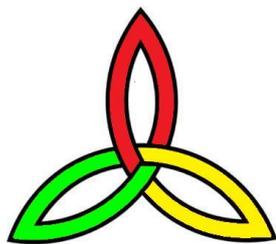


Trinity Times



April 2019

Issue No 219

Diary for April

Wednesday 3rd	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting with the Property Group
Sunday 7th	10.30 am	Team Worship led by Maureen Bodden
	12.00 pm	Lunch and Formal Church Meeting after Morning Worship
	5.30 pm	Evening Worship led by Rev'd Steven Cooper, including Service of Holy Communion
	7.00 pm	One Truth Youth
Sunday 14th	10.30 am	Palm Sunday Morning Worship led by Rev'd Steven Cooper, including Service of Holy Communion
	5.30 pm	Evening Worship led by Rosie Berry and Mel Mitchell
Tuesday 16th	10.00 am	Good Egg Club
Wednesday 17th	10.00 am	Good Egg Club
Thursday 18th	7.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Agape Meal at Trinity
Friday 19th	10.00 am	Good Friday Service led by Sandra Robey
	11.15 am	Good Friday Walk of Witness, from St Thomas More to Trinity for refreshments
Saturday 20th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 21st	8.00 am	Easter Sunday Early Morning Service led by Rev'd Steven Cooper
	8.30 am	Easter Morning Breakfast
	10.30 am	Easter Sunday Morning Worship led by Rev'd Julian Blakemore, including Service of Holy Communion
	5.30 pm	Easter Praise Service at St Mary's Church
Saturday 27th	7.30 pm	An Evening of Music with Vinesong at St Martin's Church
Sunday 28th	10.30 am	Café Service led by Rev'd Steven Cooper
	5.30 pm	Evening Worship led by Rev'd Chandrika Perera

Diary for May

Sunday 5th	10.30 am	Team Worship led by Gill Hughes
	5.30 pm	Evening Worship led by Rev'd John Whittle, including Service of Holy Communion
	7.00 pm	One Truth Youth
Tuesday 7th	8.30 pm	KFC Visit to Welwyn Garden City Synagogue

Minister's Drop-in Time on Thursdays at 4.30 pm in the Vestry

Meeting Point meets on Thursdays: 10.30 am. See below for venues during April

Time for Prayer is held in the Vestry on Friday mornings from 9.30 – 10.00 am

[There will be no Time for Prayer Meeting on Good Friday]

Youth Club Meetings at Trinity during term times – Friday evenings - School years 7 – 9

Trinity Times is the newsletter of Trinity Church, Park Lane, Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6PD

Minister: Rev'd Steven Cooper

Church Website: www.trinitychurchknebworth.org.uk Tel: 01438 210321

Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the United Reformed and Methodist Churches. Similarly, they do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The Easter period is certainly a busy, and hopefully rewarding, time in the Trinity and KFC calendars and, with further interesting events coming through in the early part of May, I hardly had enough space in the Diary on the front page of the newsletter to include everything - so apologies for anything that I may have missed.

I believe that it is important to the church and to the local community that we are blessed with this abundance of spiritual, social and cultural events, long may the trend continue.

Happy Easter, everyone. Don't over-indulge on the chocolate!



Graham Fothergill

FAMILY NEWS

Once again we share a deep sadness in our fellowship following the devastating news of the shockingly sudden death of Graham Wright. Jenny and Jamie have been well established and committed members of Trinity for nearly 20 years, and our prayers and love go out to them both at this time. Graham became better known to many of us in Trinity and the Pre-School over more recent years as he and Jenny transformed the church front garden into a cared for and beautiful approach to our buildings. We will miss Graham's quiet friendship and humour as he unobtrusively made such a difference for us and for all who pass by the church. Steven will conduct Graham's funeral at Harwood Park on Friday, 5th April at 2.45 pm, followed by all gathering for tea at Trinity Church.

Many in Trinity have their own personal situations bringing anxiety over health, coping with loss, change of circumstances, relationship challenges and much more besides. Christianity is no protection from facing the challenges and trials of human life, but Sarah Peacock recently reminded us of Jesus using a powerful image of seeking to gather God's people "as a hen gathers her brood under her wings". May our fellowship play its part in being a community that follows this pattern for living God's Kingdom.

Gill Hughes

Thank You

To all friends and colleagues, thank you for your condolences and sympathy, expressed by card, by letter or in person, following the recent death of my dear wife, Maureen. They meant such a lot to me, as did her very moving funeral service at Trinity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly express my gratitude to all the staff at Broad Oak Manor Nursing Home for the wonderful care and compassion they gave to Maureen during the four and a half years that she was there, and for the generous support given to me during that time.

Graham Fothergill

REVEREND'S REFLECTIONS

With a little over four months to go until my appointment here in North Hertfordshire comes to an end, I am increasingly reflecting on the experience of the past five years, my first years in pastoral ministry. There will doubtless be further opportunity between now and August for me to reflect on the incredible range of relationships, events, activities and experiences that have marked these years. But this month, as we approach my final Holy Week and Easter here in Knebworth, I am reminded of one aspect in particular of my experience of ministry so far, which is the immense privilege, on more occasions than I can now count, of leading people in bidding farewell and committing to God those loved ones whose earthly life has come to an end - and doing so "in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ". It is something in which John Whittle led us to great effect as we bade a solemn and splendid farewell to Maureen Fothergill just over a fortnight ago.

It is a privilege that I shall share once again this month as, with much sadness and with Jenny and Jamie very much in our prayers, we give thanks for the life of our much beloved friend Graham Wright and commend him to God, at his funeral on Friday, 5th April. Please do join us for the service at Harwood Park at 2.45 pm, which will be followed by refreshments at Trinity Church.

For some it may seem strange, but I would not be alone among my colleagues in ministry in saying that funerals - as much as they are occasions of often very deep sorrow - are also one of the greatest highlights of this role. For me, part of the reason for this is that, in spite of the sadness, a Christian funeral draws into the sharpest possible focus the extraordinary hope that stands at the very heart of our faith. Easter reminds us that what lies behind that hope is not some sort of fanciful fairy story, but an event - which stands at the very centre of human history; Jesus' resurrection from the dead. God, having entered human life in Jesus, died and yet was raised from the dead; and more than this, our faith bears witness that where Jesus thus leads, to live for ever fully at one with the glory of God, we may follow.

Of course this hope is about much more than what happens when we die; Easter reminds us that God is, in all things, a God of resurrection - constantly setting before us the promise of new life and transformation in our world. But death indeed brings that promise into special focus, and it is a privilege to share in such moments.

It is equally a joy and a privilege to share in the celebration of Holy Week and Easter itself, and it will be a special time for me as I do so for the final time here in Knebworth this month. These moments, too, go to the very heart of our faith, and I warmly encourage all of you to join us on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday; the details of our special services and events are all shown on the calendar on the front page.

Meanwhile, as we anticipate and prepare ourselves for that great festival, I wish you a continued holy Lent, and a very joyful Easter when it comes.

Wishing you every blessing,

Steven

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

This is the text of the Trinity article which was prepared by our minister, Reverend Steven Cooper, for the April edition of the Knebworth Parish News. (*Ed.*)

My last contribution to this column, in the December *Parish News*, received a mixture of praise and criticism, for the way in which it presented a Christian reflection on the Brexit crisis. As I write today, that crisis continues - and has reached an unprecedented degree. Today though, I don't wish to reflect on Brexit specifically; everything that can be said about Brexit has been said, and everyone by now should be familiar with all the arguments that have been made on every side of the Brexit debate. But what I would like to respond to is the broader notion, sometimes held, that it is not the place of the Church to "express opinions on political issues", for nothing could be further from the truth.

The truth is that the whole story of God's engagement with humanity, as revealed in the Bible - the story of the God who liberates people from oppression, who calls us to repent of our sin, who shows the way to everlasting life - has always been a political story. It has always been a story of how God provides a set of possibilities for humanity that is profoundly different to what is offered by the powers of our world; powers which, one way or another, are always intertwined with the political sphere and the exercise of power that flows from it.

When God called Moses to lead God's faithful people to freedom, this was not some woolly or theoretical notion of freedom; God was calling on Moses to take on the very heart of the Egyptian political establishment, and precisely the political power by which that regime had kept those people enslaved. If Moses were here today, God might well call on him to demand change to the broken and callously operated Universal Credit system in our country, by which thousands of working people are enslaved in poverty and financial instability.

(To understand more about this, see

www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/poverty-and-inequality/)

When God came to share in human life as Jesus Christ, he came as a Galilean - sharing in the life of a people who were treated in a callous and dehumanizing way under the Roman governorship of Pontius Pilate (see Luke 13:1). By his teaching, he brought the promise of hope, liberation and eternal life, but made clear that unless people turn away from being complicit in the corrupt power structures of the world, then this is a promise that they could neither know nor understand. Because of the profound challenge that this message posed to the political establishment of Jesus' day, he was put to death by the state - demonstrating the corruptness of its power, and yet at the same time utterly undermining it, by his resurrection and defeat of death on the third day.

Let it not be said then, that the Church's business - as people of God, as the Body of Christ in our world today - is not political. And we are all involved - both directly and through the ways that each of us shapes our national culture - with the politics of our time.

This month in the Church we recall those events of Jesus' death on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter Day. You are warmly welcomed to join us as we remember and celebrate these things: details of services are above. But I invite you also to reflect... thinking of how God called on Moses, and of God's revelation in Jesus, how is God calling you to respond to the politics of today?

Wishing you a blessed Lent and a very happy Easter,

The Rev'd Steven Cooper

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

Mission News

The outreach charity for April and May is '**The Living Room Hertfordshire**', an award-winning addiction recovery charity, founded in 2000. Their centres in Hertfordshire are in Stevenage and St Albans, staffed by highly-trained counsellors with lived experience of addiction themselves. They offer free, day-time, group counselling, peer support and workshop therapies.

We are very pleased that we will be joined at our Team Worship Service on the morning of **7th April** by a counsellor and a client from the Stevenage centre, who will speak briefly about the work that is done there.

Please make a note in your diary – on **Saturday, 22nd June**, there will be a fund-raising tea concert for The Living Room, with the Eden Consort singing, and Chris Maguire on the organ. The concert will be dedicated to the memory of Bev Barovitz, who was the long-time Trinity contact for The Living Room.

Maureen Bodden

Christian Aid News

The Knebworth Committee and KFC are very grateful to all who supported the Christian Aid Frugal Lunch on Sunday, 10th March and all who helped in any way. The lunch was better attended than last year's, and was appreciated by all of us who went. The total raised for the Yemen Appeal was £205.70 (plus Gift Aid of £50); this was an improvement on last year's total of £145.

Thank you all very much.

Saxon Denning

There is a further opportunity to enjoy food and fellowship and to support Christian Aid at the "Big Brekkie" at Trinity on **Saturday, 11th May**, from 9.00 am to 11.00 am. A full English breakfast will be on offer, with lighter options. After the terrible events in Mozambique, this will give you the chance to donate, and have a sociable time as well.

Kathy Cole

Christian Aid Week begins on 12th May and, as usual, there will be a house to house collection in the village for the charity. We could still do with a few more people willing to deliver and/or collect envelopes, please speak to John Whittle or Hilary Dyster if you feel that you could help.

Thank you!

Hilary Dyster

DIARY INFORMATION

Meeting Point

This month, Meeting Point will be held only on Thursday, the 4th and Thursday, the 11th. Both will be at Hilary's house (8 St Martin's Road) and as usual they will start at 10.30 am and generally finish around 12 noon.

Please note, we will not be meeting on the 18th (Maundy Thursday) or on the 25th.

Hilary Dyster

Good Egg Club

The Easter Holiday Club for School Years R – 6 will be meeting on Tuesday, 16th and Wednesday, 17th April. For more information, please contact **Gill Hughes (01438 813049)** or GoodEggClubBookings@gmail.com

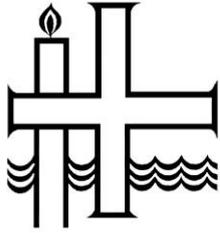
Easter Sunday Breakfast

This will take place after the 8.00 am Service on Sunday, 21st April. There will be fruit, juices and cereals, followed by your choice of any (or all) of bacon, eggs, sausages, mushrooms, beans and hash browns! There will also be plenty of toast with jam or marmalade, and tea or coffee as well. Expect to find little chocolate eggs on the table, along with flowers which we hope will be pretty (daisies and dandelions do count as flowers).

There is a sign-up sheet in the church foyer to help with numbers. Please sign in if you can come but if you wake up on Easter Day a bit peckish, just come along – there will be plenty for all.

Best wishes

Jackie and Steven Hall



VISIT TO THE WELWYN GARDEN CITY SYNAGOGUE

Knebworth Family of Churches has arranged a visit to the Synagogue in Barn Close, off Handside Lane, Welwyn Garden City. This will take place on **Tuesday, 7th May** from 8pm to about 9.30pm. If you would like to go, please fill in the sign-up sheet on the notice board at Trinity, stating whether you need a lift or whether you can offer one. Because we need to know numbers, please **sign up by Sunday, 14th April**.



KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES GOOD NEIGHBOUR TRANSPORT SCHEME

A few years ago, a Good Neighbour Scheme operated in the village. A frequent request was for transport to and from the Lister and QEII hospitals. When the Hospital Shuttle Bus was introduced, there was a sharp decrease in the use of the Good Neighbour Scheme.

Due to lack of funding, the Shuttle Bus is now no longer operating. Therefore, we are considering reviving the Good Neighbour Transport Scheme as we think there is likely to be a need for help for residents in this area getting to and from hospital. Before we take the planning any further, it would be useful to know if there would be enough volunteers to offer this service to the village.

If you think you might be able to help, either by giving lifts or co-ordinating the scheme, please have a word with Steven Cooper or Maureen Bodden.

Maureen Bodden, on behalf of the KFC Steering Group

KNEBORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES

KFC Coffee Morning: Saturday, 20th April, 10 am – 12 noon

Always a good opportunity to meet up for a chat over a drink and cake. There will be the usual Traidcraft Stall and, as well as the regular items, you will have the last chance to get your Fair Trade Easter eggs and stock up with chocolate for Easter.

Good Friday: 19th April

This year's Walk of Witness will commence at St Thomas More at 11.15 am and conclude at Trinity with refreshments.

Easter Sunday: 21st April

Our Easter Praise Service will be held at St Mary's at **5.30 pm**.

Saturday, 27th April: An Evening of Music with Vinesong: St Martin's at 7.30 pm

Vinesong is an international, interdenominational team of Christians who share the gospel through music. The team is based in the UK, although its members come from many different countries. You don't need a ticket; just come along and enjoy the music. There will be a retiring collection.

I hope you will all have a very happy Easter.

If you would like any more information, you can contact me on christine.goodwin51@btinternet.com or 01438 365918.

Christine Goodwin

SOCIAL NEWS AND EVENTS

TRINITY TEA AND CHAT
3.30 pm - 4.30 pm
3rd MAY 2019
IN THE LARGE HALL

This is a new venture starting on the 3rd May at 3.30 pm until 4.30 pm in the large hall at Trinity. As the name suggests, there will be the opportunity to chat over refreshments. Everyone is welcome, so please ask those who you think may be interested. It is hoped to continue this on the first Friday of every month.

Please get in touch with Kate Dickinson for more details.

METHODIST NEWS

Looking Ahead

On **Sunday, 19th May**, at Christchurch young people from the Circuit will share with us something of what they did at the 3Generate event which is held nationally every year. It will start at 4.00 pm with a presentation by the young people followed by tea and then concluding in a short act of worship. We appeal to everyone to come so that all ages across the Circuit can share in this together.

Christine Warren, on behalf of the Circuit Stewards

Malcolm's Message

Dear Friends,

What do you like about Spring? I like the daylight, the flowers, the catkins and the leaves as they unfurl. Inevitably this reminds me of the love and goodness of God. The love of God in creation and new life; the goodness of God in the light.

We are fortunate that we have such clear reminders of the activity and presence of God in our midst. It is all too easy, sometimes, to make God remote - out there somewhere. The things we know and understand can make that happen. If we know that the hours of daylight vary because of the orbit of the earth and the tilt in the axis of the planet then maybe we don't recognise God; if we understand the growth of flowers and the budding of leaves as the normal responses of the plant to increases in temperature and daylight then we may not recognise God. When we live in a Universe that we see getting larger all of the time and more intricate; when we can understand the processes that make a black hole; when we can understand the story held in the DNA molecule then maybe our understanding of God gets pushed back, so that God is out there, remote and distant and difficult.

For me one of the strengths of the Christian faith is our belief in an incarnate God. The story of Jesus Christ allows us to keep our understanding of God focussed and more easily related to. Our belief in a God who became human; born in Bethlehem, crucified and raised from the dead in Jerusalem, allows us to cherish an understanding of God who is with us and like us; that makes God more real and relevant and prevents us from reducing the relevance of faith in God and pushing God into remoteness.

If we make God remote, then we miss some of the dynamics of our relationship with God. If God is remote, we can say what we do doesn't matter; if God is remote then we can say God isn't interested in us. When God is an incarnate God then God is interested in us and wants us to live and do things the right way.

Our belief in an incarnate God means I can look at the new life in Spring and say there is evidence of God, God the creator. I can experience the longer days and brighter light and say there is the gift of hope - of God bringing light and meaning into darkness. So let us celebrate in the new life of Spring the wonder of the God who is with us and who brings hope and new life to all who have faith in him.

Wishing you every blessing

Malcolm

{The above items were reproduced from the March edition of the North Herts Methodist Circuit Newsletter}



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBAY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

**You are invited to attend
Free Church Services
In the Lady Chapel on:**

Wednesday, 3rd April at 11.00 am

Preacher: **Major David Evans**

Territorial Ecumenical Officer, The Salvation Army

Wednesday, 1st May at 11.00 am

Preacher: **The Rev'd Gill Hulme**

Methodist Minister, Bishop's Stortford & Braughing

The services will be followed by a fellowship lunch in the Abbots Kitchen and all are welcome

Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain: Reverend Simon Carver,
Email: simoncarver@btinternet.com

Thinking Lunch



12.30pm to 1.30pm
on Thursday 4th April 2019
At Marlborough Road Methodist Church,
St Albans AL1 3XG

Dr Omar Khan

Director, The Runnymede Trust,
**Understanding and responding
to racial inequalities in Britain**

Tea / Coffee / Squash provided, but bring your own sandwiches.

Half an hour talk and then discussion.

Donations to cover expenses and any profits will be given to Women 4 Refugee Women

A Season of Grace:

Growth in Anglican-Methodist Unity in the Light of
'Mission and Ministry in Covenant'

on Tuesday, 9th April 2019

Refreshments from 2.00 pm, meeting starts at 2.30 pm

**At the Focolare Centre for Unity in Welwyn Garden City
69 Parkway, AL8 6JG**

Facilitator: The Rev'd Dr Callan Slipper

National Ecumenical Officer for the Church of England

For Clergy and Laity, Anglicans and Methodists,
and anyone who would like to come!

Organised by the St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit

If you would like to attend, please email admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk

A Positive Feedback Thought

*You are not your age, nor the size of the clothes you wear,
You are not a weight or the colour of your hair...
You are all the books you read and all the words you speak...
You're the sweetness in your laughter and every tear you've cried...
You're the things that you believe in and the people that you love...
You're made of so much beauty but it seems that you forgot
When you decided you were defined
By all the things you're not.*

Erin Hanson

Reprinted from the March issue of the Beane Valley Benefice Parish News
(by kind permission of Rev'd Jenny Gray)

*Please send items for the May issue of Trinity Times to Graham Fothergill by
Thursday, 18th April:*

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth

