel through the year.

For some of us we have had enough of Covid, yet despite that it is fitting we should reflect on our experiences as we move out of lockdown into what we are calling a new normal. We have to reflect too on our experiences as a church during this time. For some there has been a commitment to meeting for worship on a weekly basis, some benefiting from committed stewards who have shown remarkable commitment to servicing our arrangements. Others are longing for the restrictions to end so they can gather together for worship and fellowship, though uncertainty about what restrictions might continue creates some anxiety. For some, the online presence and Zoom experience have been convenient and helpful, indeed for some who otherwise are unable to get to church, the online experience has been a way of being part of the fellowship.

As Churches we need to ask what has been done well and what have we missed. We also need to ask, and this is particularly important, how can we best reach people who are not part of any church - reminding ourselves that church is for other people to discover faith and come to know Christ not just a place for fellowship and comfort for those who already belong.

As restrictions lift, Church councils need to meet and make decisions about when or if they want to resume their face-to-face worship. Each Church will have a different response, and hopefully we will be able to meet the needs of each church in terms of the worship they want to provide and share in.

I can see that some churches who have found Zoom and on-line worship helpful may well want to continue to offer something, particularly if social distancing remains an issue. This means we will in all likelihood be offering a mixed economy of services going forward which may prove to be more than we can resource in the Circuit and we may have to make choices about priorities and preferences.

At the risk of misquoting St. Paul, I feel we are looking into a glass darkly as we plan for the future and look to a more normal pattern of life. We harbour dreams that from June we will be back to how we were; that won't be the case, no matter how much we wish for it to be the case, the past year has happened and we will be different. What we can do is pray, reflect, consider what our needs are then plan to the best of our ability, using resources to the best we can.

Malcolm

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

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



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBAY CHURCH OF
SÄINT ÄLBÄN

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

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

Please send items for the June issue of Trinity Times to Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 20th May:

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 10th – 15th MAY 2021

Since 1957, volunteers from the churches of Britain have set aside a week in May to go from house to house collecting money to aid peoples across the world who are facing war, pestilence, poverty and injustice. Christian Aid, set up in 1948, now has some 54 programmes operating in countries from Nigeria to Nepal, Nicaragua to Zimbabwe and Iraq to Europe.

This year the focus is on Climate Change and its effects on countries such as Kenya, where Rose lives with her grandchildren, whom she loves and wants to give them happy childhoods, but it is a constant struggle as she battles the worst of a climate crisis which she did not create. When the rains didn't come, she was brought to the brink of hunger and had to walk long distances on an empty stomach to fetch water so that her grandchildren would not hunger or thirst. But when the rains finally came they were so heavy they caused flooding and damaged crops. Drought has now returned, for though there is an earth dam to supply the village, it is not deep enough to deal with the severe droughts, so the water runs out and, with the coronavirus, the lack of water has made Rose's family's situation even more critical.

Christian Aid is working with a local partner "Anglican Development Services Eastern" to build bigger and better earth dams to harvest more water, and to teach farmers how to sow drought-tolerant crops. In addition, they are demanding that governments prioritise climate justice.

The Knebworth Christian Aid Committee is hoping to raise enough money to enable a new dam to be built (cost £545) for people like Rose, to help teach 180 farmers how to plant drought-tolerant crops (£80), and to supply a community with a water-point situated at a dam where people can collect water (£335). A total of £960 - but that should be easy to raise with your help. After all, in 2019 the last time we were able to collect from house to house, we raised over £2700!

WATCH FOR THE RED ENVELOPE DROPPING THROUGH YOUR DOOR. Due to Covid we are not able to collect the envelope, so please return it to either the Co-op or Post Office. Thank you.

John Whittle

**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

