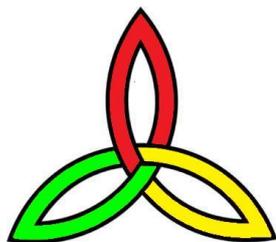


Trinity Times

May 2022

Issue No 253



Diary for May		
Sunday 1st	10.30 am	Team Worship led by Rebecca Amy
Wednesday 4th	7.30 pm	Church Meeting
Sunday 8th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson, including Service of Holy Communion
Sunday 15th	10.30 am 3.00 pm	Morning Worship led by Rev'd John Whittle Service for Christian Aid at Trinity
Saturday 21st	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 22nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship prepared by Rev'd Julian Blakemore
Sunday 29th	10.30 am	Open Church
Diary for June		
Sunday 5th	10.30 am	Pentecost Service led by Mel Mitchell and Kate Dickinson, including Service of Holy Communion
	12.30 pm	
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: Rev'd Dr JunSoo Park, to be inducted in September 2022

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

This month our emphasis is very much on Christian Aid. As well as a special service at Trinity on the 15th, where we will be joined by our friends from St Thomas More and from St Martin's and St Mary's, collections will be made around the village during Christian Aid Week. Please see on Page 4 how you can contribute to this worthy cause at this special time.

Graham Fothergill

FAMILY NEWS

Generally, attendance at worship is becoming more established and as this happens news of members is shared more.

Health and health concern are a major factor in disconnection and isolation from the church community, which is why at the March meeting we decided to retain a voluntary cautious approach to mask wearing and social distancing, particularly in the context of worship. This has continued through April and is appreciated by many.

Our sharing of prayers continues as far as possible for those known to be unwell, and for any in hospital or waiting for, or receiving, treatment. We have had several recent times affecting planned worship where the impact of sudden health issues has meant "on the spot" re-planning of how things happen. It is affirming to see how people have stepped up to needs, how people see priorities and how worship may not be as planned but has the authenticity of the moment. Perhaps more than ever these times have brought those challenges to us and we can give thanks that members have begun to discover new places they are needed in church life.

Sadly, we still have some very noticeable disconnection of members around transport issues. In former times we were nearly always able to offer lifts to any who needed them to attend worship and church events (as well as medical and other appointments at times). We now find ourselves with significantly reduced resources to offer lifts, and more restrictions (not least different Covid boundaries of choice or guidance) on offering or accepting lifts. It has been heartening to see where personal awareness, communication and generosity have found ways to help, but it continues to be a challenge for us all. Let us pray for ways to improve both our awareness of needs and awareness of offers.

Despite the hurdles, April has been a busy month with a focus through Holy Week when preachers and worship leaders led us through reflections on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, joined by friends from St Paul's and Stevenage URC fellowships, and the Friday KFC walk of Witness, ending with buns at Trinity. Then Jackie and Kate led two Easter Praise opportunities on Sunday (again joined by many from St Paul's) for a celebration of the Risen Christ. Fellowship was also on offer through tea and an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, and Jackie and Steve's full English breakfast on Sunday. The spring blossom and weather all contributed to a sense of re-awakening which I pray will gain momentum through the coming months as we prepare for welcoming JunSoo and his family.

Gill Hughes

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

This is the text of the Trinity article that has been prepared by Maureen Bodden for the May edition of the Knebworth Parish News. (Ed.)

*O the month of May, the merry month of May,
So frolic, so gay, and so green, so green, so green!*

"The Merry Month of May" is a poem which appears in a play by (1572-1632), an English Elizabethan dramatist, and mentions the sound of the Thomas Dekker nightingale singing, and the cuckoo calling, but nowadays these are rare occurrences for most of us. Yet we still have the most wonderful dawn and evening chorus of birdsong at this glorious time of year. Not to mention the annoying chaffinch that returns to peck at our window at first light, which is around 5.00 am in May.

We have lots to celebrate - it's springtime, and we look forward to the Queen's Jubilee at the beginning of June.

We sometimes get caught out, thinking summer has arrived, but it can be quite cold in May so, as the saying goes, 'ne'er cast a clout till May is out'. Clout is from an Old English word for cloth or clothing, coming from the German 'Kleid', and the saying was a reminder not to be too quick to shed the winter woollies before the chilly days of May were over. May can also be taken to mean the appearance of May flowers on the hawthorn bushes, a sign of better weather. Traditionally, it was taboo to bring hawthorn into the house in Medieval England because it was feared it would bring death with it. Did you know that at one time it was considered unlucky and even forbidden to marry in the month of May?

It would be wonderful to be able to celebrate the end of the war in Ukraine before the end of May, but is unlikely. On May 26th, Christians celebrate Christ's ascension into heaven, and here I quote from the preacher Brian McLaren, '*There is a terrible danger in sitting inside our churches looking up in worship at our remote God in heaven, while outside the world is on fire. Worship that saves the world, on the other hand, is courageous, daring, willing to look reality in the face and step out in a way that responds to God 'doing a new thing' in his Kingdom already present with us*'. Knebworth churches and community are doing a new thing - pulling together to help Ukrainian refugees here, and those left behind in their war-torn country.

Thanks to all of those helping in however big or small a way.

Maureen Bodden, Elder at Trinity Church

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

Since 15th – 21st May is Christian Aid Week, that is Trinity's outreach charity for this month.



Christian Aid Week 2022

House-to-House Collection

Christian Aid Week is **15th to 21st May** this year and around that time volunteers will be delivering Christian Aid envelopes to every household in the village.

To give please return your donation in the envelope to one of the following collection points during or soon after Christian Aid Week:

Knebworth Co-op or Knebworth Post Office

Alternatively, you can donate online at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-to-donate> , by using the e-envelope at <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/knebworth-christian-aid?channel=copy> or by telephone at 020 7523 2269.

Every gift. Every action. Every prayer. Every one of us can change lives.
Drought starves. It robs women of the power to farm and grow food for their families.

Now, for the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. Covid-19, conflict and the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival.

Women and men in Zimbabwe are hungry to provide a more hopeful future. Mums often skip meals to share with their children what little food they have. One of these mums is Jessica Mwedzi. Drought makes every day a struggle for survival. Jessica is hungry. Hungry for a good meal. Hungry to earn a decent living. Hungry to provide a more hopeful future for her family.

'My children crave a good meal, but I can't provide.' Jessica says. **'It pains me to send them to bed hungry.'**



Jessica and her family

Your gift could help Jessica grow drought-resistant crops. You could help her set up a water tap on her farm and learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. She'll turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray - stepping out in love for our global neighbours. With you by our side, we won't stop until everyone can live a full life, free from poverty and hunger.

From envelope collections to walking 300,000 steps in May, Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community helping those living in poverty to transform their own lives.

This Christian Aid Week (15-21 May), please:

- **Give** generously to help women grow crops that survive in the drought.
- **Act** and raise your voice for justice. Join our Loss and Damage campaign.
- **Pray** that families will stay strong during tough times of drought.

Together, we can turn hunger into hope.

Christian Aid Service

This year, the annual Christian Aid Service will be held at Trinity Church on **Sunday, 15th May**. The Service will start at 3.00 pm and will be followed by light refreshments. We are delighted that we will once again be joined by Lucy Hamilton to speak to us about the work of Christian Aid in countries such as Zimbabwe.

Christian Aid Quiz

This year's Christian Aid Quiz which, as in previous years, has been prepared by Colin Stringer, is entitled **A CRAFTY QUIZ**. The first 50 questions are the names of vessels, either from history or from fiction; the second 50 relate to the other type of 'craft' (e.g. weaving).

As always, the clues are cryptic in nature and the *Word* document containing the questions can be downloaded (from 1st May) by clicking on the following link:

www.parascosa.com/CAQuiz.htm

Thank you for supporting Christian Aid.

The Editor, on behalf of the Knebworth Christian Aid Committee

KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES



Good Friday Walk of Witness

In glorious sunny weather, about fifty members of the churches in Knebworth joined together on Good Friday morning for the Walk of Witness through the village. We started in the garden at St Thomas More Church where Father Danny led the opening service – a prayer, a Bible reading and a hymn. We then moved in a long crocodile along London Road to the Green at St Martin's Church. Here Reverend Charles King led the next part of the service, then we proceeded along the "High Street" and Station Road onto the station forecourt where the service was led by Pastor Yinka Oduwole. From there we moved to our final destination, the garden outside Trinity Church on Park Lane where, led by Jackie Hall, our Walk was brought to a close. We then all decamped into the hall at Trinity to partake of some light refreshment, including the traditional hot cross buns.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the Walk, it was a strong demonstration of our faith and of the importance of the Easter message. Thanks also to Kathy and her "crew" at Trinity for helping us to round off the event in an appropriate manner!

KFC Coffee Morning – A Retrospective

Our usual Coffee Morning on Saturday, 16th April, was shared with a Cake Sale to help to raise funds to pay for food, clothing and bedding in the Zhytomyr region of Ukraine. The event, organised by Adam Stringer and his Ukrainian friend, Maryna Pavlenko, was extremely successful and raised a total of £760.

If you were unable to attend but would like to make a donation, Maryna has set up a *JustGiving* page; the link is:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/food-for-ukraine>

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Coffee Morning and contributed in some way to this very worthy cause.

KFC Coffee Morning; Saturday, 21st May

Our next coffee morning will be on Saturday, 21st May, from 10.00 am to 12 noon at St Martin's Parish Centre. Come along for a drink and some cake and a chat, and to do some shopping at the Traidcraft stall.

Graham Fothergill
Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches

METHODIST NEWS

Message from Rev'd Malcolm Peacock

There are times when I long for good news. Then I look at the niggles I am coping with and putting up with and compare them to the images which flood my TV screen coming out of the Ukraine. My instant response is compassion for the people of Ukraine, those living in cities being bombed and those who are fleeing homes, families and livelihoods, becoming refugees. I am still having to cope and manage the niggles but my perspective on them changes.

Sadly, I still feel the need for good news, the war in Ukraine is casting a dark shadow for me. I am sure that there will be good news coming in good time, but today I feel the need for good news. That said we are getting close to Easter and there is good news of the most profound and best kind, but I feel as if I am still on the Good Friday side of Easter.

I feel I have to remind myself, rehearse the confidence that faith brings to keep my sense of hope. It is fitting to remind ourselves of the journey Jesus took to the cross and of his death by crucifixion. Jesus went to the cross to be obedient to the will of his Father - he chose to die for us so we might be forgiven and find new lives. He chose this way because it was the only way he could be sure of bringing about God's desire

and will; that the love of God might be seen in this unique act of redemption.

To make it happen Jesus chose to make a difficult journey. He suffered a difficult emotional journey as Judas betrayed him and Peter denied him; he suffered intellectually as he was denied justice and tried in a manner that was essentially illegal and unlawful; he suffered extreme pain, flogged, crucified, and stabbed; he suffered spiritual distress as he even felt abandoned by his Father. The good news is the resurrection and that glorious sense of wonder and joy when the closed tomb was seen to be open and the greatest wonder of all the one who was dead is alive. The amazing realisation that Jesus was right; love is stronger than death and transformation comes when people choose to love sacrificially.

I hold that good news as much as I can and make it a lens by which I look at the things which task me, and I am enabled to say that God will bring about his purposes and his will. As I look for and pray about Stewards, Circuit and Church, despite my anxieties God will bring the right people. As I worry about the impact of this year's stationing, I am mindful that God will bring the right and best solution, possibly one that I cannot see at the moment.

I know that God has not let me down, or his church down. Sometimes we are challenged to see a different vision and respond to that, sometimes the needs we worry about are met and sometimes the anxieties we have turn out to be illusion rather than reality. As I end, I want to reflect on the disciples who after the events of Good Friday drew to the tomb with heavy hearts wondering how God would make good his promises. They found the empty tomb, Jesus risen, and the promises of God fulfilled. Why should I be anxious?

Malcolm

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

UKRAINE – THE KNEBWORTH RESPONSE TEAM

As the result of a meeting on 3rd April at St Martin's Parish Centre, chaired by Rev'd Charles King, there was overwhelming support for the village to become organised to welcome the families of Ukrainian refugees into the area.

Renata Crome, who was one of the main forces behind the Knebworth Covid Response Team two years ago, kindly offered to reactivate the Response Team to co-ordinate the offers of help in order to ensure that families from the Ukraine have all the help and support that they need so that they can quickly settle into their new environment.

The poster produced by Renata and her team can be found on the back page of this newsletter. If you feel that you can support this initiative in any way, please email KnebworthCR@gmail.com.

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



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBAY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

Wednesday, 4th May at 11.00 am
Preacher: **Reverend Stephen Copson**
Regional Minister, Central Baptist Association

Wednesday, 1st June at 11.00 am
Preacher: **Reverend Simon Carver**
Senior Minister, Dagnall Street Baptist Church and Free Church
Chaplain, St Albans Cathedral

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

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

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth



UKRAINE - KNEBWORTH STANDS WITH YOU

The Knebworth Response Team is helping coordinate how local people can help a small number of families from the Ukraine who are now staying in the village.

Help we have had:

Local people hosting Ukrainian families, others offering lifts to the airport, helping hosts move furniture and cooking hot meals.

How YOU can help

Practical help includes:

Drivers to take our guests to and from airports, to the bank and to GPs and hospitals.

Tech support on laptops, tablets and phones.

Cooking hot meals for families.

Help with running social events at the Village Hall.

Helping hosts move furniture.

Providing childcare equipment.

Do ask us how you think you can assist our guests.

Email: KnebworthCR@gmail.com



Knebworth Response Team