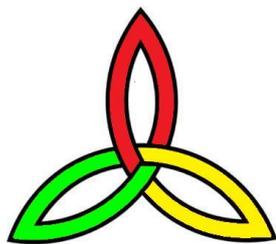


Trinity Times



February 2022

Issue No 250

Diary for February		
Sunday 6th	10.30 am	Team Worship led by Rebecca Amy
Sunday 13th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Rev'd John Whittle, including Service of Holy Communion
Monday 14th	2.30 pm	Film Afternoon – St Valentine's Day Theme
Saturday 19th	10.00 am	Christian Aid Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 20th	10.30 am	Open Church
Sunday 27th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Jennifer Rogers
Diary for March		
Tuesday 1st	12.00 pm	Shrove Tuesday – Pancakes at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 6th	10.30 am	Team Worship led by Rosie Berry, followed by a Soup Lunch and Church Meeting
Sunday 13th	10.30 am	Morning Worship, including Service of Holy Communion
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

With Christmas and New Year now behind us, and with Easter still some weeks away, Trinity Times is back on track with the first issue of 2022.

I would again wish to thank our regular correspondents for their continued support (occasionally with a bit of chivvy along by yours truly!). However, I would be pleased to welcome contributions from other sources at any time – perhaps you could think about making that a belated New Year resolution.

Graham Fothergill

FAMILY NEWS

In my struggle for inspiration for what to write I looked back to what I wrote a year ago. I quote the first paragraph and wonder how little I would need to change to use it again? *“Of course the news on the lips of many at present is about who has had their vaccination. I know many in the church family have, or are waiting expectantly for an appointment soon. It is clear that there is no quick pathway back to resuming the personal gatherings and meetings that we long to be able to have, but surely it is a significant step towards those gradually and appropriately returning. Like longer days and spring buds it feels like the signs of re-birth that unfold with Spring and Easter.”*

I reflect on the difficulty of sharing news of members here, navigating the boundaries of people’s feelings about what is mentioned, what is not mentioned and how much detail is included. But for the last two years there has been a growing challenge in what we all tell each other. We no longer have all the open channels of social life, church groups, community events, the seemingly random networks of who encounter each other and have normal group conversations where it is clear what is open knowledge and what is a private conversation. I believe we are all living at some level with the implications of that constraint, and it has been part of the reason for us losing the breadth of nuance in many areas of life.

This means that the news I share of Trinity Family seems very sparse and quite impersonal. Certainly, over recent months various members have had quite direct effects of the Covid virus, personally and within close family or friends. Others have experienced, and are experiencing, the difficulties of a variety of other health challenges that cannot currently be addressed in the ways we might normally hope for and expect. Many are finding the isolation so profound that it is hard to see any “signs of re-birth”. Some have faced more acutely the challenges they already experience in their lives, and some have encountered new situations without the benefit of usual resources to help them through. We each have our own approaches to managing these challenges, and some of the ways forward have included the development of new and positive solutions. I do believe that much personal kindness certainly happens and there are examples of new channels of support that have opened for some.

It is so easy to feel helpless and inadequate about what we can do and be to others. But I hope that we can see glimpses of where God’s love still emerges through the encounters we have with others, expected or unexpected. I feel confident that many of those were in evidence on Christmas Day through the amazing project that, from the vision of a few Trinity members, organically grew to an open Community Christmas Dinner in our building, organised by an integrated team of volunteers from church and community. They were drawn together, bringing the reality of food and friendship on a day which many find difficult for so many reasons of personal circumstance and history. It certainly sounds to me as though it was a significant step of faith affirmed by its reception and its outcome.

As we move into new ways of developing the leadership of Trinity, may we mirror that vision with trusting steps into unknown territory and belief that God will be our inspiration and guide. May we gradually develop together confidence for the challenges, and strength through the sharing of all our varied gifts as we reconnect with each other and with the communities to which we belong.

I hope that it will not be too many months before we can all share more fully in the news of our church family in much more tangible and personal ways. Meanwhile if you have news you are happy to have shared through this "column" please let me know!

Gill Hughes

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

This is the text of the Trinity article that has been prepared by Rosie Berry for the February edition of the Knebworth Parish News. (*Ed.*)

February is often regarded as a dull month. I am indebted to my daughter, Helena, who sent me an interesting link: (see below)

National LGBT History Month
29 Jan to 5 Feb - National Storytelling Week
7 to 13 Feb - National Apprenticeship Week
2 Feb - Candlemas
2 Feb - World Wetlands Day (Ramsar Convention)
4 Feb - World Cancer Day
8 Feb - Safer Internet Day
14 Feb - St Valentine's Day
14 to 21 Feb - National Nest Box Week
15 Feb - International Childhood Cancer Day
18 to 24 Feb - National Chip Week
7 to 13 Feb - Student Volunteering Week
22 Feb - World Thinking Day
21 Feb to 6 March - Fair Trade Fortnight.
1 March - Shrove Tuesday

If you would like further details go to <http://projectbritain.com/specialdays/feb.htm>.
You can also google each event. Suddenly February seems an active month!
Enjoy the first signs of spring - God bless.

Rosie Berry, an Elder at Trinity

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

February Outreach Charity



Bridge Builders is a Christian Trust which works in partnership with primary school teachers, church leaders and committed volunteers in Stevenage and the surrounding area.

Their vision is that every child within the community should have opportunities to explore the values of the Christian faith.

They provide:

- opportunities for children to explore the Christian faith through assemblies and class work;
- visits to local churches for themed events;
- mentoring and pastoral support for vulnerable children: and
- mid-week clubs for children in years 3-9.

To find out more, to donate or become a supporter, go to: www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk
[Friends of Bridge Builders | Bridge Builders \(bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk\)](http://www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk)

Email : admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk

Telephone: 01438 314314 Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am - 3.00pm

Camilla Straughn (on behalf of the Mission Group)

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers and guests who made the Christmas Day lunch at Trinity Church such a success.

There are too many people to name individually, everything from the initial planning to the final clearing up went so well, despite Covid issues.

On a personal note it was a very different Christmas Day for me, spending time with people I had only just met and working as a team brought a whole new meaning of Christmas to me. I hope we will go on to have further events in the future.

Kathy Cole

Used Postage Stamps

I am collecting used postage stamps – UK and foreign - for the charity Parkinson's UK. Please help me with this, if you can. Just cut round each stamp, leaving an edge of paper.

For more information, please phone 01438 815414.

Kay Loveless

Some Dates from the Social Committee

Monday, 14th February at 2.30 pm - Film Afternoon (with a St Valentine's Day theme)

Thursday, 14th April (Maundy Thursday) at 7.00 pm - Agape Meal

Saturday, 16th April at 2.30 pm – Afternoon Tea and Easter Egg Hunt

KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES



Village Carol Singing

On the evening of Wednesday, 15th December, a hardy bunch of singers from Knebworth Family of Churches set out for a session of carol singing around the village. Starting in the entrance hall at Deanscroft, they then moved on to sing outside the British Legion. From there they carried on to Lowe House, then to Robert Ellis Court and finally onto St Martin's Green. As a result of their efforts, they raised the princely sum of £150 for Christian Aid. Thank you to all who took part and to those who contributed to this worthy cause.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Through the period from 18th to 25th January, daily prayer sessions were held by Zoom to demonstrate Knebworth Family of Churches' contribution to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, each session being led by a member of one of the member churches. In addition, on Sunday, 23rd January at 3.00 pm, there was a United Service at St Martin's using worship resources prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches and based on the theme "We Saw His Star in the East". The retiring collection in aid of "Open Doors" raised a total of £191.20.

Forthcoming KFC Services and Events

By the time this issue of Trinity Times reaches you, the KFC Steering Group will have met to discuss and arrange a number of services and events that will be taking place in the next few months. These will include the Lent Groups, the Good Friday Walk of Witness and services to reflect Easter and Pentecost, as well as setting a date for the KFC Annual General Meeting. Relevant information on these will be in next month's Trinity Times; watch this space!

KFC Coffee Morning

The next KFC Coffee Morning will be held on **Saturday, 19th February**, between 10.00 am and 12 noon in the Parish Centre, adjacent to St Martin's Church, and as usual there will be a Traidcraft stall.

Donations made at our Coffee Mornings are used to support various charities. Many thanks to everyone for your continuing support.

Further information on the KFC Coffee Mornings can be found on the final page of this newsletter.

Graham Fothergill
Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches

LENT GROUPS

Knebworth Family of Churches will again be running its Lent Course on Zoom this year.

The study material has not yet been chosen, but please look out in February for the details and forms to be filled in if you would like to host, lead or attend a group. These will be made available in church and online.

The groups will start in the week beginning 7th March, with five sessions, one a week, of approximately ninety minutes duration, leading up to Holy Week just before Easter. The groups will be made up of people from the different churches and anyone without a regular church connection is welcome to join. If you cannot follow on Zoom, paper copies can be made available for private study.

If you would like any more information, you can contact me on gafothergill@gmail.com or on 01438 813371.

METHODIST NEWS

Message from Rev'd Malcolm Peacock

Resolutions, particularly at New Year seem to be easily made and even more easily broken. Sometimes we make resolutions that are more aspirational than possible. Yet even though we know that we will still make the resolutions because a significant part of us wants to be different and we want to fulfil whatever we have resolved to do.

St. Paul sums up this dilemma using the more spiritual language, Romans 7 v 19 'I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.' In outlining the dilemma this way, Paul very neatly demonstrates the difference between law and grace in the context of the Christian life.

It is one of those realities of the Christian life that when we find faith in Jesus Christ, we want to do those things that are right. We want to do what is right, keep the law as the Bible describes it, be fair and be good. We want to exhibit the virtues of loving, of patience, kindness, gentleness. We want to do these things; we resolve to do these things and we find ourselves falling short and failing.

How we react is a key measure of our faith. When we fail, sometimes we say I will not put myself in that position again and we refuse to take any risks and we refuse to commit to anything again. We might have qualifications and abilities, but we refuse to do anything that might be even a little risky or difficult. If we have been treated badly when we have made mistakes and got things wrong, I can understand such a view. It seems to me, though, that such views are like living under a punitive regime of laws where it is fear and anxiety that become the motivating forces in our lives.

The alternative is to be aware of grace. At the heart of living in grace is the understanding that failure is not the closing of opportunity, but grace allows us a way through failure that allows for growth and continued development, learning from mistakes and continuing to take the risk of using gifts and abilities well for the service and benefit of others. The difference between living under law and living under grace is the central place of love and forgiveness when we know ourselves to be living under grace.

Christina Rossetti wrote the carol, 'Love came down at Christmas.' It is a reminder that the Christian Church tells the good news that God loves us and will forgive us, letting us make a new start and that new start is living under grace. God doesn't want to trip us up, find us out or make us feel small. God wants us to grow, develop, learn and be at peace, and God allows this to happen by taking the risk of loving us unconditionally, forgiving us and offering us opportunity of a new start.

I would like all of us to make two resolutions this year - one is this - to treat each other as we have been treated by God, that we love each other, forgive each other and help each other to a new start; and the second resolution, to be as gentle and as loving to ourselves as God is to us so we can truly grow to be the people God want us to be.

Malcolm

{The above item was reproduced from the January 2022 edition of the North Herts Circuit Newsletter}

The Mountain



If the mountain seems too big today
then climb a hill instead;
If morning brings you sadness
it's okay to stay in bed.
If the day ahead feels heavy and your plans feel like a curse,
There's no shame in rearranging,
don't make yourself feel worse.
If a shower stings like needles
and a bath feels like you'll drown;
If you haven't washed your hair for days,
don't throw away your crown!
A day is not a lifetime.
A rest is not defeat.
Don't think of it as failure,
Just a quiet, kind retreat.
It's okay to take a moment
From an anxious, fractured mind.
The world will not stop turning
While you get realigned!
The mountain will still be there
When you want to try again
You can climb it in your own time,
Just love yourself till then!

Laura Ding-Edwards

To Make You Smile

A little girl had been to Sunday School for the first time and was asked by her mother how it compared with her new primary school. "Oh, I like it much better," she said. "There are no exams there, you go only once a week for an hour, and at the end you go to heaven instead of high school."

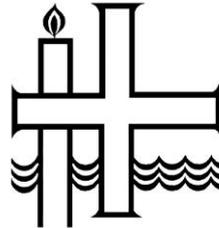
Please send items for the March issue of Trinity Times to Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 17th February:

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth

KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES



SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE

THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

at

St Martin's Parish Centre, Knebworth

We are open from 10.00 am until 12 noon

**Pop in for a chat with friends or linger longer over a FREE refill of
tea/coffee**

Everyone welcome

Tea/Coffee £1.00

Tea/Coffee plus a slice of cake £1.50

Coffee Morning Dates for 2022

19th February

16th April

18th June

20th August

15th October

19th March

21st May

16th July

17th September

19th November

17th December