

Trinity Quarterly

Issue No 9 March – May 2025



Diary for March

Sunday	2nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd Stan Chatikobo
Sunday	9th	10.30 am	Open Church led by Mel Mitchell
Saturday	15th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday	16th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd Stan Chatikobo with Holy Communion
Sunday	23rd	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Christine Warren
Sunday	30th	10.45 am	Mothering Sunday at URC Stevenage led by Revd Stan Chatikobo with Holy Communion. (Clocks go forward)

Diary for April

Sunday	6th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd Stan Chatikobo
Sunday	13th	10.30 am	Palm Sunday Morning Worship led by Jackie Hall
Thursday	17th	7.00 pm	Maundy Thursday led by Revd Stan Chatikobo at Trinity Church
Friday	18th	10.00 am 11.00 am	Good Friday Team Worship led by Rosie Berry and Kathy Cole KFC Walk of witness starts at Trinity Church
Saturday	19th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday	20th	8.00 am	Easter Day Early Service led by Revd Stan Chatikobo with Holy Communion
Sunday	20th	8.30 am	Easter Breakfast
Sunday	20th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd Stan Chatikobo with Holy Communion
Sunday	27th	10.30 am	Café style worship led by Kate Dickinson

Diary for May

Sunday	4th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd Stan Chatikobo
Sunday	11th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson
Saturday	17th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday	18th	10.30 am	Songs of Praise led by Revd Stan Chatikobo with Holy Communion
Sunday	25th	10.30 am	Open Church led by Camilla Straughn

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: Revd Stanslous Chatikobo
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

Welcome to our spring edition of Trinity Quarterly, I do hope that we will soon enjoy some spring weather. We remember the many who have suffered from floods, gales and deep snow whilst others have had uncontrollable fires to deal with. It does remind us of climate change and the need to consider ways we can help, however small.

Spring is traditionally a time to clean, recycle, renew, reuse or rehome. Many of you will remember after or during the war how our parents' remade clothes, darned and remade sheets by sewing sides to middle. I can remember the old pillow cases being made into bandages and recall "A stitch in time saves nine".

We now have two charity shops in Knebworth and Cancer Research in Stevenage can be contacted if you need help with large items. I hear that some companies are delivering free short-date fruit and vegetables to a school in Stevenage for people to help themselves and save on waste.

Thank you for your contributions to the printing cost of Trinity Quarterly. We will have our collection box out on collection day and the following few weeks. If possible £1.50 - £2.00 per copy will help with our printing costs. Please let us know if you no longer wish to have a copy. Trinity Quarterly is also available on the church website.

Our next edition is in the summer so watch out for events that are planned. If you have any ideas about how we can improve T.Q. please contact one of the team - we would welcome extra help sometimes.

Please send articles for the June edition as soon as possible and before 1st May.

Rosemary, on behalf of the Editorial Team:

Camilla, Maureen, Tricia and Rosemary

FAMILY NEWS

Polly Price by Gill Hughes

Some in Trinity have known Polly Price for almost 40 years since she first arrived in Knebworth URC, before we became "Trinity Church". Others perhaps knew her only over recent years. Her arrival here made a difference to the fellowship, and as we come to terms with her recent death we can only begin to appreciate the many gaps she leaves for her family, her friends and our church family. For many years she and Ashley operated a "Hybrid Home" between Lanzarote then Spain, and Hertfordshire, and only someone with courage and energy could have done that so amazingly. Polly's courage in living her final months to the full enabled us to share a service of Thanksgiving for her life and I hope that as we each recall her and reflect on the differences she made in our lives, we might be helped by some of the contributions and reflections from that service, included in this magazine. We give thanks for Polly's smile and her faith shared so freely in so many times and places.

Our prayers continue for Ashley and all Polly's family and closest friends as their lives adjust to this loss. *Gill Hughes*

Tributes to Polly Price from the Celebration of Life service on 15th February

Polly's Eulogy, by Ashley Price

Polly was born on 16 December 1947 in Manchester. She was the second child, and had three brothers - one older and two younger. The family moved from Manchester to Burnley and then to Leicester during her childhood. From a very early age, Polly recognised her calling to work with children and young people and after school, studied at Charles Keane College in Leicester, and obtained her qualifications as a Nursery Nurse. The summer of 1966 was a spectacular period in this Nations history. Apparently, we won a football match, but more importantly Polly's

friend Pauline brought her along to the Young Liberals, to introduce her to a chap called Ashley, who she thought Polly might like. Ashley's heart skipped a beat or two. The two chatted but shy and retiring Ashley, let the meeting slip by. A few weeks later there was a Church Youth Conference taking place where the Young People from different churches in Leicester would meet. I thought Polly would be attending, and sorry God, but my motivation for going, was to see Polly. This second meeting was hugely successful and I even managed to give her a lift home and that day was the start of our relationship.

The first few months were not uneventful. Polly had many other admirers and the competition I faced was fierce and frightening. Neither of our sets of parents were encouraging. Polly's parents were conscious of the fact she could 'do much better' and my father had a quiet word with me, to say that I should stop going after posh girls and find someone in my own class. We very quickly knew we were right for each other despite the obstacles and wanted to marry as soon as possible. However parental permission was required in those days and this was of course, not granted, so we had to wait until August 1969.

Also in 1969, on her first day at work after our honeymoon, Polly met Gill, who was to become her close friend, confidant and supporter for next 50 odd years and who was with her in her last days at the Hospice. The next few years saw Polly the removal expert develop. I was working for the Bank and happily had a series of promotions in quick succession but this meant we had seven changes of addresses within a couple of years. We moved from Leicester to Reading, and then Reading to Sunderland. Jeremy was born - not without a measure of difficulty, at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading, under the watchful eye of the Queens Gynaecologist. Emma arrived a couple of years later, with comparative ease, at the splendid Sunderland General Hospital - and Sunderland even won the FA Cup for her.

Polly enjoyed her 12 years in Sunderland immensely, she learned to understand the local language but not quite to speak it - she even accepted that Emma was a Bearn and not a Baby. Polly's love of Children came to the fore during the 'Mackem' phase. We fostered 13 children - not all at the same time - ranging from a few months old to 15 years. She gave her all to their care. I was working long hours, so virtually all the caring was done by her. There was one period when Jeremy was 2, and Emma 6 months and we had twin babies. The washing machine was permanently full of nappies. Polly also agreed to become involved with the birth parents of some of the Children we fostered, which at the time was a new experiment - an experiment which in some cases was rewarding, seeing struggling parents developing to be able to look after their children, but in other cases heart breaking, when things didn't work out.

In 1982, brother Martin had his accident, which not only changed his life, but for a couple of years, changed Polly's too. She spent months travelling to Newcastle General daily to be with Martin, which meant ceasing the fostering. We were very happy living in County Durham, and me working in Newcastle, and we expected to be there for the rest of our days, until one Friday, I was summoned to the bank's Head Office in London and told that from next Tuesday, you will head the Banks PR department, for the flotation period. For me, it was the dream job offer, but for Polly it meant she had to leave all her friends, move house again to a place where she didn't want to live. She was however, unbelievable in her support.

We quickly found a house in Welwyn, and also found an amazingly, welcoming, loving Church which we have been members of for nearly 40 years. She has been very involved, performing many roles, including being ordained as an Elder, and leading a Youth Group. She has stood many times at this lectern reading the word of our Lord. She has also been involved in outside charity work, particularly Comic Relief, where she volunteered to help at the BBC office and finished up Heading the whole voluntary workers team. At that time the youth of this church were roped in to perform various duties for the Charity. Polly had many fond memories of these times working at the BBC and yes, going to the many celebrity parties - people used to ask her if Polly Price was her real name or was it a stage name. Polly has always been a person who found time for people and I will return to this aspect of her life later in the service. If anyone wanted to share a problem or needed advice, she was there. She particularly helped younger people starting out and was able to steer them through their uncertainties.

Over the last two or three weeks so many people have said to us 'if it wasn't for talking to Polly, I wouldn't be where I am now'. I am in awe of her.

Below is the piece that Emma Oyetunde read out.

Our Mum (Emma & Jeremy Price)

Our Mum gave us the best Mum size hugs, that can never be replicated or replaced.

Our Mum was fun loving, she made us laugh, and she loved us unconditionally...

Though she could stop us in our naughty tracks with one flash of the 'stop now' look!

Our Mum was unique, she shared her love and her time in bundles with us...

but she also managed to share with so many others. (We're not sure how she found enough

time in the day to do that)...but looking at the amount of people here, she definitely achieved it.

She did manage to find out the waitresses entire life story on a regular basis, and the lady at the counter would usually know her name and exchange at least pleasantries, if not a little update on their life.

Our Mum smiled, with a beautiful flicker of light in her eyes. Like her purpose in life was to cheer others up.

Our Mum lay in the hospital bed and shed a tear for the lady who sounded uncomfortable in the next cubicle... because she couldn't help her.

She relentlessly apologised for being a nuisance.

She beamed her winning smile as she said thank you to the ambulance crew that transferred her to the Hospice.

Our Mum who started her life feeling little love, left life on earth having spread so very much love, and knowing how very loved she was.

So thank you all 🙏

We can shed tears that she is gone

Or we can smile because she has lived

We can close our eyes and pray that she will come back

Or we can open our eyes and see all that she has left

Our hearts can be empty because we can't see her

Or we can be full of the love that we shared

We can turn our back on tomorrow and live yesterday

Or we can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday

We can remember her and only that she is gone

Or we can cherish her memory and let it live on

We can cry and close our mind, be empty and turn our back

Or we can do what she would want: smile, open our eyes, love and go on.

Tribute to Polly Price by Kate Dickinson

Good afternoon, my name is Kate and I am a member of Trinity Church. I feel very proud and privileged to stand here and pay tribute to my very special friend Polly, on behalf of the Trinity Church family.

I have known Polly for the past thirteen or so years but her time at Knebworth United Reformed Church, which later combined with the Methodist Church and became Trinity, began officially in 1988 when she became a church member.

Members of the congregation recall how the Price's home in Mardley Woods was a hive of activity with regular gatherings taking place. The highlight of the year seemed to be the summer barbecue where all were welcomed and could enjoy food and fellowship as well as a swim in the pool!

This hospitality extended to the teenagers of the church and beyond. I have been told that Polly had time for everyone and was always there to listen and offer advice and would always find a way to help someone in any way, no matter how busy she was in her own life. I think the impact that Polly had on those teenagers can be demonstrated by the fact that they are now in their 40s and 50s and still remember Polly and some are here today.

As well as having a gift for offering hospitality to all, Polly was also an Elder and a member of the Pastoral Care Team. Under the ministry of Rev Sue Keegan von Allmen, lay led worship developed and Polly and Ashley were regular contributors to this. Polly introduced the congregation to the 'spirituality of a smile' and she somehow managed to use chocolate as a practical illustration during her all-age talks. I started attending Trinity Church at this time and Polly producing chocolate from behind the lectern for the children to take to Sunday Club is one of the memories that has stuck with me.

Polly had a great love for church music, and we have had many of her favourites here today. She played a key role in the development of music within church and also contributed financially to allow those developments to happen. In recent years, she was determined that we would have a drum kit and as you can see we now have a drum kit.

Even when Polly and Ashley moved to Lanzarote and later to Spain, they were still committed to Trinity church. Long before the days of Covid and Zoom, Polly and Ashley would join by SKYPE, often having little sound check conversations before the service began. I have memories of one of our candlelight carol services where Polly read one of the readings all the way from Lanzarote, thankfully the internet didn't play up on that occasion.

On their regular visits back home Polly and Ashley would take part in worship, particularly in our Good Friday services where Polly would dramatize the various characters and meditations.

Polly faced her cancer diagnosis and the setbacks that came along the way with such dignity and courage as well as a sense of humour. Her faith in God never seemed to weaken, even when she was physically weak, she was spiritually strong. She was determined to come to church, usually refusing to use the wheelchair and would insist on standing for the hymns and singing even though it was becoming more effort for her.

Polly was a kind and faithful friend to so many, always there to listen and always ready with a hug. She seemed to have a knack for sensing who needed that extra bit of her tender loving care. When I came to this church I was not in a good place and not the nicest of people at times. Polly showed me unconditional love and I like to say that she loved me better. I know that I would not be here now, doing all I do, without her. Polly's encouragement was unwavering even when she was so poorly. I was leading worship here a few days before she died and just before the service, I got a text from her encouraging me and telling me she was thinking of me. It was my last text from her and one I will always cherish.

Polly was so proud of her beautiful family especially her granddaughters. She was determined to make it to her birthday and Christmas as she didn't want to spoil it for anyone. She celebrated in style, making precious memories and she took great delight in showing us the photos especially of the party bus that toured the Christmas lights.

To the Price and Oyetunde families, please know that we continue to pray for you all and we are here for you, whatever form that may take.

Whether Polly was with her family, participating in church life or supporting others, the thing that shone through, in addition to her faith, was her smile. It was a smile that could light up a room and it was infectious – you could not help but smile when you were with Polly. Even with all that she went through, Polly kept smiling. Emma sent me a photograph taken in the Lister hospital a day or so before Polly was transferred to the hospice. Although Polly looked frail, she was smiling away with a sick bowl on her head and I couldn't help but smile too.

Polly was an example to us all on how to live a life of faith and how to live that life to the full.

Whether we have known Polly for years or just a short time, she is going to leave a Polly shaped hole in our lives. There will be tears, which is fine, but amongst the tears let us remember the special times we had with Polly and smile.

Rest in God's peace, Polly.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

ARTICLE BY JACKIE HALL - CAROL SERVICE

Cast your mind back to last December the 22nd - to be precise decorations were up, trees resplendent with lights shining brightly, tinsel adorning every surface, cupboards full, presents wrapped and stress levels high as was excitement as Christmas day approached fast.

On the morning of 22nd December anyone coming to Trinity would have found the church locked and empty with a sign inviting folk to the carol service that very afternoon.

This wonderful event didn't just happen; months ago, the good people of the worship planning team asked each other over a cuppa should we have a carol service? The answer was a resounding yes, so diaries came out, pages turned, phones scrolled and the date was chosen. The team then swung into action - halls were booked and a smaller team met to arrange the order of service, another was then tasked with asking folk to read readings, poems, meditations and prayers, something they did with spectacular success as witnessed by the many folk who took part in this special service. Also needed were musicians to play instruments or SOMEONE would have had to pull out the paper and comb to try humming !! every carol. Someone was needed on AV or we would have had to try to read hymn books by candlelight, indeed candles needed placing all around the church then on the day turning both on and off. Welcomers also recruited folk to light the Advent ring complete with words, also part of the service, and of course after a wonderful and varied carol service, who doesn't like to head straight to a cup of tea/coffee and a mince pie or bikkie maybe two?

We also needed a congregation - after all that work, we needed people to join us singing, praying and listening to what was being read/said (and to eat the mince pies). All this took place seamlessly - it was a wonderful service and the worship planning team would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped towards it or took part or attended. I also think everyone there would like to thank the worship planning team for arranging such a wonderful uplifting and joyful service. *Jackie*

ARTICLE BY JACKIE HALL - COMMUNITY TEA

Way back in Oct/ Nov last year (2024) Maureen had the brilliant idea for Trinity to host a community tea. It was then discussed in MSG meeting and thought to be a good idea - I mean who doesn't like drinking tea/coffee and eating cake whilst chatting with friends? Maureen then managed to get a grant from Herts. County Council - well done Maureen. Various dates were checked with other groups to ensure no clashes with anything else going on in the church or local area. Not as easy as you might think to find a date that works for everyone. The 25th of January 2025 was chosen as a good date. Volunteers were sought, leaflets were posted, posters put up, emails sent, prayers were said that folk would come. Chairs and tables were put out and put back afterwards; that certainly burned a calorie or two. Table cloths were put on tables, food which had been ordered was collected, cakes sliced and a variety of yummy savouries, cakes and biscuits were put on plates by the wonderful volunteers. The hot water urn was standing by for tea-making, coffee pots at the ready, along with rows of mugs just waiting to be filled. By the start time of 2pm the line of tables in the middle of the room was full- not a space to be found for even a morsel more as we waited for folk to turn up. Welcomers at the ready. a selection of board games and packs of cards waiting to be played We waited and yes folk, you came - it was wonderful to see you all both old friends and new. An opening prayer was said and we were off, cards were dealt, and I know of at least one game of Uno that went on most of the afternoon, The dominos were well used as were other games, but others preferred to just chat with friends as cups were quickly emptied and refilled by our wonderful volunteers helping those less mobile. Sandwiches, cakes and more were eaten and plates quickly refilled, the central table replenished again by our volunteers so no one went hungry. There was even lots of lovely fruit of many varieties for those trying to choose the healthy option. Query - does it count as a healthy choice if you put a piece of fruit on top of a cake? Sadly, all good things must come to an end and as folk departed washing up was done floors swept and washing taken to be done at home. Soon it

was as if we had never been there aahh! A big big thank you to all who helped in any way to make the community tea a huge success and also to those that came so we didn't have to eat all the cakes ourselves! Well done everyone you did good. Thank you. *Jackie*



Photos by Kathy Cole



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATION - Photo from Maureen Bodden



Victoria has started a new initiative celebrating members' birthdays from the preceding month. Unfortunately, the other January birthday John could not be there for the celebration, but we know that he did get some of the cake afterwards. He sent us this beautiful prayer to share:

I found this prayer in a little book of Celtic Prayers of Margaret's- *John Whittle*

Lord give me the humility of the snowdrop,
blossoming in the snow.
Lord give me the joy of daffodils
trumpeting your praise
Lord give me the grace of the blue iris
shining in your light
May my whole life be perfumed with
your spirit of love.



CONTRIBUTION FROM SANDRA ROBEY – RAIN STORY

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MATTER... a Rain Story!

I volunteered eight years for the local Hospice, visiting terminally ill folk in their homes. Doing everything from simple tasks, like ironing, or preparing meals... holding hands, taking them to their appointments, that sort of thing. It was a real privilege in every way, and quite a learning curve. I had given up paid work and wondered what I might do with the spare time. I had never not worked, even from a young child. My first job was with J. Lyons, checking salt and pepper pots, to ensure they were clean and filled... to this day, I find myself checking them whenever I go to cafes and restaurants. Old habits die hard! When I saw the advert in the local newspaper for Hospice volunteers, I thought perhaps my life skills and HR training might be of some use, so off I went to see where I might be best used...**if at all.**

My first patient taught me so much... I had initially thought it might be the other way around, **how wrong was I?** I am sure she would not mind me telling you *our rain story...*

The patient possessed two wigs.... one she called her *Vera Duckworth*, a curly one for days when she was coping, another straight wig... for OK days, then, if she did not wear either wig... I knew that she was not feeling her usually positive self and that life was proving difficult. This particular day, the Vera Duckworth wig was being worn, and it was raining! She asked me if I would take her outside so that she could feel the rain on her face... I gave her every excuse, just had my hair done... I would lose my job.... What ifs... she said to me, *I haven't got long for the world, and all I want is to feel the rain on my face...*

My Grandmother who brought me up gave me good advice when she said, " *always put yourself in the position of the other person, when you are not sure what to do...*" Wise Grandmother!

I understood, of course I did, and suddenly, I thought "well, why not..." I used her friendly wheelchair, wrapped her up against the elements, and prayed, we did a rain dance in the garden, she tilting her face to the skies... when I looked up, I could see her neighbour looking down on us and I thought, *Sandra, you are in deep trouble.* So, when I got back to base, I reported myself to the Macmillan Nurse and told her the whole story, expecting the worst... she knowingly smiled... I thought I might at least, get a warning!

In honesty, I will never forget it, and in consequence, when it rains to this day, I see it as a positive, and take myself back to that special experience. I learnt a lot from all the patients I

visited, real life lessons, it wasn't at all what I could do to help them, **it was what they taught me...** I soon learnt that and it helped me enormously when on my own cancer journey...

I am certain that you have done your fair share of *quietly* helping folk over the years. I see the way Trinity folk reach out to one another. It is a privilege to be with you all. God has planted us together. It is a difficult time in which to remain positive but reach deep, and you will see how God encourages, uplifts and beckons us to do the little things, for I honestly believe these little things make a real difference in all our lives and in the lives of others.

Take heart, Sisters and Brothers, let's see what God has planned for us. Use your own special gifts to reach out to those who might be lonely, frightened, despairing.

Jesus showed us his humanity as he travelled with his Crucifixion Cross. He took on that cross for us all... He suffered and witnessed to the end of His life... was resurrected, giving us hope that death is not the end... but the start of something precious.

**The Easter message comes to us again as we journey through our own pain and sorrow, to be uplifted by the love and example of Jesus, that is the true Alleluia here!
May God bless us through Jesus this Easter, as we witness His great sacrifice and love. Sandra R**

CONTRIBUTION FROM JACKIE HALL - RACE FOR LIFE

On the morning of 18th May I will not be in church at Trinity or anywhere else instead. I will be taking part in the race for life at Stanborough Lakes Welwyn Garden City to raise money for Cancer research. Cancer is something that has seriously affected my family. I lost my sister to breast cancer and my mum to stomach cancer and other family members have had to fight it with varying degrees of success, so it's a cause very dear to my heart. Nearer the time I will be asking for sponsors and yes it's ok to say no, we will still be friends, but I hope you will feel able to donate to this great cause. Whether you can or choose not to please pray for me that day as when I signed up I didn't know about the hills – hmm, when telling a friend I had entered she asked which one then said I was mad. Apparently, the Stevenage race is much flatter than the Welwyn Garden City one, which is known to be one of the hardest - well known to everyone apart from me oops. For those who think a race is a little tame for me, well I have done a fire walk and a sky dive; all I can say is watch this space.

Thank you, Jackie Hall

P.S. Last time I tried to do this race, shortly after I signed up, we and the rest of the world entered lockdown so fingers crossed for 2025.

P.P.S. if anyone wants to join me there are still places available.

ARTICLE BY JOHN WHITTLE - A HYMN-WRITER WITH A DISTINGUISHED NAME!

Daniel Webster WHITTLE! had a colourful life as a teenager, he was a cashier at the Wells Fargo Bank in Chicago, but when the Civil War broke out, he enlisted as a soldier in General Grant's Union Army. As he was leaving home his mother slipped a New Testament into his kitbag, where for some time it lay unread! During the siege of Vicksburg in 1863, when 20,000 men were killed, Daniel was wounded and taken prisoner by the Confederate troops. His right arm had to be amputated, and in hospital he found the New Testament and began to read it.

One day, an orderly asked him to pray with a dying soldier, but Daniel protested saying just because he was reading the New Testament did not mean that he was either a Christian, or able to pray! But under pressure he went to the man who asked him to pray for him and ask God to forgive him. Daniel did so, and at the same time prayed for his own forgiveness. As he stood up, he found the soldier had died as he had been praying. His life changed in that moment, as he entered a new life in Christ. His mother's prayers had been answered!

Following the war, in which he had been promoted to Major, he became a successful businessman, and an evangelist, leading revivals across the USA. He wrote several popular gospel songs, including one which seems appropriate to the month of April, when we expect showers of rain. For he wrote the hymn "**There shall be showers of blessing**" (quote from Ezekiel 34 v.26) you can find the hymn as 943 in Mission Praise (under his penname "El Nathan").

I leave you with two verses and a chorus-

**‘There shall be showers of blessing: this is the promise of love.
there shall be seasons refreshing, sent from the Saviour above.
Showers of blessing, showers of blessing we need,
mercy drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead.
‘There shall be showers of blessing: if we but trust and obey.
there shall be seasons refreshing, if we let God have His way.’**

CONTRIBUTION FROM SANDRA ROBEY

The Beatitudes, a modern interpretation, let’s imagine Jesus standing among us...

Blessed are they who doubt. Those who aren’t sure, who can still be surprised.
Blessed are they who are spiritually impoverished, therefore not so certain about everything
that they no longer take in new information
Blessed are they who have nothing to offer.
Blessed are the poor in spirit. **You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.**

Blessed are they who have buried their loved ones, for whom tears could fill an ocean.
Blessed are they who have lost enough to know what loss feels like.

Blessed are they who don’t have the luxury of taking things for granted anymore.
Blessed are they who can’t fall apart, because they have to keep it together for everyone else.

Blessed are they who ‘still aren’t over it yet.’
Blessed are those that mourn. **You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.**

Blessed are those who no one else notices. The children who sit alone at lunch tables.
The laundry workers at the hospital. The night shift street sweepers.

Blessed are the forgotten. Blessed are the closeted.
Blessed are the unemployed, the unimpressive, the under-represented.

Blessed are the meek. **You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.**

Blessed are the wrongly accused, the ones who never catch a break, the ones for whom life is
hard, **for Jesus chose to surround himself with people like them.**

Blessed are those without documentation.
Blessed are those without lobbyists.

Blessed are the foster children, the specialised children and every other child who just wants
to feel safe and loved.

Blessed are those who make terrible business decisions, for the sake of the people.

Blessed are the burned out social workers, the overworked teacher, the weary NHS workers.
Blessed are the youngsters who step between the bullies and the weak.

Blessed are they who hear that they are forgiven
(Blessed is everyone who has ever forgiven me, when I didn’t deserve it.)

Blessed are the merciful, for they totally get it.
Blessed are..... (for you to name.....)

PRAYER

Longing for you, O Lord, we are crowned with love. Seeing you, we are filled with joy. Resting in you, we do not stumble. Persevering with you, we enter your presence.

AMEN

ARTICLE BY JACKIE HALL - GOOD Friday Walk

On Good Friday which is the 18th April, when most of you are sitting down in the afternoon with a cup of tea and possibly a hot cross bun or two? the Trinity walkers will again be lacing up their walking boots, packing both suncream and woolly hats and gloves. We will don our waterproofs, pick up our water bottles and put best foot forward followed by our other foot and will brave the North Herts. Circuit Good Friday Walk. I'm reliably informed it's being planned at the moment; we will pound streets, cross fields, jump puddles - the water jump was aptly named last year and I'm not entirely sure everything we trod in was mud! We will probably turn in circles as we try to follow maps and instructions and query if this or that is the right gap. Possibly we should pay attention more and chat less but we always get there in the end and chatting with friends is a big part of the experience as we get from the start point to halfway and a comfort break. Oh the tea is wonderful! Then we make our way back to the start again, usually by a different route as the beloved planners put in twiddly bits so we don't get bored - thank you planners. Why do we do this on Good Friday afternoon when we have already attended a service and done a morning Walk of Witness when we could be sitting at home enjoying ourselves you might ask. Even if you don't, I will tell you. It's for charity - each year the circuit supports 2 charities, one local one international, with the money raised from the walk. At the point Trinity Quarterly is going to press we don't yet know which are this year's charities, but we will share that information as soon as we get it. So, in late March or early April, please if any of the Trinity walkers (usually the Halls and the Mitchells) approach you with their sponsor forms be as generous as you possibly can and it's great if folk email or phone us pledging money before we ask for sponsors for what are always good causes. Yes, it's ok to say no to us with no hard feelings but obviously we hope you won't so we can raise as much as possible for people less fortunate than us.

Thank you,

Jackie on behalf of the Trinity walkers

EASTER DAY BREAKFAST.

I know it's early to be thinking about Easter but due to publishing dates I have to write now so you don't miss out.

On Easter day 20th April after the 8.00 a.m. service, so approximately 8.30 a.m., breakfast will be served at Trinity. The Halls will be donning their aprons and brandishing their spatulas as they make breakfast. For any who have never been there will be fruits, cereals, toast both brown and white with both jam and marmalade on the tables for your choice, also pains au chocolat. Then we come to the cooked elements: bacon, sausage, black pudding, hash browns, mushrooms, baked beans and eggs will be there for your selection. Please feel free to take as much or as little as you want in any combination you like. There will also be small chocolate eggs on the table - it's easy to see who has given up chocolate for Lent as they surge towards them before getting their tea/coffee.

If you don't make the service, you are still welcome to come to the breakfast. Nearer the time i.e. late March/early April we will put up a sign-up sheet in the lobby to help with numbers but its ok to just turn up on the day as we will have plenty.

Don't forget 20th April 8.30am ish Easter breakfast at Trinity.

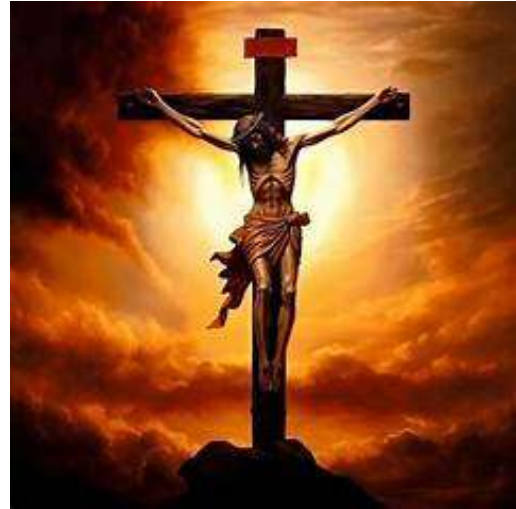
Jackie and Steven



EASTER MESSAGE FROM REVD STAN

FROM A TREE TO THE CROSS

The sinful nature of humanity started from a tree and the solution of the human challenge also came through the tree (which is the Cross)



Gen3:16-19 To the woman he said;
I will increase your pain and your labour when you give birth to children. Yet you will long for your husband and he will rule you.

Vs17 Then he said to the man; "You listened to your wife and ate the fruit tree, although I commanded you, 'You must never eat its fruit'.

Vs18 The ground is cursed because of you. Through hard work you will eat food that comes from it every day of your life. The ground will grow thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat wild plants.

Vs18 By the sweat of your brow you will produce food to eat until you return to the ground because you were taken from it. You are dust and your will return to the dust.

However, the coming of Christ then brought hope for the dying soul;

Rom5:6-8 Look at it this way. At the right time, while we were still helpless, Christ dies for ungodly people. Finding someone who would die for a godly person is rare. Maybe someone would have the courage to die for a godly person. **(BUT)** Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God's love for us.

God made sin work for good. It was in sin (and it is in sin) that humanity finds the real wonder of the grace and forgiveness of God. God in his providence is still able to fit all things into his pattern and to work all things together for good.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, in towns reduced to rubble, at bedsides and gravesides and in hospitals, the sound of weeping echoes still. Teach us how to tend to grief and trauma. How to kneel in the dew beside the broken, offering safety, gentleness, peace and love.

AMEN

TRINITY SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE FROM MEL MITCHELL

FAITH AND DEVELOPMENT

Bible for All.

We have restarted our monthly sessions of looking at different passages together after the Sunday service in an 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.

The January session fell during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity so we invited Knebworth Family of Churches and we were joined by a lady from St Thomas More Church. This is what we looked at:

Creation as God's work Scripture Readings Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 148:1-14 Romans 8:19-23 Commentary Theophilus of Antioch wrote in the second century: "God cannot be seen by human eyes, but is seen and perceived through his providence and works. Just as one who sees a fully equipped ship entering port assumes that it has a pilot to guide it, so we must perceive that God is the pilot of the entire universe, even though he is not visible to the eyes of the flesh because he is incomprehensible." Isaac of Nineveh wrote centuries later that the "first book given by God to rational beings is the nature of created things. Instruction by means of ink was added after the transgression." These words that you are now reading are printed in ink on a page, or reproduced electronically online, yet they can only dimly represent the mark of God on creation. If we cannot marvel at God's work as Creator, we cannot marvel.

Reflection -As we dare to love life we must know pain, as love means knowing loss. As you, our God, who has known lost love and faith bought by futility, give us the strength to dare to love each other beyond the agony of rejection.

Questions 1. We believe that God is present in all of creation although his presence is sometimes difficult to perceive. How is God present in your experience of creation?

2. Creation is a gift of God subjected to suffering, often inflicted by human beings. How are the churches in your community working to heal the suffering of creation where you are?

3. How does recognising God as Creator influence your view of the diversity of human life?

Those present shared some of their experience of seeing God in nature and in fellowship with others. We finished with a prayer together. It was a rewarding time. Thank you to those who came.

Our next dates are: 16th March and 25th May. We won't be meeting in April. I am now unable to attend the May date and I am appealing to anyone who might like to lead the session. Please let me know.

Worship planning

Our next worship planning group meeting will be Sat 22nd March. Please let any of the group know if you have any worship styles or ideas you would like us to discuss for Trinity.

Mission statement and Trinity action ideas.

Since issuing our final agreed mission statement and vision for this year we would encourage you all to continue to share ideas of and discuss how we can put this into practice. The new statement is now on our notice board in the foyer.

Thank you.
Mel

KNEBWORTH PARISH NEWS ARTICLES

ARTICLE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE PARISH NEWS BY THE OYETUNDE FAMILY

Faithfulness

As Thomas Chisholm wrote in the chorus of the great hymn in 1923;

Great is thy faithfulness,
Great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me.

Life gets busy, we all have things to do ... be it work, recreation, time spent with family, time spent looking after children or looking after those in need, we all find our time can be so easily filled. It is also easy to take for granted that we have 'things to do' and we always assume that we will be able to do them, we assume we will have our health and mobility and all our faculties to enable us to continue to do so. How often do we stop and remember that we are only able to 'do things' because God sustains us each day? How often are we grateful for the gift of another day, or are we too quick to complain about the frustrations we face?

As we have been given the gift of another year, let us walk in step with God each day and remember the gift of life that has been given to us. When we face challenges and tough times, let us remember that God walks with us each step of the way and is faithful.

Lamentations 3, verses 22 and 23 says "Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning, great is your faithfulness."

The Oyetunde Family

ARTICLE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE PARISH NEWS BY JOHN WHITTLE

Can pain bring unexpected benefits?

Let me say from the start, I am not advocating pain, only masochists rejoice in it! However, since having to use a walking stick to walk around, due to the unwelcome presence of Uncle Arthr(itis), I have discovered a vein of human kindness, previously unrecognized. I drop something in the Tesco car park, and immediately someone rushes to pick it up for me; I go to the Re-cycling centre and time and again help is on hand from either staff or other recyclers, so saving me climbing steep metal steps to each of the different bins. One day, I am struggling to take a bin up my sloping drive, and a car stops, the driver comes over, and I assume she wants to be pointed to a house she is seeking. No, she has stopped to help me. I could go on (he does! some think) but I am sure many of you reading this can testify to basic kindness which can be prompted at the sight of a walking stick. I know you may say

it is not always the case but that does not devalue or diminish the kindnesses we do receive and thank God for.

Recall the parable of the 'Sheep and Goats' found in Matthew's Gospel chapter 25. Here Jesus speaks of people feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and those in prison. He went on to say in that these deeds were done to the least of the members of his family, they had done it for him. (Matthew 25 v.40 New RSV)

Now, they did not know that and were surprised to learn it. We too, can be ministers of kindness even to those with or without walking sticks!

Sydney Carter reminds us in his song –

'And the creed and the colour won't matter I'll be there'

I leave you with a verse of a hymn with an oaken staff as a walking stick!

My faith, it is an oaken staff,
O let me on it lean!
My faith, it is a trusty sword,
May falsehood find it keen!
Thy Spirit, Lord, to me impart,
O make me what Thou ever art,
Of patient and courageous heart,
As all true saints have been.

John Whittle

CONTRIBUTIONS BY TRICIA

Pentecost Prayer

May the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and Peace
As you trust in him, so that you may overflow
With hope by the power of the Holy Spirit
Amen. Romans 15: 13

Tricia Easdale

Reflection

There are many kinds of love, but the greatest is God's love, demonstrated in the person of Jesus. His love is unconditional, selfless, pure and life transforming. We know what love is because He first loved us. There is no love more powerful, more beautiful or more far reaching. It is more powerful than sin and even death. It can reach into the deepest pit, the darkest night and the farthest corner. It gives hope, shines light and leads the way. In fact, God is Love and to truly know Him is to love Him

If you already know Him, as many of you do, then you have experienced this amazing love. But for those of you who do not yet know Him, He is calling you and longing for you to receive His love. He yearns for you to receive Him. We were not made to live apart from Him. If today you hear His voice, do not harden your heart. Open your heart and let Him in. Let Him heal every hurt, cast out all fear, replace every lie with the truth. Let Him give you spiritual eyes to see and ears to hear.

Tricia Easdale

MISSION AND CHARITY 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.

March



The Living Room premises are at the Glebe in Stevenage and the organisation helps young people with addiction problems. For a number of years now they have provided a day care service for adults receiving about 200 referrals each year. Thanks to a grant from the Hertfordshire Community Foundation the service has been extended to 13 to 17 year-olds.

The Living Room helps young people addicted to - or at risk of becoming addicted to - alcohol, street drugs such as cannabis and cocaine, or prescribed drugs such as sleeping pills. The scheme also caters for eating disorders and gambling addictions and it is hoped to extend the service to prevent the young binge drinker of today becoming the alcoholic of tomorrow. Living Room hopes its success will inspire other organisations to invest in its work. <https://www.livingroomherts.org/>

April



World Mission Fund

Our **Easter** offering and charity of the month for April this year is **The Methodist Church World Mission Fund**.

The World Mission Fund supports programmes which are currently administered through Global Relationships.

See more at:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/support-our-work/about-our-funds/world-mission-fund/>

May Christian Aid



Christian Aid is the official relief and development agency of 41 Christian churches in the United Kingdom and Ireland, and works to support sustainable development, eradicate poverty, support civil society and provide disaster relief in South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia.

Christian Aid also organises the UK's largest door-to-door collection in Christian Aid Week, which takes place from Monday May 11th to Sunday 17th this year. Our Knebworth Committee will be organising the local collection and there will be a **'Frugal lunch' on 27th April at the Parish centre to raise funds for Sudan**.

To find out more and to see how to donate, go to <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

DATES FROM THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (and KFC coffee mornings)

20th March:- Easter Breakfast 8.30am Once again our thanks go to Jackie and Steve

14th July:- Church Family Barbeque

2nd August:- International shared meal

September:- Quiz Night - Date to be confirmed with more details nearer the time

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:



15th March

19th April

17th May

RECIPE CORNER - VICKIE'S CROISSANT RECIPE

Ingredients

- 400g Flour 7g instant yeast
- 15g granulated sugar 7g salt
- 35ml sunflower oil 225ml warm water
- 40g butter 1 egg

Method

1. Mix flour, yeast, sugar, salt and sunflower oil together.
2. Pour 225ml of warm water into dry mixture and knead until a soft dough forms.
3. Cover dough for and allow it to rise.
4. Divide dough into 2 and roll separately into equal sized circles.
5. Spread butter onto one circle until fully covered, then place the other rolled dough (circle) on top. Ensure they are equal at the borders and there is no overlapping.
6. Cut the circular dough into 4 quarters then further divide each quarter into 3.
7. Roll each piece from the base to the tip to form croissant shapes then brush the croissants with egg wash.
8. Place them on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and let them proof for 1-2 hours until doubled in size.
9. Set oven at 180°C and bake croissants for 20-25 minutes until golden.
10. Allow to cool. Enjoy!

KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES, INCORPORATING CHRISTIAN AID



KFC Coffee Morning, Saturday 15th March, 10.00 am – 12 noon

You will be very welcome to drop in to **St Martin's Parish Centre** 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 Easter chocolates; also there are some products which are suitable for vegetarians and for vegans. Come along and have a look what is available.

Every month, the money raised at the Coffee Morning is donated to a charity, both local and further afield. In March it will be for the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Good Friday Walk of Witness, 18th April

This will start this year at Trinity Church with intermediate stops at appropriate points within the village and ending at St Thomas More Church with refreshments.

Christian Aid Frugal Lunch

This will be held at 12.30 pm on Sunday, 27th April, at St Martin's Parish Centre. At the lunch, Annabelle Grassini, a Christian Aid worker who has recently returned from South Sudan, will speak of the situation in Sudan. The lunch will consist of soup, rolls, cheese, crackers and biscuits and tea/coffee. A collecting bucket, and possibly a card reader, will be there for donations which will go to the Sudan Appeal.

Christian Aid Week

Plans are in hand for the annual house-to-house collection during Christian Aid week which this year is from 11th May to 17th May. Earlier in the month, volunteers will be delivering Christian Aid envelopes to every household in the village and residents will be asked to return them, with a donation, to nominated collection points. There will further information in next month's Knebworth Parish News.

Christian Aid Lent Course

Christian Aid has produced a Lent Course on the subject of poverty. It is designed to last six weeks but it is also offered as a one-off two hour session. The course contains recorded interviews and videos, and refers in detail to a number of scripture passages.

It can be downloaded from the Christian Aid website but if you would like to join Revd John Whittle for the two hour session at a mutually convenient time, please call him on 01438 813517 or 07730681240, or contact him by email at johnwhittle104@gmail.com.

Graham Fothergill

Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches

Wednesday 5 March - Friday 18 April 2025 The Methodist Modern Art Collection

Lent Art: *Behold the Man* -Southwark Cathedral, London

This Lent, Norman Adams' *Behold the Man* will be on display at the High Altar of the Cathedral. In this colourful depiction of Jesus, we see a man preparing for immense suffering. Throughout Lent, visitors will be able to leave a short, written response to the piece with its flame-coloured crown of thorns and dark eyes.

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

5th March

The Reverend Kevin Walton
Canon Chancellor, St Albans Cathedral.

2nd April

The Reverend Ian Green
Minister of Amersham Free Church.

7th May

The Reverend Stephen Heap
Baptist Minister involved in ecumenical work.

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

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Please send items for the June issue of Trinity Quarterly to a member of the Editorial Team by Friday 2nd May at the latest:

Maureen Bodden: maureen.haycock@gmail.com

Tricia Easdale: peasdale@aol.com

Camilla Straughn: camillastraughn@yahoo.co.uk

Rosemary Rudkin: rosemary@tonyrudkin.f9.co.uk



Join us for a frugal lunch
in support of the
SUDAN APPEAL

Christian Aid Frugal Lunch for
THE SUDAN APPEAL

Sunday 27th APRIL 2025, 12:00 for 12:30pm
at ST MARTIN'S PARISH CENTRE
Knebworth

COME AND HEAR OF THE WORK OF CHRISTIAN
AID IN SUDAN FROM ANNABELLE GRASSINI,
RECENTLY RETURNED AID-WORKER



Soups, roll, cheese, biscuits and drinks
will be provided FREE but we hope for
donations for the Sudan appeal.