

Trinity Quarterly

Issue No 4 December 23 – February 2024



Diary for December

Sunday	3rd	10.30 am	Gift Service - Team Worship led by Rebecca Washington
Sunday	10th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson
Saturday	16th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday	17th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Rev Val Reid with Holy Communion
Sunday	24th	3.00 pm	Carol Service
Monday	25th	10.00 am	Christmas Day – Worship led by Jackie Hall
Sunday	31st	10.45 am	No Service at Trinity – Joint Service at Stevenage URC

Diary for January

Sunday	7th	10.30 am 4.00 pm	Team Worship led by Camilla Straughn KFC Epiphany Service followed by refreshments
Sunday	14th	10.30 am	Open Church led by Mel Mitchell
Saturday	20th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday	21st	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Rev Chandrika Perera
Sunday	28th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Rev Zdzisiu Hendzel with Holy Communion

Diary for February

Sunday	4th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson with Holy Communion
Sunday	11th	10.30 am	Open Church led by Maureen Bodden
Saturday	17th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday	18th	10.30 am	Local arrangement tbc
Sunday	25th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Andy Searle

Youth Club Meetings at Trinity during term times – Friday evenings - School years 6 – 9

Trinity Quarterly is the newsletter of Trinity Church, Park Lane, Knebworth, Herts. SG3 6PD

Minister: Position Vacant

Please contact one of the Elders or go to the church website

Church Website: www.trinitychurchknebworth.org.uk

Opinions in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the United Reformed and Methodist Churches. Similarly, they do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Team

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

As I write this, we are fast approaching the end of October and I am starting to think about Christmas.

Now that the nights are dark and longer, I notice the stars and I am reminded of many starlit holidays spent overseas. I am especially reminded of a clear evening summer in the UK, camping with my family. With the aid of torches, we walked to the middle of the adjacent field with our five grandchildren and their parents. We lay down on the rugs and picnic blankets and watched the stars appear. Magical! Of course, we had a few snacks too.

Like many, I look forward to seeing Knebworth's Christmas lights, especially the beautifully decorated tree. The tree was always a welcome sight to see on my drive home from work in the winter. Soon some of you may be putting a star on your Christmas tree or opening cards and remembering the star that guided the Three Wise Men. Others may be singing carols that contain stars or enjoying carols in a venue or at a Church.

Please find some time for yourself over Christmas or the New Year and enjoy reading this edition of Trinity Quarterly. Your family and friends might like to read it too.

Please check the front page of Trinity Quarterly for the start times of our Carol Service and Christmas Day Service.

The editorial team wish our readers, their friends and families, good health and happiness at Christmas and in the New Year. We send a warm welcome home to our students, families and friends that come to share Christmas in the Knebworth area.

*Rosemary, on behalf of the Editorial Team
Camilla, Maureen, Tricia and Rosemary*

Please send your articles for the Spring edition as soon as possible, and before 3rd February.

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

Josie Viles

We received news of the recent death of Josie Viles. Those of us who were members when Trinity Church was formed in 1996 remember Josie, wife of David who was then URC Minister at Park Lane. David continued alongside Bob Forrest (then the New Close Methodist Minister) until his retirement in January 1999. David and Josie then returned to settle back in their hometown of St Ives (Cambs.) where her life was celebrated and remembered this November 1st at St Ives Free Church (where they had also married). Brian and I attended and took messages from others to David after the service.

Josie and David met at school and remained a couple through her training as a teacher and David's for ministry in the Congregational Church. They celebrated both Golden and Diamond Anniversaries in retirement, with their family including daughter Lydia, son John and his wife Grainne, and their three grandchildren Ben, Finn and Abi. In recent years Josie faced her diagnosis of Parkinson's disease with much courage and determination and support from family and local care resources to keep life as active as possible. David's deep sadness is clear, as also is his appreciation of the family and care support that surrounds him.

In Knebworth we knew them for a chapter of their life, and I appreciate the part they both played in the chapter which transitioned from two fellowships in Knebworth to the formation of the LEP which has passed its silver anniversary already! I also remember Josie as a someone who was fully involved as a member of the church in worship and social events and as David's devoted wife, but she helped us in recognising the boundaries that must exist in what is expected of other family members of a serving minister. It is hard to realise how much (in previous generations) there could almost be an expectation of "buy one get one free". Josie's personal life in Knebworth included volunteering in the charity shop and working part time in a local school for children with additional emotional and educational needs.

It was clear from those we heard at her thanksgiving service, and from the eulogy, that Josie lived out her Christian faith throughout nearly nine decades with kindness, courage, humour and a tangible appreciation of others in her life, especially David and their family. David asked us to bring his greetings back to Trinity Church members, and we assure him of our ongoing prayers.
Gill Hughes

Pastoral Care Relaunch

I am excited that we have finally relaunched our pastoral care network. In October we held the first open meeting – we plan to hold a couple a year so all can be involved in conversation about what we try to achieve and how we can best do so. We will be grateful for your suggestions for what might be included – and when is a good time to hold meetings. It can be a sharing of our needs for training, ways to access support – within and beyond Trinity - and constructively sharing our general experience (but not of course personal details of others).

Members of the fellowship should have heard – or very soon hear – from the member of the Pastoral Care Team who is their “PC Contact”. This is not a closed link excluding others who are already (or may become) part of each of our networks of support and care. It ensures though, that we each have a known link person for connection. If you have not yet heard from your contact please let me know and we will do our best to resolve that.

One of the aspects of life (church life being no exception) is that communication can be very holey (NB not a spelling error). We can think everyone has been told something, we can think it is clear, we can be sure we did say it / write it / sort it – what we cannot be sure of is that the other party read it / heard it / received it in the way we knew we meant. In our busy lives we can read (or write) something quickly and not go back to review it and absorb it. We can include ambiguity in what we say.... This is real life. But the result can be unrecognised misunderstandings, disconnections, and sometimes painful perceptions.

In relaunching our pastoral care network I would really like to work at eliminating those gaps in connection – encourage people to ask if they think they have been left out, or they have an anxiety about what it all means. No question is off limits. One of the big keys to unlock the misunderstandings is rooted in opportunities for good conversation – much damage was sustained to conversation by the pandemic, I only hope we can repair it well. If you want to better understand the importance of conversation, I highly recommend an interview, “How to talk”, published in September Reform (a few copies are available in Trinity entrance). It was the basis of our discussion starters at the Pastoral Care meeting and gives valuable insights for us all into good listening skills.

In a recent café service in Trinity, Kate involved the children in an activity creating a paper chain with names (not surnames) of many in our fellowship – whether present in worship or not. It echoes to some extent the names we mention regularly in our “pray this week for....” Sunday notice. The chain remains (at least for a while) as a tangible image of how we are each unique to God but linked together, working and supporting in Christ’s name as God’s church in community and world. A paper chain is not just for Christmas!

Please share in the relaunch in whatever ways you can – feedback, questions, suggestions – but most of all by engaging in and encouraging conversations, small, medium and large. Do share any personal concerns with me or any member of the Pastoral Care Team – a list was available in the papers for the September Church Meeting, or I can supply one.

Gill Hughes (Pastoral Care Co-ordinator)

Message from Liz and Chris Thompson (former members of Trinity who we were delighted to see at the service on 22nd October)

‘It was good to see some of you when we visited recently and now we would like to wish everyone at Trinity Best Wishes for a Good Christmas and a Healthy New Year.’
Liz & Chris Thompson

Editorial note :

We were sad to hear of the death on October 25th of Kay Loveless, a long-standing and much loved member of Trinity. A thanksgiving service was led by Rev. John Whittle at Trinity on 27th November, after a short service at Harwood Crematorium. We were pleased that she had written an article about her life for the Trinity Quarterly June edition. This can be found on the church website under 'About us' under Trinity Quarterly, where you can find past copies.

ARTICLE FROM HILARY DYSTER

Kay Loveless

Kay was a much-loved and valued member of our Trinity Church fellowship, which she joined following the closure of the Methodist Church in Oaklands. Her positive and affirming nature will be remembered by many as she contributed to the fellowship in person. Even when no longer able to attend services and other events, she continued to show a keen interest in the life of Trinity Church.

The people of Trinity were just one part of Kay's wide social network, and she was an active member of a variety of groups. Her love and appreciation of the natural world manifested itself in many ways. A keen and knowledgeable gardener, she loved tending her plants in her Oakfields garden, and on several occasions I encountered her there, sitting beside Jack, just relaxing and enjoying their lovely surroundings. With the move to Constance Place, her balcony became her 'garden', and always looked attractive with pot plants and seasonal blooms.

Kay and Jack were the first residents in Constance Place, having chosen an attractive apartment which afforded a view over the school field – they enjoyed watching the children at play. They were able to welcome future residents and help them settle in.

Kay loved the great outdoors and we had many interesting conversations, helped along by photograph albums, about our mutual love of the Lake District - walks enjoyed, challenges along the way and the triumph of scaling a mountain! We agreed that it was a privilege to pass on these pleasures to the next generation and beyond. Kay shared her experiences of spending some of her childhood in that area, a time which included visits to Hilltop in Sawrey, to be in the company of Beatrix Potter.

Visits to Kay invariably included the sharing of news of our respective families, and it was apparent just how significant visits from family members, both near and far, and family celebrations were to her.

Kay's warm, empathetic personality endeared her to many, and I count it a privilege to have known her.

Hilary

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

CONTRIBUTION FROM REV'D JOHN WHITTLE

Where can we find God?

Recently I attended a service in a church outside our circuit, and the message from the preacher was - we must find God in the supernatural and the miraculous. However, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote to the effect that if one cannot find God in the ordinary then one will not find Him in the extraordinary. With that I agree, so Jesus pointed to a woman making bread, a farmer sowing seed, a stranger assisting a man attacked by robbers. The writer of the 1st Epistle of John writes: **'Beloved let us love one another, because love is from God, everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.'**

Let me give an example - on a Sunday earlier this year, there gathered a large team of medics, including top consultants and nurses, all giving of their time in order to enable a sister to give her younger sister a gift - her womb! For the younger sister had no womb, but did have an ovary so she had eggs stored. Thanks to a charity, which funded the operation, this woman will likely become a mother.

Surely, a display of love from the older sister and the whole medical team.

There is another side to this story when one considers should women feel it necessary to bear children to satisfy the compelling desire, or could they accept the situation and sublimate the drive, and consider the children already born, but have no family to care for them? My mother never conceived or bore a child, but thanks to her love and that of my father, I was adopted, and moved from London, which was being nightly bombed, to the North of England away from the main areas that were then being attacked.

We need to be alert to find God and the working of His Spirit wherever true love and service exist. I leave you with the lovely hymn by George Wade Robinson, which you can listen to on YouTube!

Loved with everlasting love,
Led by grace that love to know;
Spirit, breathing from above,
Thou hast taught me this is so.
O this full and perfect peace!
O this transport all divine!
In a love which cannot cease
I am his and he is mine.

Heaven above is softer blue,
Earth around is sweeter green;
Something lives in every hue
Christless eyes have never seen:
Birds with gladder songs o'erflow,
Flow'rs with deeper beauties shine,
Since I know, as now I know,
I am His, and He is mine

John Whittle

.....

THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER

NEW BEGINNINGS

YOU SAY:

"It's impossible"
"I'm too tired"
"Nobody loves me"
"I can't go on"
"I can't figure it out"
"I can't do it"
"I'm not able"

GOD SAYS:

"All things are possible"
"I will give you rest"
"I love you"
"My grace is sufficient"
"I will direct your steps"
"You can do all things"
"I am able"

Tricia Easdale



CONTRIBUTION BY ADAM MITCHELL

Brambles to Butterflies: An Afternoon in the Church Garden

In our world of busy diaries, modern technology and constant activity, there is a unique tranquillity in spending an afternoon in the church garden. This Saturday, a green-fingered group of church members joined together to nurture this natural haven and help it thrive.

We set to work cutting back the overgrown ivy and brambles, removing self-seeded saplings, and weeding the grounds. While we did this we took in the splendid firs and admired the red admiral butterflies and ladybirds, reminding us of the beauty of nature.

Adam Mitchell

CONTRIBUTION FROM ROSIE BERRY – PRAYER TIME

I have been thinking and praying for a while about restoring our Friday Prayer Time. We would meet in the Vestry from 9.30 am to 10.00 am. The first half would be silent prayer, the second half an opportunity for spoken prayer with no compulsion to speak. Our theme would be the issues of the day and the life of Trinity.

If you feel drawn to this venture please contact me. You may be able to come only occasionally – that's fine.

Rosie 01438 814675

Rosieberry41@virginmedia.com



CONTRIBUTION FROM SUE BURRELL – FOOD BANK

The people who operate the 'Feed up Warm up' Food Bank from the Football Stadium in Stevenage wish their thanks to be passed on to the members of Trinity Church for supporting them so generously.

Over the past year they have widened their range of donations so not only do they take food, toiletries, household goods etc. but on the first Monday of every month they also accept nearly new clothes.

With the festive season coming up, children's toys and books (all in good condition), Advent Calendars, Christmas decorations etc., would also be very welcome. Just pop them into the Food Bank box, situated just inside the front door on the right as you come into the church and I, or Gill Hughes, will deliver them each week on a Monday. Thank you.

I feel this is a wonderful opportunity for us as a church to reach out to people who know very little about and probably don't care about "The Church" and its teaching. Perhaps we could all think prayerfully about this as we go into 2024.

Sue

CONTRIBUTION FROM SANDRA ROBEY - PRAYERS

Just a thought....

I have a friend who during lockdown produced a small booklet full of thoughts... include one below.

Advent comes with its own darkness for so many in the world. Our Lord came and brought light into the world as a wee baby. I hope this meditation serves you well, as you ponder of the negativity in the world, for those who faith has to be kept a secret

Remain fast in baby Jesus....

A Lamp

I switch on the light.

That's better, I can see now.

What an amazing thing a lamp is!

I consider the difference light makes to a room.

For a while I ponder the wonders of electricity

And cables and switches.

Press a switch and light floods the room.

I contemplate darkness for a bit and give

Thanks for the light.

I smile to myself as I think of people being

"switched on"

I suppose it means they understand things?

How do people get switched on to God I ask myself?

Am I properly switched on?

The light from the lamp has made me thoughtful

And I am asking lots of questions.

I keep the silence for a while and hope that I catch a glimpse of an answer.

ADVENT PRAYER



Loving Your light, O Lord, may our hearts rejoice in **Your goodness.**

Living in your light may our lives reveal **Your grace.**

Walking in your light may our works reflect **Your glory.** Amen.

So let us Love, Live and Walk in His Light.

Advent 2023

CONTRIBUTION BY CAMILLA STRAUGHN

My Shine Night Walk London 10K 2023

One morning in June, the head teacher announced the passing of yet another ex-teacher to cancer – this was the third in three years. So, we decided “we must do something to raise some money and raise awareness for cancer”

Knowing I was not particularly fit, I decided to practise by walking to Church but was very disappointed to realise that was only 1Km. I, then with Corletta in hand, decided to walk to Great Ashby and back.

However, on returning extremely exhausted, that was still only 4km. Will I be able to complete 10K, I wondered?



Total raised
£10,139.00
+ £2,217.25 Gift Aid

Camilla's Giving Page

Total raised
£520.00
+ £102.50 Gift Aid



Camilla

CONTRIBUTION BY TRICIA - FOOTPRINTS



One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times, along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of his life.

This really bothered him, and he questioned the LORD about it, "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way, but I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me".

The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child, I love, and I would never leave you, during your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

ARTICLE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE KNEBORTH PARISH NEWS BY KATHY COLE:

As I write this article, parts of the country are in the grip of yet another severe storm, this one being named Ciaran. I can't imagine winds of over 100 miles an hour. At least we were prepared for it with amber and red weather warnings from the met office.

I remember the Great Storm of 1987, the weatherman said not to worry as no storm would happen!
A friend of mine left washing on the line, she has yet to find it!

I only hope that no serious injuries occurred in the current storms. We all have storms in our lives from time to time. That's where the three Fs come into play.

Family, friends and faith.

You may find any or all of these at Trinity, see times of our services above (other places of worship are available!). I hope that all of you reading this have at least one of the three Fs.

Wishing you all the best for a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Trinity.

Kathy

ARTICLE FOR THE JANUARY 2024 ISSUE OF THE PARISH NEWS BY REV. JOHN WHITTLE:

'Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace - but there is no peace'

How can you sleep at night when the world would seem to be nearer World War 3 than ever since 1945? (that is how it seems as I write this in November!). How can you sleep if you are surrounded by problems of lack of finance, of worry over family members, or friends? I can only suggest something I have practised over the years - breathe in slowly through the nose, and then exhale via the mouth, and at the same time in rhythm with the breathing, repeat verses of scripture or of hymns. For example - from Isaiah 26 v.3f. **'Thou wilt keep him/her in perfect peace, whose mind is staid on Thee, because s/he trusts in the Lord, trust in the Lord always for our God is an everlasting rock'**. This may lead into a verse of **'Rock of Ages, cleft for me let me hide myself in Thee'**.

I cannot help but feel that the Jewish lady-hostage who, on release, turned back to her captor and shook his hand, knew God's peace in her heart. She had worked for peace with her Palestinian neighbours over many years. All religions have suffered from the sins of revenge and pride, leading to violent attitudes towards others, who are seen as inferior, or even as non-humans. Christianity has had its wars of conquest, involving forced conversions; the Jewish Scriptures speak of wars of conquest and violent repression; likewise in Islam. Thankfully, all too have had a more positive teaching of tolerance, generosity and peaceful living. Alas, so often, it is the former, who shout loudest and drown out the calls for peace. I referred to the Jewish lady who found peace in her faith, Christians not only have the same source as her but, in addition, rejoice in the birth of the Prince of Peace, who is seen as forecast in Isaiah 9 v.6. His birth is heralded by the angels **'Glory to God in the Highest, peace on earth, goodwill to all'**. Some of Jesus's final words to his disciples were **'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.'**

Throughout this New Year may you sleep well, and continue to pray and work for peace for your neighbours and for the world.

Prayer - 'We pray for peace, but not the easy peace built on complacency and not the truth of God. We pray for real peace, the peace God's love alone can seal. God, give us peace; if you withdraw your love there I no peace for us, nor any hope of it. With you to lead us on, through death or tumult, peace will come' (Alan Gaunt)

John

CONTRIBUTION BY TRICIA

Below is a letter from Our Father:-

My Child,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you.	Psalm 139:1
I know when you sit down and when you rise.	Psalm 139:2
I am familiar with all your ways.	Psalm 139:3
Even the very hairs on your head are numbered.	Matthew 10:29-30
For you were made in my image.	Genesis 1:27
In me you live and move and have your being.	Acts 17:28
For you are my offspring.	Acts 17:28
I knew you even before you were conceived.	Jeremiah 1:4-5
I choose you when I planned creation.	Ephesians 1:11-12
You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book.	Psalm 139:15-16
I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live.	Acts 17:26
You are fearfully and wonderfully made.	Psalm 139:14
I knit you together in your mother's womb.	Psalm 139:13
And brought you forth on the day you were born.	Psalm 71:6
I have been misrepresented by those you don't know me.	John 8: 41-44
I am not distant and angry but am the complete expression of love.	1 John 4:16
And it is my desire to lavish my love on you.	1 John 3:1
Simply because you are my child, and I am your Father.	1 John 3:7
I offer you more than your earthly father ever could.	Matthew 7:11
For I am the perfect Father.	Matthew 5:48

/To be continued ...

Tricia Easdale

TRINITY SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE FROM MEL MITCHELL

At our October Bible for all session we looked at Romans 12:9-21. We discussed what it might mean to be joyful in hope and faithful in prayer and the challenges of world conflicts in not repaying evil for evil but still ensuring the voices of all are heard. A Sunday in January will be our next **Bible for All** session after a service. Date to be confirmed. Everyone is welcome to come to share in looking at a Bible passage in an informal style. There is no previous knowledge or experience needed. You are welcome to come and listen or join in if you would like. Some like to bring a sandwich or soup for a quick lunch before the session, and there is always spare so don't worry if you forget yours. We will aim to start around 12.15/30 and finish by around 1.30. If anybody would like to volunteer to choose a passage for the session and lead the conversation, please speak to Mel. Thank you.

On Saturday the 4th of November we had a day of activities and worship together as a church with the theme of hope. After coffee and a short all age worship we had a talk from the Herts. and Middlesex Wildlife Trust telling us about some of the great projects going on in Hertfordshire to protect nature and he gave us some ideas for our church garden. Following lunch we had a craft session led by Jenny Spouge to prepare a new board for our entrance hall. We talked about our hopes for the world and community and wrote them on paper seeds, which we planted in the soil. Over the coming weeks and months we hope to add to these and watch them grow roots and stems as we put our faith into action. Please do put your thoughts onto seeds we have hung along the bottom of the display. It was a thought provoking day where we enjoyed fellowship and were encouraged to look to the future with Christian hope.



MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

We have received thank you letters or cards from the charities we have supported throughout the year, which are posted on the Mission Board.

The New Trinity Disaster Response Fund money was split between the Red Cross Morocco Earthquake Appeal and the Christian Aid Libyan Flood Appeal, £150 each, with an extra cheque for £50 that came in later for Libya, leaving a small residue in the fund. The money from Commitment for Life, our charity in October, will go to support Christian Aid humanitarian work in Palestine and Israel.

- Your Mission Group members: Camilla Straughn, Hilary Dyster, Maureen Bodden and John Whittle

The charities of the month at Trinity for December to February are as follows:

December 2023



Our Christmas Gift service will be on the morning of 3rd December.

The toys and other gifts will go to the Food/Toy Shed in Stevenage, from where they will be distributed to families referred to them by social services. Please only donate new items.

Action for Children is the UK's leading Children's charity. It supports UK's most vulnerable and neglected children, young people and their families, so that they can reach their full potential. Some are unable to live with their birth families, while others are disabled or experiencing severe difficulties.

Action for Children's vision is a world where all children and young people have a sense of belonging and are loved and valued.

To find out more about this charity click [here](#).

January 2024



North Herts. and Stevenage Samaritans

Since 1953 Samaritans have been offering 24-hour confidential emotional support to anyone in distress. Their vision is for a society where fewer people die by suicide because people are able to share feelings of emotional distress openly without fear of being judged. They believe that offering people the opportunity to be listened to in confidence, and accepted without prejudice, can alleviate despair and suicidal feeling. The service (in UK and Republic of Ireland) is offered by 18,300 trained volunteers and its future depends on voluntary support.

To find out more about Samaritans click [here](#).

February 2024



[Bridge Builders Trust](https://www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk)
<https://www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk>

Bridge Builders is a Christian Trust which works in partnership with primary school teachers, church leaders and committed volunteers. Our local branch is based at The URC church in Stevenage.

It provides 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.

DATES FROM THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (and KFC coffee mornings)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM
THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND KFC**

- 2nd December :- Tabletop Sale from 10am to 3pm**
For more information contact Becky on 0790 8288 037
or Tricia on 0799 9027 102
- 3rd December:- Gift Service followed by Fellowship Christmas Lunch, all are Welcome**
- 24th December:- Candlelit Carol Service at 3pm followed by Mince Pies etc**
- 10th February:- Afternoon Tea 3.00pm**
This is a very popular event so please book by the 3rd February to avoid
disappointment – kindly advise us of any dietary requirements when booking.
Only £5.00 – Booking essential. Telephone Kathy on 0734 0543 059

We look forward to seeing you at the above events

All Welcome

at the

Knebworth Family of Churches Monthly Coffee Mornings.

We look forward to seeing you at St Martin's Parish Centre on the following
Saturdays between 10.00am and 12.00 noon:



16th December

20th January

17th February



KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES

**EPIPHANY SUNDAY UNITED SERVICE
AT TRINITY ON SUNDAY 7th JANUARY AT 4PM**

*With the Eden Consort singing
And followed by refreshments*



Carol Singing

At the last Meeting of the KFC Steering Group we reluctantly agreed, for a number of reasons, that we would not be going carol singing around the village this year. However, we have been made aware that Knebworth Tenants Limited will be holding a carol singing event - with mince pies and mulled wine - around their Christmas tree on Stockens Green from 6.30 pm on Friday, 15th December (weather permitting).

Local residents are welcome to join the event, but please let me know if you are planning to come along so that I can give the Secretary of Knebworth Tenants some idea of the number of visitors expected. Contact me at gafothergill@gmail.com or phone 01438 813371.

Remembrance Sunday Service – A Retrospective

We are pleased to report that the traditional Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial in Old Knebworth was again a successful event. Groups who marched in parade from the Lytton Arms to the War Memorial included the Royal British Legion, Knebworth Scouts and Guides and the Stevenage Air Cadets. 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 Jodee White, the new Parish Clerk, who organised the road closures which ensured that the event took place in a safe environment. We estimate that there were about 250 people there – and the weather was kind to us.

KFC Coffee Morning; Saturday, 16th December

You will be very welcome to call in to **St Martin's Parish Centre** between 10.00 am and 12 noon for a drink and a chat - and there will be the usual selection of cakes. You will also be able to purchase Fair Trade products, including some which are suitable for vegetarians and for vegans. Every month, the money raised at the Coffee Morning is donated to charities, both local and further afield; this month it is Age UK who will benefit from the event.

KFC Annual General Meeting

The KFC Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, 19th November in St Martin's Parish Hall. At this, Yinka, Jenny and Graham were unanimously re-elected as Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

Reverend Karen Turner informed the Meeting that she was resigning from the KFC Steering Group but, hopefully, would continue to organise "Holiday at Home" provided that she could rely on continued support from members of the KFC churches.

For the foreseeable future, the Steering Group will comprise Rev'd Yinka Oduwole, Rev'd Charles King, Rev'd John Whittle, Maureen Bodden, Kristin Coldwell and Graham Fothergill (Secretary). Rev'd Zdzisiu Hendzel has been invited to attend the next Steering Group meeting with the possibility of him becoming a regular member of the Group in due course.

Before the close of the AGM, there were lengthy discussions on the future role of Knebworth Family of Churches within the community and, separately, the relationship between Knebworth Youth Project and Knebworth Family of Churches. These topics will surely occupy thoughts and discussion within the Steering Group in the coming months.

Christian Aid

The Coffee morning on October 14th raised £300 for the Libyan Flood Appeal. . Thanks to all who support the CA events.

Graham Fothergill

Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches

URC NEWS

Thames North Synod

Rebecca Washington attended the recent Thames North Synod meeting on Zoom, a hybrid meeting held at the Lumen Centre in London. Becky recommended attendance at Synod meetings, with lots of interesting speakers and activities involved. If anyone is interested contact Becky.

Becky reported at the church meeting on one particularly interesting session with Eddie Boon, discipleship leader, who may come to Trinity next year.

We have since received the following message from Thames North Synod:

'As we continue to develop our vision for whole life discipleship in the Thames North Synod our Synod Discipleship Enabler Eddie Boon invites you to join him for the first of our new informal online conversations 'Discipleship Matters' on Zoom on Wednesday 22nd November at either 3pm or 7.30pm. The meeting will last a maximum of one hour and will include an opportunity for Q&A.'

The Zoom details are:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtlK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09>

Meeting ID: 966 4746 0063 Passcode: 498125

'These meetings will continue, usually on the fourth Wednesday of each month, through 2024 Please contact Eddie via disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk for more details or to say you are coming – or just turn up on the day!'

Anyone interested can receive a copy of the weekly newsletter by going to the website and subscribing: <http://urcthamesnorth.org.uk/>

Advent letter from the Thames North Synod Moderator, Rev. George Watt



Photo by [Ben White](#) on [Unsplash](#)

November 2023

Dear friends,

It feels like everyone is getting ready, getting ready for Christmas. Christmas trees going up (even as I write!), cards being written, presents being bought, menus being planned and food being bought. Although sadly, and increasingly, for some they are not able to prepare to celebrate and certainly not in the way they might have hoped. They have a deep concern as to how they can simply heat their homes and feed their families this winter. That is if they even have a home to live and eat in.

In the past I have had the privilege of volunteering at a winter night shelter. What struck me was that everyone's story was different as to how they found themselves homeless. It taught me not to make assumptions. Some had been estranged from their families, got behind with their rents and evicted, couldn't afford to put together a deposit despite working, experienced broken relationships and so the stories could go on.

Some churches will be hosting winter night shelters, arranging warm hubs and providing hot drinks and meals to not just those who are homeless, but also to the lonely and vulnerable. As Christians we cannot close our eyes and ears to the needs around us as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. We cannot welcome Jesus and shun our neighbour. As Jesus himself said 'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

The nature of Jesus' birth highlights who these brothers and sisters are. Jesus himself was born homeless with parents who were dependent on the charity of others to give them shelter and food. The story worsens as the family had to flee and become refugees in Egypt. Yes, Jesus was a refugee! When we fail to look out for those in need, we are hurting God.

Today our hearts and the heart of God is breaking looking at what is happening in the place of Jesus' birth. The violence and suffering in Israel and Palestine makes us stop and think, pray and act even as we prepare for Christmas. In our sanitised Christmas we usually miss out the story of the massacre of the innocents just after Jesus's birth which is recounted in Matthew's Gospel. But we can't turn a blind eye to the massacre of the innocents in the current conflict.

Martin Leckebusch in his variant of a popular carol, 'O West Bank town of Bethlehem', asks the question:

'How violently, how violently
the hope of peace is riven;
can God impart to these torn hearts
the blessings of his heaven ?
Who now recalls his coming to this dark world of sin?'

As Christians we believe that peace is possible, the hungry can be fed and the homeless find shelter. And we can work together to achieve it and thus truly remember and celebrate the God who came to earth as a baby to transform a troubled world.

I would like to wish you a peaceful Christmas as you celebrate and seek to play your part in bringing about transformation in this world.

Yours in Christ,



Synod Moderator

Leaders call for immediate ceasefire

The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly and the Revd Lindsey Sanderson, Moderator-Elect of the National Synod of Scotland, have joined Christian Aid and more than 20 church leaders and Christian organisations in calling for a ceasefire and for all governments with influence to bring an immediate end to the violence in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. [Read the statement in full.](#)

Submit your prayers for 2025 Prayer Handbook

Your prayers for the 2025 Prayer Handbook, with its theme *Immersive Joy*, are now invited. As well as the usual Lectionary-based prayers, there are prayers for everyday and extraordinary use. You are invited to write as you would pray – no special words or format is needed. We would love to hear from you. [Learn how to submit your prayers.](#)

THE METHODIST NEWS

December message from the Circuit Superintendent, Rev. Zdzisiu Hendzel

Dear Friends

Being a part of a family is an important aspect of our human life. We have a family and we belong to a family. All family members, to some extent, have influenced our lives. We sometimes notice that there are things about us that resembles our parents, or close family members who influenced us in a physical or spiritual way. Take a look in the mirror and ask yourself, what do I see? Sometimes we are happy with what we see and sometimes we feel we need to work on our imperfections. Do not be discouraged, remember, not one family is perfect.

As Christians we are part of God's family. I treasure all the wonderful Christian people God put on my path as a minister. They are people from many different backgrounds, origins, races and ethnic groups. Together, as followers of Christ, we were shaped by the Gospel and united in prayer, praise, worship and discipleship.

My family and I feel honoured to be part of the North Hertfordshire Circuit. In the three months that we have been here, we can clearly see that Jesus is the focus point of the community that worships here. In this short space of time I have met many people who love Jesus and His church. Your hospitality, joy, openness and, most essentially, your love shines through you. Words of the popular song written by Lionel Rand comes to my mind *"Let there be love shared among us. Let there be love in our eyes. May now Your love sweep this nation. Cause us oh Lord to arise"*. This is the essence of the Christ's family.

This time of the year we are focussed on Christmas, the birthday of Jesus Christ. To me and most people it is the most joyful celebration of the year. Our God speaks to us through His Son Jesus who was born as one of us. Once again family is the central focal point of Christmas. God presents us with the family unit of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as an example.

Before we enter into Christmas, the church invites us to follow Advent, a time of preparing and cleaning our 'spiritual house' to welcome Jesus as the Saviour of the world. We will have an opportunity to participate in many spiritual exercises to increase our faith during this season. May all Christians in this season of Advent do more than observe a lifeless church tradition. May the Church passionately encourage each other with the awesome promise that Jesus readies Himself even now to return in splendour and majesty - in a much different manner than His first Advent. Paul taught his followers to say, "Maranatha! O Lord, come!" (1 Corinthians 16:22). In this Advent season, may we be even more encouraged, hopeful, and purposeful, looking with passion for the second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of my letter let's not forget that Christmas is about Jesus and as you take part in all the customs, traditions and celebrations that the world has to offer, keep your focus on Jesus. Let us share the Christmas joy with our families, friends and community remembering those who are underprivileged and in need. Jesus became a gift for us so that we can be a gift to others.

I wish you in the words of the Angelic voices 'Gloria in excelsis Deo, Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 2024. It is my prayer that you will experience the presence of God more clearly this Christmastime than ever before.

Yours in Christ

Rev Zdzisiu Hendzel

Report from Allison Ffinch, Circuit steward.

'Many thanks for your welcome of our new ministers, particularly Zdzisiu. If there is any feedback I am happy to hear from you.

We are eagerly waiting to see if we have been matched in the first round of stationing, (Christchurch and Pirton), you will hear in due course.'

There are two new circuit stewards, Jeremy Sawyer and Nicky Williams

Message from Rev. Val Reid:

Subject: Some exciting dates from the Community for Spiritual Formation!

‘Views from the broken middle’ with the Rev’d. Dr. Canon Rachel Mann - a Three-Day Community at Cliff College, Derbyshire from 12th – 15th March 2024.

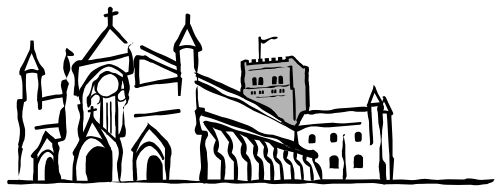
We are very excited that Rachel has agreed to join us for this event; she writes:

‘The world in which we live feels increasingly fragile and can leave us anxious, tired and over-exposed. Across five sessions, I will explore how it is possible to more richly and hopefully inhabit the ‘broken middle’: the facts and promise to be found in a messy, complex world.

The registration form and documents can be downloaded from the [website](#).

Community for Spiritual Formation
Registered Charity Number 1188824.

ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICES IN THE LADY CHAPEL



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

A **Free Church** service is celebrated monthly on a **Wednesday** of each month at **11am** with our Free Church chaplain and other ministers, and with a congregation from all denominations across St Albans.

December 6th **Kenneth Guest, Salvation Army**

January 3rd **The Very Reverend Jo Kelly-Moore, Dean, St Albans Cathedral.**

Please note this service will include a celebration of the Lord’s Supper, to which all Christian believers are invited.

February 7th **The Reverend David Jebb, Superintendent Minister
of St Albans & Welwyn Methodist Circuit.**

Contact: The Rev'd Simon Carver simoncarver@btinternet.com

www.stalbanscathedral.org

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Please send items for the March issue of Trinity Quarterly to a member of the Editorial Team by Saturday 3rd February at latest:

Contact details of the Editorial Team:

Maureen Boddin: maureen.haycock@gmail.com

Tricia Easdale: peasdale@aol.com

Camilla Straughn: camillastraughn@yahoo.co.uk

Rosemary Rudkin

CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH – Many thanks to Colin Stringer

S	R	E	G	N	A	M	C	R	A	C	K	E	R	M
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- PUDDING
- CANDLE
- GOOSE
- JOSEPH
- MARY
- PRESENT
- CRACKER
- KING
- MAGI
- GOLD
- MANGER
- YULE
- FRANKINCENSE
- JESUS
- MYRRH
- STAR
- ANGEL
- BETHLEHEM
- SANTA
- CHRISTMAS
- CAROL
- TREE
- LIGHTS
- SCROOGE
- SHEPHERD
- MISTLETOE
- TURKEY
- SLED
- BELLS
- REINDEER
- HOLLY
- IVY
- FAIRY
- HOLY
- EVE
- NOEL
- CHRIST
- DINNER
- SEASON
- SNOW
- BIRTH
- ADVENT
- CARD
- FROSTY
- NUTS

The words to the right can all be found in the grid above. They may be in any of the following orientations:

- N-S
- S-N
- E-W
- W-E
- NE-SW
- SW-NE
- NW-SE
- SE-NW