

# TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS



*“Still other seed fell on good soil. [It] stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.” [Luke 8: w 8 & 15]*

**August/September 2019 Issue 48**

## **A Message from Rev Keith Beckingham**

I wonder if any members of the Trinity Woking church family ever find it hard to discern God's will. I recently attended a graduation, as University of Surrey Methodist & Free Church chaplain. A young graduate spoke about the way he had matured whilst he was there, in ways he could not have foreseen. He said that he had learned that money does not grow on trees – he must ask Mum and Dad for it! This caused a chuckle, but it underlined the fact that he did not really understand the full implications of his decision to study at Surrey when he first applied. Indeed, it cost him £27,000 in tuition fees in order to be able to stand in Guildford Cathedral wearing his cap and gown with pride. Looking back on life, is it not true that many of our big decisions have been made more in faith and on gut feeling than in the fullness of knowledge.

At the same ceremony, Professor G.Q. Max Lu the President and Vice Chancellor of the University spoke interestingly about the difference between data, information, knowledge and wisdom. We need all of these. For example, so called knowledge without data or information or wisdom is less than helpful. There is so much false information about these days!

The Methodist Church needs wisdom in making decisions in so many areas of church life and mission in these days. In 2019/20 we are called upon to study and discuss the

Conference Report on Marriage and Relationships. It will be discussed at Synod at Redhill on 28<sup>th</sup> September and I hope some church members will attend as visitors – please inform Jenny Jackson if you wish to do so, so that we can inform the Synod secretary.

Please continue to remember in your prayers Rev Gill le Boutillier Scott who would have had pastoral charge of Trinity had she not been tragically bereaved of her husband Robin. Please include her 4 young children in your prayers.

In the New Testament letter of James 1:5 we read:

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”*

I do pray that God will bless Trinity Methodist Church with much wisdom as you have so many big projects to manage. I am so pleased that Rev Jackie Case has agreed to provide pastoral care for Trinity in 2019/20. Please give her every support as she offers two days a week in addition to Sunday services.

May God bless you richly with his wisdom and the knowledge of His will.

## **Keith**

Keith C Beckingham  
Superintendent Minister



## **Dates for your diary**

*(See page 29 for regular weekly and monthly activities)*

- 11<sup>th</sup> August      Baptism of Scott Pummell (see following page)
- 25<sup>th</sup> August      Early Morning Communion service at 8.45am led by Rev Dave Faulkner
- 29<sup>th</sup> August      Welcome service for Rev David Hinchliffe, Redhill Methodist Church at 6.30pm (tea from 4.30pm)
- 31<sup>st</sup> August      Bible Reading Fellowship Whole Area Gathering
- 15<sup>th</sup> September   Circuit Service at Cranleigh, 6.30pm to include Local Preachers' long service recognition
- 19<sup>th</sup> September   Circuit Meeting at Byfleet
- 23<sup>rd</sup> September   Church Council at 8.00pm (*note new time*)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> September   Early Morning Communion service at 8.45am led by Rev Peter Hills
- 29<sup>th</sup> September   Harvest Festival – morning service led by Steve Green
- 13<sup>th</sup> October      Neighbourhood Party

## For your Prayers

In your prayers please remember -

**Scott Pummell**, son of Holly and Greg and grandson of Nicola McMahon who will be baptised on 11<sup>th</sup> August in our morning service led by Rev Julia Monaghan.

**David & Susan Jones** as they settle into their new home in Swaffham (see pages 19 and 23).

**Kieran Meldrum** who, at the time of writing, is very seriously ill in hospital. Remember Kieran, Geraldine and their family.

**Tiffany Weedon**, our Administrator, who is recuperating at home following her knee operation.

**Lee Slatter** who was recently unwell.

**Andy Meal** as she takes up the post of Church Council Secretary.

**Daniela Warr Schori** as she takes up her post of Foundry Co-ordinator in September (see page 6).



## Ministerial arrangements

Rev Jackie Case has agreed to accept a part-time appointment to Trinity for the coming church year. Jackie is 'sitting down' in Methodist parlance this Summer. Her ministry has included two stints as a Circuit Superintendent, most recently in the Berkshire Surrey Borders Circuit based at Bracknell. Jackie is retiring to Reading and so she will want to optimise the value of her trips to Woking. We may expect to see her accompanied by her two dogs, who are apparently very well-behaved!



In addition Rev Julia Monaghan has agreed to accept a number of preaching appointments at Trinity. The Circuit will be going into the stationing process to secure an appointment of a new Presbyter for September 2020.

Elsewhere in the Circuit we await news of the appointment of a URC minister to replace Rev Paul Hulme at Godalming United Church. The LEP arrangements are for an alternating ministry but the URC system is somewhat different to our own and there is no indication yet as to when that post is likely to be filled.

Rev John Hellyer has stepped down as Chair of the South East District and is to become Superintendent Minister of the Gloucestershire Circuit (which has over 40 churches!). He is replaced by Rev David Hinchliffe who will be taking on this role whilst for the time being retaining responsibility for the Channel Islands District. Many will recall that David was formerly Superintendent Minister of the Woking and Walton on Thames Circuit.

## Introducing our Foundry Co-ordinator

*Daniela Warr Schori joins Trinity as the Foundry Co-ordinator and church administrator in September.*

I am really pleased to be joining the team at Trinity in September. As a child I was a member of Junior Church, a Brownie, and a Guide at Trinity so I have known some of the Congregation for a long time!



After completing my Masters degree I worked in departmental, corporate, and project management roles in the University Sector for 14 years before moving to lead the development of the exams for UK Physicians (MRCPUK). For the past 12 months I have been working for YMCA George Williams (youth work) College, originally as Head of Data, Quality & Contracts, and then Transformation Director and Acting CEO;

I definitely wasn't expecting that surprising development when I joined, and I have found it rewarding but not where I want to be at this point in my life. I want to do something worthwhile with the skills I have, and have more time for my family. Most of you will know my Dad Graham; a prolific contributor to TNV! My nearly 93 year old godmother also lives in Woking.

I am the besotted Aunty to Isobel and Clara, who occasionally visit Trinity with my brother Bernhard and his wife Jessica. My partner of 10 years, Paul, lives in South East London, and I have acquired a lovely "pseudo" mother and father in law through him. I love reading, and

choral music. I am an enthusiastic Crystal Palace supporter.

My heart belongs in the lakes and mountains of the Bernese Oberland where my mum Christine grew up. I have a personal and professional interest in equality and diversity issues. Come and say hello to me when I start!

**Daniela**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **THE FOUNDRY @ TRINITY WOKING**

"A vision to re-imagine Trinity Methodist Church to better share the gospel and the love of God and to serve the needs of a fast changing suburban town"





## Methodist Conference 2019

This year's Conference was held in Birmingham at the beginning of July. Rev Dr Barbara Glasson and Prof Clive Marsh were inducted as **President and Vice President** respectively for 2019 – 2020.

Barbara's ministry has mainly been in inner cities and she is currently based at the Bread Church in Liverpool (an emerging church in the city centre which exercises its mission by baking and giving away loaves of bread). She is also Director



of the face2face project (supporting survivors of sexual abuse within faith communities). Professor Marsh is currently Head of the University of Leicester's Vaughan Centre for Lifelong Learning and an International Research Consultant at the Queen's Foundation. He is a Local Preacher in the Leicester Circuit.

Jasmine Yeboah, this year's **Youth President**, reported on the manifesto which was developed at last year's **3Generate** event (for young people aged 8 to 23). It includes taking action on homelessness, building relationships within communities, supporting the lonely, caring for the environment, creating safe spaces for young people to listen to each other and being creative in worship. Conference is urging churches to engage with the manifesto by including it in Church Council agendas and committing to intentional actions in response.

As mentioned by Keith (see page 2) Conference considered and commended to our churches 'for study and prayerful discussion' the report of the **Marriages &**

**Relationships** Task Group. The resolutions to be considered (including by our District Synod on 28<sup>th</sup> September) concern the qualities of good relating, an understanding of cohabitation, celebration of civil partnerships, prayers following the end of a marriage and permission for same-sex marriages. A clause is included that no one would have to officiate at a same-sex marriage if they feel prevented by their conscience. The responses will be brought to the 2020 Conference in Telford.

Other topical issues debated included equality, diversity and inclusion; the theological and ethical implications of climate change and ecology; and housing and homelessness. Recognising the work already being undertaken to support those experiencing homelessness and other housing difficulties, Circuits and Districts are being encouraged to consider increasing the social impact of property in our mission. Marking the 150<sup>th</sup> year of **Action for Children**, Conference is urging all Methodists to write to their MPs to express concern about the ongoing plight of children in the UK.

More information on these and the various other subjects debated can be found on the Conference website [[www.methodist.org.uk/conference2019/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/conference2019/)]. This includes the usual helpful page summary – Conference Business Digest.

**Did you know?** The Methodist Recorder reports that at the first Glastonbury Festival (inaugurated in 1970) Michael Eavis (a Methodist incidentally) charged £1 entrance and gave everyone a drink of milk.

## Praying together

For this issue of TNV I have found various versions of Psalm 121 and I have included 2 plus my own. All can be used as part of prayer time or you could try writing your own version. Psalm 121 is given in the title as a pilgrim psalm. It is a song of ascent. The songs of ascent are a sequence of 15 Psalms, from 120 through to 134, which were sung by pilgrims on their way up to Jerusalem to visit the Temple. In this Psalm we find the pilgrim considering the journey ahead of him: *I will lift my eyes up to the hills. Where does my help come from?*

In 1 Chronicles 16:8- 36 the chronicler records a song of praise and suggests that if you search, help and strength comes from God. So always seek God. Verses 8 - 11:

*Give thanks to the LORD.*

*Call on his name.*

*Make known among the nations what he has done.*

*Sing to him.*

*Make music to praise him.*

*Meditate on all the miracles he has done.*

*Brag about his holy name.*

*Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.*

*Search for the LORD and his strength.*

*Always seek his presence.*

Imagine a pilgrim walking towards Jerusalem and looking at the climb into the hills ahead. Hills that could be quite dangerous. Nowadays the danger could be finding mountain bikers descending the slope at speed (so difficult to get out of the way) or deep ruts on the path or muddy patches. The Psalmist would face other dangers and one has only got to think of the story of the Good Samaritan to see that a traveller would be quite right to

be apprehensive and worried. Seeing the hills rising would be a reminder of the dangers of his journey: the dangers of the climb; and completing the climb in daylight, the danger from bandits; the threat of heatstroke and exhaustion in the fierce unrelenting summer heat; and the danger of wild animals at night.

The psalmist asks where does my help come from? The psalmist acknowledges that help is needed. So, what is the answer to the question? Help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth. Our God is mightier and stronger and importantly bigger than the hills in front of him. God our king is bigger than any problems we may face, and he is able and willing to help. Our God is a great big God and he holds us in his hands (StF61). The Word on the Street Bible (Rob Lacey) puts it like this: *Where can I get some help? Direct from God unseen, Who made the place, who created space!*

The Psalm is about finding strength and consolation in finding God. God is a God concerned with each person. God does not sleep or act bored with our problems. Each day and night God listens, and watches over us. The sun will not harm us by day nor the moon by night. Certainly, the Psalmist would have been very vulnerable to the elements and to the wild animals at night. Any pilgrimage had risks. Psalm 121 in The Message Bible:

*God is alongside us whatever is happening in life.  
God guards you from every evil  
He guards your very life.  
He guards you when you leave and when you return,  
He guards you, now, he guards you always*

Thinking about Psalm 121:

- 1) Which part of it resonates with you?
- 2) Which part of it surprised or challenged you?
- 3) What do we know of God's character that can help us?

- 4) How do we cope when things aren't as easy or comfortable as we would like? Is it hard to trust that God will help not only our neighbour (in other words other people) and also help us?
- 5) Why don't we trust God more?
- 6) What encouragement can we each gain from this Psalm? How can the words in this psalm help us to encourage others?
- 7) Try your hand at writing your own Psalm using the ideas of Psalm 121.

Psalm 121 in the Good News Translation (*The Lord Our Protector*):

*I look to the mountains where will my help come from?  
My help will come from the LORD, who made heaven and  
earth.*

*He will not let you fall; your protector is always awake.*

*The protector of Israel never dozes or sleeps.*

*The LORD will guard you; he is by your side to protect you.*

*The sun will not hurt you during the day, nor the moon  
during the night.*

*The LORD will protect you from all danger; he will keep you safe.*

*He will protect you as you come and go now and forever.*

From *The Word on the Street* (Rob Lacey) - Psalm 121  
sung by the crowds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem:

Verses 1 - 2

*I am straining my eyes, scouring the scene:*

*Where can I get me some help?*

*Direct from God the unseen,*

*Who made this place, who created this space!*

Chorus 3-4

*He'll keep my step sure, keep my foot steady.*

*He don't doze off – he's always there, ready!*

*He's on watch for his people, don't need no sleep,  
Don't need no doze. When they're in danger he shows.*

Verse 5 - 6

*God's watching every step you take,*

*Sorting out the shade for your unprotected side:*

*Sunstroke won't touch you as you stroll about today,*

*Moonlight won't freak you at night.  
Verse 7-8  
God'll protect you, won't let harm near you  
He'll keep his eye on you, check you're OK.  
God's into your life, as you hit the sofa or the town.  
Right now, and every single day.*

My version:

*I am on a journey and I look all around  
I look at the trees and the flowers all that God has created  
I look and listen to birds and insects  
I look at the valley and the hills  
I look to the hills; I look to Leith Hill  
I look to the cliffs at Pendeen in Cornwall  
But where do I get my hope and strength from?  
Do I look to God for my hope and my strength?  
Can I say with the ancient Psalmists, my strength comes from  
my Almighty Father God  
The God who made heaven, earth - all the hills, valleys and  
mountains?  
Loving Father God who will not let me stumble and trip over,  
I get my help from God my loving Father God*

God is always there ready – God is alongside  
God does not doze, or daydream or sleep on the job  
God is wide awake and ready for action  
God who is my friend and companion is there at my right-  
hand side to protect and guide  
Shielding me from the dazzling noon-day sun  
God is there even when the sun is behind the clouds  
God is there day and night  
Acting like a shelter from the dangers of the night  
God acts like a guide in the moonlight  
God acts like a guide in the spaces between street lamp  
light  
Good Father God guards me from every evil thing and  
thought  
God watches and cares

He guards me and helps you and me move away from evil in the world.

He guards me when I open the front door and leave the house

And God is there when I unlock the front door on returning home

God guards me right now and always and for ever.

(Ideas found on the internet from a sermon on Psalm 121)

**Ann Dawson**

## **Our Neighbourhood Parties**

*Some readers of TNV may not know about our twice yearly Neighbourhood Parties, or at least not what they involve. We are very grateful to Henk Innemee who leads the team each time. This is a piece he wrote for Horsell Matters.*

Do you know of someone, most probably an individual or a couple living alone, who would enjoy a splendid high tea together with some entertainment for a couple of hours on a Sunday afternoon? Transport can be provided. All this is free and no church commitment is expected. For over 30 years such Neighbourhood Parties have been held, twice a year, at Trinity Methodist Church. The parties are organised by the church for people living in or near Horsell. If you do know of someone, who might appreciate an invitation to such a party, please ask them for permission to pass their names and addresses to Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road, Woking GU21 4LH (or [office@trinitywoking.org.uk](mailto:office@trinitywoking.org.uk)). The next party is planned for Sunday 13 October so this is a good time to ask people if they would like to come.

Each party starts at 4 pm and ends at 6 pm. The first 45 minutes are taken up by the main entertainment. This is usually a choir, a band or dancers. In the next 45 minutes High Tea is served. Homemade sandwiches and cakes accompanied by a "cuppa" are followed by dessert, jelly and ice cream being one of the favourites. The final 30 minutes usually require some participation from the guests: a quiz or a sing-along.

The number of guests at the parties has varied between 35 and 65. Many are regulars who come year after year but the effects of old age means new guests are always needed. Hence this news item.

Each party relies on the help of at least 50 people. This brings groups of different people together as a team. People with different gifts: helpers, guests, musicians, bakers, hosts. But also people of different ages: teenage guides, middle-aged drivers, mature guests. So it is fair to say that these parties involve and inspire many people. Volunteers to help are always welcome!

**Henk Innemee**





## Some images from Trinity life



*Our Plant sale on 12<sup>th</sup> May raised over £350.00 for Christian Aid*



*Filling the skip on Clear Out Day. Fortunately John climbed out before it went. Below - the workers relaxing*



## Charities

### August – Citizens Advice, Woking

We can all face problems that seem complicated or intimidating. Citizens Advice believes no one should have to face these problems without good quality, independent



**Citizens Advice Woking**  
the charity for your community

advice. Citizens Advice

Woking is one of the network of independent charities which aims to give people the knowledge and the confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are, and whatever their problem. Last year, Citizens Advice Woking assisted those living or working in the Woking area with over 13,000 issues. The four top categories were Benefits, Debt, Housing and Family. The need for advice grows year on year and the recent introduction of Universal Credit has created additional demand. For further information see their website: [www.wokingcab.org](http://www.wokingcab.org)

### September – Air Ambulance, Kent, Surrey & Sussex

In any dramatic incident speed in response to medical treatment is of the essence. If the victim is unlucky enough to be in a remote situation where vehicular access is impossible, or the need to access hospital services



**Air Ambulance**  
Kent Surrey Sussex

is of the utmost priority, the Air Ambulance is usually the difference between life and death. Very often special medical treatment is required and the trained doctors,

brought to the accident scene by the helicopter, can make immediate judgements on what treatment will be required and where the best Centre of Excellence is available to treat the patient. The helicopter pilot can transport the patient to the treatment centre quickly and efficiently by air. The Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance operates 24/7 and serves the 4.7 million residents of the three counties, as well as the huge number of people who travel through the area on business or pleasure each year. Last year alone AAKSS were called out to help over 2,000 people in life-threatening conditions. The service is run through charitable donations and they need our support. It might be one of us who one day will need their urgent attention. For further information see the AKSSS website: [www.aakss.org.uk/](http://www.aakss.org.uk/)

## **Harvest & October – Compassion**

Compassion is a leading children’s charity which has been operating for 66 years, giving children the opportunity to escape the suffering and fear poverty brings. Nearly 385 million children are currently living in extreme poverty. Poverty has a face. It’s a girl forced to marry because her family can’t support her. A boy sent to work on the rubbish heap, rather than the classroom. Their approach is summed up in three simple words: Compassion for children. Compassion works in partnership with local churches in 25 developing countries in Central and South America, Africa and South East Asia. They provide



resources, training and expertise to help the church give the children in their community the opportunity to escape from poverty and fulfil their potential. Each child is linked with

a sponsor and care is provided through every stage of childhood from the womb to early adulthood. For further information see their website [www.compassionuk.org](http://www.compassionuk.org).

## Trinity Wombles



The Wombles of Trinity are a small group who meet every Monday morning to undertake essential maintenance within the Church. The activities undertaken include (but not limited to) changing lightbulbs; decorating; replacing ceilings in the Kabin; cleaning gutters; repairing doors and even replacing wheels on a piano! Until recently there have been four of us which readily splits into two teams of two. However, one member has been most unreasonable and has decided to move up to mid Norfolk, with the lame excuse of being closer to children and grandchild. On top of this, another has had to take on light duties as "his heart is not in it". This now leaves an unbalanced team and Uncle Bulgaria is very keen to appoint a new Tobermory and Orinoco to restore harmony.



Currently the team is all male, but we would welcome a Madame Cholet, (NB - we subscribe to equal wombletunity), but of course other males would be welcome. No great skills are required as training would be given (i.e. you will be shown where the biscuit tin is and how to make coffee and tea at 11.00). Other training involves going onto YouTube and watching past episodes from the BBC TV series to see which character most resembles you. Who will take up the offer???????

**Orinoco – (aka David Jones)**

## Trinity Book Circle

On the 27<sup>th</sup> June the Trinity Book Circle held their annual BDO, or Big Day Out. On a warm sunny day 14 of us gathered at Gilbert White's cottage in Selborne, Hampshire for a guided tour of the cottage and also the Oates Gallery which is housed in the upper part of the cottage.



Gilbert White was born in 1720 and came to live in the house then called "The Wakes" when he was a young boy. His grandfather was Curate at Selborne and in due course Gilbert also became a Curate although not of Selborne. He became very interested in gardening and then broadened his interest into ecology and the environment generally. Indeed he was the first person to observe the environment in detail - long before Charles Darwin. He wrote down and drew his observations of plants, birds and weather and these were then published in his famous book "The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne" which, since its first edition published in 1789, has never been out of print. Our guide pointed out that in the Library every book on display in the glass fronted cabinets, and there were hundreds, were all different editions of his book.

We heard about his love of gardening and how he tended the 25 acre garden which still reflects many of his planting

ideas. We also heard about his pet, Timothy the tortoise, who became a source of great interest to Gilbert and whom he observed for many years.

Gilbert is now seen as the first true ecologist but has been overshadowed by Charles Darwin and almost forgotten in the last couple of centuries. Indeed there has until now been no mention of him in the Natural History Museum. However next year is the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth and there are celebrations being planned to mark this both at Selborne and in London.

We then moved to the Oates Collections, named after Lawrence Oates of the ill-fated Scott expedition to the Antarctic, and also to the work of his uncle, Frank Oates, who was a naturalist and explorer. Here you can see Frank's beautifully detailed drawings of birds and many other artefacts from his travels in Central America and Africa in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Oates Gallery is dedicated to Lawrence and the whole Scott expedition. Lawrence was taken on to care for the horses which Scott insisted would be better than dogs to pull the sleds. This proved to be a grave mistake by Scott. Lawrence was not allowed to buy the horses himself and the ones that arrived were a poor bunch and did not survive very long, meaning that the men had the added burden of pulling the sleds themselves thus adding to their exhaustion. The whole gallery is filled with various memorabilia from the expedition, including the famous diary entries from Scott and the last words of Lawrence Oates as, terribly ill and knowing he could go on no longer, he walked into the night. His body has never been found. The overwhelming feeling is of a glorious British failure but where the individual heroism and courage shines through the failure.

Some of the group then went to see St Mary's, the old church in the village, which dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century.



In the grounds surrounding the Church stands the remains of an old yew tree which has been dated from 600 AD. Sadly, most of it was blown down in a storm in 1990 and although some of it is still standing it is now dead. Inside the Church you can find some very old furniture made from the tree and a stained glass window dedicated to Gilbert White.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the tour. A very nice lunch from the new on-site restaurant and a stroll round the beautiful garden marked yet another very successful BDO.



**Did you know?** The recent commemorations to mark the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission have provided the opportunity to watch and re-read about that extraordinary achievement.

The astronauts had a unique insight to the wonders and mysteries of the universe – and the God who created it. When, shortly after landing on the moon’s surface Buzz Aldrin requested that “every person listening in.....pause for a moment and.....give thanks in his or her own way”, few were aware that he was in the process of taking communion with a small piece of bread, a plastic vial of wine and a silver chalice.


## **Yoga4breath classes on Tuesdays**

As many of you will know I will be leaving Trinity for pastures new in Norfolk at the end of July. However, this does not mean that the classes are being discontinued. Everyone has worked too hard for that. The new teachers are colleagues of mine who trained at the same training school so I know they have a thorough knowledge of yoga.

Chair yoga at 10.30 am will be taken by Alison Richards. The class will be starting on September 17th.

Classical yoga will be at 6.30pm and taken by Paula Butler starting on 10th September.

I do hope everyone will support them as well as they have supported me. It has been a real pleasure and a privilege to teach you all and I am going to miss the classes more than I can say. Everyone has been so enthusiastic and many of my students are seeing a real improvement in their physicality and their health. Yoga is not a quick fix but if you do it regularly it can and does make a difference.

Namaste 

**Susan Jones**



## A Methodist Chaplain on D-Day

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June Aled Jones travelled to Normandy to present 'Songs of Praise' from the D-Day beaches, to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landings.

J.J. Chalmers, a former Royal Marine, visited the Imperial War Museum at Duxford to read the diary of the Sherwood Rangers' chaplain, Rev Leslie Skinner – the first Padre to land on French soil on D-Day. He also met Leslie Skinner's daughter Annette to hear how this modest man carried 46 wounded men back to boats, even though he was injured himself.



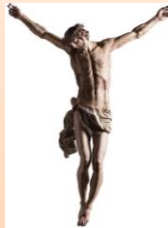
On 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944 Skinner landed on Gold Beach. As his landing craft beached it hit a mine. The men either side of him were both wounded, one losing a leg. Skinner was blown backwards, "but ok" as he noted in his diary. He made it to the beach despite "shell fire pretty hot". The rest of the day was constant activity. He gathered the wounded and carried out the "terribly tiring" work of getting men off the beach and back onto small crafts to be transported to ships which would take them home. At 00.15 the regiment moved a mile further inland towards Bayeux. Skinner went to bed that first night in an orchard. He wrote in his diary: "Bed on ground about 01.30 dead beat. Fell asleep beside half-track indescribably filthy." The last thing he recorded was "40 casualties to-date, including 'missing'". For Leslie Skinner D-Day was over.

Skinner was always near the front line, riding a motorcycle he had somehow obtained as his own

transport. On 25<sup>th</sup> June he was wounded by shrapnel which pierced his skull. His damaged cap badge "probably saved my life". He saw it as his duty to ensure that none of the young men in his care would be listed as missing. As far as he could, he ensured that the families of those killed would know where their loved one had been killed and where he was buried. They received his personal effects and a letter from his chaplain. Controversially his daughter says that it was his Bible, tucked carefully way under his hat, that took a bullet and saved his life, not his cap badge.

After the war Leslie Skinner returned to Circuit ministry and we were privileged to have him as a Minister at Walton in the days of the Woking and Walton-on-Thames Circuit.

**Barbara Phillips**



**Did you know?** Some spies have been out and about in the Bavarian village of Oberammergau, and the menfolk of the village have already grown long hair and beards for the famous Passion Play to be performed in Summer 2020. The play dates back to 1634 when the villagers resolved to perform the passion story of Christ every 10 years in the hope that no-one should die from the plague anymore.

## Zennor and the Mermaid Chair

Zennor, a small village near St Ives in Cornwall, boasts the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of St Senara. It is thought to stand on the site of a cell founded by the 6th century saint, Senara, whose name has been altered over the centuries to become 'Zennor'.



Senara is believed to have been a Breton princess

named Asenora, a devout Christian, who was married to a king named Goello. There are various theories as to how Senara and her story came to be linked with this area but there is no doubt as to the longevity of the shrine. The churchyard follows the oval outline of an Iron Age enclosure, which itself is built atop earlier Stone Age and Bronze Age field boundaries.

The most notable feature of the present church is the Mermaid Chair. The carving is generally dated to between 1400 and 1500 AD. It

shows a mermaid carrying a comb and mirror. The pose is similar to classical depictions of the goddess of love and of the sea, Aphrodite. In the classical tradition Aphrodite carries a quince. In the medieval period it was a common Cornish custom to perform miracle plays in which the mermaid was used to represent the dual nature of Christ; just as



the mermaid was both fish and human, Christ was both God and man.

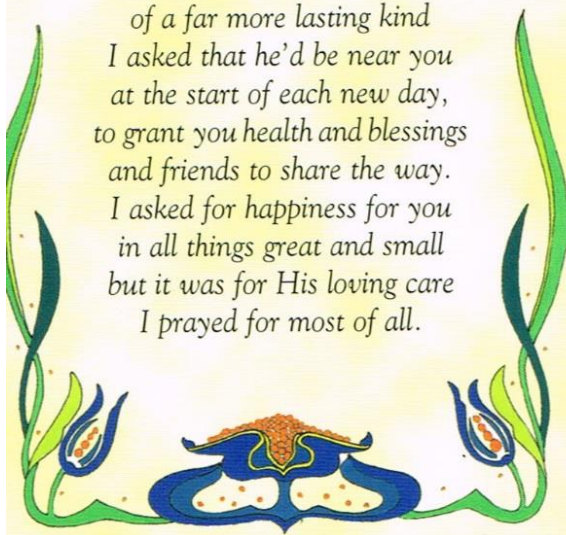
Apart from the fact that Senara came to Cornwall by sea, the other basis for the mermaid connection is the inevitable legend. Apparently the son of a local squire, Matthew Trewella, was a member of the church choir and was renowned for his pure singing voice. A mermaid named Morveren on hearing his song came into the church to listen. She was smitten by Matthew and lured him into the sea nearby. Needless to say he never returned and on warm Summer evenings it is said that their singing can be heard emanating from beneath the waves.

Be that as it may, here is a prayer card which Barbara Phillips picked up at the church.



### *I Said A Prayer For You Today*

*I said a prayer for you today  
and know God must have heard  
I felt the answer in my heart  
although He spoke no word.  
I didn't ask for wealth or fame  
I knew you wouldn't mind,  
I asked Him to send treasures  
of a far more lasting kind  
I asked that he'd be near you  
at the start of each new day,  
to grant you health and blessings  
and friends to share the way.  
I asked for happiness for you  
in all things great and small  
but it was for His loving care  
I prayed for most of all.*





**Gilbert & Sullivan:  
PIRATES OF PENZANCE**

**Saturday 2 November**

**7.30pm  
HG WELLS, WOKING**

Gilbert & Sullivan's iconic operetta is brought to life with a full cast of soloists and orchestra. Featuring a score packed with memorable tunes and plenty of good humour, this promises to be a truly enjoyable evening.

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Saturday 14 December**

**Afternoon performance: 3.30pm  
Evening performance: 7.30pm  
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, WOKING**

We return to the heart of Woking for the ever-popular Family Christmas Concert. In the afternoon we are joined by a local school choir. There is a broad range of music to celebrate the festive season, with audience carols and popular choral numbers. Additional rousing musical numbers for brass and organ feature in the evening.

## What's on at Trinity

Prayer Group	Friday (weekly) 9.45am	Ann, W 770400
Y-Group	Monday (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) 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 764430
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 <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.

**David Lander**

**Articles for the October/November issue should  
be submitted by**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019**

**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”**

**Church Address**

**Brewery Road Woking Surrey GU21 4LH**

**Telephone (01483) 730754**

**Email: [office@trinitywoking.org.uk](mailto:office@trinitywoking.org.uk)**

**Web Address: [www.trinitywoking.org.uk](http://www.trinitywoking.org.uk)**

**Editors: Jean Normington & David Lander**

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

**This edition printed by Knaphill Print Co. Ltd.**