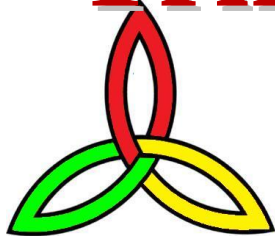


Trinity Times



October 2021

Issue No 247

Diary for October		
Sunday 3rd	10.30 am	Team Worship led by Maureen Bodden
Saturday 9th	3.00 pm	Afternoon Concert by the Eden Consort
Sunday 10th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Jackie Hall, including Service of Holy Communion
Saturday 16th	9.30 am 2.00 pm	Christian Aid Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre Afternoon Concert by the Wavensworth Clarinet Quintet
Sunday 17th	10.30 am	Open Church
Sunday 24th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Jennifer Rogers
Sunday 31st	10.30 am	Team Worship led by Rosie Berry
Diary for November		
Tuesday 2nd	7.30 pm	Church Meeting
Sunday 7th	10.30 am	Open Church
Sunday 14th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Reverend Nick Young (Remembrance Sunday)
Youth Club Meetings at Trinity during term times – Friday evenings - School years 6 – 9		

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

I particularly like this time of the year! That which Keats so aptly described as “the time of mists and mellow fruitfulness”. The chrysanthemums and dahlias that I have so carefully cultivated since taking cuttings in the spring are now in full bloom, but the tomatoes in the greenhouse are almost finished. Everything seems to be coming together very nicely but we must make the most of it because, to rather misquote Shelley, can winter be far behind!

And it seems that things are also beginning to come together at Trinity, so much so that, after coloured photographs on the cover of Trinity Times for the past eighteen months, you will notice that the “Diary” has returned, so you can now see the events for the month at a glance.

Graham Fothergill

FAMILY NEWS

Our good wishes to John Neilson and family as they celebrate the safe arrival of John's new granddaughter. Several amongst our fellowship have recently begun, or are now beginning, new stages in their lives in small or significant ways. It is apparent in those who move to a new stage of education, perhaps moving away to do so. It is less obvious for those who have made adjustments in how they live, how they work (whether employed or voluntary), and indeed for those who are processing decisions about the future at whatever stage of life. As we begin to meet together again, we share and discover new experiences and patterns of life.

The recent Anniversary weekend certainly represented the amazing effort of many members (navigating months of hurdles on the way) led and cajoled by Peter and culminating in a very positive and significant stage in our reconnecting process after so many months of relative fragmentation. Thank you to all who planned and then re-planned, created displays, resourced prayer corners, fed and watered us, led and took part in the worship, set up, cleared up, cleaned up... From those of us who just came on the days - “thank you all”.

We recognise that we have not remained static though, we are shaped by new people arriving and others moving on. Even those of us still here have changed with time and circumstance. We need to catch up in the moment of who we are now as Trinity Church and who God calls us to be, together in joy (as John Steele reminded us).

As we return to more opportunity for time together in fellowship I hope we can rediscover more of the ways that we are **each** some part of how pastoral care tries to work throughout (and beyond) Trinity Church. Through times with each other in both group and personal conversations, in exchanges with people we trust, there will be moments to bring encouragement and perspective to each other. Maybe we will share challenges to develop in new directions, or encouragement to take up, or maybe to let go of, a role as is needed.

There may be conversations that enable healing to happen, and conversations that just enable us to know God's care through our companions even in what may seem to be unfixable situations that can weigh us down. If you have a hymn-book "*Brother Sister let me serve you*" (Singing the Faith, No 611) says it much better than I can.

Prayer for each other did not stop in all the months, but it was sometimes less "informed", and we put trust into that. It is good to hear names read again in worship so that through the weeks we can each be prayed for. I recently ordered copies of the Methodist 2021/22 annual prayer handbook and have a spare copy if anyone is interested. Very soon I will order the 2022 URC one ("Jubilee - freed to live") which will cost in the region of £6. I am now collecting a list to save on postage.

It would be impossible to name them all without leaving someone out, but we owe huge thanks to all who did their best to keep Trinity going through the last 18 months, keeping the wheels in motion, keeping us connected, spiritually resourced and cared for by whatever means they could. And equal thanks to all who are now bringing church-in-the-building back to reality – it does not "just happen". As we each feel able, let us become whatever part we can of the physical presence and joy of Christ's call to the ministry of Trinity at 25+.

Gill Hughes

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

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

Why I love wasps!!

It is strange how we humans have a love/hate relationship with the animal kingdom - we fly dogs out of war zones and have dog hotels with pampering and candelabras in their sleeping quarters! We raise millions for cats and donkeys, but less for children!! Some are enamoured with snakes and keep them as pets; some even keep my pet hates - rats - as pets!

So what about wasps! We all love bees, but wasps!! The plague of many a cream tea or a picnic being enjoyed in the park or on the beach!

First, we need to realise that not all wasps are the same! In fact, there are approximately 9,000 species of wasp found in the UK. They include large wasps that can sting, and microscopic parasitic wasps that cannot be seen by the naked eye!! The ones most likely to upset the tea party are *Vespula vulgaris* and *germanica*; of the two, the latter is more bad tempered. They are almost identical, with some difference in their faces and markings (not that most of us want to get that close to see these distinguishing features!)

Secondly, it is worth noting they are more trouble in late summer and early autumn, because these are workers which earlier in the year spend their time gathering food for the larvae, but now this job becomes redundant, so the workers turn their attention to sugar (the jam on your scone!). They sting to defend themselves (just as you try to bash them with whatever is to hand!). The sting is a defence mechanism and is designed to deal with predators attacking the nest.

The worst thing you can do is swat one, because that triggers a collective response; the best way to deal with them is to trap the first wasp to appear under a glass, only freeing it (and running) at the end of the picnic!

Now what is the value of wasps? There are 200,000 species of wasp but stripy ones represent only 1% of the wasp population. As predators, they are top of the food chain and without them food links would break down. They help keep down populations of spiders, woodlice and other insects. They eat most of the pests that we try to control with toxic chemicals, e.g. aphids; one colony of wasps alone can consume some 250,000 aphids! (Put that spray away and leave it to the friendly wasps!)

Wasps also are great pollinators of flowers and crops and they are less fussy than bees about which flowers they visit. They can often make up for the shortage of bees in some habitats.

Finally, in praise of the wasps, they may be indirectly responsible for the invention of paper! About 2000 years ago a Chinese, Cai Lun, noticed a wasp building a paper nest, and so he began to experiment mulching wood and from it made the first paper! And wasp venom found in tropical social wasps has the power to destroy cancerous cells. So they may have the potential to save human lives.

Some folk you meet can be a bit 'waspish' and their words can sting us, sometimes because they are speaking the truth, and that can hurt but, if we listen and pay heed, they may also heal. My experience is that such folk, at heart, are kindly and well-meaning, even if their words seem to belie it.

So think of the good the wasp and the waspish do, rather than of the occasional sting they give us.

Reverend John Whittle

Trinity@25

1996-2021

The Anniversary Celebrations take a different format during October when Trinity hosts tea-time concerts on consecutive Saturday afternoons.

The first is scheduled for 3.00 pm on the 9th when Trinity welcomes back the Eden Consort, accompanied by Andrew Lewis. They will be offering songs and more by, among others, Dowland, Gjeilo and Schubert, plus musical interludes played on our, sadly, infrequently-used organ.

A week later, at 2.00 pm on the 16th, the Wavensworth Clarinet Quartet return after an absence of nearly four years and will present a programme of light classical music and popular folk tunes. On this occasion, and in direct contrast, Trinity's Director of Music, Victor de Paula will play a short arrangement of his own, based on a popular hymn tune.

There is no charge for either concert but audience members will be encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the Anniversary Charity, Mind in Mid-Herts. Both ensembles recognise the importance your contributions to this charity can make and all ten people involved are very much looking forward to performing again now that live music is once again possible.

There will be refreshments available at each concert, provided by the Social Committee, and we look forward to as full a house as possible on both occasions.

NB: A third concert is planned for Saturday, 20th November – watch out for details coming soon.

Peter Bodden

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

Our outreach charity for October is



Commitment for Life is the world development programme of the **United Reformed Church** working in partnership with **Christian Aid** and **Global Justice Now**.

Trinity Church traditionally collects for this programme in October, and gift aid envelopes will be put out in the church. Please give as generously as you can. More information will be on the notice board in the entrance hall.

Commitment for Life is a way in which local congregations are enabled to participate in actions for justice around the world.

Commitment for Life belongs to every congregation. Many choose to support a region in the world through prayer, learning, advocacy, and action for justice.

Our four partner regions are Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Central America (Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala).

Commitment for Life means Life-Giving Faith, Defiant Hope & Generous Love

We at Trinity have opted to support **Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories in particular.**



Christian Aid works in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, through Israeli and Palestinian partner organisations. Their partners work to protect human rights, enable people to access services and resources, and challenge the structural causes of poverty

If you cannot get to church, but wish to make a contribution, cheques should be made out to '**The United Reformed Church Trust CFL**' or '**URC Trust CFL**' or '**URC Trust Commitment for Life**'.

Office postal address:

Commitment for Life, United Reformed Church House
86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

BACS transfer :

Sort Code: 40 05 03, **Acc. No:** 01191802, **Bank:** HSBC (Fleet Street)

Maureen Bodden



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)

KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES & CHRISTIAN AID



Christian Aid Coffee Morning

For obvious reasons, we were unable to hold the annual Christian Aid Coffee Morning last year and therefore this year we hope that we can do better than ever and raise a substantial sum for this important charity.

So on the morning of **Saturday, 16th October**, from 9.30 am onwards, make your way to St Martin's Parish Centre. As well as the opportunity to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee (with free refills!) and cake, there will be the chance to wander round and make purchases from stalls selling plants, cakes and bric-a-brac.

But especially, don't miss the Traidcraft stall, where there will be a large selection of Christmas cards, Advent calendars, 2022 calendars, notecards and gift ideas, together with the usual range of Fairtrade food products.

On Saturday, 14th August, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti at Les Cayes, 75 miles west of the capital of Port-au-Prince. A few days later, tropical storm Grace brought flash floods and mudslides to cause further devastation on the island.

To date, the earthquake has claimed more than 2,200 lives, injured almost 12,000 people and destroyed 130,000 homes. At least 344 people are still missing. Families are seeking safety wherever they can with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Entire communities have been made homeless.

The proceeds from this year's Coffee Morning will be directed, via Christian Aid, to the Haiti Earthquake Appeal. Please come along and help Knebworth to support the vital work in this devastated country.

Graham Fothergill
Secretary: *The Knebworth Family of Churches*

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

Wednesday, 6th October at 11.00 am
Preacher: **Rev'd Simon Carver**
Minister of Dagnall Street Baptist Church and Free
Church Chaplain for the Cathedral

Wednesday, 3rd November at 11.00 am
Preacher: **Rev'd Andrew Clarke**
Minister of Hertford Baptist Church



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SĀINT ĀLBĀN

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

METHODIST NEWS

Message from Rev'd Malcolm Peacock

I can't believe how quickly the time ticks over. For many of us, holidays are a memory - hopefully good memories with photographs to help the memories along. For some of us, holidays have been different to usual, meeting with families, catching up with friends rather than excursions to new places. As we start a new Church year, 'different' may well be the theme. Some of us like different and doing things in a new way, some of us don't. Some of us like things that are new, but not too new. I have a number of favourite authors and I look forward to their new books coming out each year - for my family it makes for easy Christmas and birthday presents. I don't spend much time re-reading books, but I like a new one. Change, but not too much change, different but not too different. After all, a Dick Francis book is still a familiar Dick Francis book even if the story is a new story. Different, but not different.

We have to be different, not for the sake of being different but because the world and life around us is different. Some things mustn't change. Our sharing of good news, that God loves us no matter how we feel about ourselves, must never change. Being there for people as we worship must never change. Being a voice that calls authority to account must never change. Caring and supporting those who share our faith and caring and supporting those in need must never change. Standing up for justice, equality, and freedom for all must never change. Other things could change, particularly as we seek to make the things that mustn't change relevant to our current world.

We also need to reflect on the things we have learnt through lockdown. Online and Zoom services have helped some people to worship when they felt they couldn't. Zoom meetings have shown us how some of our committee life could be different. The ways we have developed to look for each other and care for each other need to be encouraged. When people have found written resources helpful, then we see how we can continue to offer resources. Responding to different situations by meeting need and doing something slightly different.

So, we have a new year, is it a new start? In some ways it is. We will plan for the familiar things - Harvest, Halloween and Advent leading to Christmas. We will think about unfamiliar things as we reflect on how we can give thanks for the lives of those we loved but weren't able to mark the end of their lives in an appropriate manner. We will reflect on how we need to be different to be able to share the good news of Jesus in a different world, one where we are living with Covid. A challenge for sure, but no more than we would face anytime.

Malcolm

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



Anyone interested?

Having recently had to purchase a new printer, I find that – not surprisingly – it doesn't take the same ink cartridges as my old one. Therefore, I now have three new Epson cartridges (black, Ref. TO711; cyan, Ref. TO712 and yellow, Ref. TO714) that fit the Epson Stylus SX410 Series printer and which are surplus to my requirements.

If anyone would like to take these off my hands – free of charge – please contact me on 01438 813371 or by email at gafothergill@gmail.com.

The Editor

***Please send items for the November issue of Trinity Times to
Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 21st October:***

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth
