

WEEKLY NEWS

Trinity Methodist Church Woking

Leadership notes:-

Around this time of year, I sometimes take an elderly book down from the bookshelf, No Ordinary Man by Nick Fawcett, as it is full of reflections about how things might have been for many of those who are part of the Bible story. There is a section for Advent which I am looking at just now, and yesterday I read a reflection by Zechariah who is musing about ‘....our lad, John....chosen to proclaim the coming of the Messiah...’.

I know it is fanciful, the product of Nick Fawcett’s imagination, but it does make me think more about this part of the story. A son being born to Elizabeth and Zechariah when they had long given up any thoughts of parenthood; calling him John as instructed by God’s messenger and the apparent bonding between John and Jesus when Mary visited Elizabeth when they were both unexpectedly pregnant. The reflection talks about the life of John, living in the wilderness but challenging people all the time to be prepared for the one that is coming, and ends with a question/challenge as relevant today as it was then:

*“You think you are ready for his coming, ready to welcome the Messiah?
Well, maybe you are, but before you get too complacent just ask yourself this:
What are you doing to bring his kingdom closer?
For until you can answer that, take it from me, you’re nowhere near ready at all.”*

I find this really challenging, and I invite you all to think about your answer, personally but also corporately as Trinity Methodist Church.

John Nelson

FOODBANK LIST FOR 7 DECEMBER ON PAGE 4

FOUNDRY SERVICE INFO FOR 7 AND 21 DEC ON PAGE 6

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 7 December 2025

Morning Worship
led by Reverend Sam Funnell
10.30 am
Nativity Service

6 pm Foundry Worship

Sunday 14 December 2025

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

Live Stream Link

[Click HERE](#)





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"> 40 volunteers to help with Christmas Lunch activity on 25th December 2025. 10 volunteers out of the 40 to agree to an Enhanced DBS check 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.
Purpose of the Role	To help FoodWise and partners deliver 120 meals (80 guests and 40 volunteers - yes, you get to eat too!) on Christmas Day .
What you will do	<p>10am:- Arrive to help set up tables and chairs in Parkview Community Hall.</p> <p>Assist organisers in arranging all items ready for guests to arrive around 11.45am.</p> <p>Help FoodWise and Woking Lions staff/ volunteers to set up and serve food if allocated to that role.</p> <p>11.45am - Welcome guests, help them to be seated and offer drinks.</p> <p>c.12.30pm - Help guests to collect Lunch (self-service for able bodied) or choose food for those who cannot queue.</p> <p>Help with entertainment, keep a watchful eye on those who need company, food or drink and generally help our guests enjoy their time!</p> <p>3pm - Guests return home.</p> <p>3-4pm - Help with packing down tables/ chairs to storage cupboards and clean up waste into black bags.</p> <p>Help transport items back to Sheerwater Nursery (home of FoodWise, next door) as needed.</p>

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

Amnesty International UK

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

For the next two weeks we will have Christmas cards

to send in support of Amnesty's Write For Rights Campaign.

Your words offer comfort and support to those whose rights are being abused, and collectively pressure authorities to act.

We will support Amnesty in celebrating the 77th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration Of Human rights on 10th December. We will have cards and case studies available after the morning service.

Please do support this, and if you can give a small donation (@£3.00) to cover costs, this would be appreciated.

Thanks, Allison



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

'From 3pm on Saturday 6th December, there's going to be some carol singing starting at the Woking Lion Retail Park, outside Asda.

This is being organised by St Pauls Church, and they'd really like people from other churches (and elsewhere) to join in!

The plan is to start outside Asda, and go along some surrounding streets and potentially pop into a couple of local care homes.

All are welcome!

Thanks, Graham 😊



This Sunday we will be telling the story of the birth of Jesus in our Sunday morning Nativity service. Adults and children together will think about all those people who

were part of the story and who welcomed Jesus in their different ways - his parents, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the Wise Men. Rich or poor, young and old, well-travelled and educated or local country folk - all had something to give to the new baby.



Luke 2:12 You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

And yet that tiny little baby came to give them so much more than they could ever give to Him. Jesus came to bring hope, joy, forgiveness and peace. What wonderful gifts.

And those gifts are also for us today. And with them, the special Christmas message that each one of us is loved by God - even more special because it is not just a message for Christmas time but for EVERYONE and EVERY day of the year.



If you could have been in the stable and given baby Jesus a gift, what would it have been?

What gift would you like Jesus to give you today?

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

Coffee and Chat

Cancelled- A date with your local MP.

Unfortunately Will Forster, our local MP can no longer talk to us on Wednesday 10th December. Instead we will be joined by Keith Robson who will be speaking about "The surprising role of Surrey in Space" with coffee served from 10.30am.

All are welcome to join us.



Young and old team up to help needy children



Children and adults alike show off their shoebox collection in aid of Operation Christmas Child.

STAFF REPORTER

FAMILIES From Trinity Methodist "Mums' Church" in Hazelton, joined forces with members of the Wednesday Coffee and Chat group to fill Christmas shoeboxes with much-needed gifts for

children in some families in a

clutter. Over the past few weeks, church members and families collected small toys and games, school supplies and personal care items for boys and girls between the ages of 0 and 14.

Thousands of others all over the world are doing the same thing and soon these shoeboxes will be sent to children in need in the UK. This year will go to Ukraine, Ethiopia, Albania, Nepal, Ghana, the Balkans, Turkey

It was good to see the efforts of our church community reported in the Woking News and Mail last week, with an article about our Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Well done everyone.



Woking foodbank Christmas list.

The next collection will be on **Sunday 7th December.**

This will be the last date for Christmas distribution. Items requested are,

- boxes/tins of biscuits,
- Christmas themed cakes,
- mince pies,
- biscuits for cheese,
- Crisps and savoury snacks,
- Christmas sweets and chocolate treats for children,
- Christmas chocolate boxes e.g. Quality Street

Many thanks for your continued support.

Carole Hymers

Epworth Choir Presents

Vivaldi's Gloria

Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Vaughan Williams, music by John Rutter and other festive favourites

With soloists and String Quartet

Saturday 6th December 2025
7.30pm

Tickets £20
including programme

WWW.EPWORDHCHOIR.ORG

St. Mary of Bethany Church,
Woking GU21 7UH

Prayer Written by Methodist International Church

Let's gather to lift everyone up in prayer

Gracious and loving God, our hearts are heavy today as we think of all those affected by the devastating fire in Wang Fuk Estate, Tai Po.

We pray for all who have died and families who are in shock and grieving, may you comfort them and surround them with love.

We pray for any who are still trapped and desperate, guide rescue workers in their search and rescue.

We pray for all who are in hospital, may your healing care be over them. And may doctors and nurses be upheld by your strength.

We pray for all emergency service personnel, keep them safe from harm as they bravely go about their difficult work.

We thank you for our Hong Kong Community as we come together to pray, support and provide for the survivors and their families in this difficult time.

God of mercy hear our prayer as we cry out to you for our city today. You are a God of love and mercy, our Father who loves us and whose heart breaks at such tragedy. We turn to you to hear and save us. Amen



**In This Darkness,
We Hold Hong Kong in Prayer**
在黑暗之中，我們為香港守望禱告

Condolence Corner
for the Victims of the Wang Fuk Court Fire
香港大埔宏福苑火災死難者吊唁處

Trinity Methodist Church, Woking
2 – 7 Dec 2025
10:00am – 5:00pm



All are welcome to come
and sign the condolence card.
歡迎前來簽名，表達哀悼與祈禱

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
哀慟的人有福了，因為他們必得安慰。

Foundry Worship - 7th and 21st December - All welcome

This Sunday (7th December) our theme will be "Prepare the Way of the Lord". This will be led by Dave Ingoldby. As usual we will start with refreshments at 5.45pm before starting our time of worship together at 6pm.

A fortnight later (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 at one or both of the above services.

Hugh Bowerman
Foundry Pastor

Christmas Greetings

As the next issue of TNV will not be published until January we will be including the opportunity to share Christmas greetings with the Trinity family via the weekly newsletter for w/e 21st December. A flip chart for this purpose is being displayed in the church in the usual way at the moment so please do add your names to the list if you are interested.



Trinity News and Views

The next issue will after all be published in the New Year with a revised copy deadline on 14th December. A reminder will be issued nearer the time.

David Lander, Editor TNV

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 or tell one of the Stewards.

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

Thank you.