

# WEEKLY NEWS

Trinity Methodist Church Woking

## Message from the Leadership Team

Last Sunday, we started a conversation at Trinity which we hope will continue and also will in some way, involve everyone whether attending church in person or watching the Live Stream or being part of Foundry Worship or Friday Night Messy Fun Church. The conversation is based around 'What do we want to get out of 2025?' for ourselves and also for Trinity. We have already had some really deeply thought-out responses, for which 'Thankyou'.

One of the topics listed on the card was Bible Study and I want to follow that up. As Christians, I think we have a responsibility to read the Bible more, so that we can better understand what it says about how we should live our lives. It also helps us have more confidence when talking to others about our faith. There are countless different ways we can go about that and some methods will suite individuals more than others.

There are many Bible Reading Plans available on The Bible App that I and millions of others have on my phone. I have chosen again this year to follow 'The Bible with Nicky and Pippa Gumble'. I have done it before and achieved reading the whole bible in a year. Every day I read short passages from a Psalm or Proverbs, the Old Testament and the New Testament and there is a short reflection on each passage by Nicky Gumble. You can join The Plan at any time and it will take 365 days. (You can always catch up if you get behind!).

Joyce and 4 or 5 other ladies at Trinity attend Bible Study Fellowship on Wednesday mornings when they collectively study a particular book in the Bible, currently Revelation. They all do guided, in depth study on their own before the weekly meeting.

## Morning Worship

Sunday 2 February  
Communion Service  
led by Rev Dr Paul Glass  
**11am** followed by  
*Chinese New Year  
celebrations!*

Foundry Worship, 6pm

Sunday 9 February  
Morning Worship  
10.30am  
led by Graham Warr

Sunday 16 February  
Morning Worship  
10.30am  
led Hugh Bowerman

Foundry Worship, 6pm

**Live Stream  
Link  
CLICK HERE**

## Circuit News

The Circuit prayer letter for the week is HERE

A dozen or so others at Trinity are following 'Fresh from the Word' every day. That looks at a range of Christian issues based around a bible passage, written by one of a large team of assorted writers. We introduced that for all members some years ago when the whole congregation decided that we needed to know our Bibles better. If you want to start that, let us know, we can get hold of the books.

There are many daily Bible Study books available in Origin as well as on line, including The Methodist Church website and I am sure there are many different habits already adopted amongst us at Trinity, but it might help others if we shared what we do now.

So, I invite you to share what you do in terms of Bible Study so that we might inspire others to start or perhaps try something new. If you send me an Email, [\*\*john.nelson55@aol.co.uk\*\*](mailto:john.nelson55@aol.co.uk) I will occasionally share good ideas with the wider church.

If you didn't get a card with the conversation topics on it for whatever reason, please let me know at the same Email address and I will get one to you so that we can confidently say that we are ALL involved in the development of Trinity in 2025.

John Nelson



The next collection at Trinity will be **Sunday 2nd February**. Items that are most needed are laundry detergent, long life sponge puddings, long life milk, cooking oil, long life fruit juice, tomato ketchup, chocolate spread, egg noodles and rice noodles. Many thanks for your continued support.  
Carole Hymers

### Heating

As I write I don't know whether we will have the sanctuary heating working on Sunday – we are doing our best. I anticipate that with over 200 people worshipping together, the sanctuary will warm up nicely on Sunday, but do come prepared for it to be a little cooler than normal at the start. Hugh Bowerman

### Prayer Corner

The next opportunities for prayer together at Trinity will be **Friday 7 February and 21 February**, 10am in the Prayer Room. All are welcome!

### Lunar New Year Celebration - 2 February

29th January marks the Lunar New Year, welcoming in the year of the Snake. We have been invited to join together with our HK Chinese friends to celebrate the occasion.

We start by worshipping together. The service will start at 11am (note the time change) and will include Holy Communion. Rev Dr Paul Glass will preach. After the service we will have tea/coffee before resuming our seats so that we can hear about the traditions and meaning of the year of the Snake. We will then be invited through to enjoy a Chinese feast. Everyone is invited – so remember not to put your Sunday roast in the oven!

There will be tables and chairs for the older members of our congregations.

Eat, talk, share stories for as long as you like.

In addition to serving tea and coffee before the meal, we have offered that the Trinity morning congregation provide English style desserts. Thank you to those who signed up last Sunday . Even if you haven't signed up, do feel free to bring a dessert with you . If you are bringing a dessert, leave it in the kitchen area before the service.

A note on parking. Not everyone will be able to park in our carpark. Some of those attending will need to park close to the church because of mobility needs or because they're bringing a lot of stuff (food etc.) with them. Please use your discretion as to whether this is an occasion where you should use the Brewery Road car park.

These days it is rare for us to share morning worship together in a full church. What an opportunity this is, therefore, to join together with our Chinese friends and sing praises to our wonderful and loving God. I really hope you will be able to join with us.

Hugh Bowerman

## **Foundry Worship 2 February 2025 5.45pm for 6pm**

This is going to be a busy day, but after relaxing at the Chinese celebration and having had time to rest, you'll be ready to join us as we welcome Justin Brierly to Foundry Worship to talk about 'The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God'.

Many of you will have heard of Justin Brierly through his links with Woking URC (married to the Minister). But he is far better known internationally as a freelance writer, speaker and broadcaster who has created dialogues between Christians and non-Christians. Justin is passionate about creating conversations around faith, science, theology and culture. Therefore there are very few people who are better placed to help us understand why there is this Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God. And if we're serious about our mission in today's world, these are the kind of things we need to understand.

Even if Foundry Worship is not your normal practice, I hope you will be able to join us this week for what promises to be an informative evening and a wonderful time of worship together.

Hugh Bowerman, Foundry Pastor



## Children's Worship

### Messy Fun Church handout for Friday 31/1



This week is the start of the Chinese Lunar New Year. It is a special time of saying goodbye to the old year and welcoming in the new year. This is the most important festival in China. It is celebrated by putting up decorations, eating a special meal with family and friends, giving red envelopes with money and other gifts, setting off fireworks and watching lion and dragon dances.

Each year represents one of 12 different animals and this year it is the "Year of the Snake." The snake represents wisdom and intelligence. A snake can also shed its skin and so it represents growth and change.



It tells us in the Bible in Genesis that God created every living thing – including snakes. **Did you know: Snakes don't have eyelids or ears. They are carnivorous (meat eaters) and swallow their food whole because they can't chew!! They smell with their tongues.** God is a wonderful Creator and snakes are amazing animals,

Christians can celebrate Chinese New Year by showing love, giving thanks, and sharing God's love. They can recognise all the good things God gives and then share those blessings with others. Our friends from the Chinese church who meet at Trinity every Sunday afternoon and at different times during the week, will be joining with us this Sunday morning to worship God and then sharing a special meal with us afterwards to celebrate.



**Thank you God for your amazing creation and for the different ways we can celebrate special occasions with each other.**

## Jonathan Veira @ Fleet Methodist Church

We seem to have an increasing number of links with Fleet Methodist Church (family, friends, clergy). Anyway, I have been asked to draw to your attention an evening with Jonathan Veira. Many of us know him through Spring Harvest, and this is an evening I can endorse. If you are interested in going but don't want to drive over, let me know and we'll see if we can sort out a car share or similar. See attached poster for more info.

Hugh & Helen Bowerman

## World Day of Prayer 7 March 2025

This year's service "I made You wonderful" will on **Friday 7 March at 10.30am at Woking URC.**

The service will be live streamed on Woking URC Facebook or on YouTube at Woking URC.

Our sisters in the Cook Islands welcome us and lead us for the Day of Prayer 2025. This group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean has a rich and colourful Maori heritage and deep connection to nature. Join with us as we pray together. Everyone Welcome!

Wendy Rockhill

