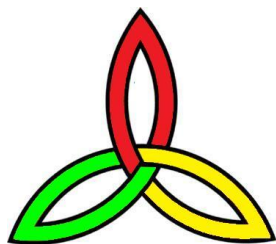


Trinity Times

October 2022

Issue No 258



Diary for October		
Sunday 2nd	10.30 am	Team Worship led by Maureen Bodden
Sunday 9th	10.30 am	Open Church
Saturday 15th	9.30 am	Christian Aid Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 16th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Rev'd John Steele, including Service of Holy Communion
Monday 17th	7.30 pm	Church Meeting
Sunday 23rd	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson
Friday 28th	2.30 pm	Film Afternoon
Sunday 30th		<i>No service at Trinity, but a United Service for the North Herts URC Churches at 3.00 pm at Letchworth Free Church</i>
Diary for November		
Sunday 6th	10.30 am	Team Worship led by Rosie Berry
Sunday 13th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Remembrance Sunday Service led by Rev'd John Whittle Remembrance Sunday Service at Knebworth War Memorial
Saturday 19th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 20th	10.30 am	Open Church
Sunday 27th	10.30 am	Morning Worship; Service prepared by Rev'd Julian Blakemore
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

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 seems like another interesting mix of news and information – thank you to all our contributors, but a special thanks to Corletta for her very enlightening report on her experiences at her pilgrimage to Taizé . It's really good to get this kind of feedback from our younger members

Graham Fothergill

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the induction service of Rev'd Dr. JunSoo Park as minister of Trinity Church, which was to have taken place on Saturday, 17th September, has been postponed. A new date for the induction is awaited and will be publicised when available.

FAMILY NEWS

There is always sadness when a member of the fellowship dies, especially when we have been unable meet in all the usual ways over the last few years with gradual recognition and adjustments for all our personal changes in health and circumstance. Margaret Webb was much loved and respected by fellow members of Trinity Church since its formation, coming as she did from the New Close fellowship. She brought her cheerful friendship along with skills from her professional life and a willingness to be actively involved in many aspects of our church life. During those years, among other things, Margaret served as an Elder in Trinity, shared responsibility for preparing Communion, served on the Pastoral Care Team, was a keen member of Hilary's "Meeting Point" and took part in many Bible-study groups, often shared with members from other church denominations. In recent years she was also a valued and committed member of the weekly "Trinity Two Step" group led by Kate. She is much missed, and we pray that God's love and peace will surround her son Paul, daughter Mary and all their families as they mourn. The family appreciated the support at her funeral of many from Trinity, not least Rev John Whittle who led the service and paid tribute to her full and fruitful life founded on her active Christian faith.

Several members continue to experience health issues, some of which have meant hospital appointments or in-patient care. Please remember the networks of prayer and pastoral care where we might share appropriately any personal needs for practical or emotional support.

Alongside this time of national mourning there have been several bereavements in the local community and within families of members. We are all only too aware as well of the profound pressure that the current national and world situations bring on many in all sections of the community. I hope that as we seek to find where God calls us in our mission and outreach, we might discover ways to provide a place of "refuge" offering whatever practical, emotional and spiritual support we can. The "Open Space" on a Sunday afternoon in August provided a step towards an informal open invitation and welcome into our building for conversation, reflection and thanksgiving. In the coming weeks there are several Sunday mornings where our worship will be in the informal style of "Open Church". Perhaps this may provide a positive opportunity to help us to develop patterns that might be used during other times in the week.

Many have now begun new stages in their education. One of our Sunday Club is just beginning in the nursery class at Knebworth, others from One Truth Youth starting secondary school, embarking on GCSE courses, starting 6th form studies, starting University courses, or taking a new role in a gap year. It was uplifting to hear reflections from those who went on the Taizé pilgrimage in their summer break.

The witness of Trinity Church continues, and we give thanks for and encourage all who are sharing the challenges of ensuring that we meet for worship and share fellowship over refreshments or even lunches. Over recent months we have been pleased to welcome several new friends (through all the generations) among the congregation and are delighted when connections indicate they are happy to make Trinity their “home church” on a regular basis. However, it continues to be a sadness that for a variety of reasons we miss seeing some of our valued members as often as we used to. Sometimes the reason is not one that can easily be solved, but I pray that, where there are feelings of disconnection, together we might have an awareness of how to enable a sense of true belonging – whether in person, or “remotely” through other ways. Many of us have at some time experienced the immense barrier that can grow when we take a break from an “activity” in life and find it daunting to step back over the threshold. May our church fellowship be able to be open, honest and understanding of the variety of hurdles we can each experience. May we go on being a fellowship that reflects the love of Christ both within and beyond our walls and doors.

Gill Hughes

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

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

Just over a year ago I asked how you felt about change, and it seems many are a little wary or anxious, even when it's something exciting, and many want no change at all thanks very much. But we don't change, we stagnate, and any who have stood by a stagnant pond will know how unpleasant that is. And if you are unfortunate enough to fall into it, well trust me, nasty doesn't begin to describe its smell or taste, both of which cling.

We have sadly had change forced upon us by the sad death of Queen Elizabeth the Second, and many were shocked and surprised at their depth of grief and sorrow at her passing. Many who had never met her wept at the news of her death, and for days afterwards were very emotional. But really it's quite understandable as she has been the only constant in many peoples' lives. Politicians come and go, she herself has welcomed fifteen in her lifetime, but most of us only had one monarch - the Queen, regal, caring, funny, relatable.

Her life wasn't perfect as she too had house fires and family troubles, just like us, and I'm sure there were days when she just didn't feel like going to work but dragged herself out of bed and turned up with a smile so as not to let people down. For most of us, getting used to a king instead of the Queen will take a bit of getting used to. But just think of what it's like for King Charles the Third, he is learning to be king in the full glare of the public gaze. The Queen made no secret of her Christian faith and the other constant in all our lives is God, he is there before we are born and by our side throughout the ups and downs.

The hymn by Sydney Carter "*One More Step Along the World I Go*" says 'From the old things to the new, keep me travelling along with you'. The final verse is very apt for today's world as it says 'Give me courage when the world is rough, keep me loving though the world is tough'; the final two lines are 'Ever old and ever new, keep me travelling along with you'. We have seen an outpouring of kindness and as we travel from the old to the new, and travelling with God as our constant in life, we can help others as along the world we go.

Stay safe.

Jackie Hall, Trinity Elder

My Time at Taizé

Being at Taizé for a week feels like a massive break from real life and if you ever get a chance to go, it's very well worth it.

Each day starts with morning prayer at 8:30 am before breakfast of bread, chocolate and hot chocolate/tea. Then we have Bible study at 10.00 am where we go off into our separate age groups and get a Bible introduction from one of the brothers in Taizé. We are then put into study groups with roughly eight other people, mainly from other countries. In my group there were people from Germany, France, Czech Republic and the Netherlands. We learned about the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts), God's covenant with Noah (Genesis) and how Jesus healed a centurion's servant (Matthew).

Midday prayer comes soon after, then lunch. The afternoon consists of free time and jobs around Taizé which include cooking, cleaning and sometimes gardening. A few other jobs done at other times include being part of the choir, keeping people silent before prayer starts and washing up after meals.

Evening prayer is at 8.30 pm, with dinner beforehand. After dinner is some more free time with refreshments, beverages and live music from volunteers playing instruments. Prayer three times a day and Bible study every morning with fellow Christians really deepens your faith. This includes prayers around the cross on Thursdays, Eucharist every morning and Saturday evening prayer to celebrate the light of the resurrection.

Taizé was everything I expected. The extreme heat, the sheer number of wasps, the chocolate with breakfast and the questionable food at times. But there was also a lot to gain from the experience. The new people I met from several different countries and new friendships formed and the breath-taking sights all around Taizé.

The main thing that I took from Taizé is the time for reflection and peace and quiet during prayer which I am trying to incorporate into my everyday life.

Corletta Straughn

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

October Outreach Charity



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.

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, on behalf of the Mission Group

KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES, INCORPORATING CHRISTIAN AID



Christian Aid Coffee Morning; Saturday, 15th October

As is usual in October, the KFC's monthly Coffee Morning is devoted to supporting Christian Aid. As always, it will be held in St Martin's Parish Centre between 9.30 am and 12 noon. There will be the annual large FairTrade stall which will have a large selection of Christmas cards, wrapping paper and gifts. In addition, there will be a plant stall and tombola (instead of the usual raffle). There will, of course, also be drinks and cakes for you to enjoy as you chat with friends old and new. By the way, gifts of cakes and preserves will be much appreciated.

Proceeds from the day will go to the DEC Pakistan Disaster Appeal, via Christian Aid. Please come along and support this very worthy cause.

Graham Fothergill
Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches

METHODIST NEWS

Message from Rev'd Val Reid

Dear friends

September 1st is the first day of the new Methodist year. It is also a time of going back to school and going away to university. Many of our young people who have completed their education will be starting work for the first time. Next week we will have a new Prime Minister. For us in the North Herts Circuit, this is a year where we are hoping and praying (and working hard) for two new ministerial appointments from September 2023. It's also a time of discernment for all of us as we emerge from our COVID hibernation, and try to imagine what church will be like in the months and years ahead.

How do we feel about new beginnings? How should we approach each fresh chapter in the life of faith - both as individuals and as communities? Last weekend I spent a couple of days in Scotland with my 'Soul Group'. We first met in January 2016 on a course based at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham called 'Soul of Leadership'. We were a diverse group of leaders from a whole range of organisations, including international NGOs, universities, community organisations, businesses and churches. Over two years - four residential weeks - we explored what leadership might mean if we approached it not with the intention of making the most profit, but with the purpose of making life richer in a different way.

Since then, a group of four of us - my Soul Group - have met online every four weeks for a 'clearness committee'. This is based on a Quaker practice for discerning the way forward when the issues are complicated and the right answer isn't clear. It involves holding each other in the light of the sacred. It involves listening without interrupting while someone sets out their concerns. It involves sitting in a reflective silence rather than rushing in with our own suggestions and solutions. It involves questions and insights so that the focus person can go deeper into their own mind and heart and faith in order to better understand the situation. We have been doing this together monthly for six and a half years, and over that time we have accompanied each other through some very challenging personal and professional dilemmas. It was wonderful to see each other in 3-D in the Scottish highlands rather than on a screen.

So my suggestion for the coming year - whatever challenges you face - is to learn from our Quaker brothers and sisters. Learn to be comfortable with a bit of silence, with making space to listen to each other and to God. Learn to be OK with not knowing all the answers straight away. Learn to trust the group wisdom of our church councils and leadership teams and circuit meetings - there is a reason why decision-making in the early church is nearly always a community process. And learn to celebrate the pilgrimage of faith which we can make together, because none of us have to face this alone.

Yours in Christ

Val

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



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBAY CHURCH OF
SÄINT ÄLBÄN

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

Wednesday, 5th October at 11.00 am

Preacher: **Reverend Andrew Prout**

Minister of Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road Methodist
Churches, St Albans

Wednesday, 2nd November at 11.00 am

Preacher: **Reverend Kevin Walton**

Canon Chancellor, St Albans Cathedral

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

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

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth

Birthday Tea

CELEBRATING

Kathy's and Kate's

SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS

please join us

SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER
FROM 2.30 TO 4.30 PM
AT TRINITY CHURCH, PARK LANE, KNEBWORTH
RSVP TO KATHY ON 07340 543059
OR KATE ON 07825 700580
BY 30 SEPTEMBER

Please no presents but donations can be made on the day to
Codicote Food Bank



**christian
aid**

fairtrade

**chat with
friends**

**drinks and
cakes**

Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Saturday 15th October, 9:30 – 12:00

St Martin's Parish Centre, Knebworth

**In aid of the DEC Pakistan Appeal- please
bring money to spend or donate.**

**a range of
stalls**

tombola



Image: freepik.com