



**TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 27 September 2020**

Message from Rev Sam Funnell

Dear Friends,
It's good getting to know you.... I could almost drift off and start singing that song from 'The King and I'...but I won't, not now anyway. But it is good – to be here in Woking, to be with you at Trinity and in the Wey Valley Circuit, it's even good working out what an 'Assistant District Chair' does – when I've worked that one out, I'll let you know!

Obviously our 'getting to know each other' is a bit different this year and rather more fragmented than I would like but I am getting to meet some of you at services and through other church activities and I hope that these opportunities will increase as time goes on (and hopefully the threat from Covid-19 can be managed and therefore recede).

I'm working on trying to get to know everyone's names and am asking for patience and generosity as I do so – if only we all came with a name badge or had our first names tattooed across our foreheads – only joking!

You're obviously getting to know that I'm a 'Sam' not a 'Samantha' – we'll leave that name to one of our Leadership Team members and I really am doing my best to get her name right too!

Some of you have also been kind enough to enquire about my dog, Daisy. She's a very small yellow Labrador, with red bits on her ears, tail and legs. She's a rescue but has made great progress in the 2 ½ years that I've had her and is my beloved companion in so much of my life – maybe, at a suitable point, you'll get to meet her. For now, here's a picture of my darling

doggie:



Not everyone likes dogs, I understand that but for me she has been a great blessing and a daily embodiment of God's care and provision for me. Having Daisy by my side means I'm not lonely; I have to get up and take her out for a walk – so I get a decent amount of exercise; she's a wonderful tool for starting up conversations with total strangers – I think every evangelist should have one, and she makes me smile – at the funny things she does and her unquenchable zest for life. Every day is a fresh beginning, full of possibilities and as she launches herself off the steps into the manse garden to go and play with her tennis balls or chase a squirrel – I can't help but catch some of her enthusiasm and ability to 'live in the moment'. Her companionship means I can cope with all sorts of things I probably couldn't without her and in that she models for me, a God-like sense of accompanying love and encouraging presence. When I read verses such as Isaiah 41:10 –

*'Do not fear, for I am with you, don't be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.'*

- I am helped to see that reassuring commitment and promise of God to me, in the Little Lady Labrador that I am privileged to share my life with, and who is currently fast asleep on her sofa in my study!

Go well and go with God, for God is with you!
Sam

Message from the Leadership Team

"We're doomed", as Fraser would say to Captain Mainwaring, whenever things looked bleak. And, perhaps, we are

currently living in bleak times. Does that mean we are doomed as well? Have we begun the end of days? Revelations is highly metaphorical in the way it is written and whilst the end, for those who truly believe, is an incredible afterlife, I struggle to believe in the literal journey it portrays to get there.



So how do we know if these dark times are a mere aberration in our combined existence or if we have little time to prepare to be saved? The answer is we don't. We never will know, as even if it stares us in the face, we will not see. Faith is our only salvation.

Dan had been getting regular email updates from Macmillan regarding the changing Covid regulations, most recently on the Friday. She and I were satisfied we could safely hold a socially distanced, take away only cake sale on our Drive.

So don't leave things unprepared, for you may be too late. Finish your preparations now and give yourself to Jesus today, as we do not know what tomorrow brings. I pray that we all live a long and fruitful life. But I pray even more that we all live with our Lord for eternity.

David Emmerson

On Saturday afternoon with Auntie Dan's help the Girls printed out and posted invitations to each house in our Close, and put posters up on our front and back fence. On Sunday morning they baked forty-eight cup-cakes, half were chocolate, half were carrot. They were duly iced and sprinkled. Dan was also going to make whole sponge cakes to order. We were suggesting a donation of 50p for a cupcake, and £5 for a sponge.

A Word in Season 27 – Make Me a Little Cake

'Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and make me a little cake and bring it to me..."'

(from 1 Kings 17:13)

Isobel and I set up the table, and hung balloons and bunting, and she chalked the arrows and 2 metre marks on the drive.

As you know, August and September are bitter-sweet months for me.

My birthday, and mine and Christine's wedding anniversary are in August and Christine's birthday was 5th September. In the last weeks of her life she was tenderly and supportively nursed by the Macmillan Nurses at the Royal Surrey.



A few weeks ago, Dan suggested to me that she would like to host a 'virtual' MacMillan Coffee Morning in memory of Christine, and she asked Isobel and Clara if they wanted to help. They did, and on Saturday the whole family came down for a pre-arranged morning to try out Paddle Boarding. Needless to say, I didn't take part but was the photographer! Bern and Jess then went home, and the children stayed overnight for the cake baking.

After a slow start, and then a successful trip round the playing field at the back of the house where a football tournament was taking place, by the end of the hour we had sold forty cakes, leaving enough

for Mummy to have one and for Daddy to have one and take the others to share with his work colleagues on Monday. Dan also had orders for three Lemon Sponges which were made and delivered that evening. So far, with a little bit more to come, we have made just over £50.

Just as the Widow at Zarephath was prepared to take the risk, in spite of the significant famine and uncertainty of the time, to use up her last remnants of grain and oil to make Elijah a cake, we can still respond to God's call to serve the needs of those around us; albeit in a 'socially distanced' way. God's promise, through Elijah to the widow, was that the jar of meal and the jug of oil would not fail until the drought ended. It is a lesson to us that God does and will provide the wherewithal when we respond to the challenges of practical service. We will, of course, have to work within the constraints of the prescribed recommendations and regulations. Our mission is not restricted by Covid-19 but has to develop in a different way to enable us to respond. Daniel Schutte reminds us of that call in Hymns and Psalms 663, particularly verse three.

*I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts are satisfied. I will give my life for them.
Whom shall I send?*

Will we respond?

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

As I reflected on the pleasure of the girls both big and small, and the effort they made on Sunday, I remembered a hymn we sang a few years ago at a Family Service in Walton on Thames.

*Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all, healing pain and sickness blessing children small.
Washing tired feet, saving those who fall;
Jesus' hands were kind hands doing good*

to all.

Take my hands Lord Jesus, let them work for you; make them strong and gentle kind in all I do.

Let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too, till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

(393 Hymns and Psalms, Margaret Cropper)

God's call to serve is to each one of us, individually, and it is important for us all to remember that our Lord uses the little things we do to large effect. It may be a simple act of kindness, or words of encouragement, or prayers prompted by the Holy Spirit, or even just a smile and a 'God bless you!'

Lord, we pray that you make these words a reality in our daily lives –

Out in the highways and byways of life, today, many are weary and sad. Help me to carry the sunshine where darkness is rife, making the sorrowing glad.

Help me to tell the sweet story of Christ and his love, tell of his power to forgive. Others will trust him if only we prove true, every moment we live.

Give as it was given to you in your need. Love as the Master loves you. Be to the helpless a helper indeed, unto your mission be true.

Lord, make me a blessing, make me a blessing! Out of my life may Jesus shine. Make me a blessing, O Saviour, I pray. Make me a blessing to someone, each day. Amen. (G. S. Schuler)

God bless us all this week.
Graham



'Cooks treat....!'

<https://coffee.macmillan.org.uk/>

Arrangements for Harvest

We hope you'll join us for the Harvest Service this week (Sunday 27th September), in person or via [our YouTube channel](#).

A Collection will be made for MHA (Gift Aid envelopes will be available), and you are welcome to bring something for the York Road Project. You can find details of their current needs here:

<https://www.yorkroadproject.org.uk/pages/85-harvest-2020>

Tinned goods, fresh fruit and veg, pasta and pulses, toiletries and PPE are all needed.



Supporting Christian Aid (CA)

As we know, one of the events that was cancelled due to lockdown was the annual Christian Aid Week collection in May. Lynda Shore, who organises the Knaphill CA Week collection and is involved in Woking CA, is undertaking a sponsored litter-pick to raise some funds in the absence of that main annual fund-raiser. Details are at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lyndashore> if anyone would like to sponsor her.



Valerie's Quiz Corner

Answers to last week's Quiz:

- Which country produces Jarlsberg cheese? *Norway*
- Who was the second of Henry VIII's wives? *Anne Boleyn*
- In which UK nation was Newsnight presenter Kirsty Wark born, in 1955? *Scotland*
- Backgammon is a board game for how many players? *Two*
- Which city recently saw the inauguration of the UK's first 'Dutch style' roundabout which prioritises cyclists? *Cambridge*

- What is an antigen? *A toxin or other foreign substance which induces an immune response.*
- Where is Honduras? *Central America*
- What type of creature is a common nase? *Fish*
- Of what is St Francis of Assisi the patron saint of? *Animals, and Nature*
- Where is the city of Giza? *Egypt*
- What is traditionally mixed into a Christmas pudding to bring good luck? *A silver coin*
- What is hurling? *Irish game, which is like hockey*
- What is the measurement of a hurricane on the Beaufort wind scale? *12*
- Who painted 'The Shout' in 1893? *Edvard Munch*
- In which decade was BBC2 launched? *1960s*

How many 3 letter words, or greater, can you make out of the following. There is at least one 8 letter word included 😊

NPUIKPMS