



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 9 August 2020

Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends,

Like many others watching the TV footage of the terrible explosion in Beirut on Tuesday, I was shocked by the size and power of the explosion and by early reports of deaths, casualties and destruction. I could not help but be reminded of the time I watched the events of the 9/11 destruction of the Twin Towers in New York unfold. Despite some early speculators' assumptions, the tragedy in Beirut is not the work of deliberate terrorist planned sabotage, it is the result of 6 years of neglect of action to deal with a known risk. In 2014 a ship on route to Mozambique was abandoned in the Lebanese port of Beirut when its owner declared himself bankrupt. The cargo of 2,700 tonnes of ammonium nitrate (fertilizer) was impounded and stored 'temporarily' in a waterfront warehouse, and there it has remained despite repeatedly expressed concerns to various official bodies that, should it begin to decay or be accidentally ignited, the explosive potential would be enormous. The explosion on Tuesday is estimated as the equivalent of 3.5 on the Richter Scale, resulted in at least 100 dead, 4,000 injured and 300,000 homeless and the figures are still rising.

We sometimes complain about the need to do the risk assessments on our activities that the Church now requires. Certainly there is no way to eradicate completely all risk from human activity, accidents do happen even in the most carefully planned activity, but we have a responsibility to ourselves and others to act responsibly in assessing risk and taking the necessary action to mitigate it. The consequences of the failure of responsible persons to do this in the case of a Beirut warehouse on Tuesday is one of a long list of avoidable tragedies in recent years, including fire in and collapse of a garment factory in Pakistan, the collapse of part of the Morandi Bridge in Genoa (2018) and, of course, the Grenfell Tower fire in London. And it's not just those officially responsible for large projects whose negligence can have life-ending or life changing consequences: a pre-Covid visit to A&E on the average Saturday night or on Bonfire Night or New Year's Eve would reveal

plenty of risks that became a reality for some unfortunate individual.

Where is God, in all this? When terrible things happen, we have a tendency to cry out to God for justice and help. It has been reported that during the COVID crisis more people have turned to prayer. The God we worship is certainly on the side of the poor, the bereaved and the oppressed, and like every loving parent is grieved by the suffering of his children. If you have difficulty in putting your grief or your needs into words, explore the Books of Psalms and Lamentation. I was once told that the psalmists are a lot less polite and a lot more direct when addressing God in their need than we think we need to be!

Let us hold the people of Beirut in our prayers and pray that other potentially disastrous situations may be averted because of the lessons learnt from their tragedy.

*Every Blessing
Jackie*

Message from the Leadership Team

The Leadership Team have been meeting during lockdown via zoom, and mostly our meetings have been concerned with ways to keep in touch with everyone and to keep worship going. The "techie" team who have worked on enabling us to use zoom deserve a big thank you from us all.

During this time there have also been weekly zoom meetings of our five Lay Workers – Allison, Shirley, Sue, Daniela and Hugh - plus Jackie, John, and me. These have been helpful as we have been able to share what is happening with our Church families, arrange help where needed and find ways to adapt to all the new rules as they come in.

This coming Sunday we are opening the Church for morning worship for the first time since lockdown and we look forward to seeing you there. It is not going to be the worship we are used to, no singing, compulsory wearing of a face covering and no stopping to chat in the Sanctuary. Instead of being sad about this, let us rejoice that we can be together and worship our loving God.

There will be more changes in the weeks ahead as we explore the possibility of streaming our services online for those who are still not able to join us, and for the Circuit Welcome Service for Rev Sam.

During these last 4 months we have we lived through such rapidly changing times. It is always far harder to cope with change than with stability but let us remember the absolute steadfastness and unchanging of God's Love which is always with us.

Jean Normington

A Word in Season 20 – ‘Reworked’

*‘The Lord said to Jeremiah,
“Come, go down to the potter’s house and there I will
let you hear my words.”*

*So, he went down to the potter’s house, and there he
was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making
of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he
reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to
him.*

*Then God said to Jeremiah,
“Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this
potter has done? Just like the clay in the potter’s
hand, so are you in my hand”.*

(Jeremiah 18:1-6 NRSVA)

When lockdown started, I did not appreciate how long it would last or how much it would change my life. Up to now I have managed to keep busy. However, now I am getting to the bottom of the list of outstanding things I needed to do in the garden, around the house, etc.

A couple of weeks ago I was at the point where I felt justified to spend some time on a personal project, close to my heart. I had started the project about twenty years ago but had left it for about six years. However, lockdown had put me in a position to begin an update of the model railway situated in the garage. It has been a lifetime’s, extremely satisfying work but has been looking rather jaded lately.

It was agreed by the CEO (me), the Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer (Bernhard), and the Landscape Design Team (Isobel and Clara), as the Board of the RDKR (Ramsen, Dentenberg, Kapfli, Rot) Railway Company, that we would start a major reworking of the track and add a Mountain Railway and Cable Car.

And with two granddaughters and two adults all wanting to ‘drive’ the trains, modifications needed to be made to the control system. Last week I began to take up the old track and put down the new on one side of the layout. We had decided to split the control of the trains into two separate sections. The mainline as one, and the mountain railway and eventually the cable-car as the other. On Monday Bern and I spent a happy afternoon testing the newly laid track, the power supply to the track, and the locomotives. Some of them needed servicing and he took them away to do this.



Ramsen town and station, in N gauge – based on the border village of Ramsen, between Switzerland and Germany, on, what is now, the now preserved railway line between Stein am Rhein (Switzerland) and Singen (Germany).

Following our discussions there were some minor tweaks needed to the scenery and it was then that the story of Jeremiah and the Potter came to mind. Our railway needed changing, modifying, updating, reworking, to make it more fit for purpose. It occurred to me that this reflected of our current situation at Trinity. God took Jeremiah to see the potter at work and when the pot wasn’t as the potter intended, he started again, using the wet clay to remake it. Over the period of lockdown God has been working with us to look at how we can use the experience to develop and expand our role in both Worship and Mission. We started with Zoom Morning Worship and Foundry Worship as well as Friday Fun Club and House groups, including a Love Feast, followed by Mike [Tozer’s] Coffee Shop on a Wednesday afternoon.

Now as the situation develops, for the past three weeks we have opened the church for private prayer on a Wednesday Morning (10.30-12.00). This week the opportunity was used by ten people. Foundry Worship has now taken place in the church. And as you know this coming Sunday we will be holding a socially distanced Morning Worship at 10.00 am. It will be different – masks will be worn, there can be no singing, but worship will take place and God will be in the midst of us. Plans are being made for live streaming worship as well as other formats.

Worship for the early Christian Church was in secret, in ‘upper rooms’, outdoors – on the hillsides and subject to, often violent, persecution. Yet they came through it and over the centuries our worship has developed, but the promise of Jesus remains the same, our Lord will be with us no matter how few or many meet to worship.

Likewise, our Mission role has changed, and we are actively working with ROC – (Redeeming Our Communities) and in other areas, God is definitely using us, individually and as a church community, to work in different ways to extend the Kingdom of God here on earth. We can reflect on, and identify with, the words of Fred Pratt Green,

'Let every Christian pray, this day and every day, come Holy Spirit, come! Was not the Church we love commissioned from above? Come, Holy Spirit, come! The Spirit brought to birth the Church of Christ on earth, to seek and save the lost: God never has withdrawn since that tremendous dawn, those gifts of Pentecost.

Always the Spirit strove to teach her how to love: come, Holy Spirit, come! Age after age, anew, she proved the Gospel true: come, Holy Spirit, come! Only the Spirit's power can fit us for this hour, come Holy Spirit come! Instruct, inspire, unite, and make us see the light: come, Holy Spirit, come!' (StF 388)

We recognise that, in our current situation, God has an abundance of love for us all, the Lord Jesus gives us the grace and support we need, and the Holy Spirit gives us the power, confidence and comforts us as we journey. Today God is calling us to reflect on Jeremiah, and the Potter, and to listen act upon God's words:

"Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand".

God is calling us, both individually and together, to commit ourselves to bring the Kingdom of God, to become fit for purpose, for today and the future. In response to God's call, we must start with ourselves by allowing God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to rework us into becoming fit for God's purpose today:

"Have your own way, Lord, have your own way; you are the Potter, we are the clay, mould us and make us after your will, while we are waiting, yielded and still.

Have your own way, Lord, have your own way, wounded and weary, help us we pray. Power, all power, surely is Thine; touch us and heal us Saviour divine.

Have your own way, Lord, have your own way; hold o'er our beings' absolute sway. Fill with your Spirit until all shall see Christ only, always living in me".

(A. A. Pollard)

As I will be away on holiday with the family next week, narrow boating, I may not have the technology available to contribute next week. Consequently, I

leave you this week with the words of Ignatius Loyola:

"Lord, teach me serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek reward, save that of knowing that I do your will".

May God bless you and your witness and worship this coming week.

Graham Warr

Morning Worship on Sunday 9 August 2020

Join us for Worship in the Church at 10am on Sunday. Entry will be via the Brewery Road Entrance.

The Narthex doors will be open from 09.30am.

Please bring your mask or other face covering with you.

A limited number of disposable masks will be available.

Please follow the instructions of the Stewards and Marshalls and respect socially distancing measures.

Thank you.

Foundry Worship

We will meet at 5pm, at Trinity. Regarding Covid rules, we will now need to wear masks/face coverings as well, always a new challenge!

Our bible passage this week will be 1 Kings 19:9-18.

This is the story of Elijah fleeing for fear of being killed. This leads to an encounter with God. Elijah insists he is alone – no-one else who fears God is left. God's response is probably not what Elijah wanted to hear, or it may be what Elijah already knew deep down in his heart. How often do we feel alone in a spiritual sense? How often do we run away? What is it that brings us back to our senses?

If you are able to join us for a time of fellowship together (Covid Rules!), then we would be delighted to see you.

Hugh Bowerman



HEROES DON'T WEAR CAPES **THEY WEAR MASKS**

Did you get the answers right to Valerie's Quiz last week?

- Mongolia
- South Pacific
- Anton Chekhov
- Silver
- Pierre Trudeau
- Pottery
- Hurling
- Iris
- Pennsylvania
- Tzar
- Capability
- A plant, member of the pineapple family
- Cardinal Wolsey
- Chicken Pox
- Composer and Band Master

Good luck with this week's questions 😊

1. On which body of water does Scarborough lie?
2. Who wrote Alice in Wonderland?
3. Splitting, bating & frizzing are all steps in the process of preparing which natural substances for manufacture?
4. Where in the body is the pituitary gland?
5. A rocky headland off the southern tip of mainland South America?
6. Which Welsh singer is married to New York artist and film maker Andrew Levitas?
7. Where is Pitcairn Island?
8. Saturn is situated between which other planets?
9. What is the nationality of painter Antonio Correggio?
10. Which disease do male Tsetse flies carry?
11. In which South American Country is the Xingu river?
12. American aviation pioneers, brothers, Wilbur and Orville?
13. One of the noble gases, chemical symbol Xe
14. Former currency of France?
15. Humboldt is a type of which bird?

Methodist Church #Prayer of the Day, 5 August 2020

God the Father, eternally mysterious, we worship you. God the Son, eternally giving, we bless you. God the Holy Spirit, eternally witnessing, we adore you.

