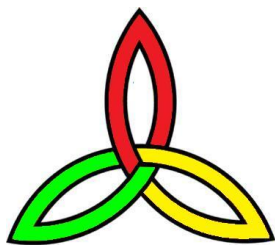


Trinity Times



August 2021

Issue No 245



Summer fruits

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's perhaps not the right time in the gardening year to suggest that buds are emerging or breaking through, but I feel that with services taking place again within church buildings and coffee mornings to be held "for real" rather than online, we are moving out from a winter environment into a spring one. Long may it continue!

Graham Fothergill

TRINITY SERVICES

We are now back at Trinity Church for services and these are the ones that have been arranged for August:

8th August at 10.30 am: Morning Worship led by Deacon Marcianne Uwimana
(Duty Elder – Maureen Bodden)

22nd August at 10.30 am: Morning Worship, including Holy Communion, led by
Rev'd Nicholas Young
(Duty Elder – Camilla Straughn)

FAMILY NEWS

It is profoundly sad to report that, after 60 years of marriage, Margaret Frost and family are mourning the death of her husband, Bob, whose health had declined over recent years. We assure them all of our prayers.

It is good to know that visitors at a recent service of worship (newcomers to the community) were as warmly welcomed as the situation currently allows. As we make small steps towards spending time together, I hope and pray that our church family will begin to reconnect in meaningful ways. Perhaps we will find ways that give us all an opportunity to share our stories honestly, and to encourage each other as together we move forward with courage and faith into the time beyond lock-down. We have each experienced loss and isolation in many forms, and many wounds (known and hidden) may need to heal. Some people have had a tough time doing their best to hold things together and others have felt unable to have the supportive role they are used to playing out in community life. It is hard to imagine how life will look in a year's time, but let us pray that our doors (literal and virtual) will be opened wide enabling us to connect again with community and to welcome all to a place where we can offer and receive God's unconditional love and be resourced in our journey of faith.

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 **11th – 12th September**. Plans for both days are well under way.

On Saturday, the 11th, 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 August and will be featured in the September issue of Trinity Times.

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

There are still some neatly-bound printed copies of this booklet 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 August edition of the Knebworth Parish News. (*Ed.*)

Psalm 23 - rewritten

A Psalm of Rebecca Garrett Pace

Jesus is my shepherd, and I honestly feel sorry for him, because I can be quite a stubborn sheep.

I shall not want. Or that's the way it should work, but yet I always want for more. I'm working on it.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. Jesus is teaching me how to care. To care for myself, so that I can then care for others. To care for the earth, so I can live in green pastures with still waters and not make a mess of them just because I can. To care for my soul, which is fed by gratitude and joy and kindness.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Unfortunately he keeps talking too softly for me to hear him, so I keep having to guess what the right paths are, and go on a hunch, and ask for forgiveness when I get it wrong.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil — well that's just wishful thinking. I fear all the time. All the things. So much fear. But I am learning how to sit in the darkness, and be open to what I might learn from it, and really the most important bit is that...

you are with me.

Your music, your friendship, your wisdom, your words, your kindness, your presence through others - they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies, and you tell me that there's extra room at the table, and it's actually your table and not mine, so I should scoot over and make room and invite my enemies to eat with me and give them the last piece of homemade bread and extra butter because that's what you would do. Which is annoying but I know you're right.

You anoint my head with oil - you protect and love me, you nurture, you guide, you heal me.

My cup overflows. God, I am grateful. I am so incredibly overwhelmed by goodness in my life.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

And when the goodness and mercy are obscured, O God, help me know you're still there. Always. Forever. Amen

Whilst doing some study for my worship leader course I came across this version of Psalm 23. I found it struck a chord with me. I am a stubborn sheep, I don't always listen hard enough.

We all have days that are so full that we struggle to fit in time to pray. As a dog walker I have an early morning walk and this is the time that I feel closest to God, I pray, I listen to prayerful music and feel at peace, this then sets up my day.

We all fear the path ahead, we are nervous as to where it will take us, we might take a wrong turn but we will find the right way to go. My path hasn't always been clear, but I walk it with, yes, a touch of fear as to where it is going but I trust I will be accompanied by the Lord.

So although every day can seem like a battleground, or a peaceful valley, we must acknowledge that we are never alone on our journey.

Rebecca Amy
A member of Trinity Church

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

August Outreach Charity



Our outreach charity for August is **Haven First**

We will be putting out a box at the services in August to collect any donations of items they need. At the moment they need sun tan lotion, bottled water, deodorant, shampoo and body wash, and tins of food. No pasta please! They also need mattress and pillow protectors. You can also help by making a monetary donation, see below.

SUPPORTING HOMELESS PEOPLE IN STEVENAGE AND NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Haven First, (formerly Stevenage Haven and North Herts Sanctuary) provides support to those experiencing homelessness in North Hertfordshire. With two sites in Hitchin and Stevenage, we are able to provide support and shelter for over 56 residents.

At the centre of what we do, is having a full understanding of the complex issues surrounding homelessness. With our team of highly trained and experienced staff, we support over 200 people per year, not only with a warm bed and hot meals, but with the vital support needed to lead an independent life and move on from our sites, into permanent, independent accommodation.

As well as accommodation, our support services include: counselling, specialist substance abuse support, mental & physical wellbeing training, life skills & budgeting, and we are now proud to employ a outreach service supporting people experiencing street homelessness. We work with a number of key organisations and have 14 move-on properties to ensure that through our support we are able to break the never ending cycle of homelessness.

**Go to make a donation at www.havenfirst.org.uk
or phone 01438 354884**

*Maureen Bodden
on behalf of the Mission Group*

KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES



KFC Coffee Morning: Saturday, 21st August

Firstly, sorry for my error in the July issue of Trinity Times where I reported that the first post-Covid Knebworth Family of Churches Coffee Morning would be on Saturday, 17th August. When the newsletter had been distributed, I was quickly corrected by more than one eagle-eyed reader – there is no such date at Saturday, 17 August this year!!

So let's get it correct now. Unless the Government's Covid restrictions are changed yet again (fingers crossed), on **Saturday, 21st August**, there will be a Knebworth Family of Churches Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre, with a start time of 10.00 am.

Please put the date in your diary and then come along and enjoy drinks and cakes, and a good chat with friends old and new!

Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Still with the proviso of Covid regulations being in our favour, the annual Christian Aid Coffee Morning is scheduled for **Saturday, 16th October** – still a couple of months away, but now is the time to put the date into your diaries.

As well as the drinks and cakes that we have at this event for you to enjoy whilst having a chat with friends, there will be the opportunity to do a bit of Christmas shopping! There will be a large selection of Christmas cards, Advent calendars, 2022 calendars, notecards and gift ideas on the Traidcraft stall and there will also be the usual range of Fairtrade food products.

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; Secretary, The Knebworth Family of Churches

PREJUDICE STILL EXISTS....

I was touched to hear the new Methodist President's opening speech to Conference under the theme "All are Welcome at God's table." I was reminded of a story I was told at a Women's World Day of Prayer Meeting, where women came together to plan. I met a woman called Kathleen, we sat together and slowly God opened our hearts as we shared mutual experiences. Kathleen told me that when she arrived in the UK from Jamaica, that she and a friend had attended a local Church and after worship, the Priest had said he would call on them, she managed to loan some nice cups to serve him tea and they both felt so privileged and excited to have such an important visitor...

The day arrived, the Priest came to the door. He refused to enter the home and told Kathleen, to find another Church as her presence was upsetting his congregation. I felt ashamed to hear the story, surely a man of God would not have done this... subsequently, I found this treatment was not the exception, or the practice of just one denomination! Kathleen and her friend, used to clean a local bingo hall for free, so that they could meet in a room, forming a new Church, with their own friends, many who had received similar treatment.... I carried the shame I had felt hearing the story and then one day, whilst meeting a friend from Notting Hill Methodist Church, God planted the idea of a possible twinning. Country chapel, with city Church seemed such a great idea.... more praying, and a few rainbows along the way. God indeed was encouraging us.

I could tell you many stories of the joy this twinning brought to both, however, on the first visit to Watton, I set out to find Kathleen, and invited her to join us, incognito... to see first-hand how God's love could bring us reciprocal joy... she came, with her Minister, and mingled amongst the day's happenings. I lead worship at the end of the day, during which I told Notting Hill friends Kathleen's story and how she had been present with us all the day to see how **beautiful** things can be, when we keep God at the centre of everything. Kathleen stood up, and received a touching ovation from those present...plus, I might add, a few tears of joy....

We enjoyed several visits to Notting Hill, and they to us: imagine children's faces when they see corn growing for the first time, or camp out in the woods, bringing awareness to the plight of homelessness, organising their own worship, writing prayer raps... sleeping in tents, hearing the sounds of night time animal noises. **Our God is good, sisters and brothers, and it was a special time.** Imagine then, when a few Watton Church friends joined me at the Notting Hill Carnival on children's day, where we shared worship, food, and actually taking part behind a steel band, the children dressed as the seven wonders of creation... us boogying down Ladbroke Grove. Marvellous.

And yes, we all know that sadly prejudice still exists. I was lambasted by a local woman, for bringing the Notting Hill crowd to our village...*what was I thinking of*, she asked...she was indeed the exception, as others in the village came together to offer kindness, generosity and showed "community in action" to make such happy times and leave us with such happy memories. As the community bus left, taking the party back to London, we could hear the voices of those on board, singing, "if you are happy and you know it clap your hands...". smiles all round...inside and outside the bus. Love in Jesus, to you all.

Sandra Robey

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



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBAY CHURCH OF
SĀINT ĀLBĀN

Wednesday, 4th August at 11.00 am

Preacher: **Doral Hayes**

Ecumenical Facilitator, Churches Together in Hertfordshire

Wednesday, 1st September at 11.00 am

Preacher: **Rev'd Ian Green**

Minister of Amersham Free church

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

METHODIST NEWS

Message from Rev'd Malcolm Peacock

We are well into summer; we have had the full range of summer weather from being too hot to being washed out. Summer is the time when most of us begin to think of holidays. I know that we shall have time on holiday during July and the anticipation is tangible. Holidays are good things, and we need them.

How important holidays are can be seen by the way hundred and thousands of people have taken the earliest possible opportunity to holiday abroad, with the corresponding difficulty when regulations change mid-holiday. Part of me wonders why they would take the risk they did; the overwhelming importance and need of a holiday is evident in their answer.

We all know what holidays are, they are going somewhere different and doing something different. The doing something different can be sunbathing or hiking a long-distance footpath. What matters is that it is different and something we want to do, which brings us pleasure and it isn't our usual everyday work. It also matters that we are somewhere different to the place we think of as home. Our reaction to lockdown underlines how important being in a different place is. Also how often do we hear people say they are off work but not really on holiday because it is too hard to holiday at home, the things of everyday life crowd in.

We need holidays, Jesus took his disciples off to different places to give them a break from the usual routine; the Bible has established the principle of the Sabbath into everyday life, recognising the place and importance of proper regular rest and relaxation. Our complicated and complex society has lost sight of a day of rest when no-one worked, and we have become a fully extended 24/7 society. We expect to be able to shop any day, almost anytime we want; we expect to have healthcare at any time during the week, even to the extent of thinking it odd that hospitals should stop working at weekends - they are too important a resource to not be working all the time; we expect to be able to eat out, share in leisure activities whenever we want. With such a focus on work, and the pressures that puts on people, the need for holidays becomes even greater.

Holidays matter because they are times when we re-create ourselves. Holidays are times when we recharge our batteries: physical, emotional and spiritual, when we let the pressures of ordinary and everyday living go. Sometimes that is difficult, but the difficulty underlines the necessity of doing so and the being in a different place with a different routine helps in the change.

We believe that we are made in the image of God, our holidays help to restore that understanding of who we are and give us time to reflect on the wider things of life that are often swamped by the pressures of living. Holidays are important, holidays help us to be restored. Holidays help us to meet with God once more. Let us look to make the most of the time of re-creation and renew the sense of who we are in the presence of God.

Malcolm

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



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Bike 'n Hike in Beds 'n Herts

A different chance to have a walk or bike ride on Saturday, 11th September and raise funds shared equally between Trinity Church and Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust

Every year in September the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust organise a sponsored bike and hike event to provide an opportunity to raise money which is split between the Trust and the participant's chosen local church. Usually I am asking for volunteers to keep our church open for the day so bikers and hikers can stop for a refreshment or loo break and come in to our building. This year (as last year) it is very different. We are not asked to open our doors but we are asked to encourage people to consider taking part (even in a very small way) by walking or cycling locally and 'visiting' a few churches. With recent revivals in family walking and cycling I wonder if there are members of Trinity who would be interested in doing this and raising a small amount of sponsorship for the church and the trust while taking exercise. I have details and sponsor forms which I am happy to pass on to anyone who is keen to know more. It does not involve any marshalls or officials - individuals or groups are responsible for their own adherence to following current Government guidance on Covid-19, for organising their own route, timing and self registering and sending the sponsor money in after the event.

Give me a call if you want to know more, or visit

<http://b-n-h.co.uk/>

Gill Hughes

***Please send items for the September issue of Trinity Times to
Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 19th August:***

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

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth
