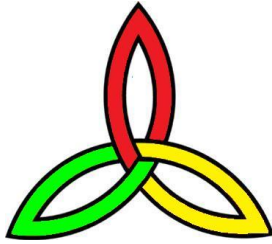


# Trinity Times

December  
2022

Issue No 260



## Diary for December

Sunday 4th	10.30 am	Toy Service, including Holy Communion, led by Rev'd John Whittle
	12.00 pm	Trinity Christmas Lunch
Sunday 11th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Jennifer Rogers
Saturday 17th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning in St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 18th	3.00 pm	Service of Lessons and Carols (No Morning Service)
Sunday 25th	10.00 am	Christmas Day Worship led by Kate Dickinson

**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](http://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***

<b>Diary for January 2022</b>		
Sunday 1st	10.30 am	Morning Worship TBA
Sunday 8th	10.30 am 4.00 pm	Morning Worship led by Catherine Edmonds KFC Epiphany Service at St Thomas More
Sunday 15th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Frank Needham
Saturday 21st	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 22nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson
Sunday 29th	10.30 am	Morning Worship, including Holy Communion, led by Rev'd Val Reid
<p><b>Youth Club Meetings</b> at Trinity during term times – Friday evenings - School years 6 – 9.</p>		

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

I am sorry to report that this is probably the last issue of Trinity Times in its current format. Unfortunately, no-one has volunteered to be mentored by me to continue to produce a monthly church newsletter in this style, but I understand that alternative strategies are being looked at in order to keep members and friends of Trinity up to date with events and activities.

But there is still time for someone to come forward because as usual our friends at Triographics are taking a well-earned holiday over the Christmas and New Year period and will not be back until early January. This means that this final Trinity Times for 2022 is a double issue covering both December 2022 and January 2023 and the next one wouldn't have been due out until February.

Notwithstanding that, may I perhaps be among the first to wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Graham Fothergill*

## PARISH NEWS ARTICLES

*As mentioned elsewhere, Trinity Times will not be putting in an appearance next month (January) but the writers of both the December and January Trinity Times articles for the Parish News have been able to provide their copy to me in good time and both are reproduced here (Ed.).*

Firstly, this is the piece written by Kathy Cole for the December issue.

When I received the email reminder that it was my turn to write a piece for the magazine it was Remembrance Sunday. At the service we gave thanks for those who made the supreme sacrifice during the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts.

At the previous week's service we thought about Job and his trials and tribulations. Job was concerned that God had created good and evil. Why should people suffer illness, wars and hardship? Yet good can come out of evil.

During the Second World War, surgeons Gillies and McIndoe operated on pilots with severe burns to the face and hands. This led to new techniques in plastic surgery which have benefitted future generations.

Florence Nightingale served in the Crimean War, where she improved the conditions at the hospital in Scutari, which led to a new system of nurse training and hospital procedures.

During the pandemic many acts of kindness were shown, with support systems set up for the more vulnerable in the community. This not only helped the beneficiaries but also gave the volunteers a purpose during a difficult time.

I recently visited the Richard the Third museum in Leicester. Richard was portrayed, especially by Shakespeare, as an evil cruel man, yet he introduced many good measures including having the bible translated into English so the population could read it. The Richard the third Society presents him as a good husband, a pious Christian and a loyal subject.

The debate between good and evil continues. Good can come out of evil. We can pray for our concerns, we may not get the answer we think we want but an answer nonetheless.

Kathy Cole, Elder at Trinity Church

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And now the text of the Trinity article which has been prepared by John Whittle for the January 2023 edition of the Parish News.

### **Christmas Crackers**

I wonder how many crackers you pulled this Christmas! What non-exciting gifts did they pour on to your plate? They are a strange addition to Christmas, thanks to Tom Smith a London confectioner who in the early 1850s began to add mottos to his sugared almond bon-bons and sell them wrapped in twisted paper packaging. But what relevance do they have to Christmas - after all the star on the tree points to Jesus the Light of the World, the holly's sharp leaves and red berries to the crown of thorns and the blood shed on the tree of Calvary. Everything, except the cracker has a meaning!

John Cubie of St Andrew's University has suggested two Christmas lessons we may learn from the cracker. Firstly, within the cracker the explosive is very small indeed compared to the size of some crackers! But we all go 'Oh' when it fails to fire! Small but highly significant. At the heart of Christmas with all its additions of angels, stars, lowing cattle, shepherds and a couple stranded without accommodation, there lies the new-born child - the bit of dynamite that would change human history from BC to AD/CE. Just look at the Magnificat (Luke 1v. 46f) '**He has brought down rulers from their thrones, but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things, but has sent the rich away empty.**' Explosive stuff indeed, the dynamite inside the decoration.

Christmas is like the cracker, lots of colourful wrapping - gentle hymns and jolly carols, lights and cribs and nativity plays, baubles and tinsel and spray-on glitter and snow. Occasionally, the spirit of Christmas breaks through when the heart of Scrooge is melted! One other thing we can learn from the cracker is that it needs at least two people, if it's going to work, with one at either end. It must be shared to be effective and enjoyed - that is the supreme truth at the heart of Christmas.

Embodied in the song: '**Love is like a magic penny**' which you may have sung at school or Sunday School:

**' Love is something if you give it away,  
give it away, give it away.  
Love is something if you give it away  
You end up having more.**

**It's just like a magic penny,  
hold it tight and you won't have any,  
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many  
They'll roll all over the floor, for  
Love is something if you give it away  
You end up having more.'**

*Reverend John Whittle*

## **TRINITY FAMILY NEWS**

We send congratulations and very best wishes to Becky and Ian who began married life together on Saturday, 26th November.

Victor and family are moving to a new home in Knebworth and we wish them all well as they settle in, with more space for the family needs.

There have been a few changes of addresses and contact numbers and even surnames over recent weeks – please remember to make your changes to the church directory on the private area of the website (and to check for current information if details you need might have changed). If anyone needs a new printed copy of the current directory, or help in getting changes made, please ask.

Personal networks of communication are more vital than ever as we go into winter when some members are very restricted by health situations, transport needs and weather. Church fellowship does not all happen on Sundays or in the building in Park Lane, and pastoral care depends on us all to keep in touch with news and encouragement. Perhaps December and January are good months to begin to make a point of contacting friends we have not spoken to for a while.

*Gill Hughes*

## **DINNER ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

*The Social Committee is inviting members of the church family and wider community to join them for Christmas dinner on Christmas Day if they would like some company and to celebrate this joyous occasion with others.*

*Guests are invited to arrive at 11.30 am with the meal being served at 12.30 pm. There will be the option after to stay and chat to others and enjoy coffee and mince pies. Transport can be provided if necessary.*

*This offer is open to those on their own, as well as couples and families of all ages. There is no cost although donations would be appreciated.*

*Places are limited so, if you would like further details or to book, please contact me.*

*Thanks*

*Kate, on behalf of the Social Committee*

See also the poster on Page 10.

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## **CHARITY AND MISSION NEWS**

### **Action for Children – Charity of the Month for December**



This is our charity of the month of December and monies from the Sunday Coffee served following services plus the collection taken on Christmas Day and at the Carol Service goes to this children's charity. Action for Children reached 671,275 children, young people and families during the period 2021-2022 which was a significant increase over the previous year. Some of the key figures in this total are – mental health support reached 94,689 an increase of 400% over the previous year. Children's centres, early help from family hubs increased their reach by 60% to over 102,000. Parent Talk a digital support reached over 400,000 an increase of 11%. All this is against the background of the impact of the pandemic.

Action for Children is not afraid to venture into new ways of reaching out to young people and set us a new text service called Sidekick. This is a confidential text messaging service for young carers aged between 13 and 18 (or up to 25 when needed). They can send a text at any time about anything and will receive a response from a qualified worker within 24 hours. The Children's Society estimates there could be up to 800,000 such cares many of whom are falling through the cracks.

Research by Action for Children has shown young carers are reluctant to ask for help Sidekick hopes to encourage them to find the support they need.

An example of a zealous supporter of Action for Children is Olwyn who has raised up to £160,000 over the past 33 years. Surely, an example to inspire us to support this vital work in a society where child poverty is rising and Action for Children has set up a petition calling for government action to stem this rise. To add your support go to- [actionforchildren.uk/livingcosts](http://actionforchildren.uk/livingcosts)

*At the **Toy service on 4th December** we will be collecting toys for the **'Toy shed' in Stevenage, part of the Food Shed**. Last year they gave bags of toys to over 250 children in Stevenage and the surrounding villages including Knebworth. Referrals are taken for all of the toys that are given out to make sure that they're going to those most in need; this includes from schools, domestic abuse charities, children's services and mental health teams. If you can help, donations of new toys are requested for all children 0-18 years old. If you're unsure of what might be a good gift to buy, there is an Amazon wish list that you can take a look at here to give you some ideas: <https://amzn.eu/eCNEHdL>*

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### **'A little child shall lead them' Isaiah 11 v.6**

Two stories in two Sunday Morning Services on Radio 4 told of two children who in their different ways showed kindness that changed the lives of others. The first one appeared in the November issue of Trinity Times, here is the second one.

This story comes from Ukraine and is of a family with a young child who had a balloon which he carried with him wherever he went. One day he and his parents were at a centre for families seeking to escape the war resulting from Russia's invasion. They met another family also with a young child who was very upset and crying. The little boy seeing the child's distress gave him his balloon - the child stopped crying! Later, by chance the two families met a railway station as they sought to leave Ukraine for safety. The family with the generous child who had given up his balloon to comfort the other child, were worrying how they could pay for their railway tickets. The other family saw this and, remembering the child's kindness judged this family would repay them someday, bought the tickets. So both families were able to seek sanctuary.

On one occasion Jesus set a child in the midst of a crowd and told the people unless you become as this little child you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. What characteristics found in children had Jesus in mind - their openness and kindness to anything in distress, whether human or animal. Their willingness to trust others, alas, in a world of paedophiles this can lead them into danger, as the recently told story of Ricky Neave, along with the report of the abuse of children in so many parts of society, including the church, have only too vividly illustrated. And we have to admit not all children grow up with these positive characteristics often due to having been subjected to the plague of poverty or the horrors of abuse. The good news which Jesus came to proclaim is that none can fall out of the orbit of God's love. As Charles Wesley was fond of proclaiming - '**for all, for all my Saviour died**'. Can we seek, during the coming year, to capture more of the childlike mind and recall the child with the balloon?

*Reverend John Whittle*

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## **Trinity Mission Project for January 2023**

We will be supporting the local branch (North Herts and Stevenage) of Samaritans whose work continues. I continue to hope for a future opportunity to plan a revised version of the "Soup Lunch" to support this cause, but nothing specific yet!

Please see the national website [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org) for information about the charity we are supporting – an extract is below:

*Whatever you're facing, a Samaritan will face it with you*

*Every 10 seconds, Samaritans responds to a call for help.*

*We're here, day or night, for anyone who's struggling to cope, who needs someone to listen without judgement or pressure.*

*Samaritans is not only for the moment of crisis, we're taking action to prevent the crisis. We give people ways to cope and the skills to be there for others. And we encourage, promote and celebrate those moments of connection between people that can save lives. We offer listening and support to people and communities in times of need. In prisons, schools, hospitals and on the rail network, Samaritans are working with people who are going through a difficult time and training others to do the same. Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy, and Samaritans' vision is that fewer people die by suicide.*

*That's why we work tirelessly to reach more people and make suicide prevention a priority. Read more about [our vision, mission and values](#).*

*Gill Hughes*

## **KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES (KFC)**



### **Carol Singing**

On Thursday, 15th December, there will be carol singing in various locations around the village. It will start at 6.00 pm on Stockens Green where Knebworth Tenants will be celebrating the inauguration of their newly-planted Christmas tree. Later the singers will move on to the Royal British Legion premises, then to the station forecourt and probably finish up at about 7.30 pm at Constance Place. All are welcome to join us and to get into the festive spirit.

### **Warm Spaces**

Knebworth Family of Churches is actively supporting the concept of “Warm Spaces” in the village where we will try to help residents who are worried about their heating bills by providing a warm welcome with hot drinks and conversation.

We will be using St Martin’s Parish Centre as the venue and this will be open (and warm) between 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm on Fridays. If you feel that you can help us to make this a success, please contact Reverend Charles King at [revcharlesking@gmail.com](mailto:revcharlesking@gmail.com) or on 01438 816026. See also the poster on Page 11.

### **KFC Coffee Morning: Saturday, 17th December, 10.00 am – 12 noon**

Why not take some time out from the pre-Christmas rush and come along to St Martin’s Parish Centre for a drink and some cake and a chat? You will still be able to do some shopping at the Traidcraft stall. Donations made at our Coffee Mornings are used to support various charities. Many thanks to everyone for your continuing support.

### **Epiphany Service**

The annual KFC Epiphany Service will be held at St Thomas More Church on Sunday, 8th January, starting at 4.00 pm. All are invited to attend.

### **Remembrance Sunday Service – A Retrospective**

This was the first opportunity since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic for us to have the traditional form of the Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial in Old Knebworth, and we made the most of it! Groups including the Royal British Legion, Knebworth Scouts and Guides and the Stevenage Air Cadets marched in parade from the Lytton Arms to the War Memorial where the Service was led by Reverend Charles King and wreaths were laid by representatives of local families, groups and organisations.

Thank you to all who helped to make this a success, especially to Claire Graham who organised the road closures which ensured that the event took place in a safe environment. By the way, we estimate that there were about 250 people there – and the weather was kind to us,

*Graham Fothergill*  
Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches



## METHODIST CIRCUIT NEWS

### Message from Rev'd Val Reid

Dear friends

Last week I had an Autumn holiday in Margate. Margate? Yes indeed! Margate has a chequered history. Back in the Middle Ages it was one of the wealthy cinque ports; in the 19<sup>th</sup> century it became a fashionable seaside resort, accessible by steamer along the Thames from London. In its 1920s heyday my grandmother had a summer job there as a chambermaid in a guesthouse just a couple of roads along from my Airbnb in 'Cool Cliftonville'. When she was cleaning rooms and waiting at tables, T S Eliot was writing about existential despair on Margate sands in his poem "The Wasteland" - published exactly a century ago next month. Later in the 20<sup>th</sup> century Margate became run down and depressed - I've just been reading a chapter in Francis Spofford's poignant novel "Light Perpetual" where 1960s mods and rockers head down to Margate on a bank holiday for fights on the prom. And now Margate is on the up. It's had a lot of urban regeneration money invested in its infrastructure. It's the location for the Turner Contemporary art gallery. It's full of young men with trendy hipster beards, shops selling sourdough, and expensive boutiques preparing skin care lotions from seaweed. And some things have never changed over centuries - the beach is still a mile of golden sand, the sunsets are spectacular, and sea swimming is - well - invigorating!

Margate made me think about the church. Our church. Our churches. Margate is something of a modern parable. As the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us, for everything there is a reason and a time for every purpose under heaven. We in the church have been through times of wealth, times of being fashionable, times of being run down and depressed. We have seen battles and we have seen family fun. We have asked existential questions as we look out towards the horizon. Perhaps we have spent rather too much time in Dreamland. What's next for our beloved churches? Are we heading for a new trendiness? Or are we stuck in the last century? What will we invest in our buildings and communities? And what are the things about our faith and our faith communities that have never changed, and still have the power to move sand inspire us?

Yours in Christ

Val

*[This item has been reprinted from the November issue of the North Herts Methodist Circuit Newsletter (Ed.)]*

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

**Wednesday, 7th December at 11.00 am**  
Preacher: **Reverend John Hardaker**  
Minister of the St Albans URC Cluster



THE CATHEDRAL AND  
ABBEY CHURCH OF  
SAINT ALBAN

Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain: Reverend Simon Carver,  
Email: [simoncarver@btinternet.com](mailto:simoncarver@btinternet.com)



**CHRISTMAS DAY  
DINNER AT  
TRINITY CHURCH,  
KNEBWORTH**

Open to anyone of any age  
who would like food and  
company on Christmas Day

Dinner will be served at 12.30pm  
but guests are invited to arrive  
from 11.30am

For further details and to book a  
place or volunteer please contact  
Kate on 07825 700 580

Transport may be able to be provided

# Warm Welcome



**When energy costs are high, looking for a warm  
space in Knebworth?**

**Parish Centre, St. Martin's Church**

**1 to 4pm**

**Friday afternoons**

**Drop in for hot drinks and refreshments, starting  
Friday, 2nd December**

For the community run by  **KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES**



**Join us in Knebworth Community Library for  
A Warm Welcome**

**Every Monday 2-5pm (except Bank Holidays)**

- **Hot Drinks**
- **Newspapers/ magazines**
- **Free Wi-fi**
- **Scrabble**
- **Good Company**