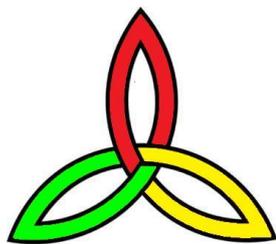


Trinity Times



March 2022

Issue No 251

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 led by Rev’d Graham Claydon-Knights, including Service of Holy Communion
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 Kate Dickinson (Mothering Sunday)
Diary for April		
Sunday 3rd	10.30 am	Team Worship led by Maureen Bodden
Sunday 10th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Christine Warren (Palm Sunday)
Thursday 14th	7.00 pm	Agape Service led by Kate Dickinson and Rebecca Amy, which will include food
Friday 15th	10.00 am 11.00 am	Good Friday Worship led by Rebecca Amy KFC Walk of Witness, starting from St Thomas More
Saturday 16th	2.30 pm	Afternoon Tea and Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday 17th	8.00 am 10.30 am	Early Morning Easter Sunday Worship led by Jackie Hall, including Service of Holy Communion, followed by breakfast Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson, 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

As we closely approach Lent, there are a couple of items to which I would like to draw your attention. On Shrove Tuesday, we are invited by our friends at St Martin's to join them in the Parish Centre to sample a variety of pancakes – see Page 9 for further details. Then, starting on Monday, 7th March, there are the KFC Lent discussion groups; you can find the relevant Application Form on the back page of this issue of Trinity Times.

Graham Fothergill

FAMILY NEWS

Writing this during half term reminds me of the students and school children in our community who have now had more than two years of disruption to their education. I know that within our church families there are several who are now trying to concentrate on being prepared for exams or assessments as they head towards a milestone in their path towards the next stage, be it further study, apprenticeship, employment or a time to take stock and make decisions. Maybe it makes those of us well beyond that stage recall the ways it differs from our own adolescence, or indeed ways in which it may even reflect some similarities. I know that as a church we value the balance of generations we are privileged to have and appreciate times when we can get to know them better and understand more of how their lives are working out, what it is like to be part of their generation, and maybe even how they would like to see themselves and the church moving forward in the next decade!

We seem to be gradually finding times and places to meet more in person – small group meetings – a first return to film afternoons – some Lent groups on the horizon – and a cautious return to building up attendance on Sunday mornings for a variety of traditional and less formal worship. I hope we can continue to find ways to support and connect (or reconnect) with any who are experiencing physical or spiritual isolation.

I recognise that several areas of church life are now being strengthened by the energy and commitment that members are offering. I hope that the church meeting will be an opportunity to reflect, encourage and affirm some of those, and continue to build on them.

Many church fellowships have been experiencing challenges of leadership and a profound weariness, especially in these pandemic years. Even my limited Bible knowledge tells me it is not a new problem. A good starting point, I am sure, for some assurance that God is alongside us, and some pointers to our way forward.

I will end with a prayer from the URC "Daily Devotions" (which I have finally subscribed to) that seems to apply to all the topics that I have just rambled on about....

Gracious God,
May we be discerning and questioning and challenging.
May we look carefully and listen wisely.
May we seek truth and authenticity.
May we not miss your word to us because we are too afraid to ask.
And may we create safe spaces where we are able to be real with each other.
Amen.

(The Rev'd Jenny Mills, Secretary for Education and Learning for the URC)

Gill Hughes

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

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

Friendships can be a blessing in life, but not everyone sees them as this, I count myself blessed to have some wonderful friends; not many, but those I have I truly treasure our time together.

I do believe that humans were never meant to live alone, God created Adam and gave him Eve as a companion; Jesus gathered disciples to be friends for one another; our friendships can start as children in school or maybe when they are just a few months old, but as Christians there is one friend who accompanies us throughout our life, that is Jesus.

At this point in writing, a hymn came to mind:

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer

Oh, what peace we often forfeit
Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer

I am reminded through this hymn that prayer is essential and sometimes we are not good at sharing our burdens and worries through prayer. God knows it all, but once we say it out loud in prayer, we have shared that worry, that concern. Prayers and friendship go hand in hand, I am thankful for all my friends, I am sure you are too, like Jesus they are always there for you. So as we approach Easter and the time of trial for Jesus, let us remember we are his friends and we walk with him just as he walks with us every day.

Rebecca Amy

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS



Our outreach charity for March is **The Living Room**, with premises at the Glebe in Stevenage, as well as in St. Albans and Watford. The Living Room helps young people addicted to - or at risk of becoming addicted to alcohol, street drugs such as cannabis and cocaine, or prescribed drugs such as sleeping pills. The scheme also caters for eating disorders and gambling. The Living Room hopes its success will inspire other organisations to invest in its work. Thanks to a grant from the Hertfordshire Community Foundation the service has been extended to 13 to 17 year-olds.

We have been supporting them for many years, and they carried on with their good work during Covid lockdown measures, using zoom and other means to communicate. They have not been able to undertake their usual fund-raising activities, so any support you can give will be much appreciated, either through our charity of the month collections at church, or directly. We hope to organise a fund-raising concert some time this Spring.

Go to www.livingroomherts.org to make a donation

email enquiries@livingroomherts.org or phone 0300 365 0304

Maureen Bodden, on behalf of the Mission Group

Water Aid

Lent in Knebworth Churches has, for years, meant raising money for Water Aid by placing a coin or two each day of Lent in a jar. This year you may lack cash, so why not place a **token** of some kind, e.g. a button or an **IOU** into the jar and then, at the end of Lent, write a cheque - either to Knebworth Family of Churches or to your Church if the treasurer is happy to receive the money as a record of the giving of the congregation, then pass it on to Jenny Wright, the KFC Treasurer, who will forward all to Water Aid. Cheques can to be sent to Jenny at 1b Gypsy Lane, Knebworth, SG3 6PL.

Water Aid explains its work in this way:

Clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene are basic human rights. They should be a normal part of daily life for everyone, everywhere - but they aren't. So 771 million people still lack clean water, 1.7 billion lack their own toilet and over 800 children die every day because of dirty water and poor sanitation.

That's why Water Aid exists. So that with the help of amazing people like you, they are working with partners in some of the toughest places in the world. Together, they have already reached millions of people with **clean water, decent toilets** and **good hygiene**, enabling entire communities to unlock their potential, break free from poverty and change their lives for good. We also work to **convince governments** to change laws, link policy makers with people on the ground, pool knowledge and resources and rally support from people and organisations around the world, making lasting change happen on a massive scale.

Just one example of a life transformed is that of Laxmi who lives in Nepal and used to have to daily wake early and walk to the nearest stream to collect water for her family, even though the stream carried diseases and the time taken meant she often missed school. Water Aid, along with local partners, worked with her community to install water-points in her village. Now Laxmi is healthier and doesn't need to miss school and her focus can be on her education.

Thank you, "every little helps"!

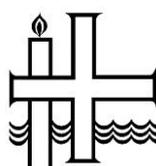
John Whittle

Some Dates from the Social Committee

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

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

KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES



Lent Groups – March to April 2022

As in previous years, the Knebworth Family of Churches will be running its Lent Course but again, because of the continuing problems associated with Covid-19, we have had to do something of a rethink.

As well as groups meeting online through Zoom, we feel that it might be possible to organise one or more house groups for those who are unable to access Zoom or who would perhaps prefer not to do so. There will still be need for a host and for a leader of each group (the host and leader may be the same person) whether online or "in house". Crucially, for the online groups, either the host or leader will be required to have a pro Zoom account.

The groups will start in the week beginning 7th March; there will be 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.

The Application Form, containing further information, is on the last page of this issue of Trinity Times. To return a completed Form, either scan it in to your computer and send it to me by email or, to return it as hard copy, take a photocopy of the form and drop it in to me at 7 Stockens Dell. Alternatively, you can simply email me with the days/times when you can meet, with your contact details, and let me know if you can be a host, a leader or both. Although the "official" closing date is Sunday, 27th February, we will still be able to accept completed Application Forms for a few days after that.

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

KFC Coffee Morning

The next KFC Coffee Morning will be held on **Saturday, 19th March**, 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.

Forthcoming KFC Services and Events

Information concerning the Good Friday Walk of Witness and services to reflect Easter and Pentecost will be in next month's Parish News; watch this space!

Graham Fothergill
Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches

METHODIST NEWS

Message from Rev'd Malcolm Peacock

Earlier in January there was the hunt to see the first snowdrop in flower. As we found it the thought was - it is earlier and earlier in the year we see snowdrops. Watching one of the many nature programmes on TV it was confirmed that the flowering date for snowdrops is sooner than it has ever been. The reason given was global warming. This week, as storms have hit the UK on successive days and a major storm hit the USA, we are reminded that the frequency and intensity of storms has increased and the cause is global warming.

We read reports of people planning to vote against MPs who are in favour of stopping the sale of petrol and diesel cars by 2030 - one of the steps we are taking as a nation to arrive at zero carbon emissions. We are seeing rises in sea levels around the world and melting of Arctic and Antarctic ice. We know that failure to address rises in global temperatures will result in more extreme climatic change. Even ultimately the capacity for the Earth to sustain life such as ours.

Part of me wonders what we can do to make a difference - 200 years of industrial activity can't be changed overnight. I also don't think it is right for the wealthy and developed world saying we must stop growth and expansion now, leaving current inequalities in place, yet we can't encourage catch-up use of resources because we may lose the world that we have. For there to be equality, there must be proper sharing of the world's resources, we need to recover the sense of Jubilee where imbalance addressed.

I want to affirm the following as truths that we see in the pages of scripture. God created the world as good, fruitful and capable of sustaining life. We have a duty of care to act as stewards of the world that we do not mar and destroy, ensuring that God's purposes are not lost.

All people are created in the image of God and are therefore to be treated with equality, dignity and respect. All people have the right of having enough to eat, to live in safety and peace, to have access to healthcare.

To affirm these truths to recognise that the accumulation of extreme wealth at the exploitation of others is sinful. That the use of resources with no thought for the future of others is sinful. The wasting of the bounty of the world is sinful.

Where we say our faith in Jesus addresses the forgiveness of sin, we have to include all sin and we have to recognise both the corporate and the individual components of sin and we have a duty and responsibility to address sinful behaviours where we can, both corporately and individually.

It is a hard path and it means we who for one reason or another are wealthy - in a global sense, have to ask what can I do to make a difference and we have to campaign so our communities and nation take seriously the challenges that faith in God brings.

Malcolm

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

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

Wednesday, 2nd March at 11.00 am
Preacher: Reverend Meryl Court
URC Minister, Hatfield



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

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

On Reflection

*I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space, but I
can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven
than I can when assisted by all the telescopes on earth.*

Isaac Newton

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

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth

JOIN US FOR A PANCAKE OR TWO!

(savoury and sweet)



TUESDAY 1st March

In St Martin's Parish Centre

from 12pm up to 3pm

(Tea & coffee will also be served)

Everyone is welcome

**Let your friends know too and
have your lunch out or takeaway!**

Donations appreciated

Organised by St Martin's Church

LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE FOR LENT?

Why not take part in a Lent Group on Zoom?

(Groups start in the week beginning 7th March 2022)

CARING FOR CREATION

This year, the **Knebworth Family of Churches Lent Groups** will be using one of the York Courses. The essence of the course is that the human race is facing its greatest challenge: global warming, leading to climate change. This, along with the damage we have done, and are still doing to the environment, God's wonderful creation, means that we all have to make radical changes to our whole way of life.

There will be five sessions, one a week, leading up to Holy Week just before Easter. Depending on the uptake, different days and times may be offered. Each session will last for up to 90 minutes, with a CD audio tape of 15/20 mins to listen to, followed by readings, and discussion points. No great biblical knowledge is required, just come as you are. The groups will be made up of people from the different churches and anyone without a regular church connection is welcome to join. Please indicate on the form if you can take part or host on zoom, or prefer to be in a face-to-face group. .

There are five sessions of approx 1½ hours

Completed forms to be returned by **Sunday, 27th February** (although this deadline can be extended for up to a few days later) to Graham Fothergill by email at gafothergill@gmail.com or delivered to 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth.

For any enquiries/late applications please contact Graham by email, or by telephone on 01438 813371.

Please **tick** when you can **meet**. Please also **tick** if you can **host and/or lead**.

DAY	MORNING	HOST	LEAD	AFTERNOON	HOST	LEAD	EVENING	HOST	LEAD
MONDAY									
TUESDAY									
WEDNESDAY									
THURSDAY									
FRIDAY									

Name:

Church (if applicable):.....

Address

Post Code

Telephone numbers:

.....

Email

Please give email address so that we can send details.