

TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS



“Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair. Lord, in your suffering this is our prayer. Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace. Sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase.”

February/March 2020 Issue 51

A Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends

I read in a magazine recently that January 20th is deemed to be the most depressing day of the year: Christmas is long over, New Year's resolutions have mostly failed, the days are short, and winter still has a long way to go before Spring emerges. Personally, I have always found February to be the least inspiring of months: Spring still seems far off, and this year the long, grey wet autumn and winter has made the last few months something of an exercise in endurance. I've lost count of the number of times the dogs and I have been soaked through on our daily walks and how does one dry washing, when even on a rare dry day free of showers, the lawn is so waterlogged that the rotary line won't stay upright!

However, despite the wetness and greyness, the mildness of this winter has hastened the early signs of Spring. A forsythia hedge near my house is beginning to put forth a few of its cheery yellow flowers and yesterday I spotted a magnificent clump of white snowdrops under a tree in someone's front garden. So the hope of Spring has been planted within my soul. One might say that the good thing about February is that it is mercifully short, and that by the end of it Spring is nearly with us. That's two good things – it's so easy to overlook blessings even when we receive them!

Of course, for some February is eagerly anticipated because of Valentine's Day celebrations. No doubt the cards and gifts will have appeared on supermarket shelves by the time you read this. Although Valentine's celebrations centre around the ideal of romantic love, as Christians we need to hold fast

to the ideal of God's faithful and steadfast love (in Hebrew called 'hesed') throughout the year. Our sense of being beloved is not dependent upon a card dropping through our letter box just on one day of the year. Like the life force which pulses through nature and erupts eventually into the signs of Spring, and the abundance of Summer, the hesed of God is a constant and certain presence in our lives whether we feel it or not.

Our knowledge of being deeply loved is evidenced by God's self-giving, holding nothing back from us, not even his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. A little while ago we celebrated his birth as a vulnerable infant; in lectionary readings during February we will reflect upon his ministry and teaching in the Sermon on the Mount; then during Lent we will follow in his footsteps towards Jerusalem; his death and resurrection at the Spring Passover festival will give rise to our Easter celebrations. So let us live, not in the hope of Spring and new life, but in the certainty of it in nature, in our personal lives and in the life of the church.

Every Blessing, **Jackie**

World Day of Prayer 2020



This year's day of prayer takes place on **Friday 6th March**. The service has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe on The theme '*Rise! Take your mat and walk*'.

The services in Woking will be held at **St Johns Church (St. Johns) at 10.30 am** and **St Peters Church (Old Woking) at 7.30pm**. More information is available on our noticeboards and on the national website <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>.

Dates for your diary

(See page 33 for regular weekly and monthly activities)

Feb 9 th	Foundry Worship @ 5.00pm
Feb 16 th	Messy Church @ 10.00am
Feb 23 rd	Early Morning Communion @ 8.45am
	Foundry Worship @ 5.00pm
Feb 28 th	First Lent Lunch (details on page 16)
Feb 29 th	Circuit Mission Supper @ 6pm for 6.30pm
March 1 st	First Sunday in Lent
March 6 th	World Day of Prayer (see page 2)
March 8 th	Foundry Worship @ 5.00pm
March 12 th	ROC Conversation (see page 10)
March 15 th	Mothering Sunday
March 22 nd	Early Morning Communion @ 8.45am
	Messy Church @ 10.00am
	Foundry Worship @ 5.00pm
April 5 th	Annual Church Meeting
April 9 th	Maundy Thursday – Tenebrae service at 8pm
April 10 th	Good Friday – Reflective service at 10.00am
April 12 th	Easter Sunday – service with Holy Communion

For your prayers

Daniela Warr Schori is recovering following her recent health scare and unscheduled visit to St Peters Hospital. Please remember her and Graham in your prayers, and all members of our Trinity family who are ill or undergoing hospital treatment of one sort or another.

We remember too the families of Eileen Pearson and Ingeborg Rampton whose funerals were held recently.

It has recently been announced that Rev Sam Funnell will be coming to serve Trinity (and the Western Area of the District) from September. As we celebrate this joyful news, we pray for Sam as she navigates the final months of her time in the South Kent Circuit. Please also remember in your prayers the people of that Circuit for whom this is a difficult time, and in particular the churches for which she has pastoral charge, as they prepare for the year ahead.

Charities

Here is a summary of the amounts raised for our monthly refreshment charities for the remaining months of 2019:

November	Cancer Research	£110.00
December	Action for Children	£555.00 (inc. Christmas collections)

The charities we are supporting in the following months are:

February – Jubilee Sailing Trust



The Jubilee Sailing Trust was founded in 1978 with the aim "to integrate both able-bodied and disabled persons through tall ship sailing". Their two specially adapted tall ships (STS Lord Nelson and SV Tenacious) are the only tall ships in the world designed so they can be sailed by a truly mixed ability crew.

Each year JST takes around 2,000 adults to sea, and gets everyone on board involved in sailing the ships to the extent of their abilities, focusing on what people can do, instead of what they can't. Everyone is treated as equal, barriers break down, differences disappear and friendships form.

The impact is especially strong for:

- disabled people, including those with physical impairments and learning disabilities or difficulties
- those dealing with long term health issues or mental health conditions
- the lonely or socially isolated
- those dealing with significant challenges or change in their career or educational life
- people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The JST urgently needs additional funds and has launched an appeal to which our donations will contribute. For further information speak to Mike Tozer.



March – Anazao (The Gambia)



Anazao is a local charity run by the late Bill Lindop's daughter and friends. Their goal is to



improve the health and wellbeing of people in The Gambia. Numerous villages were found to have no safe water supply available and wells have been dug along with provision of safe water containers and education on their use. Where a well is not a suitable solution they have supported the provision of boreholes and safe water containers plus education on how to use them to promote good health.



They have distributed in excess of 1000 mosquito nets (£6.50 each) as malaria in addition to contaminated water is a killer over the past 5 years. The intention is to provide mosquito nets in every village where a well is provided. They also have equipped health clinics and provided funding for the training of nursing staff and provide medical drugs for the 4 clinics in rural villages. 100% of the funding we raise is used in support of these projects.



A number of villages are known still to have contaminated water and in 2020 there are plans to fund and construct wells, give containers and mosquito nets to benefit both the Christian and Muslim communities. Anazao works with the Methodist Mission Agricultural Project in the construction of the hand



dug wells to provide an all season reliable and maintainable water supply.

From your Foundry Missioner

As I write I have just completed two weeks in my new role. How am I finding it? Well, it's certainly interesting – there is more to keeping Trinity working than meets the eye. An early frustration has been the WiFi (almost mastered now ...) and the highlights have been conversations with members about the Foundry vision.

One misconception I want to correct is that Foundry and ROC are the same thing. Not so. Foundry is Trinity's 3 year project aimed at growing our engagement with the community. It is really only now that we have the team in place that project Foundry starts. ROC (see page 10) is a one-off community event being sponsored and hosted by Trinity. My prayer and hope is that the ROC conversation will inform some of what we do in the Foundry.

So what am I doing at present? ROC takes up some time, but much of this initial period is being spent sorting out some of the basics – a good computer network, for example! In fact in the digital space there is much to do. We live in a digital world – my children's generation are immersed in it. As a church we need to be in that world, however much we think it doesn't apply to us personally.

One thing I'm doing is to try and see our building through the eyes of different groups of people. I believe buildings speak to people. With 100's of people using our premises each week, I'm wondering what our buildings say to them? Do our buildings engage them in any way, and if so what messages do they receive? If down the line lots of new people come through our premises, will what they see and sense help or hinder our mission to them?

This is just one example of where I want to try and help us see things differently. Another topic I am thinking about is midweek welcomers. It has long been a desire of Trinity to have people other than the Administrator (who has other things to do) as first line welcomers. Rather than just ask for volunteers, I want to ask the question in a different way – what would we need to do (e.g., changes to premises and practice) to encourage you to volunteer to be a welcoming presence at Trinity? My anticipation is that we'll find a surprisingly diverse range of requests.

I have many other ideas. What I'd like to do is test these with you. I'd love to meet you in small (or may be not so small) groups and simply talk things through. On the Apprentice I think they'd call them Focus Groups. So here's an offer. If any of you can arrange a small group to meet either at Trinity or at your home, I'll come and share my ideas with you and you can give me your feedback. I'll ensure such sessions are fun as well as serious.

So I conclude this first 'in-post' report with a request – please take up this offer! Don't assume someone else will do the running. Use it as an excuse for a get together and a chat. If people need a lift, the chances are I'll be driving so there will be 3 spare seats. Phone or email Daniela or myself so we can sort a date. I have always known there are ideas, views and wisdom aplenty in our church, and I want to tap into it. Please.

May God bless us as we start out on this journey together.

Hugh Bowerman, Foundry Missioner



Pulpit Falls

The recent re-arrangement of our facilities at Church has caused us to seek a new home for the eleven Pulpit Falls. Rather than hide them away when they are not in use, we are going to display them around the Church. You will notice that we have already started this with the three falls we have hung on the wooden panels behind the communion table. I wanted to find out about their history and so consulted with Margaret Davies and Wendy Coope.

The original four were executed by professional textile artists for the Church opening and they are:

- The Dove, which is in felt in soft beige and gold and is for general use.
- Easter, this is a brightly coloured crown.
- Lent, which is brown, with 3 dark nails at base.
- Pentecost - The Flames of Fire. This one is pinks of different shades, and was the one most used when the church first opened.

We have four produced by Wendy Coope

- Harvest with grapes, wine glass and bread.
- The Dews of quietness. This is strip patchwork of differing shades of beige and pinks, and is for general use.
- Christmas Star in dark blue with Silver Star.
- Advent, this one is purple and is called The Coming of the Light.

We have two produced by Margaret Davies

- Wedding in cathedral patchwork.
- Woven Tree of Life with fruit of best known stories and this one is for general use.

The final one was produced by Barbara Jones and this is made from Batik/White fabric brought from The Gambia and was originally made into a poster. This one is also for general use.



On display in the picture are - on the pulpit The Christmas Star, and on the wooden panels from left to right The Dews of Quietness, The Tree of Life and The Flames of Fire.

Jean Normington

ROC Conversation 12th March 2020



Last TNV we had a comprehensive item about the ROC Conversation. Two months on, and with Christmas/New Year over, we are on the final run-in – 8 weeks to go as I write. First can I thank those of you who have been praying for the event and its organisers. Can I add to the list a prayer request from the ROC team. They are running 20 conversations during the first 3 months of the year, including ours. Please pray that the team will be given

sustained energy and enthusiasm as they tour the country sharing God's love through this work. Other than that the prayer list from last month will serve us well.

I am aware ROC preparations are largely invisible, so I thought I'd give you an idea of what has been going on behind the scenes:

- Steering group. 9 of us representing 6 churches. Meets every fortnight. Ruth Taylor chairs. Wonderful combination of experiences and gifts with a real sense of Godly purpose.
- Prayer. Co-ordinated by Andrew Humphries (Woking prayer network); Ann Dawson is our point of contact.
- Invitations out to over 200 people, many invites followed up by a visit. Caroline Page has led this. We have a high response rate – God is good.
- Over 65 people have confirmed attendance to ROC via Eventbrite. 8 weeks out this is a very high number – approx. 30% of our maximum capacity of 240
- Plan for Audio-Visual connection between main hall and sanctuary sorted. Table layouts sorted. Round tables and extra chairs sorted.

This is the last TNV before the ROC Conversation takes place. If you're asking yourself how you can get involved, a few suggestions below;

- Helping set up during the day on the 12th, including a certain amount of tidying so we look smart!!
- Acting to direct guests on the night – outside and inside
- Assistance with sorting out refreshments
- Praying on the night
- Dismantling first thing on Friday morning (the latter is important as we need to have the premises back to near normal by 09:30 for Toddlers).

If you are wanting to help, please add your name to the sign up list on the ROC board in the East Entrance and we will contact you nearer the time.

When we last met we saw sight of a typical report that ROC produce following the event. The information contained and the number of ideas captured was impressive, and I am more convinced than ever that the ROC Conversation will come to be seen as a significant moment for Woking.

Hugh Bowerman

Praying together

Last year we began a series on praying with psalms and we continue with that by looking at Psalm 1.

Psalm 1 'True Happiness' [*Good News Translation*]

- ¹Happy are those
who reject the advice of evil people,
who do not follow the example of sinners
or join those who have no use for God.
²Instead, they find joy in obeying the Law of the LORD,
and they study it day and night.
³They are like trees that grow beside a stream,
that bear fruit at the right time,
and whose leaves do not dry up.
They succeed in everything they do.
⁴But evil people are not like this at all;
they are like straw that the wind blows away.
⁵Sinners will be condemned by God
and kept apart from God's own people.
⁶The righteous are guided and protected by the LORD,
but the evil are on the way to their doom."*

Beatus vir, "Blessed is the man..." in Latin, are the first words in the Vulgate Bible of both Psalm 1 and Psalm 112 (111). In illuminated manuscript psalters the start of the



main Psalms text was traditionally marked by a large Beatus initial for the "B" of "Beatus", and the two opening words are often much larger than the rest of the text. Between them these often take up a whole page. Beatus initials have been significant in the development of manuscript painting, as the location of several developments in the use of initials as the focus of painting.

Like many of the psalms, psalm 1 contrasts the 'righteous' good person with the 'wicked' or 'ungodly' or the 'sinner'. The good person is one who takes care to know the laws of God such as the ten commandments and so has good judgment and avoids bad company. The result is the ability to withstand difficult times in life supported by God's protection. On the other hand, the wicked person's behaviour makes them vulnerable to disaster, like chaff blowing away in the wind. The good person is compared to a tree planted by a stream. For this person the harvest is plentiful, and whatever he or she does flourishes. The prophet Jeremiah wrote a similar passage in Jeremiah 17 [*Good News Translation*]:

"5The LORD says, 'I will condemn those who turn away from me and put their trust in human beings, in the strength of mortals. 6He is like a bush in the desert, which grows in the dry wasteland, on salty ground where nothing else grows. Nothing good ever happens to him. 7But I will bless the person who puts his trust in me. 8He is like a tree growing near a stream and sending out roots to the water. It is not afraid when hot weather comes, because its leaves stay green; it has no worries when there is no rain; it keeps on bearing fruit.'"

In Wikipedia I came across a paraphrase of the 1st Psalm by Robert Burns:

*The man, in life wherever plac'd,
Hath happiness in store,
Who walks not in the wicked's way,*

Nor learns their guilty lore!

*Nor from the seat of scornful pride
Casts forth his eyes abroad,
But with humility and awe
Still walks before his God.*

*That man shall flourish like the trees,
Which by the streamlets grow;
The fruitful top is spread on high,
And firm the root below.*

*But he whose blossom buds in guilt
Shall to the ground be cast,
And, like the rootless stubble, tost
Before the sweeping blast.*

*For why? that God the good adore,
Hath giv'n them peace and rest,
But hath decreed that wicked men
Shall ne'er be truly blest.*

One way to pray using this psalm is to read it through several times and find the words that seem to leap out on reading the text. For me the lines about being like trees planted near streams stand out. So, a prayer could be

Dear God, when I read your word I can see where I have made mistakes and tried to walk away from you. Help me to build my life on you God, to trust you and build my life so I am like a tree next to a stream. Enable me to rely on you God and draw on your word to help me like a tree near a stream has water to draw strength from every day.

Help me to find joy in reading the Bible. Help me to walk listening closely to you, listening to you. I cannot be perfect but I can try to grow more like Jesus and walking alongside Jesus enables me to be a better person. Help me to continue on that journey of walking close to you, God. Amen

Another suggestion is to pray using verses 1 and 2 of the psalm (see above):

Father God we thank you that your law and word in the Bible is good. We thank you that you have revealed yourself to us through your word in the Bible. We ask that you would give us the strength not to walk in the ways of the sinner or those who have no use for God. Help us to find my delight and satisfaction and joy in your word. Help me to meditate on your word day and night.

Open our eyes that I may understand the power of your word for my life. I also ask that my family would read the Bible with pleasure. I pray that we would walk in the way of good friends and not in the way of the wicked. Place good influences in our lives. Fill us with a love for you and your word. Amen

My last suggestion is to try to rewrite the psalm to make it relevant to yourself and your circumstances.

¹Happy and joyful are those who reject the advice and example of evil people, who do not follow what it says online or in the advice columns or join those who have no use for God and declare God does not exist for them.

²Instead, they find joy in prayer and listening to God, and they study the Bible each day and night.

³They are like trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time in season, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do. These trees can put down good roots and so they grow strong.

⁴But evil people are not like this at all; they are like straw that the wind and the Holy Spirit blows away.

⁵Sinners will be condemned by God and kept apart from God's own people.

⁶The righteous are guided and protected by the LORD, but the evil are on the way to their doom away from God.

Amen

Ann Dawson

Lent Lunches

Under the auspices of Churches Together in Woking, Lunches are being arranged every Friday during Lent, from 28th February to 3rd April. The lunches will be in the Hall of St. Dunstan's, RC Church, Shaftesbury Road, Woking, between 12.00 and 1.30pm. Pause for Thought at 12.45pm.

The lunches are a time of inter-church fellowship around a simple meal provided by teams from participating churches. They are a pleasant occasion for meeting members from other churches as well as a time to consider some thoughts on the theme of Lent given by visiting speakers. The lunches last year raised £1,500 for Christian Aid.

Fifty years on



It was an honour to receive a long-service certificate in recognition of my 50 years as an organist in the Methodist Church. Daphne had organised this without me knowing (officially!) and arranged with Jackie that it should be presented on 8th December.

I learned to play the organ as a pupil at Kent College, the Methodist independent school in Canterbury. From the age of 14 until I left in 1969 I played

frequently for chapel services and morning assemblies. The first occasion was unforgettable. Before I was able to sight-read hymns my tutor had told me to learn the tune Stuttgart (Come thou long-expected Jesus) as an aid to pedal technique. I arrived at evening prayers one Tuesday night to be told by the duty prefect that I would have to play for the short service as no-one else was available. Sadly for me the hymn number on the board was MHB 272 (Jesus shall reign where'er the sun). So when the hymn was announced I, very hesitantly, had to call out from the organ at the rear of the chapel to ask if we could sing No. 242 (Come thou long-expected Jesus). Not an auspicious start!

My father was a very fine organist, a prize-winning Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, who played regularly well into his 80s. He was of a time when the Methodist Church could boast a number of similarly skilled musicians. Against that background it was inevitable that I should seek a church appointment when I left school. Thus I applied for the post of Organist and Choirmaster at South Croydon Methodist Church. I had to attend a trial choir practice where I was required to lead them through 'God so loved the world' (Crucifixion) and 'Lift thine eyes' (Elijah), with the incumbent organist and choirmaster at the organ. All pretty nerve-racking; but I got the job - and earned £30.00 a Quarter into the bargain.

I enjoyed my time at South Croydon, a church which sadly no longer exists. In 1974 I moved from Kent to Surrey and joined Leatherhead Methodist Church. Initially I played on a rota there, filling in on other Sundays at various churches in the Dorking & Horsham Circuit. In 1991 I became the main organist and accompanied musical events there until we joined Trinity in 2006.

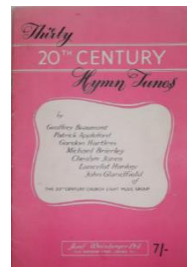
I guess my most prestigious engagement over the 50 years must be the occasion in the mid-1970s when I played for the main morning service in Guildford Cathedral. That came about because of the practice to invite churches from around the Diocese to provide the music when the Cathedral choir

were on their Summer holidays. Fetcham Parish Church was one of the Parishes invited that year. The Organist and Choirmaster there was an acquaintance of mine and he asked if I would play for the service whilst he led the choir. It went well on the whole although there was an unfortunate moment at the end when I forgot to cancel the trumpet stop during the 'quiet' recessional. To this day I can see the frown on the face of the presiding Canon as he processed past below the organ loft with my improvisation thundering down the nave.

That faux pas aside I try to operate by my father's maxim that the role of the organist in church is to aid worship. Doing this within the context of a specific service is one thing, but what about in the context of worship style generally? The organ is not suited to most contemporary church music and at a personal level that presents me with a dilemma. For fifty plus years I have been fortunate in the knowledge that I can serve God and the church in a way which, to paraphrase the Covenant service, is suitable to my natural inclinations and in that sense 'easy'. But if it transpires that this form of service is unhelpful, adhering to the original maxim becomes much more challenging!

It has happened before of course. Even though the organ has been in existence for centuries, until the mid 19th century many churches used a small worship band to accompany their services (Thomas Hardy wrote affectionately about one such 'choir' in *Under the Greenwood Tree*). But then – as in the novel - the bands were supplanted by the organ, sometimes acrimoniously, and for at least the next 100 years organs, and the huge repertoire of music they spawned, became the norm.

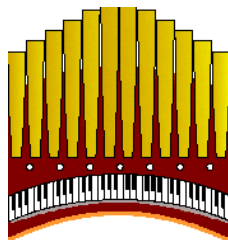
The first challenge to its supremacy that I experienced occurred with the publication in 1960 of 'Thirty 20th Century Hymn Tunes' by the Church Light Music Group. To traditionalists it was distasteful to introduce



a secular style of music to worship (even though the Salvation Army had been doing it for years!). At least two of the items in that book are still in regular use ('Living Lord' and the tune we sing to 'At the name of Jesus') and would now be considered pretty traditional! Things have moved on a lot since then of course but one feature in common with the 1960 publication is the tension that successive styles of worship songs have generated between those assisted in worship by them and those whose worship feels obstructed.

It is curious to me why from the late Victorian era to the 1960s, despite all the upheaval and cultural change that occurred, worshippers appear to have been happy to stick with the content of books like MHB (dating from 1933), and yet thereafter they were not. Is it connected to the liberating impact of the 1960s, and (albeit indirectly) the demise of deference? No doubt a social historian could explain!

In any event, the fact remains that – as in life generally – we are more questioning of worship style than in the past, keen to challenge the status quo if our expectations are not being met. And if the church is going to survive and grow it plainly has to accommodate the changes that contemporary society demands. At Trinity an important feature of The Foundry concept is that it will seek to accommodate different tastes. Nevertheless, the challenge for people like me is to come to terms with the possibility that at some point in the future the service that I offer may – like Thomas Hardy's west gallery band - have little role to play. I'm increasingly sanguine about that, as we must all be! Meanwhile I am pleased to be able to continue contributing to our worship, and I derive considerable pleasure from playing the fine instrument that Trinity is fortunate to possess.



David Lander

The Coffee and Chat Group



At our first 2020 meeting on Wednesday 8 January, we had a very lively discussion about New Year Resolutions. At first, no-one admitted to having made any resolutions (which was not the best start!) but the conversation soon became animated with members putting forward ideas that should be considered.

Top of the list was:

Decluttering. This is much easier said than done, as many of those present had things gathered and kept over the decades. Although we know we no longer have any use for them, we are attached to them sentimentally. We could perhaps make better use of the space occupied by these objects, but it is very hard to let them go. Then came:

Making the most of each day. Perhaps thinking that none of us know what the future holds for us, we should try to live lives that are as full as possible. Maybe, not always concentrating on our own concerns, but living more effective lives, with more awareness of the concerns of others. This led on to:

Sharing laughter. Someone said that 'Laughter is the Medicine of the Soul'. It was felt that seeing the funny side of things and laughing at our own follies is important and helps to keep life in perspective, but we should take care ensuring no one felt threatened by others' humour.

Did anyone there adopt any of these ideas? Who knows? But the general feeling of the group was that we should try to work towards a kinder, and more friendly community. Perhaps just by saying 'Good morning ' to a passer-by, or thanking workers providing essential services (? refuse collectors included) we might begin to make a difference.

Margot Craig

Make a Cross – God working incognito

Recently I heard someone say, "Coincidence is God working incognito" That sums up for me the experience of making a



cross at the ArtServe* Festival in October last year. The theme was 'Celebrate and Serve' For me the coincidence starts in the Cairngorms last May when my daughter and I visited the beautiful little church at Insh, near Aviemore. Propped up against the wall outside the door was a cross.

It was made of two sticks with a ring of thorny strands around the centre. It was simple, yet so profound, the image has stayed with me ever since. I wished I

could make a cross as expressive as this.

Imagine my amazement when I received the list of workshops from ArtServe to find 'Carving a Cross' as an option, I immediately replied with that as one of my choices. Then I received another email to say, 'it won't actually involve carving but using wood to create a cross.' My quick response was, I preferred that to actual carving; here was an opportunity to develop my thoughts and feelings from Insh.

I was full of anticipation when Jonathon, our facilitator, started his explanation and shared possible ideas and urged us to think creatively. He then told us about his life and how

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God had worked through his skills. He closed by saying "I am just a channel passing things on for others to experience". My mind just exploded! Some words from my Salvation Army childhood written by Mary E Maxwell - *'Channels only, blessed Master'* flashed across my mind and an idea began to emerge. God had been working incognito since the Spring and suddenly he was present. I knew my cross had to reflect those words; but how, that was the challenge. It had to be a cross with channels.

The room was full of ideas, you could feel the creativity in the air. I began making a rough sketch. There was, what we call in school, a 'working noise' but this working noise was so full of the presence of God as thoughts and ideas began to emerge around the room and materials were selected. I found a comfortable spot to work and collected some pieces of wood. I thought of Jesus working alongside his father Joseph in the workshop, sharing ideas with each other as we were and developing skills he/we may not have used before.

God's ideas were now becoming clear; I made a base from three pieces of batten; two thinner pieces were laid along the joins to form a channel. I wanted the cross to reflect Jesus with arms pointing downwards towards the foot of the cross. Symbolically this would allow his sacrificial, redeeming love to flow down the channels out to us and into God's world.

It began well - and then I discovered I didn't have enough longer pieces of wood to complete the work; consequently, on one side I had to use shorter offcuts. This spoke to me of Christ's broken body on the cross. This was emphasized by leaving the wood rough like the real cross would have been with rough edges and splinters.

At the crucifixion the Romans put a mocking message above the cross. I needed something for today and the words of Mary Maxwell fitted perfectly: *'Channels only blessed Master but with all your wondrous power flowing through me, you*

*can use me every day and every hour.*** I wrote them by hand and attached them to the cross.

The Holy Spirit was moving within us as we shared our work; it became such a spiritual experience. Each person adding something of themselves as they explained their work. The reasons and outcomes, it was a most moving, informative, challenging and Spirit filled fifteen minutes.



At home I have printed the words and fixed them above the cross. It hangs on the lounge wall beneath my Local Preaching Certificates reminding me daily and hourly that I am and all Christians are, called to be channels of God's love to all we meet: empowered by the Holy Spirit and I intend to try and do that.

It will also accompany me for sermons and other 'talks' to illustrate the point of Celebrate and Serve. I felt very humble for God had spoken to me 'incognito' and now I recognised him and had responded as did all of us in our own Spirit inspired way.

My thanks to Jonathon for being such an inspired 'channel' facilitating us, and my workshop colleagues for sharing their deep thoughts and giving support and encouragement. If you want a deeply spiritual, creative, friendly and thoroughly enjoyable weekend join us at ArtServe next October at High Leigh, Hertfordshire.

Graham Warr

** *'How I praise thee, precious Saviour'* by Mary E. Maxwell



Do you have any leftover wool?

I am knitting Twiddler / Fidget Muffs and activity Lap blankets to donate to people with dementia. Twiddler Muffs provide a source of visual, tactile, and sensory stimulation and keep hands warm. Lap blankets are laid close to those who are even less able and often in bed.



Activity lap blanket



Twiddler/Fidget muff

Having witnessed the needs of people with advanced dementia in the home where my husband was cared for before he died last year, I have been designing and knitting “muffs”. If people with dementia lose attachment to life through thinking and feeling, then they are making sense of the world by touch. I have observed hand wringing, hair pulling, fiddling with shoe laces and clothes for want of some way of expressing themselves. Muffs provide a comfort and activity for restless hands with the items that are sewn into and on them.

These have been received extremely well by the staff and patients and seem to make a really positive change in the users’ behaviour. If you know an individual or a care home that would like to receive these items I will be pleased to try to accommodate them. I am not a speedy producer, but they are great fun and simple to make.

The items also provide visitors and staff with a subject to talk about. This is vital as although the person with dementia may not speak themselves, hearing the human voice makes a deep connection and helps them feel loved. I would like to carry on making these for others, so please can you bring any spare knitting yarn (especially textured) to church or contact me to possibly collect anything you could donate.

Also, I would be very interested to hear from other knitters that have some spare time, to investigate the possibility of working together to produce these useful items, I would also be very happy to come and speak to any groups that might benefit from hearing about dementia.

If you are intrigued by this idea, it is worth listening to "Fidget on Four", a Radio 4 programme (available on BBC Sound) first broadcast on the 31st December 2019.

Many Thanks,

Wendy Coope

Contact – 07956 255979

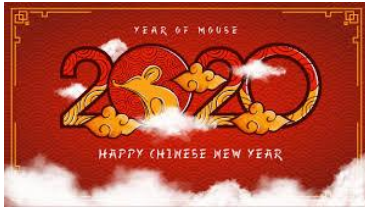


Woking Choral Society will perform Gioachino Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* at the HG Wells Centre on **Saturday 14th March** at 7.30pm. Conducted by Musical Director Richard Bannan, with internationally acclaimed soloists and accompanied by piano and harmonium, the work will be performed in its original 1863 instrumentation. Tickets are available from the society's website www.wokingchoral.org.uk or can be obtained from the Lightbox or Brittens Music in New Haw.

Chinese New Year 2020: The year of the mouse

Chinese New Year began on 25 January Other years of the mouse, or rat, include 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996 and 2008. It is said that those born under this lunar zodiac sign are thought to be kind, smart, thoughtful and quick witted. They are Independent, self-confident, virtuous and talented, with a strong sense of teamwork. They have quick minds and dexterous hands, and are able to learn anything. They are always considerate of their families and friends. They always adapt themselves to a new environment

Chinese Zodiac is a cycle of 12 years with each year represented by one of the twelve animals. Mouse comes first, followed by Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. There are many versions regarding the choice of the twelve animals. Basically, the animals are all related to the agricultural background of



ancient China. They are animals on the farm or in the neighbouring forest, or simply from mythology, such as the Dragon, which is responsible for the control of rain.

One may wonder why the cat, a popular domestic animal, has been left out. One legend goes that the Jade Emperor in heaven organized a race among the animals to decide the final twelve for the imperial guards. The cat and the mouse used to be good friends then, and both were looking forward to the race, making a pledge to get up early together on the big day. However, the cat overslept while the mouse quietly sneaked out leaving his friend behind. When the cat woke up, it was too late for the race. The cat put the blame on the

betrayal of his good friend. Eventually, the mouse won the race. Since then, a cat would hunt any mouse every time he sees him! Anyway, the cat is left out.

Beside the tricks that mouse played in the great race story of the Chinese zodiac, there are other legends about its priority in those animals. In Chinese mythology about the origin of the earth, the universe was in darkness without form like an egg before the earth and heaven was separated. It was the mouse that bit a crack and let the air in. He was the hero to start the world, thus the importance of him. Another saying goes that his forepaws have four toes and hindpaws have five toes, with both odd and even numbers. For such a special creature among the twelve animals, mouse won the first place.

In the western world, mouse has a place in idiom and similes. The phrase "hungry as a church mouse", is said to come from the fact that Catholic and Orthodox priests were called to scrupulously prevent any crumb of the sacrament of Eucharist from falling on the altar or to the ground, meaning that church mice had no crumbs to feed



on. Another version is derived from the fact that church buildings didn't store or provide food and therefore mice in such buildings were utterly destitute. The idiom "quiet as a church mouse" is a very common one to describe degrees of 'quiet'. "To bell the cat"

is a great challenge to the multitude of mice. It calls for great courage and a strong sense of self-sacrifice to achieve this. Nowadays, it is not easy to have such a hero to take the danger of a shared enterprise upon oneself.

The Pied Piper is a legend with a lot for our reflection. The mayor's refusal to give out the promised award to the Piper is a manifestation of human weaknesses, ingratitude and greed and to pay for valuable service should be honoured. Pied Piper is a solution offered by Providence to the problem

of rat infestation in Hamelin. His setting free the children after receiving the payment, on the contrary, proved that he was a man of his words. One ending of the story was that the children were lured to join the Children's Crusade, while another has a happy ending of children returning to their parents. More serious literature such as Robert Hendrickson's *More Cunning Than Man : A Social History of Rats and Man* stated that rats were a frequent and real problem in medieval Europe, and rats were aggressive as a pest. The trade of "Ratcatcher" sprang up. Colourful characters with various means for the extermination of rats would parade in and out of towns for the purpose. Among the techniques employed by these professionals was shrill, high-pitched piping.

To look at the brighter side, mouse has something to offer. Laboratory mouse, a small mammal of the order Rodentia, is bred and used for scientific research. Laboratory mice are usually of the species *Mus musculus* (house mouse), the most commonly used mammalian research model and are used in research in genetics, psychology, medicine and other scientific disciplines. Mice belong to the *Euarchontoglires* clade, which includes human beings. This close relationship, the associated high homology with humans, their ease of maintenance and handling, and their high reproduction rate, make mice particularly suitable models for human-oriented research. The issue of animals testing is often open to debate. Whatever the outcome, if any, human beings are very much indebted to a living creature that helps to promote well-being of our lives. How much more we should be grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ for His sacrifice on the cross on our behalf?

The world famous cartoon character Mickey Mouse, mascot of the Walt Disney Company, created in 1928, has become one of the world's most recognized and



popular characters. Mickey and his girlfriend Minnie Mouse, his pet dog Pluto, his friend Donald Duck and Goofy have become household friends to many in different generations. Disneyland with Mickey as the main character has become a symbol of success of entertainment. Walt Disney got his inspiration of creative art from a mouse in his garage. This little creature since then has appeared in a wide range of entertainments, with ever changing outfit and even once as Bob Cratchit in Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol. The social impact of Mickey the mouse is universally recognised. However, in America, the term Mickey Mouse is used to indicate dissatisfaction of candidates as a protest in their voting, also a slang expression meaning small-time, amateurish or trivial. In UK and Ireland, it also means poor quality or counterfeit.



The mouse, or rat, has made our world today more fascinating. Though not a welcoming creature to many, if not detestable, like many fellow human being who are not sociable, it was also among the many creatures on board Noah's ark. When you happen to see a mouse next time, no matter where, what would be your response?

Simon Che



Epworth Choir will be performing Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* at Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Guildford on **Saturday 21st March** at 7.30pm. More information is available on the choir's website www.epworthchoir.org or from members of the choir.

A visit to Cape Town's District Six Museum



Those who know South Africa will not be surprised to hear that we were able to enjoy stunning scenery and many fascinating experiences during our recent trip to Cape Town and the Garden Route. At the same time it was salutary to observe the inequality

that persists in the country, and will inevitably persist for decades, despite the official integration that democracy has established. The Western Cape is by reputation one of the most tolerant parts of the country and we were told that sadly old attitudes are more prevalent in the north.

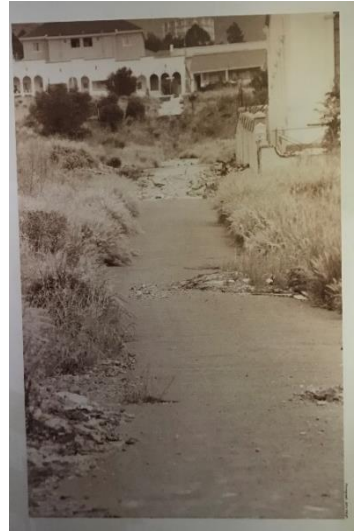
So it was instructive to learn at first hand the legacy of the apartheid era during our time in Cape Town. This was encapsulated for us in the story of District Six, formally the Sixth Municipal District of Cape Town. Liberal as the Cape area has historically been it was naturally subject to the restrictions of the Group Areas Act of 1950 which enforced segregation.



Hitherto District Six was a part of the city where European, black and mixed race people were living amicably (by and large) together. In 1966 it was designated a 'whites only' area however and over the next decade some 60,000 people were forcibly removed to the Cape Flats area some 15 miles away. The townships there (many still a conglomeration of corrugated iron shacks) are now home to over 500,000 people.



Richmond Street as it was, and as it is today



By 1982 almost all the buildings in District Six had been razed to the ground. But it remains something of an icon in the history of apartheid because of the wanton and pointless destruction of a vibrant multi-ethnic community. So controversial did it become that no development took place to allow the area to be populated by 'whites' and to this day the area remains a desolate waste ground with a few signs of its former existence. The ANC government have a programme to build modern housing to settle the claims of former residents although little progress has been made. In February 2004 the keys to the first two houses were handed to octogenarian former residents by Nelson Mandela himself.

A museum to the former life of District Six has been created in a former Methodist church and our visit there brought to life the human tragedy of apartheid in a most poignant way. Families were given very little time to move out and any resistance was inevitably met with uncompromising force. The uprooting of families, the destruction of community life, the isolation and unemployment caused by the remoteness of the Cape Flats (District Six lay on the edge of Cape Town's

What's on at Trinity

Prayer Group	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 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 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 April/May issue should be submitted by

Sunday 22nd March 2020

**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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