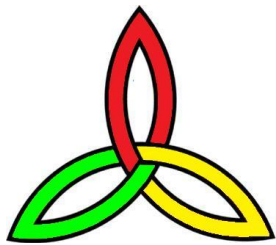


Trinity Times



September 2021

Issue No 246



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

With the unfortunate demise of the Stevenage Food Bank, as explained in the letter reproduced on Pages 6-7, we have learnt that our friends at St Martin's and St Mary's are now supporting "Feed Up, Warm Up". Details of this charity, which John Mead mentions in his letter, can be found on Pages 7-8 of this issue of Trinity Times.

And now for something completely different! When visiting Hans Meister recently at the Wymondley Nursing Home, we got into talking about what encouraged him to come over from Switzerland and settle in the UK more than sixty years ago. I then suggested that this might make an interesting article for Trinity Times. Needless to say, Hans took up the challenge and the resultant story is on Pages 13-14.

Graham Fothergill

SERVICES AT TRINITY, September and early October

5th September: *No Service*

12th September at 3.00 pm: *Trinity@25 Celebratory Service, with Holy Communion, led by Reverend John Steele*

19th September at 10.30 am: *Open Church*

26th September at 10.30 am: *Harvest Service, with Holy Communion, led by Kate Dickinson*

3rd October at 10.30 am: *Team Worship led by Maureen Bodden*

10th October at 10.30 am: *Morning Worship led by Jackie Hall*

17th October at 10.30 am: *Open Church*

FAMILY NEWS

Sharing good news of the life passages for members is always encouraging and uplifting. We have the pleasure of sharing in celebrating that Marion Walker recently became a great-grandmother, her daughter, Sally, a grandmother and Megan the mum of baby Wren. Many will remember Megan and her sisters as children in our church family. Our best wishes to them all as they settle in to new patterns in their family life.

Chloe, Libby and Corletta have all grown up within the Trinity family too, and we congratulate them all as they celebrate their well-earned success in exams/assessments and as they each embark on new stages in the autumn. Chloe begins qualified work in childcare, Corletta sets off to further studies at university, and Libby begins a gap year before taking her place at university. Catch up with them all to find out more!

Some will know that Rosemary Rudkin recently had a night in Lister to re-engage an unexpected and painful hip dislocation. I am pleased to report that she is making very positive progress within the restricted mobility during her healing, and has begun to venture out again to one of the newly-formed small study groups in the fellowship.

Many in the fellowship have missed, radically amended, or delayed celebrations of landmark birthdays and anniversaries. Some may secretly breathe a sigh of relief at less fuss and no spotlight, but may we all find ways to meet again and restore appropriate value to sharing the wide variety of emotions around all the lost landmarks of the last couple of years, whether joys or sorrows.

Many will remember Ann, who moved to Hampshire a few years ago after six happy years in Trinity. We heard of her peaceful death, surrounded by family, during her last days. We remember them in prayer.

Gill Hughes

Trinity@25

1996-2021

Celebrating 25 years as a Local Ecumenical Partnership

Over the weekend of 11th and 12th September, we are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Trinity Church.

On **Saturday, the 11th**, the church buildings will be open between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm, with several prayer stations for quiet reflection.

From 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm there will be a barbeque on offer and tea and coffee will be served throughout the day.

On **Sunday, the 12th**, there will be a celebratory Church Service with Holy Communion at **3.00 pm**, led by Reverend John Steele. This will be followed by refreshments at 4.15 pm.

A visual history of how Trinity has developed since 1996 is on display in the foyer from 1st September to the end of the year.

Full details are on the website at

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

The few remaining copies of the booklet “Trinity@25, 1996-2021; A History of Trinity Church, Knebworth” which describes the events leading to the formation of Trinity Church and relates some of the happenings during the subsequent 25 years will be available over the weekend for you to purchase at £3.00 per copy.

‘Roses, roses all the way!’

We should like to take this opportunity to thank all in Trinity for the presentation made to us during the Sunday service on 25th July. It was a complete surprise and most generous of you!

Thank you for the cards and monetary gifts, and for the beautiful lilies and roses. The two rose bushes are settling well into our garden and they promise many blooms before summer is over. The bird bath is also a welcome addition to the garden – a big ‘upgrade’ from the birds’ usual water supply!

Thursday mornings at No.8 will certainly be different without ‘Meeting Point’, which originated almost 40 years ago! It was a venture first in New Close days, which was begun by Hilary, with Janet Hammond and her sister, Mary.

Originally, young parents and child minders came along bringing with them pre-school children, but gradually an older age group was attracted. Latterly we even celebrated several 80 and 80 plus birthdays, often with at least ten in the group. Chat and refreshments and a devotional time remained constants, and we thank those who have helped to lead the group over the years.

Many happy memories!

Hilary & Richard.

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

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

How do you approach new things? With enthusiasm and joy leaping straight in, or with a definite ‘No’ because you like things the way they are, and change is never in your opinion good, and if it ain’t broke why try to fix it? Or do you approach with caution? Gather all possible information, look at it from every angle, ask family and friends for their opinion then finally approach it with an open but still cautious mind, but willing to give it a go. Trinity, whilst keeping their traditional worship twice a month, are trying a new - to us - form of worship, we are calling it “Open Church”. All are welcome.

In case you don't know what Open Church, is it's where the congregation is invited to bring something to share if they wish, or choose a hymn. We would like to keep these as unplanned and spirit-led as possible, so very informal. Who knows what prayer, poems or anything else, folk will be led to bring to share with us; that's very exciting and also, if I'm honest, a little bit scary. Please note, if you bring something and don't want to read it out, others will happily help.

Worship has evolved as it should throughout time and the services we now enjoy would be unrecognisable to our ancestors. Few of us could tolerate Georgian sloping pews which stopped folk dozing off during the long, very long sermons, and what I wonder did people think when they sang hymns for the first time instead of just the psalms? How about when short plays were performed in church for the first time, and the so many other things which enrich our services? Did they too feel like we do, tingling with anticipation tinged with a shade of apprehension? I expect they did but they moved forward in faith, and so will we.

Stay safe.

Jackie Hall, Trinity Elder

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

September Outreach Charity

The Farming Community Network (FCN) is our Outreach Charity for September.

In support of this, John Whittle has received the following letter from Brian Burgess, the local area co-ordinator for FCN.

The Farming Community Network (FCN)

'It's good to have someone to talk to.'

FCN has an ecumenical Christian ethos with over 400 volunteers within 33 Groups throughout England and Wales. It supports farmers, their families and farm workers within the farming community through difficult times, offering practical and pastoral support for anyone who seeks help.

Volunteers "walk with" anyone who seeks support to help them find a positive way through their problems - for as long as it is needed. This last eighteen months has seen an increase in the farming community seeking our help because of the Covid-19 restrictions, relating to mental wellbeing and, specifically, suicidal feelings.

Other issues are:

Business - finance, banking, tenancy, partnerships, property

Family - succession, retirement, relationships, pension

Farm - animal welfare, animal health, disease

Support is free and confidential and can be accessed through our national helpline on 0300 111 999 (7am-11pm every day of the year) or by email:

help@fcn.org.uk

We thank Trinity Church for their continuing support.

Brian Burgess

FCN Herts Group Coordinator

Registered Charity No: 1095919

Stevenage Food Bank

This is a letter recently received by John Whittle which, unfortunately, explains the reasons for the closing of the Stevenage Community Food Bank.

Dear John

I hope you are well.

It has been quite a year. Throughout the lockdowns/pandemic, the food bank has continued to support those in need - delivering food to people isolating, loss of earnings and shortfalls in universal credit. We are very proud to have adapted in the very difficult circumstances presented to us and facing the fear that coronavirus presented. Our very ethos of being a community foodbank played out in the way that the community certainly stepped up to support us. In other ways, we lost our ability to provide the community environment that our clients appreciated so much. We had to swap the dignified routines of giving people choice and having a chat and offering real terms support through our agencies, to handing them repacked bags at the door.

It is approaching 11 years since we started the food bank - at that time there wasn't a food bank to serve Stevenage, Knebworth and Villages and we are very proud that we have delivered 1000s of food parcels.

There are now 5 food banks in Stevenage alone and Feed Up Warm Up (see below, Ed.) in particular, are offering an amazing service - offering activities and all kinds of support with partners, supported by Stevenage Football Club. It is clear that the town needs to centralise the food support service and we believe that Feed Up Warm Up are in the best position to take on the mantle.

With over 10 years of memories and friends we have decided to close the Stevenage Community Food Bank, not with heavy heart, but with the knowledge that people now have support being offered where previously there was none.

It has been an honour to have been supported by yourselves - the amazing generosity of your parishioners never failed to touch our hearts.

With very best regards and sincere thanks,

John (Mead)
Stevenage Community Food Bank, Daneshill House
Stevenage, SG1 1HN



Supplying the homeless and families in need locally

Homeless outreach team that runs two drop in sessions a week in two towns and outreach teams support rough sleeping individuals throughout North Herts and also local families in need. Sessions provide food groceries to take away; a hot meal (donated by local businesses); some local hair dressers are there sometimes to do haircuts; they can put people in touch with agencies etc.

They have meeting places in Hitchin on a Wednesday and in Stevenage on a Monday. The Stevenage drop-in session is from the North Stand of the Lamex Stadium on a Monday (5.00-7.00 pm). **Goods can be dropped off from 4.30 pm to 6.45 pm on the same day.**

Particularly needed currently are: Pot noodles; microwave rice/pasta n sauce; mug shots; tinned tuna/sardines; tinned meat/meals; small variety packs of cereal; super noodles; 500 ml carton of long life milk; small cartons of juice/can drinks; tinned/pots fruit/custard/rice pudding/jelly. toilet rolls, deodorants, wet wipes, 2 in 1 shampoo/conditioner, shower gel. men's boxer shorts and socks (new)

What does Worship mean to you?

Over the last 18 months our worlds have been turned upside down. I pray that as we emerge from this strange time we will all see it as an opportunity to continue to transform the way we serve and grow in faith and find new ways to connect to each other and the communities we live in. As we decide how we will move forward as a church and what services we will offer, I thought I would ask others what '*worship*' means to them. I had an unprecedented response and I didn't get the chance to ask everybody. Thank you to those who contributed. Please don't be offended if I haven't included all of yours. I simply couldn't fit everything in!

*My passionate belief is that everything we do can and should be a form of worship of our loving God. When we think of it in this way it encourages us to aim to live in the light of Christ, all day, every day, through our words and actions. Romans 12:1- 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God- this is your true and proper worship.'

*Worship would mean to me constantly re-orienting my life/heart/mind to Jesus, seeking him first, listening for his voice and then responding to him.

*It's usually a time to pause and make time for God to appreciate God's glory in some form be it the flowers in church a reading, hymn, poem or simply an idea that someone has said that makes me think going into the next week or so it's not just 1 hr or so on a Sunday.

*To me worship is something that can be individual, private, collective or public. For collective worship. It could be 'Songs of Praise' gatherings, or other forms of fellowship with prayer, although I tend to think of a worship service as something more structured than just fellowship. I do like to have someone who has studied the Bible and Liturgy in more depth. The main thing is to feel that you have connected with God and fellow Christians in a meaningful way, that helps you along your way in life.

*Focussed time with God... in silence... with words... with other senses... sometimes alone or more usually in company (even if through virtual media).

*Worship to me is a chance to share with others the love of God, to be with others on their faith journey. The fellowship is what makes worshipping in Trinity special. Trinity has made me listen to God and walk the path that he has set before me.

*Time of fellowship with others in some of the following at any one time: awe, praise, thanksgiving, penitence, searching, listening, inspiration, challenge (nudges), interceding, receiving blessing and peace. Structure and formality can be a helpful framework, but for me it can also remove the integrity and honesty of spontaneity, so I particularly value time of informality and the unexpected. Sometimes it can feel as if worship is something which is "delivered" to a congregation rather than a sharing through what is brought and (metaphorically or literally) put on the table. But the congregation has a place- whether it is to give or to receive, or both. Somehow worship needs to connect us as we are in the moment as feet on the ground humanity with the holy mystery of God.

*For me worship is importantly but not exclusively lived out in practical ways e.g in service. Words are also important so hymns can be very meaningful. The words inspire me to live my life in a way that reflects my beliefs, whether or not I'm in church.

*Expressing adoration or reverence and it can be done in many forms.

*To me, worship is an adoration/appreciation of God. Usually in the form of words/songs.

*For me, it's an action word, a relationship, between God and his people. God engages with our worship by meeting us there to build up our faith, give us peace and hope and renewing our first love with him.

*Worship is faith expressing itself in obedience and adoration.

*It's an engagement with God on the terms that he proposes and in the way that he alone makes possible.

I pray that as we share in our re-connecting open church and traditional services, our 25th anniversary celebrations, our conversations, Bible study and as we serve in our everyday lives that we will hear the needs of others, open our hearts and minds to different ways of serving and give our lives as worship in all forms.

Thank you for all your contributions. If you would like to share your thoughts about what worship means to you, please feel free to email me: mel_lander@hotmail.com. I might even produce a follow-up article.

Mel Mitchell

KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES & CHRISTIAN AID



KFC Coffee Mornings

The first KFC Coffee Morning of the “new season” on Saturday, 21st August, was welcomed with the usual excellent cakes and by a good turnout of church members and others (although one or two of our “regulars” were missing, perhaps on holiday). The tables and chairs were well spaced in order to maintain a continuing Covid-safe environment, and everyone seemed fine with that.

The next Coffee Morning will be on **Saturday, 18th September** at St Martin’s Parish Centre, as usual, with a start time of 10.00 am. Please try to join us to enjoy drinks and cakes, and a good chat with friends old and new - and to do some shopping at the Traidcraft stall.

Christian Aid Coffee Morning

The annual Christian Aid Coffee Morning is scheduled for **Saturday, 16th October** – still a month or so 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, 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.

Big Brekkie

There is another opportunity to enjoy food and fellowship and to support Christian Aid at the “Big Brekkie” at Trinity Church on **Saturday, 2nd October**, from 9.00 am to 11.00 am. A full English breakfast will be on offer, with lighter options.

For further information, please contact Kathy Cole on 07340 543057 or by email at kathycole52@gmail.com.

Graham Fothergill
Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches

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



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SÄINT ÄLBÄN

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



Pastoral Letter from the District Chair

Dear Friends,

The start of the Methodist Church year on 1 September provides a natural opportunity for circuits and churches to plan for the year ahead, as we look to the future with a mixture of hope and concern at what the autumn and winter may bring. Although the national vaccination programme has been a great success, it is unclear whether and to what extent future restrictions may still be necessary.

However, one of the most encouraging developments during the past eighteen months has been the way in which circuits and churches in the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District have responded to the situation posed by lockdown and the need for social distancing. Detailed risk assessments have been carried out efficiently and effectively. Sunday services have continued by electronic means whenever restrictions have prevented congregations from meeting in person. At other times, church premises have been suitably adapted to allow safe access. I am immensely grateful to all those who have worked so hard to ensure that worship, fellowship, and mission can continue.

Already there has been much theological, political, and social commentary on the present and future implications of the pandemic for corporate and individual human life on a fragile planet. Clearly, far-reaching changes are presently underway and will likely continue apace. Yet the people of God are well placed to adapt and respond to changing circumstances. Our identity in Jesus Christ gives us an overarching story and a fixed reference point in which to assess and prioritise change. Holding fast to him means we need not be anxious when familiar and apparently stable patterns of living, working, and worshipping must be reassessed in the light of changing circumstances. After all, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13.8).

Grace and Peace

David Chapman

Message from Rev'd Malcolm Peacock

Like many, I have been watching the Olympics, cheering on GB and celebrating every medal. For a short time I became a borrowed expert in all of the sports and marvel at the skills and endurance of all involved. I listen to the stories of work and discipline and sacrifice and I have nothing but respect for everyone who makes it to the Olympics.

I watched the Fiji mens' sevens rugby team end their match with a prayer meeting on the field and tears of pride and emotion in the eye of many of the team, and I realised how much this means, not just the pride of representing their nation and for the men from Fiji it was an expression of their faith. Watching those men pray I was reminded of one of my favourite films, "Chariots of Fire" which included the story of Eric Liddell and his refusal to run on a Sunday because of his faith.

There is something inspiring when the reality of Christian faith is seen and lived out in such a positive way. It is true for all who believe in Jesus, and call themselves Christians, that our faith is an important and formative part of the way we live and the way we choose to do things. Yet there is inspiration from seeing how others who share our faith live out their faith.

It is a reminder of how important testimony is for the growth and development of all Christians and how the story we can tell of how our faith makes a difference is a source of inspiration for others who hear it.

What testimony does is root the Christian experience into everyday life. Sometimes the description of the Christian life can feel a bit theoretical and sometimes the theoretical language can make Christian faith seem a bit abstract. Testimony - ordinary people saying what their means in everyday situations help to ground the Christian faith for everyone, helps us to see the relevance of the Christian faith and can bring hope and inspiration to us all. Sometimes though, when we listen to some people, rather than be inspired, we feel intimidated. We need to remember that testimony is my story not that of someone else. In the same way we cannot all be Olympic champions then.

Malcolm

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

“Initial impressions”

I always wanted to stay in the UK for a long period after visiting my best friend who had accepted a job at a British engineering firm in London shortly after he qualified as a clerk in Switzerland. We decided to have a few days together - going to the Proms and spending some days in Ventnor on the Isle of Wight, the only place then in the UK with a good weather forecast. It proved right! Anyway, after that my decision to come over from Switzerland was made quickly when Dr Nat Hindley, the Head of Process Research at Roche UK, came to Basel, as he often did, looking for chemistry assistants for his laboratory in Welwyn Garden City.

So I travelled by train and boat for a total of 15 hours duration to Welwyn Garden City. Finally, arriving at my destination, a lady answered the door; I said “Hello”, and she replied “I am not ready for you, I will arrange for you to spend the first night elsewhere”. It happened to be above the public bar in the Peartree pub! The landlady was Scottish and there were more lodgers in the house from Northern Ireland, Barrow-in-Furness and South Africa, and later Denmark. All were Roche employees. It was good fun but the landlady was on the mean side! I recall my Swiss friend, Andrea, came to my digs and he toasted bread on the heater. And that I put my foot through the loft which, unknown to me, was paper-thin. I wanted to put my suitcase away and slipped off the beam and landed elsewhere; this was because of my condition of POEMS, a syndrome that was not properly diagnosed until 1985. Another occurrence was that soup and a butterscotch sweet appeared four or five times a week.

To cut a long story short, I thought it would be nice to have a girlfriend again. Some friendships of that nature were as long as four years, but they did not last, maybe because I did not want to have sex before marriage or the girl wanted to go back to her first love. Anyway, I noticed an advert for the Twenty to Thirty-five Club meeting at the Hyde, but above all at a tennis club near my digs, on Sunday evenings. On the Saturday before tennis I was always excited and was looking forward to meeting members of the Twenty to Thirty-five Club. At that time, I was just in the process of having tennis lessons at a club in Old Welwyn.

One day I thought I could hitchhike to the seaside, on a Saturday, just for the day. So I stopped a small lorry on the A1 which got me as far as Boston and then I sought other transport towards Skegness, my planned destination for the day. The furthest I got was Holbeach, a nice little place with a pub/inn where I spent the night. The following morning the seaside plan was off as I wanted to be back for my tennis as soon as possible. So I started to walk south and had short lifts with farmers, interspersed with walks, finally reaching Peterborough. It got very hot so I made a decision to terminate my hitchhiking and caught a bus going in the London direction down the A1, which just included a stop at Valley Road Corner, not far from my digs. So I had plenty of time to take a leisurely walk to the nearby tennis court off Attimore Road.

It was there I first met Valerie. She thought I was Dutch! We played in doubles, with my knowledge of tennis being very limited. But we had a nice chat and I found out she was an infant teacher at Parkway School and lived in Welwyn Garden City. She was there with a friend who quite obviously was her boyfriend. I went to the Twenty to Thirty-five Club again to improve my English, this time at the Hyde, a house not far from the QEII Hospital. When my English became a bit better, and I got a bit bolder, I asked Valerie straight out whether she was involved in a serious friendship. She said that she was getting quite frustrated, one day he wants to get engaged and a few days later he says he's not ready yet. My heart jumped. We gradually became good friends and one evening in 1961, near her home in Kirklands, by two huge trees, I asked her to be my wife, and I remember that we went to Bravingtons in London to choose the rings.

We got married at the Free Church in Welwyn Garden City on 28th July 1962 and had the reception at the Clock Hotel, a week before the A1(M) opened. We found a place to live in Knebworth, as the house prices in Welwyn Garden City were too high. We adopted Peter and Heidi (because of my medical condition) and had a wonderful marriage for 46 years, living in Knebworth.

Hans Meister

***Please send items for the October issue of Trinity Times to
Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 23rd September:***

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth