

Trinity News & Views



**Christ the Lord is
risen today; Alleluia!**

April/May 2021 Issue 54



Message from Rev Sam

Dear Friends,

Since we've been doing the TNV's quarterly in lockdown, a whole three months has passed since the last edition. Three months seems a very long time ago, doesn't it and when you think back through all that's happened - Christmas, New Year, Lockdown 3, the start of the vaccination roll out, Chinese New Year (Thanks to Simon Che from the Chinese Congregation for pointing that out to Church Council members!), Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent, with the hope of Lockdown easing in the offing – phew! What a lot of major events and special times have rolled on over that time.

It may feel like so much has happened and that some of the things that give our lives meaning and joy (seeing family and friends, holidays, meeting colleagues for work or church friends for worship, meals out etc.) are things of distant memory but some things that happened long ago have meaning and bring us joy even today.

The healing and teaching ministry of a young, wondering Rabbi in 1st century Palestine is one prime example. It culminated in a show trial before the Roman occupying forces, under pressure from the unnerved local religious leaders of the day. His execution, as a political criminal, made them think he was no further threat and could be consigned to the history books as yet another, well-intentioned crank or dangerous subversive, depending on your point of view.

His rising from death to life again, on that first Easter Day changed everything! And the ripples of that one life, death and resurrection speak to us today as strongly as they did to the first bewildered and amazed disciples. Jesus may have walked

this earth many centuries ago but he lives forever and his message of death defeated, life restored and the enormity of God's love offered to us through him – offers us the deepest meaning and greatest joy imaginable.

So, as we await with eager anticipation our communal life returning to something like that which we used to know – let us each hold onto the truth of our life in God – blessed as part of God's wonderful creation, saved by Jesus as one of the 'free' and reassured by the Spirit's in-dwelling that God is with us ALWAYS!

Enjoy reading this edition of TNV and all the news and good things it contains.

**With Christian Love,
Sam.**

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2021

Christian Aid are working on the climate change theme again this year. Climate chaos is one of the greatest injustices we face. Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Rose and her family, and millions of people in Kenya, are struggling to get enough food and water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. People like Rose need every last drop to survive the drought.

Together we can **STOP** this climate crisis.

For more information, visit: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>
This year Christian Aid will definitely be highlighting cash-free ways to donate direct to the charity.

Henk Innemee

Family News

We celebrate and thank God for the life of:

Beryl Andrews January 2021



Congratulations to Dorothy Nicholson who celebrated a special birthday on 15th February 2021

Congratulations to Glen Penfold for completing the Resound Worship '12 Song Challenge'. He wrote a new song, on a given theme, every month in 2020. Here he is holding the mug he received for successfully completing the challenge. You will find some of the songs, with videos, on his YouTube channel and he would be happy to know if they have blessed you in any way. His third single has just been released in 119 countries through Spotify, iTunes, Apple Music etc.



Easter Services

Palm Sunday Service 10.00am

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae 8.00pm

Good Friday Reflections 10.00am

Easter Sunday Service 10.00am

At the time of going to press we do not know whether these services will be in Church or via zoom
see the website for more details



TRINITY TOMORROW NEEDS YOUR HELP TODAY

**OUR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN
LAUNCHES ON EASTER SUNDAY**

HELP TO RAISE £20,000

**AND LET'S CELEBRATE THIS ON
TRINITY SUNDAY 30TH MAY**





Foundry Missioner – One (pandemic) Year In

I started in Jan 2020. First task was the Woking ROC Conversation in March. This was a success, with 185 diverse and community minded people meeting at Trinity. It was the last 'normal' gathering I attended!

The Conversation feedback showed a consensus that Youth, Mental Health and Isolation & Loneliness were key areas to address. I facilitate the Isolation & Loneliness strand of this work. We are on our 12th 'Action Group' meeting – all via zoom. There are 20+ people representing a wide range of organisations. I've only met 7 of them in person – we exist in the virtual world!

Despite the Covid challenges, we have a few initiatives in progress:

- Woking Phone Friends. We've recruited & trained volunteers. Each week they phone their 'client', befriending and connecting with them. Clients are suggested by the Council.
- Loneliness survey. Statistics suggest over 10% of the population are seriously lonely. That's a staggering 10,000 people in Woking – of all ages. How do we engage with them? The survey is to help us find out.
- Laptops for schools. We've managed to put a small group together to gather, wipe clean (digitally speaking) and re-build peoples old PC's. These are made available to schools.
- Volunteer management system. Volunteering is one of the most effective ways to break down isolation and build community. Digital technology enables volunteering to be managed in a totally different way. We are working with others to put a robust platform together that enables small tasks to be posted so that volunteers can

offer to do them – it's the same way that shopping and prescriptions were managed during lockdown.

Whilst set-up in Covid times, all these activities are just as relevant in normal times. Each results in us engaging with people, be they 'client' or volunteer. Because a number of Trinity people are involved in the goups, this is a community Trinity can engage with.

So far everything I've mentioned is being done under a ROC Woking umbrella. Despite ROC's Christian heritage, ROC Woking is not 'religious'. This ensures engagement with the whole community. That many of us are Christians, and some like me are funded by the Church, is not hidden, but for practical purposes we are secular.

What of our Foundry Project? Anticipating a degree of normality returning within a few months (ever the optimist!), we are starting to talk about 'Foundry Projects'. These will be initiatives conceived and organised from 'The Foundry' to further support the community engagement above. Some examples:

- Tea parties at Trinity so that Phone Friend volunteer's and clients can meet with each other;
- Providing equipment and training to those who are digitally isolated;
- Appropriate discussion and support groups for those across the age range who are lonely.

We can use our people and our premises to facilitate a wide range of activities. We can ask for non-church volunteers to help us. It is not difficult to conceive that 'The Foundry' will come into contact with a lot of new people. We can add to them existing users of our premises. In total, many hundred's of people, each with a link to us, but none necessarily one of us. This is the Foundry's mission field, and provides our opportunity to create a place where Jesus can be found through us in the way that we live. Of those that are curious as to what motivates us, we have opportunity to gently share our own faith stories and the good news of Jesus.

If our mission field is many hundreds, to create a tangible presence we need many tens of people living the gospel and being prepared to talk faith. I believe we all have a role to

play. The 'God for All' initiative of the UK Methodist church is so timely in this respect. Evangelism, in whatever form it takes, needs to move up *all* of our agendas. That the church is investing heavily to help us make that happen is God sent. Looking forward I shall be working with whoever I can – Foundry, Trinity, Circuit – to equip Members of the church to live out and gently share their faith. I find this so exciting, but admittedly in a terrifying sort of way!

Space prevents me touching on other matters – Foundry Worship; Digital outreach; Messaging using our premises; Re-imagining small groups. Each is part of the jigsaw that makes up the overall picture of what we are trying to do as part of the Foundry Project. Clearly a follow-up article in the next TNV!

Hugh Bowerman, Community Development Missioner,
The Foundry Project, Trinity Methodist, Woking





WOODBANK

Some years ago Alfred Vice wrote the following as an introduction to an article on the subject of Woodbank, our Methodist Home, which was part of Trinity life for so many years.

FROM HEATH TO HOME

*An unprepossessing name one could think, Hook Heath,
With a useless past for entrepreneurial folk,
No steelworks here, nor coal, nor coke,
No grain above nor vein beneath.
Mid storm-torn trees and gorse and heather
Once loitering Romany and lurking highwaymen contrived
A trap or hook to bait – or doge and so survived
Through every mood of fretful upland weather.
But those who worked and profited elsewhere
Here built their homes and used the gold they'd won
To give a home to those whose work was done -
A place of peace and rest and snug armchair
From which the view across the dewy lawn
Shows always freshening rosebuds of a wider dawn.*

Alfred followed this with an excellent 4 page history of how Mrs Lowe had set up a home for old ladies in the 1940s which was later to become part of the charity, Methodist Homes for the Aged.

Moving forward to 2020, Sam Monaghan, the CEO of the now 'Methodist Homes' came to a Circuit Mission Supper at Trinity to give a talk about the work of the charity. He gave an interesting talk but surprised many by making no mention of Woodbank which had been so much part of church life. Had he been badly briefed?

Talk of this caused me to recall childhood memories of

Woodbank and of many events over the years. Perhaps it was time for some more research?

Childhood memories.

Like many young Methodists I collected 'Missionary Money' as a child. One of my donors was a Mrs Lowe. In those days my father did a taxi service. He collected Mrs Lowe and other ladies who lived with her in Hook Heath every Sunday morning and brought them to the Commercial Road Trinity. I remember how Mrs Lowe always wore a velvet band around her neck.

Her house 'Homewood' was in Pond Road and I recall some of the ladies living in the pavilion which had probably started life as changing rooms for a tennis court.

Expansion

Homewood was clearly not adequate for her vision so she commissioned a new building, 'Woodbank', in Hollybank Road for 11 ladies and a Matron. This was later extended to provide for 22 residents and 3 staff. A second extension in 1980 added a new wing giving better accommodation for up to 34 residents.

Permanence

For some years Mrs Lowe managed Homewood and Woodbank personally, doing all the accounts, secretarial work, staff management and property development. She was born in 1865 so it was understandable that she would want to make arrangements for Woodbank to continue after she died. She first offered the home to MHA in in 1948 but the charity was not able to accept at that time.

In 1952 she was able to persuade them to accept the home and she retired to Guildford.

Support from the circuit

Trinity Woking always had a close connection to Woodbank and MHA – I remember Reg Spray, a lifelong Trinity Methodist, working in MHAs London Head Office before MHA moved to Derby.

Kim Johnson was Deputy Matron for many years and my first wife, Jean, worked there as a Care Assistant for 23 years. Trinity Ladies ran a weekly shop for the residents. Peggy Windsor struggled with the IBRA books riding from Pyrford to Hook Heath on her bicycle. Many would support the annual Garden Party held to raise funds – Strawberry Teas were always a favourite. People would go to entertain the residents and often get them to be players themselves.

Marjorie Brewer, from Merrow Methodist Church, looked after the residents money for many years. The church supplied Woodbank with its Treasurer, managing the charities local affairs – I recall Brian Callin and Ken Dryden. I followed Ken in 1994.

Many felt it was 'our Home' and that it would be a good place to end ones days.

The Rev John Bishop, a lovely man, was able to do this. Many of our elderly relatives were very happy there. Unfortunately like many other Care Homes, Woodbank was not able to offer nursing care and if one was unfortunate enough to be taken to hospital one was unlikely to be able to return.

How did this is all happen and how did it go wrong?

When MHA started it was controlled by the Methodist Conference who nominated the Trustees.

It was a small affair as evidenced by the reluctance to take over Woodbank when first offered even with Mrs Lowe's generous support.

Today Methodist Homes is a major player in elderly care with an income of £250 million. Conference now only has a token representative on the Board. Is this 'success'?

Much has changed – with the best of intentions, governments have improved the standards required of care homes – en-suite facilities must be provided, nursing care can only be given by fully qualified staff, etc., all making lifetime care so much more expensive and resulting in the painful rejection of residents when they and their families need the most support.

Methodist Homes did consider rebuilding on the Woodbank site

and on a site more convenient for shops, transport and staff but the plans came to nothing and the site was eventually sold to a developer for private retirement apartments.

Ironically, Methodist Homes website has a picture on the 'About Us' page which shows Mrs Lowe outside Woodbank although neither she nor Woodbank are mentioned in the 'History'.



Also in the picture is Rev. Philip Fisher who was a Supernumerary in Woking and his sister.

David Boorman



Towards the last days of January 2021 as I washed up breakfast dishes, I noticed tiny white flecks drifting past the window and thought I was seeing the remains of a snow shower somewhere else – we rarely experience real snow falls in Woking - I was wrong and very soon the white pieces sailing past the window were as large as torn pieces of cotton wool and it seemed to mean business as it continued all morning and by midday it was real snow that would ache under foot.

The snow flakes had silently piled onto the branches of our Maple tree, even the tiny twigs supported effortlessly the

depth of a finger joint, it turned our sleeping tree into an ethereal picture of delight.

I watched from our bedroom windows as, very quickly and eagerly, families arrived on the Wheatsheaf Common towing small sledges or started building snowmen or played throwing snowballs or rolling the snow into large rolls like carpet. The scene reminded me of being a wartime child enjoying the snow in the Cotswolds.

The God given, unfettered, healing joy was just wonderful. There were more than a dozen unique snowmen built and humanised. The laughter and tangible pleasure released from the common that day showed that life is still viable. Joy is still permitted, joy will not be imprisoned.

In our garden evidence proved our suspicion – there were many paw prints in the snow some larger than others – is it a fox and cubs? Next door had many paw prints on their grass but have neither cat nor dog.

It took a whole day for the snowmen to become weak at the knees and fade away in the rain, leaving the common looking like a bog. Our tree exchanged snow for rain drops gathered like migrating birds or stalactites waiting to drop.

My kitchen window sill is bright with daffodils – bought as sheathed spikes and have slowly and unseen turned their heads into an open six petalled yellow frilled trumpet happy face - I paid £1 for 16 spikes – they are worth so much more.

I am very pleased that David took some photographs of the snowy scene to remind us of the fleeting snow.

Margaret Boorman



PRAYING TOGETHER

One idea I use in my own prayer time to bring the names of people I want to pray for before God, is to light a candle and then say the names of people I want to pray for to God. This can sometimes feel like a list laid before God. One way to make it more of a conversation with God is to take some time with God, and the name of the person and maybe bring to God a time the person and I had together and celebrate that with God, or say sorry if the interaction did not go as well as it maybe could have done.

Recently I came across a website called Praying in colour written by lady, an American called Sybil Macbeth. I liked her ideas about bringing people to God in prayer. She uses the idea of doodling.

Here are some reasons Sybil Macbeth suggests you may want to use to Pray in Colour: I have taken these ideas from a handout produced on the website and added some other thoughts.

Details about the book and helpful websites are given at the end of this piece.

The book is American so the word colour in the book is always written color and this may grate or could think about how to make the prayer your own and how you could bring the ideas to help you pray in colour or black and white. The main thing is to be praying and listening to God.

Sybil Macbeth has given a list with several ideas about Praying in Colour.

- 1) You want to pray but words escape you.
- 2) You have trouble sitting still and staying focused.
- 3) Your body wants to be part of your prayer.
- 4) You want to just spend time with God but don't know how.
- 5) You want to be a listener in prayer but your mind wanders and your body complains.

- 6) You want a visual, concrete way to pray.
- 7) You want a NEW and different way to pray.

Here's what you she suggests you need to get started:
Paper, pens, coloured markers or pencils or coloured gel pens
and a table or clipboard or book to put your paper on.

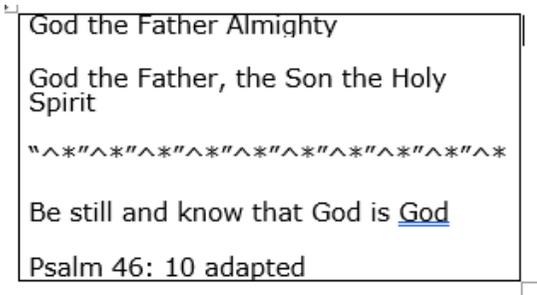
Here's how to get started:

1) Write your name for God on a piece of paper. Draw a shape around it or just start to doodle. The drawing becomes a prayer space. These are my (Ann) examples to help get you started.

Since I (Ann) am writing this piece on the computer I decided to use the redrawing a table button to draw a rectangle and then write in that. You can easily just draw a circle on some paper and write within that.



2) Continue to add marks and shapes. Focus on the name you chose. If words come, pray them; if not, enjoy the silence. I added shapes from the computer keyboard to remind me of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



3) To pray for a person, or a group write their name on the page. Draw around it. Add colour, if you want. Keep drawing as you release the person into God's care.

God	Family – Peter in Denmark Michael and Ulyana in UK Jeff and Ann in UK Other family and friends in UK and beyond.
WhatsApp prayer group	Prayer triplet
Mobile phone	

Friday Prayer group Before lockdowns and able to meet face to face
Intercession Prayers in Church – prayer pointers who to pray for

4) Add other people and ideas to your drawing.
Think of each stroke of your pen as a prayer for them. Take a
breath and say “Amen” between each person.

When my parents died recently, I wanted to find ways to
remember them. One way is for me to light a candle and
remember them held in God’s light and love and my love and
the family love.

Sybil Macbeth has written about remembering those who
have died by praying in colour for them. She also did a
prayer doodle to help her pray for her brother Dan which I
include at the end after the details on websites and books.
Sybil’s friend Mary Ann Stafford wrote about memory maps
for prayer for loved ones. I have added her plan for an
explanation for creating a memory map.

Mary Ann suggests writing the name on the page wherever
you wish. Then adding ideas about the person personal to you
and memories of that person. Washing up for example is
very important in our family. We chat over the washing up.
My dad used to tell stories as we washed up and I well
remember as youngsters he would also quiz us on times
table.

So, I would want to thank God for the members of the family
in very particular ways.

Dad Michelle	Washing up Stories tales of the little house with pink windows Times table
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Prayer time

Begin with a prayer.

We are loved by you Almighty God.

You care about every detail of life.

Enable me God to focus on my memories as I start this process of drawing a memory map.

Help me to be honest.

Help me God to feel loved by you as I explore my memory.

Amen.

Mary Ann Stafford's suggestions are to begin

First - THINK LIKE A CHILD: As it says in Mark 10:15, "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

Be still and know that God is God Psalm 46:10 adapted.

You can do this in your prayer quiet time or set aside special time. Please do talk to someone afterwards if you want to do so. This could be a family member, a friend or your pastoral visitor or another member of the pastoral team.

MATERIALS: SHEETS OF PAPER, COLOURED MARKERS

Start anywhere on the paper and take your time.

CENTERING: Sit up breathe deeply in and out and relax – then silently ask God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit to help.

Playing some quiet music may help.

START WITH THE NAME OF YOUR LOVED ONE: Make a shape around the name – any kind of shape – pray about him/her, and think about him/her as you do –

embellish with some detail – enhance the shape as you pray for his/her soul – add colours that you like.

THINK ABOUT THE MEMORIES YOU HAVE: –

Something you always want to remember – write a brief note, make another shape, either connected to the first or separately and decorate it with colours. Keep going with more memories until the paper is filled, you run out of memories or time. Thank God as you go for these beautiful memories you never want to forget.

When finished, turn your drawing over and write the date on the back. Then you can come back to it time and time again to relive those blessed memories and add more if you wish to do so.

CALL TIME AFTER 20 MINUTES: Share your drawing and the memories with the others if you wish to do so. What colours did you use?

END WITH A BRIEF PRAYER. Thank you, God for what I have discovered and rediscovered. Enable me to come back to this when I need. Let me use this praying in colour in other ways. Help me to share with you. Amen

Dr Mary Ann Stafford who shared the sheet of suggestions is a highly recognized artist who resides in Maumelle, Arkansas. Her education credentials include a BSE and an MA degree in English; art hours from Kansas City Art Institute and the UofA, and an EdD in Secondary Education with an emphasis in art education. She began the art program at Pine Bluff High School where she taught English and art, later becoming assistant principal. She retired from the Arkansas Department of Education. In addition to formal art training, Stafford has continued to take and teach art workshops. She is a Signature member of the Pastel Society of the Southwest, Arkansas Pastel Society, Arkansas League of Artists, and Mid-Southern Watercolorists. A regular exhibitor, she has won major

awards in Arkansas and Texas. Her paintings are in private collections in Arkansas and several other states. Her web site is www.staffordart.com; her teaching blog is at www.pastelanne.wordpress.com

What other ways could this process of praying in colour be used?

Ideas: Listing what you're grateful for? Your gifts and abilities to use for others? Your shortcomings, dreams, worries, your hopes for the future? It can also be used to explore a Bible Verse in a Lectio Divina.

*Here are some resources to learn other ways to Pray in Color.

1) Books

Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God by Sybil MacBeth, Paraclete Press

2007

Praying in Color Kids' Edition by Sybil MacBeth, Paraclete Press, 2009

Rezando en Colores por Sybil MacBeth, Paraclete Press, 2011—Praying in Color

in Spanish

Praying in Black and White: A Hands-On Practice for Men by Sybil and Andy

MacBeth, Paraclete Press, 2011

Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God: (Portable Edition) by Sybil

MacBeth, Paraclete Press, 2013.

The Season of the Nativity: Confessions and Practices of An Advent, Christmas,

and Epiphany Extremist, by Sybil MacBeth, Paraclete Press, 2014.

Pray and Color: A Coloring Book and Guide to Prayer by Sybil MacBeth,

Paraclete Press, 2016.

Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God, Enhanced and Expanded Edition

Greetings from the Chinese Congregation



Chinese New Year was on 12 February, Year of the Ox. This year, the prevalence of pandemic forced many to change the ways of celebration. Here in UK, gone were the glamorous celebrations in China town. Lockdown cast a giant shadow, leaving no chance of

visiting friends and relatives to have face-to-face warm greetings. Most of the festival 'musts' such as preparations of food and decorations for the New Year were minimised. It was so quiet, with no lion dance, fireworks and firecrackers. The striking red colour of couplets and posters was a rare scene. The usual sound, colour, smell, taste and laughter of festivity suddenly became so remote.

New Year is a time for reflection and regeneration. The coming of spring after cold winter is to bring new hope. Pandemic is for sure not to last for good and the tunnel has its end in time. Year of Ox is believed to bring strength, endurance, discipline, and loyalty. Ox and cow, as well as other members of the family, was an important asset in traditional agricultural society, especially before the use of machinery. Apart from helping the tough work in the field, the family had invaluable contributions to economy, offering meat, milk, bone and materials for manufacturing as well as scientific research. New Year is a time to appreciate and express gratitude to our provider.

Ox has its place in the Scripture, offering lessons for reflection. The role of calf is an outstanding one. The episode of Golden Calf at Sinai reflected the feeble faith of the Israelites and the weakness of Aaron as their spiritual leader, resulting in their committing a great sin. The lessons in Egypt were forgotten. It was only by the grace of God that the stiff-

necked people were spared with only a plague. What a lesson to learn. (Exodus 32:1-35) However, history repeated soon. Jeroboam made two golden calves to keep his people from going to Jerusalem. Moreover, he appointed priests from all sorts of people, not necessarily Levites, and he even instituted festival at a month of his own choosing. (1 Kings 12:28-33). The two golden calves, among others, again came under the spotlight as a symbol of the king's sin.

In the New Testament, Jesus made use of yoke in his teaching. A yoke is a wooden crosspiece fastened over the necks of the oxen, or cows, and attached to the plough or cart they are to pull, to keep the pair walking together. A good carpenter is to hand carve the piece of wood to fit the neck and shoulders of the ox to prevent pain and discomfort. Joseph the carpenter was therefore essential in those days, and Jesus must have been a good helping hand in yoke making. A yoke is to be shared by two oxen. The first is an older ox, trained and experienced from years of field work. The second is a new young ox, with potential but no experience. By sharing the



same yoke with a veteran, the elder trains the young. Moreover, the experienced one draws harder to bear the majority of the load, leading with the younger one following the pace of the mentor, gaining knowledge and skill as they move along. One day, the younger one will become the mentor to teach others. This very much resembles discipleship. Jesus invites us to 'learn of Him' (Matt 11:29). There is peace, not having to figure life out on our own, with assurance as we follow. Jesus also declares His yoke is easy, not really simple but good, as He bears the weight of our burden, and we will find rest and companionship in our labouring together.

Pray that we would readjust the yoke Jesus rested upon our shoulders and walk with Him, at His pace, with faith, hope and love in the Year of the Ox and after.

**Simon Che
Chinese Congregation**



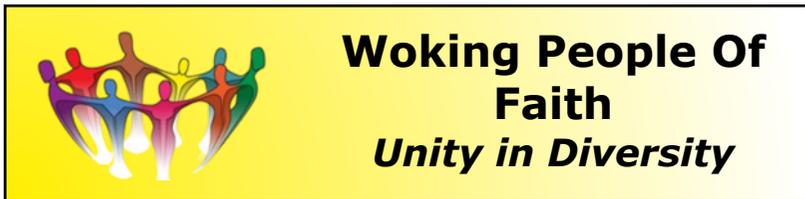
In November (hopefully) the 26th COP 26 will take place in Glasgow. What is COP 26? It's the annual UN Summit Climate Change Conference attended by the Conference of the Parties (COP) aka the Countries who signed the UN framework Convention on Climate Change. This is the 26th meeting since the Convention was signed - therefore COP26. You will recall that Mr Trump withdrew the USA from this Convention but thankfully President Biden has re-instated it and will send delegates to the summit.

A Rocha UK was founded twenty years ago and is a Christian Charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. They are guiding Trinity to help us regain an Eco Church status which we lost some time ago and to that end I am looking into all aspects of Trinity's life in order to reach either bronze, silver or that coveted gold status! We are well on the way and in some aspects of our Church life we are already at silver level. But much more needs to be done if we truly want to be an Eco Church.

We know these are bleak times. We are living not just with a global pandemic but accelerating climate change and species loss. Is there hope? A Rocha says the answer is yes, if we have confidence in what we know, humility about what we don't, openness to work with others and the faith to go where God is pointing us. Of course we are limited in what we can achieve but even small changes can make a huge difference. To help focus our thoughts on all these things A Rocha have suggested that as many Churches as possible hold a Climate

Sunday service to celebrate our beautiful planet and to think how to save it from more destruction. It's an opportunity as well for us to think how we can help the world in our own small corner to become more Eco friendly. Sam has agreed that Trinity's service will be on **6th June** so we need to think how we can mark this. We really hope that we will be back in Church by then so any thoughts or ideas you might have would be good. I know many of us are keen gardeners, wild life watchers etc., and already use green or eco-friendly items at home. So do please let us have your thoughts about ways that you think Trinity could mark this special service. We're on the way already so it would be good to attain that gold status!

Daphne Lander



Woking People of faith – Upcoming events

Interfaith Football Tournament - Saturday 22nd May

Refugee Week Event 14th June

Peace Day - Saturday 18th September

Interfaith Cricket Tournament - September

Interfaith Week Event - Saturday 20th November

See website for more details <https://wpof.org.uk/> or contact Daphne



Easter Memories



Easter Day involved an unremarkable blend of eggs (painted and chocolate), chapel services, flowers and family. But far more memorable was Good Friday – not because of the rigorous way we were expected to observe it but because of the seemingly incongruous situation whereby at our village chapel it doubled up as church anniversary. The chapel was built in 1872, so I wonder, did they really consecrate it on Good Friday? Anyway, by the 1950s the day unfolded with a conventional Good Friday service in the afternoon whilst in the evening an anniversary service was held with an inevitably different style. The transition between the two was marked by an inimitable Methodist tea (with which my mother was as always heavily involved) after which I with my sisters and cousins would dash off down the village street to the playground for half an hour or so.

Swelled by a good number of visitors from other churches and chapels the whole proceedings took on the character of a Circuit rally which in hindsight seems very strange given the solemnity owed to the day of crucifixion. Solemnity was certainly lost on me as the following memory will demonstrate. Regular attendees at Chelsfield on Good Friday included Mr & Mrs Middleton from the neighbouring chapel in Knockholt. We all knew Sid Middleton principally because of his very distinctive singing voice: a prominent reedy tenor with a strident vibrato. He could effect a particularly dramatic wailing tone during 'My song is love unknown' with its beautiful sweeping phrases. This amused us children greatly but sixty odd years on it is perhaps a pity that I still remember it so clearly!

Fortunately, the true significance of Passiontide and Easter was not lost on me as I grew older. And this unfortunate juxtaposition of events ended in 1967 when the new chapel was built with its anniversary in May.

David Lander



Every year, as Easter approached, there was great excitement in our family. My Mum took my sister Dorothy and me shopping, and we were both bought a new dress, a new cardigan, new white ankle socks and most importantly, new white sandals! Why was this?

On Good Friday, dressed in our new clothes, Dorothy and I met with other children outside Cairo Street Methodist Chapel in Sunderland. We then proudly processed behind a colourful banner bearing the words Cairo Street Sunday School. We processed to the town centre and congregated in the main street outside the Town Hall, with other Sunday Schools, for a Good Friday act of witness. There were so many children, plus parents, we were packed really closely together.

Led by a brass band (probably Salvation Army) the singing was wonderful. It was there that I first remember singing that great Good Friday hymn, "There is a green hill far away" and being aware in a child like way of the sacrifice Jesus made for me! Memorable occasions AND I can't ever remember it being cold or raining!

Joyce Nelson

Not quite from my childhood, but from the late 70's as a family, we used to visit my mother in Plymouth every Easter.

The main feature was getting up very early while it was still dark and leaving the rest of the family to sleep, I'd take my Mother to a car park (known, would you believe, as Devil's Point) overlooking the sea, to join an Easter sunrise service run by many local churches but always with the local Salvation Army band playing the hymn tunes and then their catering division handing out tea and hot bacon butties after the service.

Some years, we could hardly see across Plymouth Sound, the mist and fog being so thick early in the morning, but other years we were treated to the most glorious sunrises with beautiful reflections on the still waters.

Mike Tozer



I remember an Easter time when I was about 12. A friend and myself decided we had to do something special on Good Friday to acknowledge what Jesus had done for us. We took our Hot Cross Buns to the local riverside and at 3 o'clock (because we thought that was the time Jesus died) we said prayers and ate our buns.

Also, to me Easter is purple and gold, because my Easter Eggs always seemed to be wrapped in these colours.

Jean Normington

I like this poem written by Joseph Bayly in his book 'Psalms of my Life' written especially for Palm Sunday.

King Jesus why did you choose a lowly donkey
to carry you to ride in your parade?

Had you no friend who owned a horse -
a royal mount with spirit fit for a king to ride?

Why choose a donkey small and unassuming beast of burden
trained to plow not carry kings.

King Jesus why did you choose me

A lowly unimportant person to bear you

In my world today?

I'm poor and unimportant trained to work not carry kings

-let alone the King of kings

And yet you have chosen me

To carry you in triumph in this world's parade.

King Jesus keep me small so all may see

how great you are.

Keep me humble so all may say

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Carole Hymers



I grew up in Sunderland in the North East of England, at that time a thriving industrial town; shipbuilding, mining and engineering.

There was an active Civic and Church life.

On Good Friday it was the custom for the "scholars" from all the local Sunday Schools, along with other youth organisations, to march to the town centre and congregate outside the Council Offices, where we sang hymns and the Mayor addressed us from a balcony.

There were banners, flags and bands, and a large number of people.

Naturally, the Churches from the North side approached from the North and those from the South side from the South and the main street and some surrounding side streets soon became jammed. Traffic was stopped.

The difficulty with this arrangement was, that in spite of tannoys and public address systems and a conductor on the balcony, what should have been a co-ordinated event tended to split into two and keeping together during the hymn-singing almost impossible. We were always a few bars out. That, in itself, wasn't too bad but I distinctly remember one year trying to sing "There is a Green Hill" while "the other side" were singing "When I Survey."

When we got back to our home Church, we were given a daffodil and an orange. I understood the daffodil, but I've never been sure about the orange. And that was just the Friday!



Doreen Lee

Candles – A Light in the darkness

A Response to Covid 19.



*Memorial Candles in Portsmouth Cathedral May 2019
(Photograph GAW)*

In December 1951, when I was four, our parents took us to London to see the Christmas lights and to visit St Paul's Cathedral. I remember how it impressed me, the vast coloured ceilings, its height and particularly the huge candlelit Christmas Tree and the music. A few years later Mum introduced me to Salisbury Cathedral. She had trained as a teacher at the college in the Cathedral Close. During childhood summer holidays we visited Exeter and Winchester. The trigger to the making of a 'bucket list' was when, as a student in Salisbury, and a member the College Choir we led the annual college Carol Service in the Cathedral and then a few years later, as a member of the Bishop Otter College Chapel Choir we sang Choral Evensong in Chichester and a Christmas Concert in Portsmouth cathedrals. The aim of the 'list' became the desire to visit, wherever possible by train, all the cathedrals of England and to sing, by taking part in a service, hopefully Communion, and also to light a candle.

During the ensuing years, as a family, we attended Midnight Mass in Guildford and on various holidays I gradually added to

the 'bucket'. Real progress came in 2016 after Christine died and I had become semi-retired. To fill the increased 'spare' time and to cope with my grieving I started to plan visits to those cathedrals I had not visited and to revisit those from long ago. Using my 'Senior Railcard' I planned days and weekends away to visit as many as possible, combined with my 'passion' for railways. Between April 2016 and December 2019 I visited fourteen and revisited three British, also Basel, Sarnen (CH), Lisbon, Barcelona and Amsterdam cathedrals; lighting candles and partaking in some form of worship in most of them. I had planned to fill my bucket in 2020 starting with Derby and Nottingham (Southwell) in March, then during the year Wakefield, Sheffield, and Newcastle. Also to add the rest of the Welsh and some of the Catholic and Church of Scotland cathedrals.

Then Covid 19 came and it all stopped, the candles weren't lit, they'd gone out! The sung morning Communion, Lunchtime Prayers, Choral Evensong all ceased. There was to be no travelling by train. In the brief easement of August, Dan and I managed to get to Guildford to light a candle. As time went by I began to really miss my visits and my preaching appointments were also being cancelled, part of my soul felt parched. I thank God for the Zoom services that enabled me to worship. When the second 'lockdown' started to bite I knew I had to do something to raise my spirits. O, how great God was as he opened a window. I had agreed with Sue that I would lead the Friday Fun Club sessions for Advent and what a difference that made. I constructed an Advent Ring and each week the Advent Candle(s) were lit. We explored the roles of Martin Luther in encouraging candlelit Christmas Trees and Prince Albert in bringing the idea to Britain. It was so uplifting and following our family tradition every evening we turned on the Welcome Lights that shone into the Close from the lounge windowsill. On each Sunday in Advent we lit the candles as we shared our meals.

As Advent proceeded I subtly found the light creeping back into my soul. The message of hope began to grow as the

candles symbolising the 'Light of the World' reminded me of the very real presence of Jesus in the midst of Covid darkness. I was so pleased when we explored Epiphany to discover that there was a strong tradition to keep the candles lit until Candlemas. What a beautiful time we had that evening with the lights glowing in all the rooms of those sharing the Zoom Candlemas prayers. The calm, deeply spiritual music and words, touched my heart. Then the Ash Wednesday Zoom Prayers followed and the candles shone brighter. We still light a candle when we eat in the evening as a sign of hope and the presence of God with us as the slow climb out of Covid continues. As I look back I now realise how significant those candles were and still are, as a bright Light to shine in the darkness and show hope for the future



*Candles shining in the Lady Chapel at Chester Cathedral
September 2016 (Photograph GAW)*

The last cathedral I visited, Bradford, was in October 2019, where I participated in Morning Communion and lit a candle. As soon as it is possible in 2021 I will be on my way, by train, to share in worship with others and to light a candle again. It will be a reminder of God's constant presence throughout my life – come what may.

Lord,

'May your waxen candles flaming spread your warmth, as their glow flickers darkness into light.

May your will be done to make us one again; may your love's glimmering hope illuminate our night.

The forces for good surround us in wonder, they firm up our courage for what comes our way.

God's with us from dawn to the slumber of evening, the promise of love at break of each day. (from By The Powers for Good – A Testament to Freedom 522 by Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Graham Warr



Inside this magazine you will find a cross knitted by a member of the congregation, why not use it as a book mark in your Bible?

A note to contributors

It is our practice to publish each edition of TNV on the Trinity website. It is an important source of information about church life at Trinity and something we want to share with others. At the same time we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable for their personal details to appear on the internet in this way. We will be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so.

From the Editor

Thanks to all who have helped with the preparation and distribution of this issue of TNV. We are aiming to produce the next issue for the Summer and it will be edited by David Lander.

Jean Normington

**The deadline for articles to be included in
the next issue will be**

21st June 2021

**TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS is the magazine of
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**“Trinity is a welcoming Church seeking to live in
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Church Address

Brewery Road Woking Surrey GU21 4LH

Telephone (01483) 730754

Email: office@trinitywoking.org.uk

Web Address: www.trinitywoking.org.uk

Editors: Jean Normington & David Lander

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be written, typed, left in the newsletter
pigeonhole at the Church or emailed to
tnv@trinitywoking.org.uk**

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