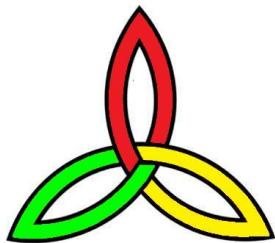


Trinity Times



June 2021

Issue No 243



Rapeseed in Flower
(Photographed by Rebecca Amy)

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

Just a quick note this month. A sincere thank you to Becky for providing the photograph on the front cover. It was taken up in Old Knebworth in the most glorious sunshine; she says it made her smile just to see the yellow glow!

If you have a photograph, one that perhaps conveys a special message and that is appropriate for the front cover of Trinity Times, please send it to me.

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 June:

13th June at 10.30 am: Morning Worship led by Jackie Hall
(Duty Elders: Camilla Straughn and Rosie Berry)

27th June at 10.30 am: Morning Worship led by Allison Finch

N.B. As we are still likely to be limited to the number who can attend, please contact one of the duty elders if you wish to be at the Service on the 13th.

For the Service on the 27th, please contact Kay Loveless in advance via email at 21kayloveless@gmail.com or by phone on 01438 815414 so that your place is guaranteed.

FAMILY NEWS

As restrictions begin to relax and the days are longer (sometimes warmer and drier too), enabling us to be out and about, so more news of members manages to trickle through the local grapevines. But I do wonder how much we will need to catch up on both important and inconsequential things that have happened in lives of friends in our community. Some can't wait to gather together and others prefer to wait until their social confidence returns – and I hope we will find ways to enable both in safe and welcoming ways. Maybe we have pondered on what “church” means to us, and what we have learned about that during the last year. I certainly have. I now have many questions in my own mind about how we might emerge as a welcoming and worshipping church, a safe, nurturing place, where all can come and find God's love, a place where we can respect each other's views and express and explore the diversity of our lives and our faith and doubts with honesty and integrity. That should be simple! Oh yes, and support each other so no-one feels under pressure to carry too heavy a load in making things happen! Perhaps that reflects my concern as well about how we all play a role in discovering new strengths in the leadership team of our church and how we do what we each can to ensure leaders are not left to “do it all” without encouragement, understanding and hands-on help. Perhaps a challenge for June is to have this at the top of our private and collective prayer agenda. I don't pretend to understand how prayer works, but I sometimes see or experience where I think it has.

The most exciting news we have just received is the arrival of Anne-Marie and Victor's baby son (Ezra Jacob) on 21st May, a brother for Natalia and Caleb-James. Our prayers and good wishes are with them all as they celebrate this arrival.

We have some positive news of how the teenage and young adult members of our church are. They have shared fellowship and support regularly in One Truth Youth sessions and have at times shared amazing reflections on their personal faith, their struggles, and what they value about being part of Trinity Church, and much more besides. As well as that, they have coped through the most challenging year in education that most of us have ever imagined. Chloe has now completed her childcare qualification and is now a member of staff at the nursery where she had work placements. Well done Chloe! Corletta and Libby are both nearing the end of their time at school, with some unknowns about how the next stage will pan out ... Stephen has another year at 6th form college as he pursues subjects that he is always willing to share with others. Casey, Lucy, Franklin, Braden and Sophie each have different experiences of school and life and views around missing the normal pursuits that fill the weeks, but each bring something of themselves to the richness of this group that we are privileged to have as part of Trinity.

We probably each know members and situations in particular need of our prayers. We continue to pray for all who have challenging health situations, some have had (and continue with) support from hospital and local health care teams. Some are regularly supported by family members, neighbours, friends or care agencies. It is good to report that Sheila is home after good care in Lister Hospital. Pam is responding well to the sustained treatment, supported by the local GP Practice. Hans has appreciated the relaxing of rules on visiting (although it has to be booked through the staff). Natalie is pleased to again be able to visit Betty and Paul after many months.

I finish again encouraging any requests to share news of our church community.

Gill Hughes

Trinity@25

1996-2021

Save the Date!

The next important weekend in the calendar of events to recognise the 25th anniversary of the formation of Trinity Church is that of **10th – 11th July**. Plans for both days are well under way.

On Saturday, the 10th, the church will be open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and there will be prayer stations around the building. There will also be a barbecue between 12.30 pm and 2.00 pm.

On the Sunday, there will be a Celebratory Communion Service at 3.00 pm led by Rev'd John Steele; this will be followed by refreshments from 4.15 pm onwards.

Full details of the weekend will be sent out by email towards the end of June and will be featured in the July issue of Trinity Times.

“Trinity@25, 1996-2021; A History of Trinity Church, Knebworth”

Neatly-bound printed copies of this booklet are still available. It describes the events leading to the formation of Trinity Church and relates some of the happenings during the subsequent 25 years. To purchase one, at £3.00 a copy, please email trinityat25@trinity.org.uk, including your address; alternatively, phone Peter Bodden on 01438.811949 or Graham Fothergill on 01438 813371.

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

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

“Bible Study” by Malcolm Guite

***Open the text again to every question:
Its lexicon of possibility,
Its origin and form and Sitz im Leben,
Its deep resistance and its clarity.
Untwist the thread of prejudice that binds you,
Pattern the fragments and reshape the shards,
Be lost in reading till the reading finds you,
Discern the Word that underpins the words.
Begin at the beginning, make an end
Of all your old evasions, make a start
Counting the countless stars, the grains of sand,
And find in them the fragments of your heart.
Open the text again, for it is true,
The Book you open always opens you.***

The above poem was used in a Methodist Lent course that a small group of us followed on Zoom together, called Woven. It is available to download from the following link if anyone is interested: <https://www.methodistlondon.org.uk/lentcourse2021>

The reason I am sharing this poem is because of the line “Sitz im Leben”, roughly translated this means Place in Life, this makes me wonder where my faith fits into my life, where is its place in my life? Well, the answer is everywhere, even at home where I am the only Christian in my house. I see God's creation everywhere I walk with the dogs I look after; I am still amazed at how everything springs back to life after winter, how the countryside becomes a riot of colour and alive with sounds of new life, bird song, insect buzzing, lambs calling for their mothers. I thank God for letting me see and hear all of this.

I help an elderly lady by walking her dog, doing odd jobs around the house and garden, getting some essential shopping; she has no close family and during this time she has been unable to see many people. She turned to me the other day and said, “I could tell you are a Christian because you were so caring, comforting and a ready listener”. I took this as a great compliment and felt that my faith must show through!

So my faith has a strong place in my life and it took me a long time to see that, but now recognise I need my faith as much as my faith needs me, and so I embark on my next step on my faith journey as I take a course in Worship Leading; I am excited and nervous about what I am embarking on but I know my faith will lead me, the Holy Spirit will be my guide and my path will be shown to me as I journey on.

So, take some time to contemplate where your faith has its place in your life; you never know you may journey a different path than you thought you would.

Rebecca Amy, a member of Trinity Church

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS



The outreach charity for 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 was **10th to 16th May** and, just prior to then, an envelope was delivered to every household in the village. On the envelope was a note asking you to return it - with your donation, of course - to the collection points in the Co-op or the Post Office.

Alternatively, you were able to donate online at

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/tim-coulson?channel=copy>.

When the collection was completed and the envelopes were opened, they revealed a total of £938.56; a further £225.00 was received as a result of online donations. There will be an additional contribution of over £170 resulting from Gift Aid, giving a total in excess of £1300.

Thank you to all who donated to this very worthy cause.

Big Brekkie on Wheels!

On the morning of Saturday, 15th May, Kathy Cole ran a successful event whereby people were able to order, in advance and by phone, a bacon bap or a sausage bap, plus a cold drink, and to have them either delivered or collected from St Martin's car park. For this, there was a suggested donation of £5.00 to Christian Aid, as a result of which £231 was raised through the efforts of Kathy and her team. Well done to all concerned! Thanks also to Trussells, who Kathy informs me supplied the sausages and bacon "at an excellent price".

Christian Aid Quiz 2021

As part of this year's fund-raising activities for Christian Aid, Colin Stringer has put together another quiz with 100 cryptic crossword-style clues, each of which leads to the name of a different UK coastal town or village. Titled 'Oh I do like to be ...', this quiz can be downloaded by visiting the following site:

www.parascosa.com/CAQuiz.htm

We hope that you will enjoy the challenge that this quiz will present. This year there is a logical sequence to the clues; once you have solved what that sequence is, the individual clues should be a lot easier.

Graham Fothergill, on behalf of the Knebworth Christian Aid Committee

KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES

KFC Coffee Mornings

As we get nearer to the likely removal of many of the existing Covid lockdown regulations, we remain hopeful that it may soon be possible to restart the much-missed KFC Saturday Coffee Mornings. With that in mind, Sue has booked St Martin's Parish Centre for the third Saturday in July – our usual day for the Coffee Morning – the date of which is the 17th. Watch this space!

Graham Fothergill; Secretary, The Knebworth Family of Churches

METHODIST NEWS

Message from Rev'd Malcolm Peacock

Can you believe how the year is passing? As I write I am aware of a slow return of life to something like the life we had before we had heard of Covid. We have had warm pleasant days and café tables have been full as I have walked the streets, and pub beer gardens apparently thriving as I drive by them.

As Churches, we are getting ready to have our premises used by more people and we anticipate June when the promise of lifted restrictions is before us and we look forward to being able to sing our faith as we are accustomed and enjoy that fellowship which is special. It is right and appropriate to anticipate such welcome return.

It is too easy though to get caught up with looking to the past and wanting to be there. The time we have spent in lockdown has reminded us that, no matter how restricted we have been, we haven't stopped being church. We have discovered different ways of worshipping, new ways of exercising pastoral care for each other. We need to take these new insights and use them to build on our usual and good practice as churches.

The Easter season and Pentecost always remind us of the need for the church to be outward looking; we have something very special for people to hear and experience. For people to know they are loved, cared for and that they can find forgiveness for the things they have regrets over is such an important affirmation. We live in a society where people being valued is in short supply. It is more normal for people to be trolled, condemned, abused in modern society than it is for people to be valued. The Church having a positive message for people and offering a place where people can belong safely is good news; we have to make sure that we make this good news a reality as we welcome people and affirm them.

It should be part of our everyday life as a church, asking the questions about our purpose and our plans. Every organisation needs to make some plans about its future. Our plans need to include questions like, who do we want to see in church? How do we communicate with people so they may hear the good news? Who is the Church for?

Sometimes asking questions can feel a threat, sometimes we wonder if some answers are expected; for us to be the Church that God wants, we need to ask questions, be honest and then do what we need to do to make the answers a reality. Each church will have different answers and different priorities, what matters is that the answers help us grow in faith and be what God wants us to be.

Let us look forward to coming out of lockdown, let us look forward to being able to be together and let us look forward to celebrating our life together and being willing to go wherever God leads us.

Malcolm

{The above item was reproduced from the May 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, 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 July issue of Trinity Times to Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 17th June:

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth

TAILPIECE

"I'm guessing this is your first attempt at Beef Wellington"

