



# Trinity Quarterly

Issue No 7 September - November 2024



## Diary for September

Sunday	1st	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by <b>Revd Stan Chatikobo</b>
Sunday	8th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by <b>Kate Dickinson</b>
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Harvest Festival led by <b>Revd Stan Chatikobo</b> With Holy Communion followed by Harvest Lunch
Saturday	21st	10.00am	KFC Coffee Morning at <b>St Martin's Parish Centre</b>
Sunday	22nd	10.30 am	Open Church led by <b>Rebecca Washington</b>
Sunday	29th	10.45 am	No service at Trinity – joint service at Stevenage URC

## Diary for October

Sunday	6th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by <b>Jackie Hall</b>
Sunday	13th	10.30 am	Open Church led by <b>Gill Hughes</b>
Saturday	19th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at <b>St Martin's Parish Centre</b>
Sunday	20th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by <b>Revd Stan Chatikobo</b>
Sunday	27th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by <b>Revd Stan Chatikobo</b> with Holy Communion

## Diary for November

Sunday	3rd	10.30 am	Team Worship led by <b>Kathy Cole/Rosie Berry</b>
Sunday	10th	10.30 am	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> led by <b>Revd J Whittle/Kate Dickinson</b>
Saturday	16th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at <b>St Martin's Parish Centre</b>
Sunday	17th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by <b>Revd Stan Chatikobo</b>
Sunday	24th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by <b>Revd Stan Chatikobo</b> With Holy Communion

**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

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Church Website: [www.trinitychurchknebworth.org.uk](http://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**

The Trinity Quarterly team hope you have enjoyed the summer season and family events. Trinity Church was pleased to welcome friends of our congregation and the local community to a fundraising tea held for the Letchworth Garden House Hospice. This was accompanied by a talk from the Hospice's Community Engagement Coordinator, Amanada Roberts, which included information about their new Frailty Service and Community Hubs.

Our Summer Barbecue also took place and was enjoyed by many. A big thank you to those who organized, contributed, cooked food, arranged tables and helped with the kitchen tasks on both occasions. Your help is much appreciated.

One Sunday morning I woke to hear a radio conversation about an orphaned kid (goat variety) that required frequent feeds. The only way for the owner to accomplish this was to take the kid to her place of work in Bury St Edmonds Cathedral. News quickly spread - many children and people from the local community made frequent trips to the Cathedral to visit the kid. Often it was their first visit to the Cathedral and a chance for them to be welcomed. I wondered is it familiarity and a friendly welcome that encourages people to church?

I'm not suggesting we should take in livestock but are we prepared to welcome those moving into the area and discover their needs? Some will have new babies and young children, there may also be elderly people and people who need a new challenge. Are we accessible or do we need to try a different approach, even if it is only to offer a drink and time to chat?

Many thanks to those who have made contributions to Trinity Quarterly and also to those who have made donations towards the cost of printing. We will continue to put out a collection box on the day of distribution of each issue.

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

## **MESSAGE FROM REVD STAN**

### **A SEED OF UNIQUE PURPOSE**

A young man who served in Africa working for peace and justice concerns told a story of him visiting King Tutankhamen's tomb (a former Egyptian Pharaoh's grave). He had a conversation with an elderly security guard on his last day at the job. The old man had been present for decades and he confided that when the grains were found in the tomb he took a few kernels home. He planted the ancient seed and it produced grain until the present. How can that be?

When a seed is planted and it breaks open and it increases into more seed and each year the yield grows because the seed dies to produce more. (*Adapted from; Honest to God Prayer by Kent Ira Groff; p57-57*). If Christ had not died the church would not have been established. Christ was the seed that was planted and when he rose (germination) then the Kingdom of God expanded. He died to draw more people into the Kingdom of God. Christians should pray that we should be seeds of unique purpose, which, when we die we will leave a legacy of faith for generations to come.

### **Prayer**

God make me a seed of unique purpose through your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

## PASTORAL CARE

### Trinity Membership

Since the last edition of Trinity Quarterly we have shared again in the grief of several families of members of our fellowship. The Hall family lost Jacky's much-loved brother, Les, and were grateful for Revd Stan conducting his funeral at Harwood Park, where Jackie contributed prayers and his life story. We have also lost three much valued members of Trinity Church. All these members had active lives (if slowing down a little!) for over nine decades and shared a variety of ways of bringing their faith, personal gifts and encouragement to others in the life of Trinity fellowship and the wider community.

**Paul Edwards** was a very well-known member of the Knebworth community, both in his career life including time as the village "bobby", and in his leisure time as part of many groups and activities. We spoke in the last edition of his long and happy marriage to Betty, recognised in the final weeks of their lives with the message from King Charles and Queen Camilla as they reached their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. By then Paul was in the care of the team at Wymondley Care Home where he spent his final weeks, appreciating visits from many old friends as well as his family. Six weeks after Betty's funeral, Revd John Steele led the service of thanksgiving for Paul's life at Harwood Park, including many memories and tributes of what he had meant to family and friends. *(See page 3/4 for an extract from the service).*

**Zena Watts** shared in the life of Knebworth and Trinity Church, moving here in her retirement years to be near local family. She returned to Warwickshire last year to be closer to the support of her daughter, Ann, and other family. After a recent short illness Zena died peacefully surrounded by members of her family. Zena was a dedicated member of Trinity's Meeting Point group, making good friends and enjoying fellowship and worship each week. Company was important to Zena, and Covid breaks in meetings and normal socialising resulted in Zena regularly sitting on St Martin's Green to greet whoever might pass and stop for a chat.

In 1956 when **Pam Stoner** joined the Congregational Church in Park Lane, it was very different from the Trinity Church we know today. Pam embraced the many and varied changes that have evolved through those years. She shared her gifts generously – perhaps particularly obvious was her gift of music. We are (and have been) fortunate to be wonderfully served by gifted and generous musicians. Pam particularly enjoyed accompanying others, and after a complicated wrist fracture a few years ago she worked with a physiotherapist and great determination to regain the dexterity she needed to keep playing as long as she possibly could. With support in recent years of daily carers and her family (both local and from afar) Pam retained her independence in the home where she had lived since her marriage. She died at home, after a short time of illness. During the last year Pam has enjoyed visits from each of her four grandchildren from Australia, and an extended visit from her son John, helping her to achieve a few long-awaited visits to people and places. Pam's wish to have her funeral in Trinity was arranged between the family and Revd Stan who led the service. We give thanks for all Pam's life has meant to us as individuals and as a fellowship and community. *(We hope to include more detail in the next edition).*

We assure these families of our continuing prayers for them as we continue to remember and give thanks for the lives of Paul, Zena and Pam.

*Gill Hughes*

### **Some of the notes from Paul Edward's son Lionel for John Steele's eulogy**

Born in Cardiff 1932, during the depression, Dad's parents moved to Hertfordshire to look for work. He enjoyed the growing up in a rural setting with the freedom to play with his friends far and wide around the villages. In fact he spoke of the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war as a time of freedom and fun as the attention of adults was diverted elsewhere, allowing the children to make their own adventures. Although untouched by any tragedy in that time he was aware of what was happening – he remembers a family of Belgian refugees coming to lodge with them for 2 years after Paul's father took in a dejected and exhausted-looking couple with a small child sitting by the side of a road.

Dad trained as a police cadet at 16 (1948), took 2 years out to do his National Service, and then became a full-time copper; first in WGC then in Stevenage, where, Paul did a stint as the schools

road-safety officer – visiting schools and setting up events for the community - a job that he really enjoyed. In 1961 he was posted to Knebworth, where the family (with two sons Lionel and Harvey) moved into a Police House. He was the village copper for many years, cycling around his beat. Knebworth in those days was very different as the A1 went through the village – busy, dusty and blighted with diesel fumes. Lionel remembers being woken up one night by Paul, who was doing night shift in a police car, because the new A1M had been completed, but not yet opened “would you like to come for a 100mph ride in my police car?” - Not sure that would be allowed now.

Paul particularly enjoyed living and working in the community and refused to seek any promotion as that would have entailed giving up the village bobby role. He did his last few Police years in the Warrants Office, where he got to work with many local solicitors. This led to a new career from 1982, working for a solicitor’s office, a role he loved as he enjoyed the responsibility and autonomy, not to mention the wining and dining in London with barristers and judges!

When new opportunities for travel opened up after WW2, Paul would take his sons out of school for day trips to Boulogne. He loved France and once retired, Paul and Betty would often drive to visit Ros and Peter Sherry in their French holiday home, and made good friends with a local couple Jean Yves and Mimi, who will be watching this ceremony.

When Betty was impacted by Alzheimer’s, Paul took over the role of carer and housemaker. He taught himself to cook (not something every man in his 80s would do) as well as assuming the responsibility for doing all the jobs around the house, all whilst attending to Betty’s ever-increasing needs.

*(These notes were abridged by Maureen Bodden)*

### **Tribute to Paul Edwards by Meg Carter**

I have known Paul and Betty since they moved in next door to us in Station Road, Knebworth about 60 years ago: they were wonderful and valued friends to both my parents and me.

When I married; my husband Jim and I moved into my parent’s house and we became Paul’s neighbours. Paul and Betty were the best neighbours; we made a gate between the two gardens so we could pop next door whenever we wanted to.

When our children came along both Betty and Paul were very kind and generous with their time to our children. But a special bond developed between our daughter Alex and Paul.

Once when Alex was about three years old, she was on the swing in our garden: she fell off: Paul hurdled the waist high hedge in one enormous leap to rescue Alex. He would often take her to London as a young child, taking her to tea at the Ritz, allowing her to play chopsticks on the grand piano in Harrods and Twinkle Twinkle on a horrifically expensive Violin. He was always supportive of Alex in her music studies taking her to concerts and to music lessons at school.

He took the boys out including a trip to France for the day and often played headers with them over the garden hedge.

We spent some wonderful holidays together with Paul and Betty. Paul was always extremely organised and after we had gone to bed, could be heard whistling while he bustled about setting the table for breakfast before he himself went to bed. His whistling drove us mad at times, but Betty would say “While he’s whistling he’s happy”.

Once Paul insisted that I, having just recently passed my driving test, drove his new car up the Hardknott Pass, I was extremely nervous but Paul wouldn’t take no for an answer. I stalled, unsurprisingly, but Paul remained very calm and got me going again.

We spent some wonderful Christmases together playing cards and enjoying the good food; There was a lot of laughter. Of course, Paul always provided the wine. Paul, as I’m sure you must know, loved his wine.

Paul loved travelling and was an unabashed Francophile; he even had a small Tricolor in his dining room. He was a good sportsman, an excellent squash player in his time, later playing bowls with Betty. He loved his classical music.

However, I cannot truthfully say that Paul was a good gardener, he was certainly no Monty Don; he used to prune everything within an inch of its life with the result that poor Betty’s magnolia tree never did have more than a couple of flowers. However, each year he would grow the most amazing crop of runner beans and tomatoes.

Paul was extremely proud of his sons Lionel and Harvey and his grandchildren Fraser and Jessica, Natalie and Robert and, as I'm sure you all know he and Betty were a huge support to Natalie.

Paul supported and cared for Betty unwaveringly during the last few years.

He was a kind, loyal, caring and, up until recently, active man; an active part of Knebworth village life. He would be gone for hours when he had "just popped down the village on an errand" he knew so many people. Betty would roll her eyes and say "He'll be ages, he's nattering to everyone". Paul, you will be very sadly missed by everyone who knew you.

### **Eulogy from the funeral for Zena Watts** (kindly sent by her daughter)

Mum, Zena, Rozena Hatton, was born in Birmingham in December 1930, the eldest of six children, to Rose and Arthur Hatton. She was a bright girl and passed the exam to go to King Edward VI grammar school in Handsworth. She was always grateful for this opportunity to stay at school until she was 18 and focus on her education, which had been denied to her mother. She studied English and French, learned to play piano and played netball to county level.

Her final school report said, 'She was a prefect, who in carrying out her duties showed public spirit, initiative, enterprise and a sense of responsibility.' What the report did not say was that she and her best friend went hitch hiking round Europe. According to her friend, they used a page torn out of the school atlas to plan their trip. She always loved visiting new places and walking.

From Birmingham she moved to Portsmouth teacher training college. Mum loved teaching, even when she did a teaching practice in the Isle of Wight which meant getting up at 5.30 to catch the ferry. She was very beautiful, and during this time she had a number of boyfriends who gave her gifts such as stockings, chocolates and flowers. She was invited to the Oxford May Ball by one, and also taken flying. However, the boyfriend Mum liked most, whom she eventually married, was the boyfriend who bought her fish and chips. He was a tall, good looking sailor called John Watts. She had a bit of a thing for tall chaps until the very end of her life.

Mum got a job teaching history in a secondary school and married Dad in August 1953 and they settled down in Carshalton in Surrey. In 1956 Sharon was born followed by me in 1958. Dad and Mum's marriage was very happy. She enjoyed baking (her crumbles were famous), making wine and jams, sewing and knitting and creating beautiful gardens. She was thrifty, a trait that continued throughout her life. She always declared that it was her care with the pennies that made it possible for her to be generous with pounds. And Mum was very generous indeed to Sharon and me, and to her grandchildren too.

Our family moved to Birmingham in 1960 and Mum went back to teaching a little while after I was born. The head of the local secondary school pleaded with her to come and help out for a day, so she did, taking me in my pram and Sharon as a preschooler to be looked after by the Home Economics class for the day. Eventually she settled to teaching infants part time which she did for the next twenty five years or so. When asked in recent years what her teaching style was, she declared, 'I would describe it as complete control'. It was evident, when you were at the receiving end of her wagging finger, you needed to do what you were told.

It has been a theme in the cards, letters and reminiscences shared with me over the last few weeks, how much Mum was interested in children and young people and how she always wanted to know what they were doing at school and how they were getting on. She loved the company of children and at our regular Hatton family get-togethers she was nearly always the one organising games for the children. She was an active nan to the grandchildren and was proud and pleased to have eight great grandchildren to whom she was known as 'super', short for supernan.

Mum was very family focused – she loved her brothers and sisters and their relationship was full of love and fun. She often told me loved her parents dearly. She was very supportive to Sharon and me, helping us study when needed, making our clothes, supervising daily piano practice and creating a good family routine.

### **Message from Jackie**

Jackie Hall would like to thank all at Trinity for their kindness, prayers and support after the sudden death of Les Harland (Jackie's brother) in June. Your kindness and understanding made a very painful and difficult situation a little more bearable.

## MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

### CONTRIBUTION BY REVD JOHN WHITTLE

#### ARE YOU A DEDICATED FOLLOWER OF FASHION?

A song, written by Raymond Douglas Davie, and sung by the 'Kinks', in 1965 had ever one singing- '*Oh, yes, he is (oh, yes he is) Oh, yes, he is (oh, yes he is) He's a dedicated follower of fashion*'

If you can remember this song then you must be getting on a bit, like me!

There are many followers of fashion, and fashion is one of the main sectors of the British economy. But are the times a changing? Recently, I heard a top fashion designer speaking, in a Radio interview, pleading for people to be more concerned with quality and longevity, and to get away from buying clothes cheaply, wearing them once, then disposing of them. Often, fashion companies, such as 'Shine' (or is it Sheen?), have been criticized for the labour practices of their suppliers, and the damage they cause to the environment.

How should a Christian dress? When I was serving in the Caribbean, on one occasion when my wife had not yet joined me, I showed a photograph of her to church member, who responded by saying - "Oh! I can see she is a Christian." I was surprised, and asked her how do you know? "By the length of her skirt was the reply!"

In the Caribbean churchgoers still followed the practice of putting on one's Sunday-best, as they were gathering for the worship of God; in fact, just as was the practice in England when I was a boy. Imagine the surprise, when after 12 years, we returned to the UK, to find that dress code had gone, and jeans and tea-shirts had replaced it!

Here I step on dangerous or contested ground! Why do some feel they need to dress up when attending worship? The argument could be, would you attend a wedding, a royal garden party, or a job interview without considering what you were to wear? Only the best will do!

Before whom are we coming when come to worship? Answer - The King of Kings, the Lord of Lords! Worship involves offering the best to the One who alone is worthy of our praise.

Now that leads me to suggest, far more important than our outward clothing, is our inner clothing. The Bible gives us fashion tips for the latter, rather than the former. For instance, in Isaiah 61 (v.3) God calls on the prophet to give the mourning people of Israel - 'the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit', later he speaks of being clothed with the garments of salvation, and a robe of righteousness. And Peter urges his readers- 'to be clothed in humility, and to humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so he may exalt you in due time.'

In the Greek, Peter actually speaks of taking on 'the apron of humility', which takes us back to the upper room, when Jesus washed his disciples feet; humble service is what distinguishes the true disciple.

Finally, Paul sums it up when he urges his readers to 'put on the Lord Jesus Christ' - clothing suitable for all occasions.

Here are some lines from the hymn: 'My hope is built on nothing less'-

'When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh! May I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne!'

*John Whittle*



## CONTRIBUTION BY CORLETTA STRAUGHN

A Day to remember!

I did it! I finally finished my undergraduate degree! There have been some highs and lows during the three years whilst doing Biomedical Science, but it is over now.

Now onto the graduation ceremony. I woke up early that Thursday morning of 25<sup>th</sup> July full of excitement and nerves. Luckily, it was sunny and warm, so my spirits were high. As soon as I was ready, around 8am, I headed over to the Arts Centre to collect my gown and cap. Campus was decorated for graduation: there was a stage set up for performers; banners, colourful flags and various props like beach chairs, photo frames and backdrops. After getting graduation ready – decked in gown and cap, I took some pictures with mum, dad and Franklin and met up with my friends, we had tons of catching up to do! At this point, mum, dad and Franklin headed into the hall to find their seats in the spectator area. My nervousness and excitement increased rapidly as my friends and I were ushered into the hall as well (via a different entrance). It was our day, graduation from the faculty of Life Sciences! Inside the hall was also beautifully decorated with lights, balloons, flags and a ginormous television screen on the stage.

The ceremony started at 11am with an introductory but funny speech which made all of us laugh and helped to ease my nerves. Soon it got to handing out our degrees and we slowly started lining up in small groups. As I was standing at the edge of the ramp waiting for my name to be called, I felt even more nervous than before, but I took a deep breath and walked up the ramp, shook hands with the Chancellor of the University of Warwick, collected my certificate and arrived back at my seat. The room was loud with applause, cheering and stamping of feet, which settled my nerves and put a smile on my face. After the ceremony, all the graduates processed out of the hall and outside for a massive life sciences photo and the traditional cap throwing event! After this I met up with my friends again and we took lots more photos together. Overall, it was a fantastic day full of love, joy and lots of smiles and laughter. Now onto my masters, by his grace....

*Corletta*



## CONTRIBUTIONS BY SANDRA ROBEY

### Prayer - At the heart of your Kingdom

When you were busy, surrounded by crowds,  
with their needs and their pleading,  
you always had time for one more individual,  
just because at the heart of your kingdom,  
there was infinite compassion.

### METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN. DISTRICT DAY. DUNSTABLE METHODIST CHURCH

I returned from yet another MWiB District Day, this time held at Dunstable, where we met six Ukrainian women. It was both a humbling, and sometimes harrowing experience, hearing their stories and during the hours we spent together, we shared our mutual love for God. Never has the singing of "Beauty for Brokenness" had more meaning, there were not too many dry eyes. After worship, the Ukrainian women stepped forward and shared their experiences and answered our questions.

We heard from one young woman, who said, with great passion, that her duty now was to keep her daughter safe. There was some humour, as she told us, her 8yr. girl was always correcting her English pronunciation... they attend local Churches in the area... and spoke of the welcome they had received, how "thankful" they are on behalf of their country, to have the support of the U.K. and other countries in their fight to remain an independent country.

I have never heard the word thank you expressed *so many times* in so few short hours... The only real give away to what they have, and are experiencing, were their sad eyes. A 63 yr. old Mother, telling us, she needed to talk about her Son, formerly a teacher, now a soldier! There were times, when it became almost too much. But by golly, it made us realise how many blessings we all have. We were shown great hospitality by the local Methodist Church, with refreshments throughout the day, and this gave us the opportunity to share companionship and catch up with other dear Friends. In the afternoon session, we wrote down our prayers for Ukraine, which we later dedicated and presented to the women, inviting them to share with their Church and Ukrainian Friends. We were blessed to hear three dramas from women of the Bible, written by Deaconess Denise Creed, written when she was on sabbatical. Fabulous. We prayed together, sang together and at times held hands to support one another, we remembered our Sisters who had gone to glory, those others who were unable to make the journey, followed of course, by tea and delicious cake!

The Ukrainian women wrote this prayer for us... this is what they said...

"THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR US. WE CANNOT EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE VERBALLY, OR IN WRITING, BUT WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT WE MENTION YOU AND YOUR KINDNESS IN OUR PRAYERS. GOD BLESS YOU ALL. LOTS OF LOVE FROM UKRAINE"

Please keep them all in your prayers.

I could feel how these women benefitted from sharing with us older women. We benefitted also. So often we feel there is nothing we can do, get overwhelmed by different situations, but God finds a way to use us. The young women had spoken openly about missing their family members, but for just a few hours, they seemed to relax and we could feel God's Spirit midst the gathering. Slowly came their smiles.

We ended our session together with this Ephesian blessing:

'Be imitators of God, as His beloved children, and live in LOVE, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.'

And we took home our love gifts, *a Rainbow Guardian Angel key fob*... incorporating the Ukrainian flag colours, which hopefully will serve to remind us of these COURAGEOUS women, and their country men and women, our very special gathering and the need for continued prayers for one another.

Sandra



## CONTRIBUTIONS BY REVD JOHN WHITTLE

### Question: Did God save President Trump?

I write 'President', rather than former, because in American speak that is how past Presidents are named. That does not change the question, but raises several other questions such as - 'Why did God not save from the bullet, Abraham Lincoln, or John F. Kennedy? Or, even more puzzling - 'Why not Dr. Martin Luther King'? Which would you choose between, a known liar, a committed criminal, and one whose rhetoric inflames and divides, or one whose dream was of black and white children walking together, and not being judged by the colour of their skin, but by their character? That is one question (or is it two!) but here is another – was the life of Donald Trump more precious to God than the fire-fighter, Corey Compeatore, killed at Trump's rally; he who 'died a hero' shielding his family? **'Greater love hath no one than this, that one lays down one's life for one's friends'**.

The truth is, as Peter discovered- **'I truly understand that God shows no partiality'** (Acts 10v.34), a truth already revealed - **'For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God mighty, and awesome, who is not partial, and takes no bribes.'** (Deuteronomy (10 v. 17f) I write this to caution against claiming God has intervened in human affairs, for on the whole, I suspect, He uses the laws of nature, which He has put in place, and human agents, who are inspired by the Holy Spirit. That is not to say He cannot intervene, since He is creator of all.

What of healing miracles? When it comes to healing and prayer, I recall that Jesus frequently linked the cures to faith, for example-**'Daughter, your faith has made you well, go in peace and be healed of your disease'**(Mark 5 v.34).

However, our prayers must always be set in the pattern of Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane -**'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done'** (Luke 22 v.42).

For me, underpinning that prayer is the conviction, summed up in two verses of John Greenleaf Whittier's hymn-'Who fathoms the eternal thought?

**'Here in the maddening maze of things,  
when tossed by storm and flood.  
To one fixed ground my spirit clings;  
I know that God is good!**

**I know not what the future hath  
of marvel or surprise,  
assured alone that life and death,  
His mercy underlies.**

*John Whittle*

### **Poem by George Elliot** *submitted by John*

'What greater thing is there for two  
human souls , than to feel they are  
joined in life - to strengthen each other  
in all labour, to rest on each other  
in all sorrow, to minister to each other  
in all pain, to be one with each other  
in silent unspeakable memories  
at the moment of the last parting'

## TRINITY SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

### ARTICLE FROM MEL MITCHELL

#### Faith and development

##### **Bible for All.**

We have continued monthly sessions of looking at different passages together after church and a small lunch in a very informal, interactive way using some great resources. If you are wondering what sort of things we discuss we have put some notes up from a couple of sessions on the notice board in the large hall next to the coffee hatch. Please take a look.

We haven't set any dates yet for future sessions and I am a believer in not just continuing something for the sake of it. I have always enjoyed the sessions and feel they have strengthened my faith and given me time to sit and learn from the Bible and each other but I would appreciate hearing feedback of others. I would be interested to know if you have attended any what you liked about them and what you might change and if you decided not to come, I would appreciate you sharing why. If there is still a need and desire for them I am happy to continue but I will also adapt them if it means more can attend. I feel passionately that reading and sharing the word of God together is essential for our faith development as Christians, so your feedback as to how we can best do this would be appreciated. Thank you.

##### **Sanctuary additions.**

In order to broaden the range of needs we cater for during Sunday worship we have introduced a sensory/neurodiverse corner to the sanctuary. If anyone is able to donate any fidget toys, noise-cancelling headphones or colouring books they would be appreciated, and added to the box by the organ.

Please feel free to explore this area whatever your requirements and share any more suggestions for making everyone feel welcome in a service. There is also a clear plastic folder with paper and pens for anyone that likes to keep their hands busy during worship to draw or write their thoughts. Please help yourself. Thank you.

##### **Knebworth Fun Day- our prayer tent.**

As part of the Knebworth festival this year Trinity had a prayer tent at the fun day in June. We had a prayer request box and a small craft activity - paper doves. The weather may have put potential visitors off at set up, with heavy rain followed by a strong wind but the sun did come out. Thank you to the Trinity visitors who came. I'm glad we showed our presence at this community event.

The Knebworth youth group that meet at our church on a Friday night also ran a stall and sold some cakes and books. Unfortunately the strong wind damaged their gazebo. If anyone knows where we could purchase a discount one to replace it or have a spare one they don't need any more, please let us know. We don't want the leaders to make a loss on their own things and I would like to show our support to them. Thank you.



### **Discipleship away day led by Eddie Boon.**

Thank you to all those that stayed for the afternoon session of our discipleship away day on June 30th. We had a valuable time looking at what assessment tools we could use to consider our strengths and those of our church and where we might want our own faith and our church to go in the next couple of years. Eddie recommended the tool 'Vital Signs' - <https://licc.org.uk/vital-signs/> to consider what changes we could make.

We talked about living out the 6M's- 'modelling godly character', 'making good work', 'ministering grace and love', 'moulding culture', 'being a mouthpiece for truth and justice' and 'being a Messenger of the gospel'. <https://licc.org.uk/resources/6ms/>

We looked at the 7 Sacred Spaces that a Monastery has and whether we might like to create some of these in our church grounds. Those present have been given a fresh view on discipleship and will consider how these things might work for our church.

### **Cafe church- Mission statement and Trinity action ideas.**

On 14<sup>th</sup> of July we had the second of our cafe church services to develop our mission statement and vision and share ideas of how we can put these into practice. We encourage conversations to continue and we would like to hear everyone's ideas. We will gather the notes together from the service and share them. If you missed it, these are the discussion points each group looked at -

#### *Proposed VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT TRINITY CHURCH KNEBWORTH*

##### *VISION*

*To be a community of faith exercising the love of Christ*

##### *MISSION STATEMENT*

*Trinity Church Knebworth worships the living God by:*

*>Deepening our faith and becoming devoted followers of Jesus Christ through Prayer, Worship and the study of the Scriptures*

*>Sharing God's love with all in the Community and encouraging the growth of the church, and young people's participation in its life*

*The second group session looked at the following-*

- 1.) Thinking about our church fellowship and what has gone well in the past, what other things/events could we do to meet the needs of our congregation emotionally, socially and physically across the ages and abilities?*
- 2.) What could we do to improve our worship and continue giving glory to our loving God? Do we have particular ideas for singing or prayer or styles of worship, for example?*
- 3.) Thinking about our passion to meet the needs of our community, how can we discover what those needs are at the current time? Which community events had a positive response previously & which ones do we want to try this year?*

As a faithful congregation we do all things in God's name, with a passion for showing others God's love. Trinity has many strengths & we give thanks that God provides us with what we need to keep going & to serve him in the best way we can. Let's continue to pray faithfully & seek God's wisdom in all we do. Thank you.

Mel

## CONTRIBUTION BY LUCY MITCHELL

Taize 2024

A typical day at Taize might look something like this:

We'd wake up in our tents to the sound of bells at 7:45 and get ready for morning prayer at 8:15. This would typically consist of a Gospel reading in several different languages, some Taize chants and the Eucharist. After that was breakfast! We had hot chocolate or tea with chocolate sticks, baguette and butter (we weren't given a knife to spread it so we had to get somewhat creative). Next was Bible study at 10 in Hall 10. Here we would start with a song or nursery rhyme in a different language and we'd follow along with the actions (my favourite was the Hokey Cokey in Arabic).

Then we'd hear the Bible verse for the day in another language and hear Brother Paolo's reflections on it. Afterwards he would answer any of our questions and then we'd split into smaller groups of 7 or 8 and we'd discuss the verse assisted by questions we were given to try to understand it better. If we had any time left before midday prayer we'd chat and get to know each other.

Everyone at Taize is given a job and mine was to welcome people to midday prayer. So, I would stand outside the church and make sure that everyone got in quietly and efficiently. Midday prayer was similar to morning prayer but we would only take the Eucharist in the morning. Lunch would usually be a cold vegan meal with pasta or salad then we would have the afternoon free. Some of my favourite pastimes were sitting by La Source, walks around Taize and Ameugny, going down to the stream and catching up with the group I travelled with and relaxing by the tents. Then at 2pm there was an optional singing group, which I listened to a few times. It was incredible.

At 5pm was tea and cake followed by workshops. I went to an ecology workshop run by volunteers at Taize, which explained all the ways Taize is working to be environmentally friendly and a talk run by Bishop Graham on the environment. At 7pm was evening meal with more baguette and evening prayer. Then everyone would flock to Oyak (the bar) and those with musical talent would bring out their instruments and play songs for hours. This was my favourite part.

*Lucy*





## **KNEBWORTH PARISH NEWS ARTICLE**

*ARTICLE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE PARISH NEWS by Kathy Cole:*

By The time you read this it will be September.

As I write on a hot sticky August day, I wonder what the new academic year will bring.

My eldest grandson is moving from an historic school building that has no space to expand to a brand new purpose built one.

I asked him if the staff were upset to leave the old building, he said some of the staff had been there for 30 years or more. He is just about to start his 3rd year there.

So it will be a time of mixed emotions. I hope some of the artefacts from the old building have been kept for display in the new premises.

Other youngsters will be moving on in the education system, again with mixed emotions but probably a lot of excitement.

There is a hymn which speaks of travelling from the old to the new, which reassures us that God is with us as we travel from the old to the new.

So as we all move on in life we can ask God to keep travelling along with us and feel comforted by his presence.

*Kathy*

## **CONTRIBUTION BY TRICIA EASDALE**

### MODERNIZED VERSION OF PSALM 23

The Lord is my Pacesetter I shall not rush,  
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,  
He provides me with images of stillness, which  
restores my serenity.  
He leads me in the ways of efficiency  
Through calmness of mind,  
And His guidance is peace.  
Even though I have a great many things  
to accomplish each day  
I will not fret for His presence is here,  
His timelessness, His all-importance, will  
keep me in balance,  
He prepares refreshment and renewal in  
the midst of my activity.  
By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquillity.  
My cup of joyous energy overflows.  
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the  
fruits of my hours,  
For I shall walk, in the pace of my Lord and  
dwell in His house forever.

## MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

### Mission News

These are the charities we are supporting at Trinity in the next 3 months, through our charity offering at services, coffee money donations, or directly if you can't make it to church:

#### September



Please bring along non-perishable food and toiletry items to the **Harvest Festival service on 15<sup>th</sup> September**. Haven First very much appreciate these donations, as well as the monetary collection we make over the month.

The Haven plays an important part in supporting vulnerable people in the local community who do not have the privilege of a home to which they can return each evening.

#### October



**Commitment for Life** is the United Reformed Church's global justice programme.

**Commitment for Life** is a way in which local congregations are enabled to participate in actions for justice around the world.

**Commitment for Life** belongs to every congregation. Many choose to support a region in the world through prayer, learning, advocacy, and action for justice. Our partners are Christian Aid and Global Justice Now. Our four partner regions are Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Central America (Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala).

**Commitment for Life** means Life-Giving Faith, Defiant Hope & Generous Love

#### November



**All We Can** is a pioneering international development, relief and advocacy organisation that believes in the power of partnership. It has its roots in the British Methodist Church and is inspired by Christian principles to focus on those in greatest need. The charity works through partnerships to end the cycle of suffering caused by poverty, inequality and injustice:

We support and strengthen local partners – organisations, churches and emerging initiatives that share our vision and values – to implement effective and sustainable solutions for people living in some of the world's poorest and least served communities. We respond to humanitarian crises with emergency support and help communities to be better prepared for disasters.



## **DATES FROM THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (and KFC Coffee Mornings)**

We would like to thank all who attended the Strawberry Cream Tea on  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August.  
helping us to raise over £100.00 for charity



**Sunday 15th September** Harvest Lunch after the church service  
Please see notice board in Church

**Saturday 21st September** Quiz Night – See back page for further details

We look forward to seeing you there!!

**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:



**21<sup>st</sup> September**

**19<sup>th</sup> October**

**16<sup>th</sup> November**

### **KFC Monthly Coffee Morning – Appeal for help**

These coffee mornings have successfully been running now for 12 years and are very popular but recently we have become aware of the need to increase our team of two.

We are very grateful for the help received in the past but would like to put this on a more formal basis.

Help is mostly needed with setting up tables and chairs for the morning ahead. Anne is still happy to do this but there may be times when she is unable to. In the past we have been lucky enough to have had help with putting everything away but we can't rely on this in the future.

**Setting out the tables etc. need only take half an hour once a month, or less. (9.00 am – 9.30 am.) Putting them away less than half an hour (11.55 am -12.15pm.), and can be done by different people.**

Similarly, during the year there will be times when we will be short of help in the kitchen, serving tea/coffee, cake etc.

**Kitchen helpers 9.00 am – 12.15 am.**

If you feel you could support us by being part of a team, please speak to either Anne Purvis or myself.

Thank you.

*Sue Burrell*

## WELCOME TO YOUR NEW RECIPE CORNER.



### **TWICE BAKED POTATOES**

(recipe from Tricia Easdale)

SERVES 4

Filling:-

- 1 oz butter
- 1 onion peeled and chopped
- 1 green pepper, seeded and diced
- 4 rashers bacon/or ham
- 6 oz button mushrooms, sliced
- 8 oz cheddar cheese grated (reduced fat)
- 1 tablespoon wholegrain mustard
- 2 tablespoons low fat natural yoghurt
- Black pepper

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 220 °C (425 °F) gas mark 7. Wash potatoes, prick with a fork and bake for 1 hour.
2. Melt butter in a large frying pan over a gentle heat. Add onion, green pepper and bacon. Cook for 3-4 minutes. Add mushrooms and cook for a further 3 mins or until veg are just tender. Remove from heat.
3. Cut potatoes in half. Scoop out flesh into a large bowl. Mash with a fork. Add mushroom mixture, half the cheese, the mustard, yoghurt, and black pepper. Mix thoroughly.
4. Spoon mixture back into skins. Put on a baking sheet. Sprinkle over remaining cheese.
5. Return potatoes to oven bake for 20 mins or until filling is heated through and cheese is golden. Serve immediately.

**PREPARE AHEAD**;- Spoon filling into potatoes, cool completely after step 4. Cover and keep in fridge for up to 1 day then on to step 5.

Hope you enjoy this simple but tasty recipe – we welcome your comments and look forward to receiving your favourite recipe to share in the next edition of Trinity Quarterly.

*Tricia*

## METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

***Following the airstrike on a school building sheltering Palestinians that killed more than 70 people in August, the Methodist Church has released this prayer and call to action.***

### Prayer

Oh God, How many times must I pray for peace?

Despite all my prayers I see Gazan schools blown apart, lives shattered as people sought refuge and prayed. I see hostages held and their families suffering every endless minute that they wait for release.

Why, oh why, oh God do my pleas fall on deaf ears, my tears rebound off stony ground and my hope falter under the sheer weight of death, destruction and devastation? Are you immune to this human suffering?

Yet, I know that your tears fall with mine, your hope is tested by the inhumanity of this current conflict and you yearn for that time when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, a time when they will not seek to hurt or destroy each other on your holy mountain.

So, I pray again with all my heart for a ceasefire in Gaza, a release for the hostages and for a just solution that peace may flourish in the land where you walked.

Amen.

### Call to Action

In an interview on Radio Four's Today programme (Mon 12 Aug) a Gazan doctor appealed to the new UK government and King Charles to act swiftly and out of their humanity, to do all they could to end the horrific suffering in Gaza. Describing the starvation, the hospitals without medication, the destruction, the loss of past, present and future for Palestinians, he asked, "What can justify this - when the highest price is being paid by innocent people?" He called for an end to the war and for neighbours to live in peace.

You can help amplify his voice by writing to your MP ([Find your MP - MPs and Lords - UK Parliament](#)) and asking for the UK government to support:

- An immediate ceasefire in Gaza
- The release of all hostages held in Gaza
- An arms embargo on weapons sales to Israel and any countries that might support Hamas.
- An end to the illegal occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem in the light of the International Court of Justice declaration - July 2024 ([Experts hail ICJ declaration on illegality of Israel's presence in the occupied Palestinian territory as "historic" for Palestinians and international law | OHCHR](#))

**Give** - It is still possible to give to the Methodist Church's Gaza appeal

([Gaza Appeal - Methodist Church](#)).

## ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICES IN THE LADY CHAPEL

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.



## THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF SAINT ALBAN

### **September 18th**

Reverend Graham Clarke  
Baptist Minister.

### **October 2nd**

The Reverend Rosemary Fletcher,  
Retired Methodist Minister

### **November 6th**

The Reverend Daniel Yovan  
Minister of Hatfield Road and  
Marlborough Road, Methodist Churches

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

### PRAYER CONTRIBUTED BY TRICIA

God planted a seed of faith in our hearts, all we need to do is:-  
Water it with prayers  
Fertilize it with words of God  
Cultivate it with lots of love

***Please send items for the December issue of Trinity Quarterly to a member of the Editorial Team by Friday 8th November at the latest:***

### **Contact details of the Editorial Team:**

Maureen Bodden: [maureen.haycock@gmail.com](mailto:maureen.haycock@gmail.com)

Tricia Easdale: [peasdale@aol.com](mailto:peasdale@aol.com)

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Rosemary Rudkin

# Autumn Wordsearch

The wordsearch below has been put together by Camilla Straughn and the theme is AUTUMN.

## Autumn themed wordsearch

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

F J Y W R R E B M E V O N T G F B W N C  
D A L Q O J Z X F J O P E G A I L O F S  
C H B A V O W J R O R H E D G E H O G K  
I I T Z V M D B X V A R E F I N O C Q M  
N M P R I Z C L E X N N B R G Z E R A X  
N O O J Y L V B A K G Y A C O R N P K Y  
A G L E A V E S A N E P F H A W L W N W  
M E R I F N O B U E D P S A O E Y M H E  
O S G P I B O T L O I S B R T U U M P C  
N W N F U E M B T N C O B S Y T E M Y I  
J B G F B E M U E A C J H O U L M B I E  
N G H X G A N C R T B S A A M B E R Q R  
F X G O R T O E O L L P R G S N H U E M  
V C I B S N C B E W U N V U K I I K F U  
E T A E E R E R G M J B E E O N N F A S  
K K H N O R R Q P U P U S R O O C H R H  
I C T W D I V K N S L X T X C I Y N A R  
H S H R U L I Y U O R C H A R D Q N G O  
N R H Q D N E B Y W R E B M E T P E S O  
Q J S X Q V T G Z X X R M D N R Q T L M

### Word Bank

- |               |              |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. autumn     | 2. october   | 3. bramble    | 4. leaves    |
| 5. nutmeg     | 6. equinox   | 7. conker     | 8. orange    |
| 9. harvest    | 10. acorn    | 11. amber     | 12. cinnamon |
| 13. hedgehog  | 14. woodland | 15. hike      | 16. bonfire  |
| 17. pinecone  | 18. pumpkin  | 19. mushroom  | 20. foliage  |
| 21. candle    | 22. maple    | 23. scarecrow | 24. brown    |
| 25. chestnut  | 26. orchard  | 27. squirrel  | 28. november |
| 29. september | 30. conifer  |               |              |

# IT'S QUIZ NIGHT

## Trinity Church Knebworth

Come along and join us on

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

**2024**

There will be a Professional Quiz Master  
Round 1 starts 7:30pm DOOR Opens  
7.00pm

£10.00 Entry Fee which includes Jacket  
Potato with a choice of filling and a soft  
drink.

Profits go to Community Outreach  
Knebworth

To sign up contact Kathy on 07587024760  
or by email: [kathycole52@gmail.com](mailto:kathycole52@gmail.com)

There will be tables of 6 so get your team  
chosen or come along on your own or with  
a friend.

LOOK FORWARD  
TO SEEING YOU THERE