

# WEEKLY NEWS

Trinity Methodist Church Woking

## Leadership notes:-

Last Sunday we held our Nativity service – a tradition in many churches at this time of year. Saint Francis is credited with the first living nativity scene in Greccio, Italy on Christmas Eve in 1223. Having been given permission by the Pope, he used real people and animals in a cave to help the local people connect with the humility of Jesus's birth.

Next week we will be taking some of our grandchildren to the Wintershall Nativity - an immersive experience on a winters evening where we will stand with the shepherds in the field, walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey, journey with Roman soldiers and at the end of the evening, enter a stable to gather around the manger. Perhaps a little more realistic than the tea-towelled shepherds, tinselled angels and cuddly toy sheep we see in church at Christmas, but even then, still very far removed from the reality of the birth of a baby in an animal shelter, by a young unmarried girl and her fiancé Joseph – both probably worried and uncertain what the future might hold. And then, with the threat to the life of their little boy hanging over them, having to flee to a foreign country as refugees. The wonder of the birth of a child in the harsh reality of life.

In the telling of the birth of Jesus we cannot accurately recreate those events of just over 2000 years ago, but what we can do is to pass on the story from generation to generation. The youngest child can recognise the love of a parent and the giving and receiving of gifts, and hopefully understand something of the wonder of the story, and those of us who have sat through many a Nativity can ponder again the mystery of God touching earth from Heaven in the form of that little, tiny, vulnerable child – a gift of love like no other.

**Helen Bowerman**



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE EMAIL FOR

admin at Trinity is	admin@trinitywoking.org
and for room bookings is	bookings@trinitywoking.org
and for newsletter is	newsletter@trinitywoking.org

## Forthcoming Services

### Sunday 14 December 2025

Morning Worship & Communion  
led by  
Reverend Sam Funnell  
10.30 am  
6 pm Carol Service jointly  
with Chinese Congregation

## Reflective Advent Service - 18 December

A gentle, quiet reflective service at 7pm (for about 40 mins) on Thursday 18th December on Zoom - link/log in as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82264641150?pwd=Z1NwbL6aA5RzI8urV0OfYmPxOllOQN.1>

OR

Meeting ID: 822 6464 1150  
Passcode: 029876

### Sunday 21 December 2025

Morning Worship  
led by Graham Warr  
10.30 am

6 pm Foundry Worship

## Live Stream Link

[Click HERE](#)

We will be serving refreshments after the Carol service on Sunday evening. Any donations of mince pies would be gratefully received. Thank you





As far as those in the know are aware, this is the only community Christmas Day lunch being organised this year in Woking. Please advertise details to your church communities/in your church bulletins - and beyond.

Good wishes and thanks,

Attached are the details of the Christmas Day lunch which aims to offer those who would otherwise be alone, a Christmas meal together with others. Full details are on the two attached documents ( reproduced on this page).

Foodwise would ask that you use the three links below when sharing any invitation to the Christmas Day lunch.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SHARE THE QR CODE FOUND ON THE FLYER ATTACHED FOR PAYMENT OF THE £3 OR: If you cannot use the QR code please pay by bank transfer to the Charity as follows:

- Foodwise (TLC) Limited
- Sort code 60-09-21
- Account number 77743660

• Please put your name as reference so we can link your payment to your name

HERE ARE THE THREE LINKS TO THE SIGN-UP FORMS:

<https://go.wokinglions.org.uk/helpers> FOR VOLUNTEERS / HELPERS


<https://go.wokinglions.org.uk/drivers> FOR DRIVERS ONLY

<https://go.wokinglions.org.uk/guests> FOR GUESTS ONLY

Thank you in advance; please feel free to share this with your contacts / associations / and through social media as needed.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE ARE FOCUSING ON THOSE THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE ALONE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

From Martin Vodden, Foodwise

<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>(in association with Woking Lions)</p> <h2>Volunteer Role Description</h2> </div>	
Role Title	VOLUNTEER
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>40 volunteers</b> to help with Christmas Lunch activity on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2025.</li> <li><b>10 volunteers</b> out of the 40 to agree to an <b>Enhanced DBS check</b> who will be allocated to personal care on the day. This may involve helping someone use the bathroom or cutting up/ choosing food for them.</li> </ol>
Purpose of the Role	To help FoodWise and partners deliver <b>120 meals</b> (80 guests and 40 volunteers - yes, you get to eat too!) on <b>Christmas Day</b> .
What you will do	<p><b>10am:-</b> Arrive to help set up tables and chairs in Parkview Community Hall.</p> <p>Assist organisers in arranging all items ready for <b>guests to arrive around 11.45am</b>.</p> <p>Help FoodWise and Woking Lions staff/ volunteers to <b>set up and serve food</b> if allocated to that role.</p> <p><b>11.45am -</b> Welcome guests, help them to <b>be seated and offer drinks</b>.</p> <p><b>c.12.30pm -</b> Help guests to <b>collect Lunch</b> (self-service for able bodied) or <b>choose food</b> for those who cannot queue.</p> <p>Help with <b>entertainment</b>, keep a watchful eye on those who need company, food or drink and <b>generally help our guests enjoy their time!</b></p> <p><b>3pm -</b> Guests return home.</p> <p><b>3-4pm -</b> Help with <b>packing down</b> tables/ chairs to storage cupboards and <b>clean up</b> waste into black bags.</p> <p>Help <b>transport items</b> back to Sheerwater Nursery (home of FoodWise, next door) as needed.</p>

What you will do (continued)	Other:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DBS checked staff/ volunteers only will wear yellow jackets</b> to clearly identify as stewards able to help with personal care (toilet/ cutting food).</li> <li><b>No volunteers (unless fully DBS checked) should be alone with any guest or volunteer</b> during event for safeguarding purposes.</li> <li>Please let us know <b>if you are willing to drive</b> - some guests may need lifts from across Woking.</li> <li>Please let us know <b>if you are willing to act as a personal assistant only</b> on the day, as we will arrange and pay for your DBS Check.</li> <li><b>If you have a talent and want to lead some entertainment or Carols, please step up onto the stage!</b></li> </ul>
Skills, experience and qualities needed	<b>No experience needed</b> , just a kindly disposition and willingness to help others!
When and Where	<p><b>Christmas Day - 25<sup>th</sup> December 2025, 10am - 4pm.</b></p> <p><b>Parkview Community Centre</b>, Blackmore Crescent, Sheerwater, Woking, GU21 5NZ.</p>
Support offered	<b>FoodWise staff and volunteers</b> will lead the day and support you however we can.
What you could get out of it	Hopefully a <b>lot of fun, a full tummy, and the gift of giving someone a joyous Christmas</b> that otherwise may be lonely and isolated.
Other relevant information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Protection Policy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DBS Check (only for "personal care" role)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valuing Diversity Policy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health &amp; Safety Policy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Induction</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expense Reimbursement</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers covered by Insurance (non-driving role)</li> </ul>
What to do if you're interested	<p>Please email <a href="mailto:martin@foodwisetlc.org">martin@foodwisetlc.org</a> or call Martin on 07768 005155.</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.foodwisetlc.org">www.foodwisetlc.org</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Roles may be flexible - please talk to us!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">FoodWise TLC Limited is a Registered Charity - Charity Number 1164890</p>	





## Woking foodbank New Year list.

The next collection will be on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January.**

Items required for the New Year are,

- tinned vegetables,
- tinned meat/fish,
- tinned fruit,
- long life apple/orange juice,
- Instant coffee



Many thanks for your continued support.

**Carole Hymers**

## TRINITY PRAYER CHANNELS



We want to encourage people to feel able to ask for prayer when needed and to know how best to do so.

If you would like a prayer included in the [Sunday service](#), please contact your Pastoral Visitor and they will pass it on to a Steward for inclusion.

If you have an [emergency](#) prayer need, please go through Allison, as Pastoral Secretary and she will pass this on to the Leadership Team for immediate prayer response.

N.B. – If you are asking for prayer for someone else, please ask their permission first; it is part of our pastoral care for people that we only share what people are comfortable with others knowing.

Thank you!

Rev Sam & Allison



If I mentioned eating turkey and mince pies and putting out a mince pie and a carrot on Christmas Eve for Father Christmas and his reindeer you would know I was talking about some Christmas traditions we have here in the UK. But would you



know where in the world lots of people eat Kentucky Fried Chicken on Christmas Day or in which country you might find a 'spider' decoration on a Christmas tree? Answers at the bottom



of the pagell

Traditions are handed down from one generation to another that hold special meaning. Christmas is celebrated all over the world, and just as we are all different, so Christians from different countries have their own traditions. The Bible says.....

So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. [Thessalonians 2:15](#)

Having our own family or country traditions is good – especially if they lead us back to the reason **WHY** we are celebrating. And that is the birth of our Saviour Jesus – God's own Son, given to us because He loves us.



On Friday we will be looking at traditions from other countries that some of our Messy Church families enjoy and remembering the reason why!

**A very Happy Christmas to you all**



Answers – Japan and Ukraine

## Our December Coffee Donation Charity is...

### 'All We Can' - Jamaica Humanitarian Appeal

**All We Can** is an international relief and development movement, rooted in the Christian faith. Their partners represent years of relationship. Together, they find solutions to poverty. **All We Can** does not import solutions and potential to the places they work. Instead, they walk alongside local partners to help communities uncover their own solutions and their own potential.



Methodist relief and development

### On October 27, Hurricane Melissa made landfall on Jamaica.

The Category 5 storm caused at least 45 deaths there and more



than \$130 million in infrastructure damage. It also displaced 90,000 people, **All We Can** is responding to Hurricane Melissa in partnership with the Methodist Church in Britain. They are working closely with their regional partner, the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA), to ensure that funds raised are directed to where they are most needed. across affected communities in the region

**All money raised from Sunday morning refreshment donations will be given to All we Can**

More information at [www.allwecan@org.uk](http://www.allwecan@org.uk)



Thank you to everyone who took part or helped in any way with the Nativity service last Sunday. 'The Simplest Nativity Play Ever' was written by Angela Yardy.





## Signs and Symbols of Christmas

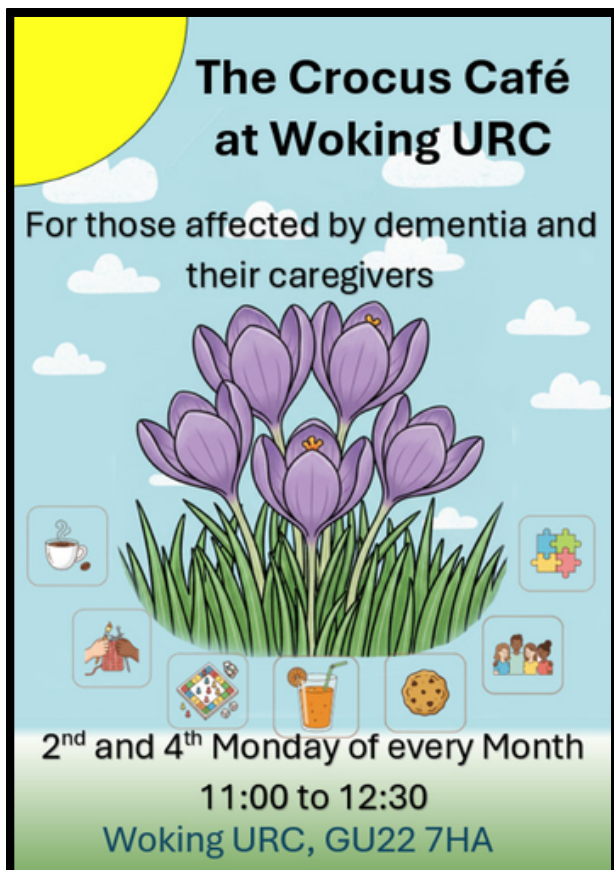
On Wednesday this week, Sam, Helen, Dan and Graham led an assembly at a local school.

Sam was dressed up with the signs and symbols of Christmas: fairy lights, cards, baubles, star, Christmas pudding, Christmas fairy. Everything was then removed in reverse order and an explanation was given as to how that object was part of the Christmas story. For example, fairy lights=light of the world, presents=the gift from God of Jesus, fairy=the angel. At the end Sam took off her Christmas jumper to reveal the key message that 'Jesus loves you '. Every child received a small gift from Trinity, and the staff received a card and cupcakes.

It was very well received by both children and staff.

'Let the little children come to me.'

(The Gospels).



# Foundry Worship - 21<sup>st</sup> December - All welcome

We start with refreshments at 5.45pm before starting our time of worship together at 6pm.

On 21st December we will be having our annual Foundry Worship Christmas Praise service. There will be a mix of newer and traditional carols, all led by our talented Foundry Band. There are some beautiful carols in the more modern repertoire, so if like me you enjoy singing or listening to these, put the date in your diary and join us for an evening of celebration.

It would be great to see you.

**Hugh Bowerman**  
**Foundry Pastor**

## Christmas Greetings

A FINAL REMINDER that we will be including a list of Christmas Greetings for the Trinity family in next week's newsletter. Please feel free to add your name to the flip chart in the East Entrance.



## Trinity News and Views

The next issue will be published in January. Please send copy to [tnv@trinitywoking.org](mailto:tnv@trinitywoking.org) no later than Sunday 21st December (one week extension!)

**David Lander, Editor TNV**

Please note: Send any articles for this newsletter to be with the editor **by 12 noon on the Wednesday before that Sunday's issue.**  
Email address - [newsletter@trinitywoking.org](mailto:newsletter@trinitywoking.org)  
Thank you.

### FRESH FROM THE WORD

This is the book of daily Bible Study readings produced by IBRA. A number of our members use these notes every day and we have for some years, arranged the purchase and distribution of them. We will be doing so again soon, ordering the 2026 books.

If you would like a copy for your own use, please let Sarah know by email to [admin@trinitywoking.org](mailto:admin@trinitywoking.org) or tell one of the Stewards.