

# TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS



**February/March 2018    Issue 39**

## Message from our Minister

The Season of Lent is in our sights, as we begin our journey towards the cross and the new life that lies beyond it.

In the days of slavery in the United States, southern slaves were living under brutal conditions. They wrote some deeply moving songs with haunting melodies full of emotion, which they sang as they toiled. These 'spirituals' were songs of hope and anticipation. They were the soul-cry of the slave longing for freedom.

They embraced Jesus as their Saviour and *Lord* and, in the midst of almost unbearable suffering they experienced his grace, peace and hope for the future.

From this relationship they were able to sing:  
*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

In the gospel story, we see the background to the extraordinary claim of the New Testament that the one *they crucified* is in fact *my Lord*. God is described in the Old Testament as '*The Lord*'.

The original Hebrew word for 'Lord' (YHWH) had no vowels and was not vocalised. It was considered too sacred to pronounce. For that reason, when vowels were added to the original Hebrew texts they weren't added to 'the name' (YHWH). There has been much debate in modern times as to what vowels should be used – it used to be thought it should be 'Jehovah', but most scholars now think 'Yahweh' is more accurate.

In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Septuagint, this sacred name (YHWH) is translated 'Kyrios' (Lord). It really is quite extraordinary, therefore, that the New Testament writers (who were Jewish monotheists) made this fundamental Christian affirmation that '*Jesus is Lord*' (Kyrios) (Romans 10:9; 2 Corinthians 4:5; Acts 2:36) and that *our Lord* has been *crucified for us*.

The story of Easter *is* extraordinary. Let us make the journey through Lent towards it with a genuine sense of awe and thankfulness. Be surprised by it. Be confused and questioning if you need to be, but do not let the impossibility of it all hide from you the absolute truth that our impossible God makes the impossible possible.

[Mark 15:1-32]

**Paul Chesworth**

## **Our Mission & Vision**

### **The March to May Preaching Plan and Sermon**

*All Church Councils, including Trinity, are being encouraged to take part in a process of discernment about the future of their churches and their mission - with a need to acknowledge that we live in challenging times. We need to report on progress at the March 2018 circuit meeting.*

The Leadership Team felt that having already carried out various reviews over the last few years (Healthy Church, The Angel Exercise, The Church Away Day, The Worship Survey and the Strategic Plan) we needed to find something to pull together all the information we have gathered during

these exercises to try to determine what Trinity's mission & vision is.

With Paul's blessing we met with Rev. Alan Costello, a facilitator recommended by the Circuit, who has agreed to work with us. At our first meeting Alan pointed out to us that we have been doing all the right stuff and agreed that we needed to find a way of pulling it all together. He made the observation that as a Church we have been through some pretty turbulent times over the past few years, and that a period of consistency would be good for us.

With this in mind we asked Claire's permission to be able to choose our own preachers for the March – May quarter. She has agreed to this.

Our Mission Statement is "Trinity is a welcoming Church seeking to live in the love of God and share the message of Jesus Christ". We don't see any need to change this, but we need to discern what we do to fulfil it and with this in mind we are going to use the five principles that came out of the healthy Church exercise - Worship, Practical, Community Links, Youth & Children's Work and Pastoral. We need to think of these from a holistic point of view, these principles surround our mission; they guard and guide us on our journey to fulfil our mission. This will form the basis of the preaching and teaching at Trinity over the March to May quarter. Paul has met with Graham Warr, Patrick Coad & Hugh Bowerman, and together they will formulate a series of services which will help us to pull together our vision and principles from a biblical perspective.

Prayer will be playing an important part in this as it is the key link which pulls everything together.

**Jean Normington**

## Family news



We extend belated birthday wishes to two of our long-standing members on their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays – Audrey Burden and Arthur Andrews. Congratulations!

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Congratulations also to proud grandparents on two new arrivals in the extended church family:

- ❖ Hanna Perfors, a first granddaughter for Henk & Gerda Innemee, born to their daughter Johanna and her husband David on 3<sup>rd</sup> January
- ❖ George, another grandson for Helen & Geoff Harrold, born to their son Andrew and his wife Lucy on 8<sup>th</sup> January, a brother to Jonah.



\*\*\*\*\*

Just before Christmas we said 'farewell' to Rabson Ziso who has been an active member of Trinity and a local preacher in our Circuit. Rabson made a valedictory contribution to TNV in the last issue, but here is an extract of what he wrote to friends subsequently:

*"Can you please convey my gratitude to Trinity Methodist..... I got encouragement from so many people who read my articles. Some are from the Circuit at large. I will continue to send articles through my email.*

*.....On Sunday I was sitting at the back and watched Patrick with his daughter and was amazed to see the girl playing with toys and not long ago the girl was just crawling and now she is walking. This led me to realise that time flies and I was thinking the next time I come back to England, Patrick will be taking the girl to school. This I related to the 14 years I have been in England and how this time just passed by with little notice.*



*I will now be embarking on my dreams but will continue to preach as I have done. I will be travelling more because the churches in Zimbabwe are not close to each other. There are more churches in the rural areas than in the urban setting. We live in an urban setting. We*

*have enough room for people to visit. You will be welcome to come and spend a holiday with us. Extend our hospitality to all members who may want to come to see our new Zimbabwe. There are plenty of areas of attraction and we will be happy to take you to these places or offer you one of our cars.*

*Once again thank you very much. I will miss John's humour."*  
*[rabson.ziso@yahoo.co.uk].*

## **Dates for your diaries at Trinity**

*(See page 33 for regular weekly and monthly activities at Trinity and page 13 for some other events in the town)*

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|---------------------------|--|
| February 10 <sup>th</sup> | 'Come and Sing' the Mozart Requiem – Epworth Choir (see Page 24)   |
| February 24 <sup>th</sup> | Circuit Mission Supper at 6.00 for 6.30pm (see page 9)   |
| February 25 <sup>th</sup> | Messy Church at 10.00am  |
| March 3 <sup>rd</sup>     | Visit by Woking People of Faith  |
| March 18 <sup>th</sup>    | Messy Church at 10.00am  |
| March 25 <sup>th</sup>    | Neighbourhood Party  |
| March 29 <sup>th</sup>    | Maundy Thursday - Communion service at 8.00pm  |
| March 30 <sup>th</sup>    | Good Friday – a short service at 10.00am after which we will join other churches for the annual witness in the town centre |
| April 1 <sup>st</sup>     | Easter Sunday – morning service at 10.30am with Holy Communion   |
| May 12 <sup>th</sup>      | Plant Sale   |

## Trinity 2020

Trinity 2020 is a label which some of us have coined for the purpose of future building plans. But as the letter to Trinity's Membership from Church Council in October explained, it is about much more – the whole future of Trinity, our mission. As the letter concluded:

*".....We seek your fervent prayer about both your own situation and that of Trinity so that together, we can engage in a full and productive dialogue so that we can very soon be confident that we are better equipped to serve God and His kingdom here in Woking. Please do talk to us about this situation, it is very important and we really have little time to lose."*

This must remain a focus for the whole Trinity community as we commence our journey through 2018. Any decisions about our premises must be directly aligned with our collective view of our church's future as a whole. It was this that led, as the letter stated, to a decision by Church Council to put on hold the plans which were put forward in 2016/17. The property working group were asked at the same time to explore without commitment what other opportunities are available to us.

A report to Church Council in November identified that the options might be as diverse as relocating or redeveloping the site. All are agreed that do nothing is not an option! It was concluded that two options in particular would be most likely to fit any future vision and the property working group have been looking at these. One is a pared down version of what has been proposed already, doing away with some of the more expensive elements. The second is to look at the

potential to remodel the front portion of the building. This would involve adding to and altering the spaces that surround the sanctuary so that we can do away with the back portion of the premises. If this becomes the chosen option, the sale of surplus land at the rear of the premises has the potential to make a very large financial contribution to the overall cost of the project. The group is considering what this means and will be reporting back to Church Council at their next meeting. Watch this space!

**David Lander**

### **Coverage of religious issues on the BBC**

The BBC's religion and ethics review was released at the close of 2017. It recommends increasing coverage of non-Christian faiths; making 2019 a "Year of Beliefs", aimed particularly at audiences under the age of 45; exploring issues through the lens of different beliefs and cultures in news, drama, music and comedy; incorporating greater religious understanding into news reporting and creating a global team of reporters with religious expertise. It also commits the BBC to continue with "Thought for the Day" and suggested that the BBC improves religious literacy internally.

The Director General said that whilst intending to expand the coverage of other religions "our commitment to Christianity is undiminished." The President of Conference, Rev. Loraine Mellor, said "It is very good news that the BBC has decided to pledge more time to religious broadcasting on both radio and television."

# **CIRCUIT MISSION SUPPER AND TALK**

Trinity Methodist Church, Woking

**Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018**



Speaker- **DR. OLUBUNMI OLAYISADE**

(Methodist Church Partnership Coordinator for Africa)

*on the subject of:*

**Africa – Spiritual Strength in Turbulent Times**

6pm for 6.30pm

Tickets available (£7 each)  
from Jean Normington

## Circuit news



Rev Keith Beckingham has been appointed to be the Superintendent Minister in the Wey Valley Circuit from September 2018 to replace Rev Dr Claire Potter. Keith and his wife Hilary will be moving into the Guildford manse in the Summer from their present home in the West Midlands where Keith is currently Superintendent of the Brownhills & Willenhall Circuit. Keith will have pastoral charge of Guildford St Mary's and Cranleigh churches together with chaplaincy at the University of Surrey.

Following the retirement of Rev Claire Hargreaves in the Summer a new Probationer Minister has been appointed to the Circuit from September with specific pastoral oversight of Walton, Weybridge and Addlestone churches. Details of the appointment will be announced shortly.

We look forward with the rest of the Circuit to welcoming our new Ministers and their families later in the year and in the meantime pray for them as they prepare to make these significant changes. We pray also for Claire Potter and Claire Hargreaves as they too prepare to enter new phases in their lives.

More information on each of these moves will naturally follow in due course. A service of welcome for our new Ministers will be held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at Walton-on-Thames.

## Christmas at Trinity



The collage produced by Trinity Toddlers that decorated the sanctuary through Advent

As usual, Trinity was a hive of activity in the period leading up to Christmas. Here are just some of the special church-related activities which took place:

- Advent course
- Advent liturgy used in morning services
- Operation Christmas Child  
*Thanks to all who contributed in any way, Edna was able to send 50 gift filled shoeboxes to bring happiness to children. The transport collection raised £110 which is able to be gift-aided.*
- Advent pots and manger scene outside the church
- Christmas Angels (see page 14)

- Decorating the church with beautiful floral displays (see page 16), the Christmas tree, candles and the collage provided by Trinity Toddlers
- Amnesty Cards  
*Thanks to everyone who contributed by signing the cards and making donations, 25 cards were sent from Trinity and after expenses we were able to make a donation of £20.00 to Amnesty International.*
- Nativity service
- Carol service
- Christingle service

A big 'thank you' is due to everyone who was involved with organising, leading or presenting any of these.

We greeted the birth of Jesus at midnight on Christmas Eve in the Communion service led by Rev Dr Claire Potter and completed our celebrations with a joyous service led by Paul on Christmas morning. This was a true family occasion shared by a large congregation. No-one will have been more surprised than Paul when, having invited the children to show us any Christmas presents they had brought to church, a tiny Chihuahua – just a few weeks old – was shyly revealed from under its owner's coat!

### **Early Morning Communion**



The dates for our 8.45am services in the coming months are:  
 25<sup>th</sup> February  
 25<sup>th</sup> March  
 22<sup>nd</sup> April

## News from Beyond Trinity

Our selected charities in coming months are:



**February:** A housing charity that works to prevent homelessness and support people as they recover from the issues that have caused it. Each night their 17 outreach teams offer a bed and support to more than 2,700 people across the south of England.



**March:** In developing countries millions of children live in isolation because of cleft lips and palates. They have difficulty eating, breathing, hearing and speaking. Surgery is simple, the transformation immediate. The charity's work is 'sustainable' – also training local doctors to perform the surgery.

In **April** we will be supporting the Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance Trust. Details in due course.

Some forthcoming events to make a note of are:

**Lent lunches** starting on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February (St. Dunstons) for 6 weeks. Details from Gareth & Sheila Davies

**Fairtrade Fortnight** – 26<sup>th</sup> February to 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Women's World Day of Prayer** on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – services to be held at St Mary of Bethany (10am) and St Mary's Horsell (7.30pm). Written by the women of Suriname the theme is "All God's Creation is Very Good ". People of all ages and both sexes are welcome!

## Christmas Angels



A very big thank you to all those who knitted Christmas angels.

I don't know how many people took part but well over a 100 angels were made and were distributed. Each had a label attached offering Christmas wishes as a present from Trinity.

Some were given to housebound people, every child at the Nativity service was handed one,

and the children at the Bible study group were thrilled to receive one each.

It was very interesting to see the various colour ranges and wools that different people used, including one very sparkly one. So thank you for spreading some Christmas cheer and I hope you enjoyed making them as well!

Jill Willis has told me that she has seen a pattern for a whole knitted nativity scene – are we up for that for Christmas 2018??

**Daphne Lander**



*Every person is a beloved of  
God's own.*

**LOVE WELCOMES ALL**

## **YOU ARE WELCOME HERE**

'This is the Lord's church.  
It is here for those who love him  
and for those who want to love him more.

So come,  
you who have much faith  
and you who have little,  
you who have been here often  
and you who have never been here before,  
you who have tried to follow  
and you who have failed.

Come,  
not because we invite you,  
but because it is the Lord who invites you.  
It is his will that those who want him  
should meet him here.'

Notice pinned to the door of Middleham Parish Church near  
Leyburn in Wensleydale

## Church Flowers

There are many tasks at Trinity that are undertaken quietly for the benefit of the whole church community. One of these is the arranging and presenting of flowers in the sanctuary, and whilst the weekly displays plainly don't go un-noticed, it would not go amiss to express our collective appreciation from time to time.



After the wonderful floral displays we enjoyed over Christmas this would seem to be a good time to do so. Sam Cudby tells us more:

*"The Christmas flowers, as always, were a team effort. The design came from Valerie Slyfield who is our eminent and very talented leader and comes up with the wonderful themes. She plans well in advance and collects items throughout the year. Ruth Taylor, Helen Cave and I*

*followed her plan. The beautiful arrangement displayed in the East Entrance was from Trish Dennis."*

So thank you to our dedicated and talented team for your artistry both week by week and as we celebrate seasonal and other special occasions.

## Chinese New Year



### **Greetings from the Chinese Congregation !**

**May the peace and love of our Lord be with us all in the New Year season.**



Chinese New Year falls on Friday 16 February 2018, Year of the Dog, the eleventh animal, after Rooster. The years 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030 are all Year of Dog, according to the 12-year-cycle of Chinese zodiac.

Chinese New Year as a festival is now universally celebrated, not only in China, but also among overseas Chinese communities, as a means to preserve the bondage of cultural heritage. It is a time to celebrate, reflect, cleanse, as well as for family reunion, thanksgiving and reconciliation. In fact, most of the traditional flavours and practices have gradually faded away in the cause of time and changing values.

London in 2018 is to continue with the celebration on 18 February, the first Sunday of the Year of Dog. Chinatown and Trafalgar Square will be adorned with lanterns, banners, posters and decorations, usually bright red and yellow, the colour of festivity.

Parade with dragon and lion dance through Chinatown would be the highlight of the day and cultural activities such as calligraphy, Chinese music, martial art performances, craft stalls, dressing up in traditional outfits would be appealing to many. Restaurants serve traditional Chinese New Year menu and special festive treats. All in all, the

festival has now become an annual event of entertainment and tourist attraction.



Dogs are regarded as the best friend of human beings. They offer valuable assistance to our daily life in many areas. As companion to the lonely, guide to the visually impaired, assistant to law enforcement and security, their role is never underestimated. Dogs are considered honest and loyal, the most reliable partner. They love outdoor activities and being in nature. They tend to obey all orders, putting in their biggest efforts to accomplish any given task, even just to pick up something we consider trivial. Some dogs could be very stubborn, sticking to old tricks or habits, objects, or even staying at the airport or train station, waiting for the return of their master. There are so many fine qualities we can learn from our best friend.

Year of the Dog might remind the church of the role of watchdog in a world of changing core values. Traditional values based on Biblical principles are unfortunately losing influence in a society pursuing worldly gains.



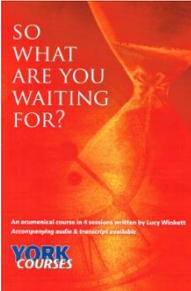
The lack of guidance and directives to stand up against the lure of the evil ones leaves our generation and the next so vulnerable and fragile. Those were the days with saints and sages bringing wakeup calls of their time. We do need outspoken watchdog and guide dog as we move forward in our spiritual journey. New Year is a time for reflection.



*'It is a land the Lord your God cares for; the eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.'*  
**[Deuteronomy 11:12]**

**Chinese Congregation**

## Praying together



Our Advent Course entitled "So what are you waiting for" invited us to think about time in various ways. There were questions about the use of time. Others like 'are you a patient person' led to a lot of thinking on my part about: am I a patient person and if not why not, when am I patient, how am I patient.

Are you a patient person? How could we pray to God about this?

*Creator God,*

*In a world of ever quickening pace, a world of internet, drones and planes, a world of Facebook and Google,*

*It is easy to be impatient.*

*It is easy to think and act in ways that overlook, that diminish ideas and that neglect thoughts from others.*

*It is easy to want instant results.*

*Give us patience Lord,*

*Help me to grow more patient Lord,*

*Give me patience Lord.*

*Empower us all Lord to think carefully, act wisely, love tenderly and reflect prayerfully;*

*Embolden us all to live in a way that values consideration, collaboration and connection.*

*So empowered, emboldened and enabled to walk humbly with God, give us rest and peace Lord at the end of each day.*

*Amen.*

(Adapted from a prayer found on page 36 Day 14 in the Methodist Prayer Handbook for 2011/2012)

Another part of each course session was looking at a Bible passage. One that stood out for me was the story of Blind Bartimaeus. *Mark 10:46-52 (Good News Translation):*

*46 They came to Jericho, and as Jesus was leaving with his disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus son of Timaeus was sitting by the road. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy on me!" 48 Many of the people scolded him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

*49 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So, they called the blind man. "Cheer up!" they said. "Get up, he is calling you." 50 So he threw off his cloak, jumped up, and came to Jesus. 51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. "Teacher," the blind man answered, "I want to see again." 52 "Go," Jesus told him, "your faith has made you well." At once he was able to see and followed Jesus on the road.*

When Jesus asked Bartimaeus "What do you want me to do for you?", Bartimaeus was able to say what he really wanted - he wanted to see again. He was able to express his deepest yearnings because Jesus gave him space to do so and did not assume he knew what Bartimaeus wanted. So Bartimaeus was also able to express what he wanted. Sometimes it can be hard to discern and difficult to know what we really want as opposed to what we think we may want or what others may want. It can take time and energy to discern.

St Ignatius of Loyola was written about in the course booklet as someone who explored how to discern our deepest yearnings and longings. Maybe how to spend time on how to be patient.

St. Ignatius devised a prayer guide called the **Daily Examen**. Here is a version of this prayer that uses Bible readings to lead you to prayer [based on material from [Ignatianspirituality.com](http://Ignatianspirituality.com).].

There are 5 sections to the prayer and you can follow the prayer at the end of the day, exploring the day just finished and beginning to think about the next day.

## **1. Become aware of God's presence**

*Psalm 46:10 Living Bible (TLB): "Stand silent! Know that I am God! I will be honoured by every nation in the world!"*

Be still before God and start thinking about the day. Think about it from getting up to now. Think about who you met, what was said, how it was said and your emotions. Think about how you felt during the day. Did meeting a friend bring pleasure or sadness? Ask God to remind you about your day and shed light on it. You may feel not much has happened but explore what did go on anyway.

## **2. Review the day with gratitude**

*2 Corinthians 1:2-7 J.B. Phillips New Testament: "Thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he is our Father and the source of all mercy and comfort. Being thankful enables us to focus in on the many things we do have to be grateful for each day. Focus in one what you ate or drank, who you met or emailed or phoned. Give thanks for the things you saw such as a bird in the garden or a raindrop going down a window pane. God can be found in these details."*

*Psalm 136:1 NIV: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures for ever."*

## **3. Pay attention to your emotions**

One of St. Ignatius's great insights was that we detect the presence of the Spirit of God in the movements of our emotions. Reflect on the feelings you experienced during the day. Boredom? Joy and happiness? Resentment? Compassion? Anger? Confidence? What is God saying through these feelings? God may show where you had difficulty or felt concern for someone. What may you need from God, or to ask for from others? Are you concerned about a friend? Perhaps you should reach out to them in prayer or in action or asking them what may help at this time.

## **4. Choose one feature of the day and pray about it with God.**

*Psalm 139: 1,13,14: " <sup>1</sup>You have searched me, Lord and you know me. <sup>13</sup>For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."*

Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to something during the day that God thinks is particularly important. It may involve a feeling which could be positive or negative. It may be a significant encounter with another person or a vivid moment of pleasure or peace. Or it may be something that seems rather insignificant at first but you feel drawn to. Look at it. Pray about it. Allow the prayer to arise spontaneously from your heart.

The prayer could be requests for yourself, asking intercession for others, praise, repentance, a desire to be forgiven or an expression of sorrow, saying sorry or overflowing in gratitude. It could be a chance to think about what you want Jesus to do for you. And answer the question for yourself from the Blind Bartimaeus story.

What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked.

### **5. Look toward tomorrow.**

Think about the next day. You may already know of meetings planned, or an outing which you are looking forward to, or an appointment to keep? There may be feelings of anticipation or a bit of concern. Pay attention to these feelings that surface as you survey what's coming up. Are you doubtful? Cheerful? Apprehensive? Full of delighted anticipation? Allow these feelings to turn into prayer. Seek God's guidance. Ask God for help and understanding. Pray for hope. Again, this could be an opportunity to think about what you really desire here.

End the Examen with The Lord's Prayer.

The last session of the Advent Course was on Kairos and

Chronos time. Chronos is time that is measured by the clock and Kairos is time which is the right time for something to occur. Often God's timing can be seen as Kairos time.

Mother Julian of Norwich was written about in the course booklet as someone who felt that we live in a world full of injustice and difficulty but there was hope that things would be better and there are hints of resolution. There would come a time when all would be resolved by and in God.

In her thirteenth showing from the Revelations of Divine Love, Julian receives a comforting answer to a question that has long troubled her:

*"In my folly, before this time I often wondered why, by the great foreseeing wisdom of God, the onset of sin was not prevented: for then, I thought, all should have been well. This impulse [of thought] was much to be avoided, but nevertheless I mourned and sorrowed because of it, without reason and discretion. But Jesus, who in this vision informed me of all that is needed by me, answered with these words and said: 'It was necessary that there should be sin; but all shall be well, and **all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.**'"*

**Ann Dawson**



The Christ the King statue in Swiebodzin in western Poland is the tallest statue of Jesus in the world, standing at 33 metres above its mound, plus a 3m crown. It was completed in 2010. The more famous Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro is just under 30m tall.

## Epworth Choir 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year

Epworth Choir invites singers of all abilities to join them at Trinity for a day's workshop on Mozart's Requiem. In



addition to singing, there will also be sessions working on good singing and vocal technique. The day will culminate with an informal performance of the work.

The workshop will run from 11am-5pm including lunch and refreshment breaks and the end-of-day performance.

An application form and further information can be

found on the choir's website [www.epworthchoir.org](http://www.epworthchoir.org).

To mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the choir was founded by Walter Deakin they will be performing an Anniversary Concert at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Celebrating English music, the concert will include Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, Chilcott's *Gloria*, Parry's *I Was Glad* and a new commission for the choir.

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June the choir invites all friends to join them for an informal 'Music for a Summer's Evening' at Trinity. This will be followed by a concert in Guildford Cathedral in the Autumn and the traditional Christmas concert in December.



WOKING  
CHORAL  
SOCIETY

# FAURÉ

## Requiem

Cantique de Jean Racine

J.S. BACH

Brandenburg Concerto No 6



COVENT GARDEN  
SINFONIA

Ben Palmer *conductor*  
Felicity Hayward *soprano*  
Nicholas Mogg *baritone*

**SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2018 • 7.30 pm**  
**ST JOHN'S CHURCH • WEST BYFLEET • KT14 6EH**

Tickets: £18 full • £5 students • sales of 10 or more £17 each

Book online: [www.wokingchoral.org.uk](http://www.wokingchoral.org.uk)

Enquiries: 01483 767852

Tickets also available from:

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Charitable Trust

## A reflection on the Reformation

At school in the early 1960s we had a wonderful series of History Books. They fired my interest in History. I don't remember who published them, but they had a page of informative text on the left-hand page and an illustrated map or illustrations on the right-hand page. At 13 years old I first came upon the Reformation. The first page to inspire me was about the pre-Reformation with the 'Bible Translator' John Wycliffe (1330-1384) in Britain and 'The Father of Reform' Jan Hus (1372-1415) in Bohemia; he was burned at the stake, for heresy, at Constance. Those stories had a profound effect upon me, so much so that when the family were planning my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations I asked to go to Prague to pay my respects to his sacrifice for his faith in God, that the then church needed to reform.

On the next page was the story of Martin Luther (1483-1546). We have heard much of him in the last twelve months as the 'The Battle-Axe of Reform' and the 'founder' of the Reformation and the beginnings of the Protestant church. This link to the Reformation became even more relevant to me when I married Christine, in the Lutheran Church in the tiny Swiss village of Landiswil.

In his book 'God's Generals – The Roaring Reformers' (*Whitaker House 2003 p118*), Roberts Liardon records this quote of Luther's,

*'I was born to war with fanatics and devils. Thus my books are very stormy, war-like and belligerent. I must root out the stumps and trunks, hew away the thorns and briar, fill in the puddles. I am the rough woodsman, who must pioneer and hew a path.'*

Liardon goes on to define this as Luther being a man on a mission. His mission was not to expose the errors of religion but simply to make peace with God, through being justified by faith in Jesus. His work on the cross is enough! God is a friend and saviour to all humankind.

I had largely believed that like Zwingli, Martin Luther was a Puritan and wanted to do away with not just the Mass but statues, stained-glass windows and music. But he challenged those who tore down statues and pictures or smashed the windows, because they might have meant something to another's devotion to the Lord. He encouraged them to consider the weaker ones who needed their pictures and statues, not as idols, but aids to their worship of God.

*'He wanted the people to experience the power of music in their own language (German) so they could be edified by the Word of God as they sang.'* (Ibid p172)

He wrote many hymns in German, probably the most famous being 'A Mighty Fortress is our God'. This element of the Reformation was continued by Isaac Watts, Charles and John Wesley.

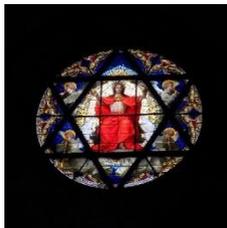
As part of the development of the Reformation and the move to Justification by Faith alone there were some violent conflicts.

It is slightly amusing that the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church of the time destroyed the writings of those early reformers. Yet in the library of the abbey at Einsiedeln these books by Luther and Zwingli were kept for study purposes.



On our Swiss Holiday last year, I continued my train journeys to some Swiss cathedrals, both Protestant and Roman Catholic. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate and praise my God in both. I was glad that Luther insisted on retaining the statues, paintings and windows as they still are aids to worship.

My first was a visit to Basel on a very dark, wet day.



We stayed in the small village of Lungern by Lungernsee, in the heart of Roman Catholic Switzerland and a large Parish church above the village. However, there was a small old chapel tucked away in the middle of the village. A beautiful quiet place in which to sit and wonder at the art work in God's name and worship and pray.



On our last day I visited the main Roman Catholic Cathedral in the Canton of Nidwalden – Sarnen. It was stunning, large and spacious, flooded with light. You could feel the presence of God and as it was relatively early on the cleaner and I were there.



Today of course, the Reformation is long in the past and both Protestant and Roman Catholic churches have evolved but I have never been unable to pray in any of them and the more I travel and visit churches and cathedrals I find not just the buildings but the people I meet, part of the worshipping community, prepared to spend time to talk and share their love of God.

Before I left Sarnen I lit a candle as a memorial to all those who have given their lives in the service of our Lord, over the centuries both spiritually and physically.



I found John Wesley's words in my mind '*I see the whole world as my Parish*', and as I sat, the language around me was in Swiss German and some written Latin, but I understood the sentiment if not the whole meaning.

As I stepped out into the Summer sunshine and looked up at the mountains I could not help but sing:

*'When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee, how great Thou art! How great Thou art!'*

**Graham Warr**



## Miscellany

From the song 'Anthem' by Leonard Cohen:

*"Ring the bells that still can ring,  
Forget the perfect offering.  
There is a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in."*



\*\*\*\*\*

A letter to The Times on 10 February 1970 from Valerie Eliot:

*Sir, my husband, T.S.Eliot, loved to recount how late one evening he stopped a taxi. As he got in, the driver said: "You're T.S.Eliot."*

*When asked how he knew, he replied:*

*"Ah, I've got an eye for a celebrity. Only the other evening I picked up Bertrand Russell, and I said to him: 'Well, Lord Russell, what's it all about?' and, do you know, he couldn't tell me."*

\*\*\*\*\*

A saying attributed (possibly wrongly) to Winston Churchill:

*"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."*

\*\*\*\*\*

From George Bernard Shaw:

*"People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it."*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Ten Commandments for the Choir**

*(Corby Methodist Church c. 1950s)*

REMEMBER Thursday evenings to keep them wholly for the practice.

THOU SHALT not tarry without the gates.

THOU SHALT give ear to the voice of the conductor and hearken not to the babble of thy neighbour.

THOU SHALT not raise thy voice above thy neighbour's for this is the choral law.

THOU SHALT not worship the score unduly, for the eyes are the windows of the soul and if they be glued to the paper how shall the soul be lighted?

THOU SHALT not lean upon thy neighbour but cultivate thine own understanding; for he that followeth his neighbour from bar to bar\* shall stumble and perish; but he that counteth his own time can in no wise enter in the wrong place.

THOU SHALT not grouse.

THOU SHALT not contemplate thy neighbour's hat, nor her coat, nor her furs, nor her ring, nor any new thing that is thy neighbour's, lest when thy turn cometh thou be taken unawares and utterly confounded.

THOU SHALT not break any covenant with the choir to follow after thy wife, nor thy best girl, nor thy second best girl, nor thy friend, nor thy enemy, for the choir will not hold him worthy that turneth his 'yea' to 'nay'.

HONOUR thy choir and thy conductor and forget not regular attendance is also expected of thee on Sundays.

*(\*I think we can safely assume that the 'bar' in question is a reference to musical notation, notwithstanding the suggestion of stumbling between bars! [Ed.]*

## What's on at Trinity

Prayer Group	Sunday (weekly) 9.45am Friday (weekly) 9.45am	Ann, W 770400
Y-Group	Monday (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) 8pm	Helen, W 725098
Coffee & Chat	Weds (weekly) 10.30am	Margot, W 762059
Bible Study Fellowship	Weds (weekly) 10.30am	Sarah Jo, W 892067
Bible Study	Friday (monthly) 10.30am	Peggy, W 763605
Phoenix	Friday (fortnightly) 8pm	Joyce, W 722457
Prayer Group	Friday (weekly) 9.45am	Ann, W 770400
Quest Group	Sat (monthly) 9.30 am	John, W 762059
Family Club	Friday 5.00pm	Sue Waddington, 01932 859636
Junior Church	Sunday 10.30am	Sue Waddington, 01932 859636
Messy Church	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10am	Sue Waddington, 01932 859636
Trinity Toddlers	Friday 9.30am	Kim Wilson, 07791763241



### **A note to contributors**

It is our practice to publish each edition of TNV on the Trinity website. It is an important source of information about church life at Trinity and something we want to share with others. At the same time we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable for their personal details to appear on the internet in this way. We will be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so.

### **From the Editor**

Thanks to all who have helped with the preparation and distribution of this issue of TNV. The next issue will be edited by Jean Normington.

**David Lander**

**Articles for the April/May issue should be submitted by**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

**TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS is the magazine of  
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**“Trinity is a welcoming Church seeking to live  
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