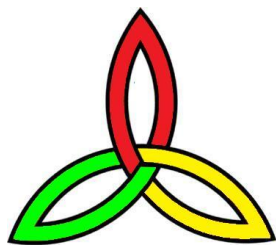


# Trinity Times



June 2019

Issue No 221

<b>Diary for June</b>		
Wednesday 5th	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting with Property Group
Saturday 8th	11.00 am	Open Church
Sunday 9th	10.00 am 6..30 pm	KFC Pentecost Service, including Holy Communion, at St Martin's Church "Thy Kingdom Come, Beacon Celebration 2019" at St Alban's Cathedral {No Evening Service at Trinity}
Saturday 15th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 16th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Morning Worship led by Helen Dearn Evening Worship led by Rev'd Steven Cooper
Monday 17th	7.30 pm	Good Egg Club Planning Meeting
Saturday 22nd	3.30 pm	Concert by The Eden Consort, with afternoon tea, in aid of The Living Room
Sunday 23rd	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Café Worship led by Rev'd Steven Cooper North Herts Methodist Circuit "Easter Offering" Service led by Sarah Peacock
Tuesday 25th	7.30 pm	Pastoral Care Meeting
Sunday 30th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Morning Worship at Trinity, jointly with Stevenage URC, led by Kate Dickinson Evening Worship led by Katherine Harrison
<b>Diary for July</b>		
Wednesday 3rd	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting
Friday 5th	3.30 pm	Trinity Tea and Chat
Sunday 7th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Team Worship led by Becky Amy Evening Worship led by Rev'd Steven Cooper, including Service of Holy Communion
Sunday 14th	10.30 am 12.00 pm 5.30 pm	Morning Worship led by Rev'd Steven Cooper, including Service of Holy Communion Family Barbecue Circuit Farewell Service for Rev'd Steven Cooper
<p><b>Minister's Drop-in Time</b> on Thursdays at 4.30 pm in the Vestry  <b>Meeting Point</b> meets on Thursdays: 10.30 am. See below for venues during June  <b>Time for Prayer</b> is held in the Vestry on Friday mornings from 9.30 – 10.00 am  <b>Youth Club Meetings</b> at Trinity during term times– Friday evenings - School years 7 – 9</p>		

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](http://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

Since it hasn't got a mention anywhere else in this issue of the newsletter, I thought that I would just like to thank the Welwyn Garden City Synagogue, and Sue Lipner in particular, for making the large group from KFC so welcome when we visited them a few weeks ago. I personally found it all so very informative, interesting and enlightening – the history and conflicts relating to Judaism, their reliance on the Torah as the main part of their services, the importance of their Friday evening dinner in order to prepare for the Sabbath, and so much more.

I wonder, is there any way that we, KFC, could return the compliment? What do you think?

*Graham Fothergill*

## FAMILY NEWS

Once again a long-established family within Trinity Church is dealing with bereavement. Bill Hall has lived for many years with restrictions imposed by health issues and recent months have been very challenging for Bill, Jackie and all the family. The excellent support of Papworth Hospital, their faith, courage and sheer determination have kept them going, but on 3rd May Bill died peacefully in Papworth Hospital. Bill had been part of the church here since before his marriage to Jackie in 1979 and the baptisms of their four children, all here in the Park Lane Church. On Friday, 7th June, we will gather in Trinity for Bill's funeral service at 1.00 pm, followed by his cremation at Harwood Park and then afternoon tea in Trinity. Jackie issues an open invitation to all to come to any part of the day, although it would be helpful to have some idea of approximate numbers for the catering. (I am happy to collect responses of numbers for this). Please remember in prayer especially Jackie, Kevin, Steven, Sarah and Martin, and their families.

Although we are now well into the exam season, we think too of several of our young people taking key exams over coming days as they reach decision points in their education.

*Gill Hughes*

## REVEREND'S REFLECTIONS

This is the month of Pentecost, when the church celebrates God's Holy Spirit, alive and at work in us and in the world; leading, inspiring, urging us - if we are attentive to it - in ways that lead us to discover new truth about what it means for us to be God's people. This, if we take it seriously, is tremendously exciting, as Pentecost reminds us that God - who by God's very nature is the bringer of new life - is actively at work in the world, and calls on each of us to join in that life-giving work.

This indeed is worthy of a hearty celebration, and to this end we are warmly invited to join with other Christians from Knebworth to share in the feast of holy communion together at St Martin's Church, at our Knebworth Family of Churches united Pentecost service, a little earlier than our usual service time, at 10.00am on Pentecost Sunday, 9th June. Then that evening, the celebration continues to yet another level, as (in place of our usual evening service) we are all invited to join in praise and prayer with Christians from across the region and from every tradition, at a special ecumenical (that is, involving all churches) Pentecost 'Beacon Celebration' at St Albans Cathedral, from 6.30 pm. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

One of the ways in which, I believe, we see God's life-giving Spirit at work in the world is in the way that society has in recent years embraced a diversity of healthy, loving relationships between couples (gay and lesbian relationships, for example) that for a long time had been treated very often with prejudice, abuse and bigotry. It is wonderful to see the new life that persons in such relationships have come to discover, not least through the gift of marriage, as the Holy Spirit has brought about profound changes in the hearts and attitudes of our society. Ironically, the Church - which that same Spirit calls to bear witness to God's life-giving nature - has by and large been slow to recognise this as the work of the Holy Spirit. But I am pleased to herald an extraordinary and very significant new report produced for the governing Conference of the Methodist Church (meeting in Birmingham at the end of this month) on marriage and relationships, entitled 'God In Love Unites Us'. You can read this very moving and engaging report at [www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/) and it is well-worth reading. Written by a group of individuals who themselves held a wide range of different Christian viewpoints on the issues with which the report deals, 'God In Love Unites Us' considers in a very thoughtful and grace-filled way how the Church can be open to new insights into what it is for relationships to be 'of God', and indeed consonant with the Bible's testimony to God's transforming love. Significantly, the report proposes that local Methodist churches should be allowed, if they so choose, to celebrate the marriage of any loving, committed couple, irrespective of the couple's sexual orientation - something which at present the Methodist Church's constitution only allows for opposite-sex couples. I warmly encourage you to give 'God In Love Unites Us' a read, whatever perspective you bring, and to consider the proposals that it makes. There is, in this, the possibility for us as the Church to bear renewed witness to God's life-giving Spirit that we celebrate this month.

Looking ahead to next month, following the success of our 'Singing Our Faith' event in March, in the final weekend of my ministry at Trinity Church our musical director, Victor de Paula, and I will be delighted to share in an afternoon of '**Singing Our Praise**'. This will be on Saturday, 13th July at 2.00 pm at Trinity - and we invite YOU to choose the hymns and songs to be sung. These can be new or old, and either from *Singing the Faith*, or any other songs of praise that you think should be showcased for us. It will be a joyful afternoon of song, praise and refreshment, with congregational singing wherever possible - while Victor and I will be delighted to 'demonstrate' any songs that may be less well-known. Please just let Victor or me know your hymn/song choices **by Sunday, 23rd June**. This too will be a celebration of the Holy Spirit, who continually brings new life and creativity to our worship and praise.

Lastly, before we reach the day of Pentecost this month, but very much in the season of Resurrection, we bid a solemn farewell to our dear friend and long-standing member Bill Hall, whose funeral will take place at Trinity on Friday, 7th June. Our prayers are very firmly with Jackie, Steve, Kevin and all the family at this time of sadness; yet we give thanks for the promise of new life that is ever before us in our God who has raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Please do join us to celebrate Bill on that day. All will be welcome.

In this, my penultimate month among you as minister at Trinity, I wish you all every blessing, as always.

Steven

## PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

This is the text of the Trinity article which was prepared by Rev'd Steven Cooper for the June edition of the Knebworth Parish News. (*Ed.*)

A peculiarity of Methodist ministry is its 'stationing' process, by which ministers are placed in a new church. It's an exciting but potentially nerve-wracking way of doing things, as you can theoretically be placed anywhere in the country. So when in 2014 I was told that my first ministerial post would be as Minister of Trinity Church in Knebworth, I must admit that I had to first look at a map. But five years later I can say that this village will forever remain in my memory.

My wife Ruth and I have been very touched by the welcome we have received from Knebworth residents throughout our time here. And I have been blessed in this first posting with what has been a truly wonderful experience of the Church, both in Trinity Church itself, and in sharing in the excellent Knebworth Family of Churches.

Speaking for Trinity Church, throughout these past years I have been deeply impressed with the enthusiasm and energy that runs through the congregation - both young and old. I've been delighted by members' openness to change and experimentation, even to some long-established traditions of worship, to relate to the modern world. And I've been heartened by the joy the congregation takes in welcoming people of all backgrounds and ages to the Church.

This sense of warmth is reflected in the village as a whole. It's been a pleasure frequently to encounter friendly and familiar faces, whether that's on the High Street or walking in our country lanes. It's been touching to see Knebworth's real community spirit - from working together to save The Station Pub, to near-legendary quiz nights to raise funds for charity.

And it's been inspiring to live in a place where people do really look out for others; from the kindness of a group of little boys playing football with our toddler daughter in the park, to the care shown towards the most vulnerable members of the community.

So, as a temporary Knebworthian, I hope you will allow me to share one last thought with you before I head off to my new role as Minister of Wesley's Chapel in London...

Sadly, I know only too well that often the portrayal of Christianity in the media and the news is one of intolerance and rigidity. And that's certainly something for which the Church itself must accept a great deal of responsibility. Indeed, I'm aware that this can make it hard to want to identify yourself as a Christian or to feel that church is a place for you.

Yet every day in Knebworth I encounter people who - often without realising it - exemplify the way that Jesus shows us how to live; through their demonstrations of compassion, openness to others, and desire for social justice. I am sure that for many of these, the true message of Christianity, which is very profoundly a message of love for all, would strike a real chord. And real change is now taking place in the Church, to embody that message anew.

So I would urge you all to give Church a try, or another chance. What you may find could be a joyfully new approach to life; and the Church itself grows all the richer as it shares within its life the widest array of perspectives from our community.

Finally, thank you to everyone in this village for welcoming our family for the past five years. Whatever the future holds for us, you will all hold a very special place in our hearts.

God bless you.

*Steven Cooper*

## **MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS**

### **All We Can**

The outreach charity for June and July is 'All We Can'

The vision of 'All We Can' is that every person's potential should be fulfilled. It is an international development and emergency relief organisation, focussing on those in greatest need. It is inspired by Christian principles and is part of the Methodist family. The charity's purpose is to find solutions to poverty by engaging with local people and organisation in some of the world's poorest communities. The aim is to end the suffering caused by inequality and injustice and to strengthen and enable local partners and also to respond to humanitarian crises with emergency relief. Another underlying aim is to engage in global education to enable people to take a stand against poverty and injustice.

*Hilary Dyster*

The Sunday Club is holding a cake sale after church on Sunday, 30th June, in aid of 'All We Can'. Donations of cakes and/or money Sunday club are holding a cake sale after church on Sunday 30th June.

Please support us as much as you are able.

Many thanks

*The Sunday Club Team*

### **Christian Aid News**



It is very pleasing to report that the various recent events, including the house-to-house collection, appear to have raised £2,971 for Christian Aid. This includes the figure for Gift Aid and for Hilary's coffee morning. This final total is just over ten percent more than was achieved last year.

Many thanks to everyone involved.

*John Whittle*

## The Living Room

**Music for Midsummer**

**The Eden Consort**  
with Chris Maguire, organ

**Saturday 22nd June 2019**  
Trinity Church, Knebworth, SG3 6PD  
3.30pm for tea, coffee and cake  
Recital starts at 4pm

*The Living Room*  
www.livingroomherts.org

This event is being held in loving memory of Beverley Barowitz. Entry is free - donations to The Living Room will be welcome.

www.edenconsort.org

## Water Aid

Recent collections for this very worthwhile charity have raised a total of £305 with possibly a little more still to come in. This is an excellent result and a cheque will be forwarded to Water Aid in the near future. Regards and thanks to all who collected.

*John Whittle*

## Methodist Mission Appeal

The Easter envelope offering raised a total of £265 in aid of the Methodist Mission Appeal. Many thanks to all who contributed.

*Maureen Bodden*

## DIARY INFORMATION

### Meeting Point

The arrangements for Meeting Point this month are as follows:

- Thursday, 6th June – at Kate Dickinson's
- Thursday, 13th June – at Kate Dickinson's
- Thursday, 20th June – at Hilary's
- Thursday, 27th June – at Kate Dickinson's

Special thanks to Kate, at 35 Meadway, for her support during Hilary's absence

All our meetings start at 10.30 am and usually finish around 12 noon.

*Hilary Dyster*



## Open Church Event – Saturday, 8th June

As mentioned in the last issue of Trinity Times, we will be holding an Open Church event on Saturday, 8th June. The day will start at 11.00 am and end at 6.00 pm, with the option to stay as little or as long as you like. A light lunch will be available between midday and 2.00 pm, with tea and coffee being available all day, giving plenty of opportunities for chat and fellowship.

There will also be the opportunity for quiet reflection and prayer with a variety of activities and resources. Peter Glenn, from St Thomas More Catholic Church, will be running a meditation session at 3.00 pm. This was very successful last year.

We would be very grateful if anyone can offer to create a prayer activity or provide a cake or tray bake.

For further details, please contact Gill or Kate

*Kate Dickinson*

## Beacon Event – Sunday, 9th June



**Join with other Christians** from across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire to worship and pray together at the:

### **'Thy Kingdom Come Beacon Celebration 2019'**

on Sunday, 9th June at 6.30pm in St Albans Cathedral – everyone welcome, no tickets required.

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## **SOCIAL NEWS AND EVENTS**

### *TRINITY TEA AND CHAT* *3.30 pm - 4.30 pm* *IN THE LARGE HALL*

The first Trinity Tea and Chat on Friday, 3rd May, was very successful with eleven people gathering to chat over tea and cake, and we met again on Friday, 31st May. We hope to make it a monthly event, starting in July, meeting on the first Friday of every month between 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm in the church hall. Everyone is welcome, whether they come to Trinity or not.

Please get in touch with Kate Dickinson for more details.

## News from the Social Committee

The Social Committee, under the chairmanship of Kathy Cole, continues to meet on a regular basis. Here are a few snippets from the Minutes of their Meeting on 22nd May, although some of these events are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter:

- there will be a family barbecue after the Morning Service on 14th July, Kate will organise a list for signing up and for puddings and salads
  - Steven's last Service will be on the same day (14th July) and this will be followed by refreshments
  - there will be an afternoon tea on Friday, 16th August; no charge but donations will be requested
  - looking further ahead, the Harvest Lunch is set for 12th October
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## KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES

### Pentecost, Sunday, 9th June

The feast of Pentecost is often referred to as the 'Birthday of the Church'. It is the time when Christians celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the followers of Jesus. This year, everyone is invited to the **10.00 am Service of Holy Communion** at St Martin's Church and for refreshments in the Parish Centre afterwards.

### KFC Coffee Morning: Saturday, 15th June, 10.00 am – 12 noon

Please drop in to St Martin's Parish Centre; it's always a good opportunity to meet up for a chat over a drink and cake. There will be the usual Traidcraft Stall.

If you would like any more information, you can contact me on [christine.goodwin51@btinternet.com](mailto:christine.goodwin51@btinternet.com) or 01438 365918.

*Christine Goodwin*

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## TRINITY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP – A DILEMMA?

In the May edition of Trinity Times, Steven raised an interesting issue regarding church membership, in particular with a request for people to consider whether they should become members or apply to do so. Not for the first time, this set me thinking about my own relationship to Trinity. I attend occasional church services, I come along to a few social or similar events, and I produce the church newsletter every month. But I'm not a church member!

In fact, I'm mostly comfortable enough with that situation. As an infant, I was christened; in my youth I attended my local Baptist Church but, unlike my late wife, Maureen, I was never made a member there because it didn't feel right for me to be baptised in their traditional manner by total immersion. Therefore, I suppose that I'm a little bit out on a limb.



So I began to think, what are the advantages (or disadvantages) of membership? I really don't know. I think it would allow me to attend formal Church Meetings and to vote on matters of the day; similarly, I guess that I would be able to nominate other members as Elders, or even become an Elder myself! Would I be expected to contribute a fixed amount of my income to the work of the church? (Perhaps the Treasurer can help me on that one!). Are there any rituals that I would have to go through, or lifestyle promises that I would have to make and keep? I wish I knew.

Perhaps the answer is that I could become an "associate member", a bit like in a golf club where associate member have limited privileges, although I doubt if the Methodist or URC Constitutions would allow for such an arrangement.

Is there anyone else out there who has had this or a similar dilemma – feeling that maybe they belong but haven't yet signed on the dotted line? If so, perhaps you would let me know.

*Graham Fothergill*

## **METHODIST NEWS**

### **Malcolm's Message**

Dear Friends,

Everything changes, whether we like it or not. Some of the changes feel right - a baby, to a youngster, to a teenager, to an adult. We would worry if there were no changes. Other changes that feel right are the changes of the seasons and the way plants grow and flower and fruit. Every year I watch the horse chestnut trees and wait for the signs of summer.

Everything changes. Sometimes we find ourselves looking for the past and recalling the way things were. Sometimes we look at our history and heritage and we want the good days and good things to persist. It is normal and right that we do; whether we should or not is a different issue and a different question.

One of the things that will mean change for us is Brexit. Indeed, I would want to say that things have already changed because of Brexit. I am not thinking about the way we leave the European Union; but the way the debate about Brexit has brought about a change in the way we are with each other.

I know in the past people often talked scathingly about political correctness, but I would rather live in a society where we thought about the things we say to and about each other; I would want to live in a society where respect and decency were the order of the day. I grieve over the increase in racism; the lack of tolerance; the abusive manner in which people now think it is OK to speak to each other. These negative things have become more apparent as the Brexit conversations have dragged on - the example shown by those in politics and who have high profiles have encouraged the level of debate to be trivialised.

I am sure that many people are only saying they have always thought in a manner they have always thought in, but when sitting in a restaurant I overheard a comment - I wasn't trying to overhear it was loud and carrying - 'I could stab Jeremy Corbyn in the face over Brexit'. I thought what a sad world we have come to when people think it is reasonable to say such things in public and consider it a reasonable thing to say. We wonder about the incidence of knife crime and other acts of violence; it is no wonder when attitudes such as that are considered normal.

The Christian message is one of love and respect and the Christian message, for all the failings of the Church, has brought about change and improvement in our society. Love and respect are core values of many religions and core values of many who would claim to have no faith or belief. Let us stand up for respect of each other; let us love each other and let us change again so that our communities become places of welcome and respect for all.

Wishing you every blessing  
Malcolm

*{The above item was reproduced from the May edition of the North Herts Methodist Circuit Newsletter}*

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**You are invited to attend  
Free Church Service  
in the Lady Chapel on:**

**Wednesday, 5th June at 11.00 am**  
Preacher: **The Rev'd John Hardaker**  
URC Minister, St Albans



THE CATHEDRAL AND  
ABBAY CHURCH OF  
SAINT ALBAN

**The service 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](mailto:simoncarver@btinternet.com)

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*Please send items for the July issue of Trinity Times to Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 20th June:*

*E-mail [gafothergill@gmail.com](mailto:gafothergill@gmail.com)*

*Telephone 01438 813371*

*or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth*