

TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS



"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being"

August/September 2018 Issue 42

Message from our Minister

Dear Friends

As this is my final TNV article I want to use it to say thank you for the past two years at Trinity. It has been a shorter time with you than hoped for or anticipated, but I believe it has been significant, both for you and for us. Liz and I have been very happy amongst you. Your support of my own ministry and latterly your support during health struggles has been amazing and so much appreciated by us both. We could not have asked or wished for more. Thank you.

Through numerous conversations with people at different levels and stages of discipleship, my interpretation is that we have made good progress together over the past two years. Trinity *feels* as though it has moved on in a number of areas, not simply due to my own input but due to a team effort involving many.

Firstly, we have seen a growth in confidence in many individuals. One of my key principles for spiritual and numerical growth is 'Train Equip Release', and this has been readily understood and embraced by the Leadership Team. Please continue to build on this – when you get really good at something, make sure you teach it to someone else and then release them to get good at it. You can then develop your own next stage of development. That way none of us gets stuck! We might call it 'mentoring'.

Secondly, most have recognised the necessity to live in the present. We must not only be spiritually and financially viable as a local church in the modern world, but approachable and relevant. Society is changing fast, and we must find a way to proclaim the gospel within that society.

The world of forty years ago no longer exists and we deceive ourselves if we think we can return to those days. This is a task still to be largely achieved, but recognition of the need to move on and the willingness to adapt and change is becoming ever more evident at Trinity. This is hugely encouraging.

All I would say to sum it up, is keep Jesus central. He is *everything* to us, and it is because of him, the Alpha & Omega, and because of what he won for us on the cross, that we have a Church at all.

As Liz and I move on to live in Monmouthshire, we go knowing we have made many friendships which we hope will last. We will see you from time to time I am quite sure! But in the meantime we go with a fondness that will remain with us, and with much gratitude for all we have shared together in this short season of ministry.

'And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.' (Romans 8:28)

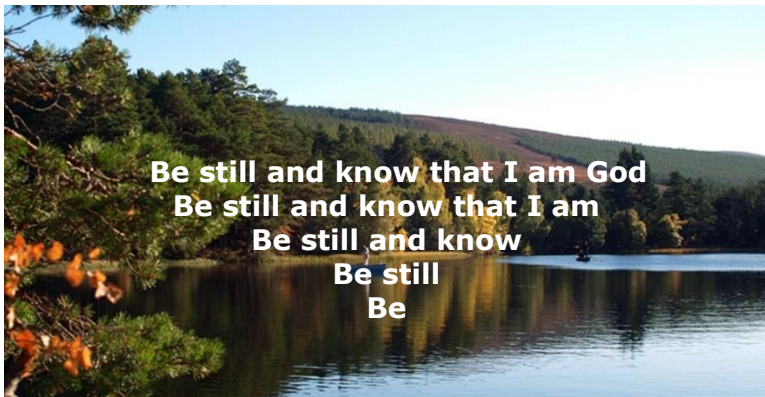
Paul Chesworth

*The photograph on the front cover shows a **Cornus Cousa Venus**. This has been kindly supplied by Trish Dennis and was photographed in her garden earlier this Summer. She points out that what you see are not flowers but bracts, and they are the size of the palm of her hand.*

Dates for your diary

(See page 33 for regular weekly and monthly activities)

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| September 2 nd | Welcome Service at Walton-on-Thames for Rev Keith Beckingham and Rev Sydney Samuel Lake, 6.30pm preceded by tea at 5.00pm |
| September 20 th | Circuit Meeting at Trinity (7.45pm) |
| October 6 th | Circuit Mission Day at Byfleet led by Rev. Adrian Roux, South East District Resourcing Mission Officer – <i>more details to follow</i> |
| October 6 th | Trinity Harvest Supper |
| October 7 th | Harvest Festival service at 10.30am led by Rev Allan Taylor |
| October 21 st | Neighbourhood Party at 4pm |



**Save the
date....**



26th August 2018

**Leaving Party for
Paul & Liz**

Early Morning Communion



The dates for our 8.45am
services in the coming months
are:

- 26th August
- 23rd September
- 28th October
- 25th November

Pastoral work at Trinity

A very important part of our ministry at Trinity is Pastoral Care and our thanks go to our dedicated team of Pastoral Workers and Pastoral Visitors, who continue to support and care for our Trinity community, many of whom are now elderly.

Pastoral visiting is the basis of mutual Christian love and often leads to lasting friendships. A Pastoral Visitor maintains regular contact with those in their group and Pastoral Care can take many forms, such as visiting at home, contact by telephone or email, or meeting somewhere for lunch or coffee. Pastoral Visitors pray for and with group members, as appropriate, and support all aspects of their life and faith, especially at difficult times of illness and bereavement. They also celebrate special occasions, by sending cards or flowers. Visiting offers friendship, prayer, encouragement in faith and support.

Training is given to Pastoral Visitors and we occasionally meet socially, when we can discuss any concerns we may have. If you feel that God is calling you to be a Pastoral Visitor, please speak to Allison, Shirley or Joyce, who will be happy to talk to you and give you more information.

Pastoral visiting can be demanding, but very rewarding and we ask for your prayers that we may build good relationships with those in our care.

As we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, we remember His command:

"Love one another, as I have loved you" [John 13v 34]

Joyce Nelson

Circuit staffing

At its meeting on 12th July the Circuit Meeting made presentations and said farewell to Rev Claire Potter and Rev Claire Hargreaves. Claire Potter moves to take up a connexional appointment in London whilst Claire Hargreaves is retiring from the ministry but staying in the Circuit. Here is the text of a letter she has sent to everyone:

Dear friends, churches and members of Wey Valley Circuit

Thank you so much for the Book of Messages and Cards and the hugely generous cheque you have given me on leaving Circuit ministry. I am touched by your kind and supportive words and overwhelmed by your gift.

I would like you to know that I have passed on your gift to All We Can for its Syria Refugee Appeal. This donation will make a real difference to the lives of those in such need, so once again, a heartfelt thank you. I will be continuing my interest in refugee and inter faith work in my new role as District Refugee and Inter faith adviser. I will continue to be stationed in the Wey Valley Circuit and will be updating you regularly on the refugee situation in Jordan and globally.

God bless you.

Claire Hargreaves

At the same meeting it was resolved to enter the 2019/20 stationing process for a Presbyterian to take pastoral charge of Trinity and Sheerwater section of the Circuit.

Beyond Trinity – Charity of the month

During August we are continuing to support Age Concern Woking – see previous issue of TNV. For September the charity will be Citizens Advice Woking and for October it will be the York Road Project (YRP) and there will be a collection for Woking Foodbank on 7th October.



Citizens Advice Woking is an independent charity which has been providing help and advice to those who live or work in Woking for over 75 years. On average they see over 11,000 people each year on issues such as debt, benefits, housing, employment, relationships, education, consumer issues and much more. Advice can be provided in person, by email or on the telephone. Vulnerable or disabled people can be visited in their home if needed. As well as the offices in central Woking the charity has an outreach in Knaphill and an appointment-only form filling service here at Trinity. Their advisers are trained volunteers and they have specialists in particular advice areas.

A common perception is that the Citizens Advice Woking is government funded. The reality is that they are a local registered charity and although they receive a grant from Woking Borough Council, it does not cover all the costs of providing their services and they therefore have to fund a proportion of it by Fundraising.



York Road's aim is to defeat homelessness in Woking. You can read of the experiences of some of their clients on the website www.yorkroadproject.org.uk. Their mission statement is: *'York Road Project shares the Christian gospel of God's love and compassion to those in need in the Borough of Woking and surrounding*

areas regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion, belief and sexual orientation. We believe that everyone has a right to a home, regardless of the difficulties and issues they may face in their lives. We also believe in showing those who need support that the wider community is there to help and to offer hope for a better future.'

The ultimate goal at York Road project is to assist individuals to secure permanent, independent accommodation. However for some people that is not possible. For those people, York Road tries to support them to maintain supported accommodation or refers them to other hostels and relevant specialist agencies.

Their aim is to provide an integrated approach from point of entry into the service through to the point where the client feels able to move away from support. However, if in the future, the client faces a problem and requires support, they are happy to work with them. Accommodation alone often does not solve the problem of homelessness, and at YRP, they endeavour to provide a holistic approach to assist clients with more than just a roof. The Prop - day time provision meets this need.

In October we hope Fay Kearley from the York Road Project will come and talk to us at the harvest supper about York Road and the work they are doing.

We are grateful to Sheila Card and Eileen McIntyre who have adopted responsibility for keeping our kitchen in good order and well stocked with essential supplies.



News from Rabson

What follows is the text of an email which Jean Normington received from Rabson a little while ago. We look forward to receiving an article from Rabson in due course.

Dear Jean, greetings from Vongai and myself. It is 20:25 in Zimbabwe and I have just been reading the TNV you have sent me. I do appreciate the magazine and have been working on an article soon to be sent to you for publication in the next magazine. I still have those memories lingering in my head. Each time I get up I am reminded of how blessed I was to share fellowship at Trinity and to preach at different church organisations. What always comes into my mind is The End. You will be surprised to read about this in my article.



Vongai and myself are fine apart from being on our own at times and in a very big bungalow. We go to Mucheke Methodist Church. This is the church where we worshipped before coming to UK.

We are enjoying every bit of the life we have in Zimbabwe. We keep ourselves occupied by working on our allotment and growing vegetables for sale. We meet with other Christians every Wednesday evening to study the bible and discuss topical issues that may include destitution and how we can help those people that are in dire need of church assistance. The discussions and meetings have so far yielded some results. I am happy that I have managed to change other people's perceptions about giving to God by making us identify the needy and doing something about it.

Last month we collected food, toiletries and clothes to help one old woman 'Florence'. Florence has been retired but has not had her pension since her retirement in 2015. She cannot pay for electricity and only depends on well-wishers. She used to work for the town council and like other employees who do not get the monthly pay she is in a sorry situation. Her husband died years back and two of her sons and their wives died of Aids and left two grand children who are under her care.

I could go on for ever. May God bless you and all the Church at Trinity.

Rabson Ziso

The Happiness Machine

[by Grace Brieley, reproduced as school pupils' prayers in Pырford Church magazine. Submitted by Peggy Windsor]

*Sometimes you may wonder where happiness might start,
Well it starts at an engine called the almighty heart.
It travels through the love tube and up into the head,
It stays up late on Friday then has a lie-in in bed.
It wiggles through a smile and turns a frown upside down,
all over again.*

*Sometimes you may wonder where happiness might start,
Then races through the sunshine and makes a singing bird sound.
It travels on the train with your Nan going to your house,
Then scampers in a cage like your pet hamster or your mouse.
Then finally it travels into someone else's brain,
It then gets into their head and starts all over again.*

Premises work at Trinity this Summer

It is exciting that we are now becoming clearer about our Mission at Trinity and you will have heard or read elsewhere about the proposed conversion of Trinity into a HUB for a wide range of Christian based groups that will worship at Trinity or serve some section of the community through our buildings and people.

This means that we will not embark upon any major building work until we are clearer about what we need to do to the building to make it fit for a new purpose. The funds already collected for the Building Development will be invested for the time being.

However, there are some things that we need to do now as parts of the premises are simply worn out or beyond our control, and so we will be doing some work over the coming months.

Internally we will:

- Decorate the main corridors
- Renew the carpet tiles in the corridors and courtyard etc
- Replace the broken blinds in the large hall
- Renew the flooring and replace existing toilets with new,
in the rear toilet block
- Refurbish elderly emergency lighting

This work will be funded within our normal budget as we have spent very little on the building for some time.

Externally, we are having the wildly overgrown East Garden removed and the driveway extended to our boundary. We will also renew the fence along that boundary. As well as

saving some of us a great deal of time trying to cut the brambles down, this area will look much better and we will gain 2 or 3 additional parking spaces. This work will be funded by the Property Reserve that we have been able to accumulate over a few years.

**John Nelson
Chair, Property Committee**



What is 'church'? An historical perspective.....

This piece is submitted as a contribution to our on-going discussions about the future of Trinity.

The book of Acts tells us that thousands were added to the followers of Jesus after the first Pentecost. From then on it naturally became more pressing to find places to gather and worship.

In the early days it was sometimes possible to worship in synagogues since there were many things in common between the followers of Jesus and fellow Jews. But increasingly those who responded to the gospel came from other backgrounds, exacerbating the tension within the *church*.

To start with therefore the word *church* referred to the people. In fact it took a few centuries for *church* to become more associated with buildings as the *people* constructed an expanding institutional framework to practise their Christian faith.

The buildings erected by faithful Christians over the centuries have stood as a witness to the faith and commitment of the people, seeking to honour God in their beauty, scale and artefacts – often achieved only by sacrificial giving. To the world at large the more obvious legacy is the building, rather than the work of the people who caused it.

Churches are natural centres for the arts and community activity. Here is a potential for Christian witness generated by the building itself. But sometimes it appears that the 'tail wags the dog' with the community activities being the only means of sustaining the church's presence.

Whether large or small, wherever they are located and whoever uses them, the purpose of the church is surely still best expressed in the life and ministry of God's *people*. Our buildings are at best tools or resources to further our work.

We have a natural attachment to our church through familiarity, heritage, sentiment, and sometimes a reluctance to face change. But, as we continue our discussions over the coming months about the future direction of Trinity, we must ensure that our relationship with our premises is truly reflective of the *church's* calling in the 21st century.

David Lander

Methodist Conference appointments

The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Michaela Youngson to serve as President, and Bala Gnanapragasam to serve as Vice-President for 2018 – 2019.



Michaela has been Chair of the London District since 2012. With a passion for social justice and for developing strong ecumenical relationships, Michaela is committed to working within the diverse and rich context of the Connexion. She is a regular contributor to the BBC Radio 2 Early Breakfast Show's 'Pause for Thought'.

Bala Gnanapragasam believes strongly in mission and social justice. He serves on the board of Christian Aid and MHA (formerly known as Methodist Homes for the Aged). He is also a trustee of the London HIV/Aids Chaplaincy. He was the first Synod Secretary for the London District.

Born in Sri Lanka, Bala came to the UK in the 1960s and has previously served as an elected councillor for the London Borough of Lewisham. He has also served as the Chair of University Hospital Lewisham.

For 2019/20 Conference appointed Rev Dr Barbara C Glasson and Professor Clive Marsh to be President and Vice-President respectively.

Memories of Rev William Hewison

Bill (as everyone called him) was Trinity's minister from 1984 to 1990. He died recently aged 85. TNV's editor invited me to submit this memoir of his time at Trinity. I did not just air my personal prejudices, I consulted a number of others. There was general agreement that Bill's most impressive characteristic was his love of people especially the less fortunate. If anyone was in trouble he rushed to their side with practical help and seemingly endless time to talk things over. This priority was also evident in the aim of the several projects he actively supported and encouraged. Not that he ran them, but without his input none would have come about. Woking's first One World Week was held at Trinity before being adopted by WBC. A telephone help line staffed by some 30 trained volunteers lasted for several years. A six monthly Housebound tea party (now the Neighbourhood party) was begun. A group for single people, No One Ever Left Alone, was established.

Bill's church Services were well prepared and most found them challenging and exciting, opening up new ideas and insights. However they could be controversial as he did not hide where his political sympathies lay, given his concern for the less fortunate. This was not helped by initiatives like staging Dennis Potter's play 'The Son of Man'. It shocked some that it was performed in the church especially as Potter depicted Jesus as a very non-traditional character. At the personal level Bill was a warm, sincere and genuine person with lots of interests – gardener, camellia grower, proud Geordie and Newcastle United supporter, amateur artist, and ice-cream addict. His ministry was greatly helped by Marion his charming, and much loved wife.

John Craig

John has also provided this photograph taken at a farewell party in 1990 for those who had served as stewards and their spouses during that time. Some familiar faces are looking very youthful! [Ed.]



Did you know...?

The child mortality rate in 18th century England was unbelievably high. Statistics suggest that 70% of all deaths were children under 10, so it is not surprising that many families had an abundance of children.

John Wesley's mother, Susanna Wesley, was the 25th of twenty five children and went on to bear a number of children herself. John was the 15th of nineteen. Susanna lost nine of her children in infancy. When Susanna died in 1742 she was survived by only eight of her children.



Barbara Phillips

The Lord's Prayer (Part Two)

I have been thinking about the words of The Lord's Prayer and how to help the difficulty of being over-familiar with the words of the prayer Jesus taught us. We say the words quickly thinking about being nearly at the end of the service without thinking of the meaning. To help with this, I suggest reading it slowly and for this TNV series I shall take a few lines at a time to think about them.

*Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from
evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.*

The words from the Lord's Prayer we will concentrate on here are: ***Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name.***

Our Father – God is *our* Father and so we always pray this prayer with others. God is not just my God. We pray this prayer with fellow believers in our own Church and beyond; in fact with the whole community of God's people on earth and in heaven.

Who are you praying the Lord's Prayer with and who are you praying the Lord's Prayer for today? Say the Lord's Prayer and think about who you are praying it with – the congregation at Trinity Methodist Church, congregations in

other churches in United Kingdom and world-wide, and who you may be praying it for.

Maybe you pray the Lord's Prayer for someone who is ill who cannot say the prayer for themselves, or for someone who is too young to fully begin to grasp the meaning of the prayer.

The next word of the prayer after our is *Father*. We pray the Lord's Prayer to our Father so we pray as part of the family of God under God's fatherhood.

The term Abba, Father or Daddy, is used in the Bible – Romans 8: 14- 17:

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba Father.' ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

How does it feel to address God the Father as Daddy? There could be other words you feel happier with using to address God. So you could say – 'Our Father and Mother', or 'God Almighty father and mother of us all'. Find words you feel happy with to say the Lord's Prayer again.

Now we will think about and ponder the words **hallowed be your name**.

So we hold God's name as holy and important. Another word for hallowed could be glorify. You could use the words of the hymn 'Christ is the world's Light' written by Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) to glorify God.

*Christ is the world's Light, he and no other;
Born in our darkness, he became our brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high.*

- Jesus is the son of God and also our brother.
- Praise God that Jesus gives light to the world so we can see God at work.
- We can say 'Glory to God on high'.

*Christ is the world's Peace, he and no other;
No man can serve him and despise his brother
Who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high.*

- Jesus is the son of God and also brings peace to the world.
- Praise God that Jesus brings peace to the world and to each of us.
- We can say 'Glory to God on high'.

*Christ is the world's Life, he and no other;
Sold once for silver, murdered here, our Brother -
He who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:
Glory to God on high.*

- Jesus is the Son of God and also brings life.
- Praise God that Jesus died and was resurrected and now reigns with God.
- We can say 'Glory to God on high'.

*Give God the glory, God and no other;
Give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;
Give God the glory, God in man my brother:
Glory to God on high.*

- Jesus is the Son of God, part of the Trinity - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- Give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father.
- We can say 'Glory to God on high'. Amen

[Ideas drawn from Fred Pratt Green's hymn and also from 'Looking for the Lord's Prayer', a booklet written by Rev Bob Sneddon for study during Lent 2007]

Ann Dawson

Trinity Book Circle's Big Day Out 2018: Waddesdon Manor

Books can take you to unexpected places. Trinity Book Circle read 'The Improbability of Love' by Hannah Rothschild and loved it. The story was an entertaining and galloping romp through the skulduggery and intrigue of the art world and we all warmly recommend it; it is full of hilarious characters but there is a tender love story at its heart.

Everyone was intrigued by the author with her famous family and wanted to know more. Most people know a little about the extended Rothschild family and their wealth and their historical connections. So for this year's Big Day Out we went – a total of 24 of us in the end – to Waddesdon Manor near Aylesbury to find out more.

And what an extraordinary house it was! The architecture was stunning and the inside of the house crammed with artwork, ceramics and jewellery. There were so many beautiful items to see and we all felt we needed another visit. Some of us loved the splendour of the dinner tables, laid out ready for the family to enter the room and entertain their guests, others loved the aviary with its exotic birds. The formal gardens at the back of the house with their exact, formal planting and sweeping views over Buckinghamshire's glorious countryside were hugely impressive. In contrast there was an amazing exhibition of 3D printing in the Stables complex next to the café with its new ice cream and waffle parlour. We had to sample some of the delicious sweet treats on offer, well it would be rude not to, wouldn't it?

A little about the history of the house.... Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild wanted an estate where he could escape London in the summer months to entertain family and friends for weekend house parties. When he came into his inheritance in 1874 he purchased a bare agricultural estate with a misshapen cone at its centre. The foundation stone was laid

in 1877 and six years later the land had been transformed into a beautiful landscape by planting mature trees, bringing in the water supply from Aylesbury and removing 30 feet of soil to create the impressive approach to the house.

In 1883 the completion of the house was celebrated with the first of many house parties. Running water and central heating were provided from the start and electricity was introduced in 1889. Very little changed until the Second World War when the rooms were emptied to accommodate 100 children evacuated from London. After the war James de Rothschild became increasingly concerned about the future of Waddesdon. He decided to bequeath Waddesdon to the National Trust, with a large part of the collections and an area of garden.

James also left the largest endowment the Trust has ever received, for the continued upkeep of the property. This ensured that the house remained intact as the only example of the famous 'Rothschild style' of the 19th century and that it could be visited by the public.

It was a great day out ('definitely one of the best' said one of the group) and a big thanks to Shelagh Evans for organising. Where will go for our Big Day Out in 2019?



Lisa Barrott

Auckland to Falklandscontinued

In the last issue we published an article from Mike Tozer about his trip earlier this year from Auckland to the Falklands. In it he referred to the weekly newspaper which the crew put together and which he edited. Here are some of the articles, written by Mike and other crew members.



"After the Sun and Sea ..."

... come the night watches. Last night as we moved from the light and warmth of the Upper Mess at a few minutes to midnight, the whole of our watch stops – almost as one - as we turn our heads upwards for the first time to see the night sky. Tonight is 'one of those nights' when it seems that the night sky has been freshly painted the darkest black you can ever imagine and all the stars in the sky have been polished and shone to within an inch of their lives.

In our normal lives, light pollution is an accepted part of modern day living and only the brightest of the stars and constellations can be seen with the naked eye.

But not tonight. Constellations, normally so distinctive, are covered with millions of smaller twinkling stars and the Milky Way streaks across the sky like a beam. In addition to the normal constellations, our Southern Hemisphere colleagues are keen to point out their Southern Cross with its two 'pointers' and also to show us constellations which, although we know them well, don't look quite right. We learn very quickly that us 'Northerners' must look for the stars in a very different way. Down here, for example, Orion

stands on his head with his sword pointing upward toward his feet, and Cassiopeia looks like an M, and not a W.

And finally, towards the end of the watch, the moon makes its appearance - a sliver of a moon, so fine that it's almost just a line of light covering the lower right quadrant. With the arrival of the moon and the very start of dawn, the stars start to diminish on the eastern horizon. The next watch arrives to take the helm and lookout duties from us and, with the memory of the night sky for ever imprinted on our minds, we're off to bed for the last few hours of the night.

"Life on a Tall Ship"

When you are on a yacht on a fine afternoon and you set sail and turn off the engine the relief is palpable and the quiet fizz of the sea is tranquil to the point of being almost silent as you glide along. Tenacious is not a yacht and this is not a trip around the bay.

On this ship there's no quiet place, no silence. On a ship of this size there is first the immense number of engines, pumps, filters, compressors, generators, washing machines and on occasions engines that whine, buzz, hum and grumble constantly. This provides the first layer, the base colour if you will, and after a few days your brain blocks this - except for the compressor which is exceptionally distracting and comes on as you are dropping off to sleep. On top of this comes the constant clatter and rumble of stuff in lockers and shelves that slosh back and forth, punctuated by expletives as heavier objects, possibly dinner, falls from height with a percussive thud in the galley, or a crew member screams as they fall into a heap of a poorly timed monkey swing between hand rails. In the berths, snug against the hull there's the rushing of water, the weight of the ocean only an arm's reach away. Waves slam into the bows sending heavy vibrations running through your bunk and your consciousness is piqued with doubt about the side being stoved in. Then there's the

chatter, laughter, moaning and snoring of the crew, hushed whispers and tinkering in cupboards and dressing in the dark.

Above decks the noises quicken the heart. The sails roar as the wind fills them, the sound from above seems everywhere - all encompassing - billowing the canvas tight. They strain and creak, it's only natural to look up to check with an anxious eye they are still intact. The sea hisses,



boils and groans as it rushes in, like huge flinty and chalky cliffs, past the ship. The halyards flap like bird alarm calls against the masts and the wind whistles and pulses through the rigging and past your ears, flattening the cloth of your jacket and chilling your bones. Everywhere is a cacophony of sound. Even in sleep the vivid dreams that follow a cold watch are no relief.

"Almost a Full Moon"

January 31st, Aft Starboard on Middle Watch at midnight. "It's almost a full moon" said John at midnight. A bit later on, the moon is apparently waning, with a bit missing from the side - a gibbous moon, not full? Clouds scud across it. A bit later, Roy remarks: "There's a partial eclipse of the moon."

We are a bit busy disentangling the furling line for the upper topsail, which has failed to stow properly at the first attempt, in 34 knots of wind and ground speed of 10 knots. The swell is also sideswiping us as we cling on.

But afterwards the moon is clearly in eclipse, just a wafer of bright light to the left side. After we have had another go at the upper topsail, and just as the morning watch were coming on, the moon is obliterated entirely, just a ghostly red glow over the whole disk.

In the morning Roy checks his almanac. We may have been the only people to have seen this eclipse. It's the first of two this year, but this one is seen only over our empty quarter of the globe.

"Getting Dressed on a Tall Ship"

I've been putting on pants (i.e. trousers to all our non-American readers) for all my life but last night was one of the funniest challenges I've been put through in a long while. The ship was bouncing along and leaning at 15 – 20° heel and the movements were very inconsistent. I was trying to sit on the edge of my bunk but kept sliding off. I know I'm not as young and limber as I used to be but trying to get that first leg in was a

After about 5 minutes of contortions and even having to hold the other foot up against the wall, success was achieved. Now it was time for the second leg. I tried to stand on one leg, but that wasn't going to work. My socks were slipping on the deck and I could easily see the possibility of landing on my kiester (*American slang for backside - Ed.*) as being an unwanted outcome. Somehow or another I had to make it work as I had to be on deck, ready to go on watch in 5 minutes. Yes! The solution was simple: put the boot on the foot that was already through the pant's leg. A better sense of stability and sure footedness was achieved. Pants were on, plus six layers of clothing for the upper body. It was COLD outside.

"Point Nemo"

Point Nemo (named after Jules Verne's anti-hero, Captain Nemo) is recognised as being the point that is furthest from any land on earth. It sits at 48° 52.6' S and 123° 23.6' W and is approximately 1670 nm from the nearest land.

After having to deal with fickle winds, our nearest sailing to Point Nemo was on Tuesday 06/02/18 just after 09:00 when we were just 20 nautical miles away. As this is such a

remote spot, however, lookouts are still essential as it is this point that disused satellites are often aimed at, when returning to earth, being of no further use in orbit. Luckily there were no sightings of any man-made objects (of any description) during our stay in the area.

Mike Tozer



Could You Become A LinkAble Trustee?

LinkAble is a vibrant Woking charity that gives people with learning disabilities the opportunity to enjoy a full social life, try new activities and learn new skills.

We are looking for 2-3 trustees with a range of business, service delivery or community work backgrounds.

Evening Trustee meetings are held about every 6 weeks. Induction and training is provided, as is support from an experienced and knowledgeable Trustee and staff team. The time commitment overall is roughly one day a month.

This is a great opportunity to make a real difference with your time, whether it's about "putting something back" or building up your skills and experience for your future career. LinkAble makes a big difference in the lives of its service users – you could make a big difference to the charity.

For an initial chat please contact either Alison Keeley (Chief Executive) on 01483 770037 or Brenda Infante (Chair of Trustees) on 07889 021133.

Tales of a Travelling Preacher Part Three

In Part Two (published in the previous issue of TNV) Graham mentioned the request he received to preach at HMP Send. In this issue he describes his experiences there.

I was planned to preach at HMP Send on 2nd November 1997, Christine and I had a rare weekend break and as the service was at 6.15. planned a day out. We left early for our trip to Bicester and intended to leave in good time to get to Send. We had a lovely morning and an enjoyable lunch and then we noticed that it was getting cold and misty. We cut our visit short and started our journey back. As we drove over the Chiltern Hills and into the Thames Valley a fog began to build up and by the time we got off the M25 it was a real 'pea-souper'. We crawled in ever increasing darkness towards the prison. Our arrival was truly Dickensian as we arrived outside the huge locked gates which came looming out of the fog. Christine waited until I had rung the bell and was admitted.



I waved to her as the gate was locked behind me. She was not allowed to accompany me and had arranged to visit a friend.

I still have the Order of Service and the sermon notes – today they don't seem appropriate – but at the end of the service most of the prisoners thanked me and gave the impression they enjoyed the worship. They certainly sang lustily!

As preachers and followers of Jesus we rarely see the results of our labours but one of the men was a young man and he spoke to me at the end of the service. He was there for drug related offences and accepted that he had deserved his sentence, but he wanted to get his A levels and go to university. His aim was to get a Social Work qualification and help other young people to avoid the path he had taken. I prayed with him and suggested he talk to the Prison Education Officer.

I was planned again on the 26th April 1998. The weather was very Spring-like and I had planned a service based on the Good Shepherd. On the Saturday night the Minister at Walton-on-Thames, who was the Free Church Chaplain, rang me to 'let me know' that the Home Office had decided earlier in the week to close the prison and re-open it as a women's prison. Some of the prisoners had already been transferred. He warned me that some of the men were very unhappy and there could be a larger and perhaps resentful congregation. It was too late to change anything, but how great is our God, in the circumstances what better theme could there be than the one I had planned, The Good Shepherd.

I did make a couple of alterations which would not affect the organist. I added two unaccompanied solos – *'Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you'* and an old Salvation Army standard,

*'Unto thee will I cry, Shepherd hear my prayer,
Poor and needy am I, Shepherd hear my prayer,
Deep is calling unto deep, rugged are the heights and steep,
Guide my steps, and keep, Shepherd, hear, oh hear my prayer.'*

We sang: *To God be the glory, great things he has done,
The King of Love my Shepherd is, Blessed Assurance, Jesus
is mine, and Guide me, O thou great Jehovah.*

I had a list of those who were moving the next day and we prayed for them by name. The theme of the sermon became 'New Opportunities' and was based on Psalm 23:6: *'I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life and I will live with you forever.'*

At the end of the service the response from the men was one of thanks and gratitude. It was very humbling, for I knew I was going home to my wife and children but they had no idea where they were going tomorrow. The young man, from last time, came to tell me that he was re-taking his A levels and had received a conditional offer of a university place. I don't know what happened to him, but I often think of him and pray that he is still with the Good Shepherd. That night I felt and saw God's love at work and the compassion of the Lord Jesus and power of the Holy Spirit in the congregation and myself too.

I preached twice more at HMP Send when it was re-opened as a women's prison. Sadly, the chapel was being renovated and was not in use. The congregation was small, and the services were in a corner of the Library. Many of the other prisoners were in another section and it was very difficult. I heard and felt some antagonism and abuse to me as a representative male. I felt for them because of what men had done to many of them.

They were probably the most difficult services I have ever led. Nevertheless, God enabled me to share his gospel of love. In 2000 HMP Send did not appear on the plan again.

Graham Warr

Encountering Uganda

This is a personal story really but I hope it will be of general interest. Your editor's son has been granted an extended leave of absence from work this Summer and as part of this he and his wife travelled to Uganda to help out for a short time in a church and a school which have links to the Parish Church in their village of Hartlip, Kent. It will have been quite a culture shock – eg. getting used to the staple diet of Matoke (banana-like plant) and eating off plantain leaves. This is what they have written for their own parish magazine.

In June, following detailed preparation, countless vaccinations and successful fundraising, we embarked on an adventure to Uganda where we would visit Lesley Ambrose (a former Hartlip resident) and witness first-hand the remarkable work she is doing at the Resurrection Life Church, Entebbe, and then travel to a remote village near the Uganda/Tanzania/Rwanda border to teach at Little Me Primary School, Insingiro.

It was one of the most amazing and humbling experiences of our lives meeting the delightful children attending the weekly Children's Club at the Church on a Saturday. Circa 100 children attend (some of whom are sponsored by residents of Hartlip and Newington) with the majority having badly torn clothes, poor oral hygiene and bare feet, hence the need for more sponsors. Their huge smiles, boundless energy and enthusiasm for life despite living in such desperate poverty is highly contagious and a lesson to us all.

The seven hour journey to the School was an adventure in itself, travelling on a combination of dirt tracks (some heavily rutted) and for the most part, one of the world's most dangerous stretches of road connecting Kenya to the

east and Rwanda and DR Congo to the west. Many villages are dotted along the road characterised by mud huts, shacks selling, inter alia, the most wonderful array of fruit and vegetables and for many residents - their livelihood - cows and goats, casually roaming the communities (and occasionally on the road creating a further hazard).

Uganda is one of the most beautiful countries we have visited and this was epitomised by the breathtaking countryside and views we passed to get to the School. We now know why Winston Churchill called Uganda "the Pearl of Africa".

It was a wonderful experience teaching at Little Me Primary School, the children were a pleasure to be with. As with the Children's Club, we were constantly warmed and uplifted by the children's continuous zest and passion for life. They have tough lives but are lucky to be able to go to school as many cannot afford it despite costing just £10 per term.

Children are at school from 7:30am to 5:00pm and some have up to two hours' walk each way, many barefoot along the endless miles of dirt tracks. When they get home from school, invariably they must do family chores such as collecting firewood, cooking, looking after siblings and cleaning. Without TV or toys to play with fun is had in other imaginative and arguably more fulfilling ways. Apart from the academic work, we tried to have as much fun as possible with the children, singing songs, playing games, football and catch and PE.



We were the first Mzungu (white person) the school had seen and indeed in most of the villages we visited (including one of Africa's largest refugee camps on the shores of Lake Nakivali), creating both excitement and intrigue.

We had raised over £1,000 before we left which was shared jointly between the Church and School. It is enlightening to see how far this money can go in these parts of the world especially when it is protected from Government or corporate 'leakages'. The Church will be using this money to feed the children, buy shoes and support their education. As for the School, ahead of our trip we bought pencils, rubbers, rulers, desk pencil sharpeners, chalk, footballs and acquired three laptops. Prior to our arrival, the children were using razor blades to sharpen pencils, regularly cutting themselves in the process and fighting over one rubber per class. Whilst we were there, we purchased 25 new chairs (some children had to previously sit on the floor), seven new desks, a giant hessian sack of charcoal to use for cooking to feed the children and the materials and labour to sand and cement two classrooms in an outbuilding, one of which had never been used until now.

The school would richly benefit from further investment whether this be exercise books, more windows (there is no electricity so no lights) and/or hand washing facilities before eating and following use of the latrine.

Overall, visiting the church, working in the school, living with the local community and travelling through the country, including Kampala (a lively and chaotic capital city), has created lifelong memories with many important



reflections made on life. Whether it be access to medical care, running water, electricity or even transport, we have so much to be thankful for. That said, one has to admire their happiness, resourcefulness and unequivocal faith.

Noel & Klaire Lander

What's on at Trinity

Prayer Group	Sunday (weekly) 9.45am Friday (weekly) 9.45am	Ann, W 770400
Y-Group	Monday (1 st & 3 rd) 8pm	Allison, W 725439
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
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 rd 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 October/November issue
should be submitted by**

Sunday 16th September 2018

**TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS is the magazine of
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING**

**“Trinity is a welcoming Church seeking to live
in the love of God and share the message of
Jesus Christ”**

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**Contributions to Trinity News & Views can
be written, typed, left in the newsletter
pigeonhole at the Church or emailed to
tnv@trinitywoking.org.uk**

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