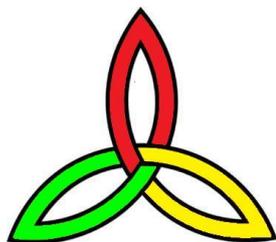


Trinity Times



September 2019

Issue No 224

Diary for September		
Sunday 1st	10.30 am 2.30 pm	Team Worship led by Becky Amy Rev'd Steven Cooper's Welcome Service at Wesley's Chapel, London (No Evening Service at Trinity)
Friday 6th	3.30 pm	Trinity Tea and Chat
Sunday 8th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson, including Service of Holy Communion Evening Worship led by Cath Edmonds
Wednesday 11th	2.00 pm	Social Committee Meeting
Saturday 14th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday 15th	10.30 am 4.00 pm	Morning Worship including Social Sunday led by Jennifer Rogers Accreditation Service for Kate Dickinson led by Rev'd Malcolm Peacock
Sunday 22nd	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Morning Worship led by Mel Mitchell and Kate Dickinson Evening Worship led by Rev'd John Whittle
Sunday 29th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Joint Morning Worship with Stevenage URC at Cutty's Lane Evening Worship led by Rev'd Jenny Spouge
Diary for October		
Sunday 6th	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Team Worship led by Mel Mitchell Evening Worship led by Rev'd John Steele, including Service of Holy Communion
Sunday 13th	10.30 am 12.00 pm 5.30 pm	Harvest Festival Service led by Jackie Hall, including Service of Holy Communion Harvest Lunch Evening Worship led by Rev'd Jane Hatton
<p>Meeting Point meets on Thursdays: 10.30 am. See below for venues during September Time for Prayer is held in the Vestry on Friday mornings from 9.30 – 10.00 a.m. Youth Club Meetings 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: Position vacant

Please contact one of the Elders or via the church website or office telephone

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

Many thanks to all the contributors to yet another fine issue of Trinity Times, with topics ranging from young people's appreciation of the Taize "pilgrimage" to the offer of free copies of a booklet that was produced about thirty years ago and which documents the history of the church in Park Lane between 1887 and 1987!

Graham Fothergill

FAMILY NEWS

On Sunday, 11th August, as Kate Dickinson led her first communion service she also welcomed Marion Walker into membership of Trinity. We give thanks for another encouragement to our fellowship as we enter a time of seeking new ministry.

As we pray for each other, we continue to remember those who are spending, or have spent, time in hospital. At time of writing this includes Marion Bennett and Hans Meister. We also particularly remember Kay Loveless and her extensive family following Jack's death after 64 years of marriage. Jack's funeral took place at Harwood Park at 12.30 on Thursday, 29th August, followed by refreshments at Trinity. Kay will continue to be surrounded by the many friends built up over many busy years living in Oaklands and also the supportive neighbours at Constance Place where she and Jack have been so integral to the helping to build the community since moving there.

As I write this, we have just learned of the death of Marjorie Reid. When Marjorie came from Scotland to live near family in Knebworth she joined our fellowship where she quickly made good friends and was a popular member of the group who went to Pub Lunches each month (when there was a pub to have them in!). Following illness and surgery, she moved to Wymondley Nursing Home where she has lived for some years. She has maintained her connection with Trinity, especially through regular visits from Hilary and from Gill Atkinson. We give thanks for Marjorie's life and hold her daughters Lynne and Sheena and all the generations of her family in prayer.

Several of the younger members of Trinity, after working hard, have done very well and will embark on new challenges in the autumn. Amongst them are young Caleb-James who is off to school, Sophie who starts life at secondary school, Libby is moving to Richard Hale School to study psychology and sport, Corletta to Hitchin Girls' School for maths, geography and chemistry, and Chloe is moving into the world of work! May they all know the care and love which surrounds them as they grow and discover new surroundings in which to live out their faith.

Gill Hughes

PARISH NEWS ARTICLE

This is the text of the Trinity article which was prepared by John Whittle for the September edition of the Knebworth Parish News. (*Ed.*)

Should We Encourage our Children to Reach for the Skies?

How often do you hear people in media interviews, who have made it in life, either in the worlds of sport, the media, academia or business, say in effect to any young people listening 'I made it and with hard work you can do so too'?

You have, possibly, said something similar to your children or your grandchildren or, if a teacher, to your students. Is it true? Or are we setting up our children to fall, and to even become bitter, feeling both robbed and that life is not fair?

There is a mind-set, which was developed at Stanford University in the USA, and which has infiltrated classrooms around the world, that says one must always praise a child, pointing to the right, but over-looking the wrong. This may benefit some young people, but may also hinder others and leave them in ignorance as to their real abilities. I once was with a group of college English lecturers at a training day, and a word came up which one lecturer present discovered he had been spelling incorrectly for all his life, simply because no one had pointed out his misspelling! The same mind-set also leads to some people not being able to recognize their own limitations - success is not always within their grasp - and to lead young people to believe otherwise is what one professor has called this 'cruel optimism'! Robert Browning, in one of his poems, wrote: 'A man's grasp must always exceed his reach or what is heaven for?'

What is most important is that children and young people are brought up to believe that their true value does not lie in what they achieve, but rather in who they become as people; men and women with a concern and respect for others, regardless of colour, creed or status; as individuals who know themselves to be loved by God and of such value that His Son gave his life that they might have life - life in all its fullness.

I leave you with this poem by an anonymous author:

*'Not how did he die, but how did he live?
Not, what did he gain, but what did he give?
These are the units to measure the worth
Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.
Not what was his church, nor what was his creed?
But had he befriended those really in need?
Was he ever ready with a word of good cheer,
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?
Not what did the sketch in the newspaper say,
But how many were sorry when he passed away.'*

Rev'd John Whittle

FREE!! WHILE STOCKS LAST!!!

"Knebworth United Reformed Church; Centenary 1887 – 1987"

While blitzing the Vestry cupboards recently, the clearing-out crew led by Kathy Cole uncovered a box of these 70-page booklets. The booklet was researched and written by Stanley Whiteman, the Church Secretary at the time, and contains interesting information from as far back as 1887 when the Knebworth Congregational Church was founded. It presents an essential history of our church up to 1987.

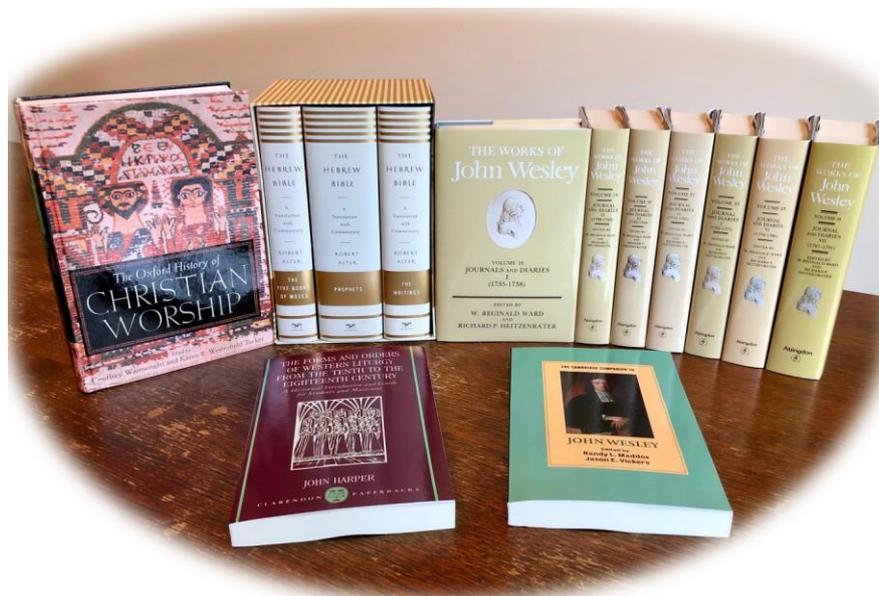
The booklets are now stored in the attic of the Church. Please contact John Neilson on 01438 811223 for your free copy.

The Editor

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all of you, and to friends from across the North Herts Methodist Circuit, for my very generous leaving gift. Together with a splendid photographic memento of the three churches to which I have bidden farewell this summer, and much-appreciated gifts for Ruth and Seraphina, I was humbled to be presented at my farewell service with a very substantial gift in the form of book tokens. These have now enabled me to acquire a very fine array of scholarly volumes (shown here), which are immensely interesting and useful to me for my future ministry, which would otherwise have been entirely out of my reach. And for the five years which have been my privilege to spend with you, thank you again!

Steven



This is the photographic memento that Steven refers to above. The churches are Trinity, St Paul's and Benington:



The Editor

THE TAIZE EXPERIENCE

Taizé was an extremely relaxing and peaceful experience (pilgrimage). It allowed me to deepen my faith in and my understanding of God. It was also a good excuse to be away from technology for a week which was nice. Every day started with morning prayers at 8.15 am, followed by breakfast. Afterwards we had bible study and prayers just before lunch. We had some free time to ourselves and more bible study then dinner at 7.00 pm. Lastly, for the day, we had prayers at 8.30 pm. We would then head down to Oyak (the socialising place in Taizé) where the food was cheap and enjoyable, as the food at Taizé wasn't great.

I made many new friends from my bible study group who came from all over the world including Germany, USA and Austria. I also made friends with everyone from the churches in Hertfordshire who I now keep in touch with over various social media. Overall, the whole week there was amazing. I definitely recommend this to everyone aged 15 to 25, and I will definitely be going next year.

Corletta

It was an indescribable experience, really. The music of literally thousands of people singing in perfect harmony three times a day really helped to create a sense of calm that lasted throughout the whole week. It may sound odd to say that such an incredibly hot week (temperatures reaching 48 degrees centigrade some days), camping among strangers and working everyday (serving dinner to a thousand people at a time!) could be so enjoyable, but it was. We met people from across the world. It was such a sociable, light-hearted event. I would recommend it to others!

Stephen

DIARY INFORMATION

Meeting Point; Thursdays, 10.30 am – 12 noon

The dates for the coming month are as follows:

Thursday, 5th September at Hilary's (8 St Martin's Road)
Thursday, 12th September at Hilary's
Thursday, 19th September at Kate's (53 Meadway)
Thursday, 26th September at Kate's

Hilary Dyster

Kate's Accreditation Service

As many of you will now be aware, I was accepted as a Local Preacher by the Local Preacher's meeting at the beginning of June and I will be having my accreditation service on Sunday, 15th September at 4.00 pm. The service will be led by Rev'd Malcolm Peacock, and Rev'd John Whittle has kindly agreed to give the address. Following the service, there will be tea, coffee, soft drinks and cakes. Everyone is welcome and it would be lovely to share in this special occasion with those of you that are able to come. If anyone would like to come but will have difficulty getting to church, please let me know. Also, if you could provide a cake, please let Kathy Cole know.

Kate

Sunday Lunches

We are planning to hold two Sunday Lunches at Trinity at little later in the year. One will be on **6th October**, the other on **10th November**. Numbers will be restricted to 40; tickets will be available soon, and the lunches will be along similar lines to the way that Gill does her soup lunch. There will be no set charge but it is suggested that donations of £5.00 will be appropriate. The meal will be two courses, with tea and coffee.

I would stress this is not just for Trinity folk, but for anyone who is on their own. I will be advertising these lunches around the churches and in the Knebworth Parish News.

Kathy Cole

CHANGES TO THE ENTRANCE AREA

You may notice that there have been some changes to the entrance area. We have installed a prayer table with objects on to help you reflect, as well as prayer cards, holding crosses and hearts to take away if you feel they will help you or someone you know.

There is a notice board for prayer requests. There are small cards on the table for you to write your request on and these can be placed in an envelope if private. These prayer requests will be either read by the prayer group on a Friday morning or by the prayer ministry team on a Sunday evening and, if relevant, placed on the Thursday prayer list.

Trinity Times as well as other post can now be found back around the corner where the pigeon holes used to be. There are also copies of church-related magazines and literature available to read.

For those that may want to sit in the entrance area during a service or away from the busyness of coffee time, there are chairs under the family rainbow which give a clear view of the church and also the prayer table. If for any reason, you do not see yourself on the family rainbow, please let Emma Oyetunde know and she will be only too happy to take your photograph.

Kate Dickinson

SOCIAL NEWS AND EVENTS

News from the Social Committee

The Harvest Lunch is set for **Sunday, 13th October**, further details nearer the date.

Our next Social Committee Meeting, to plan for September onwards, is on Wednesday, 11th September at 2.00 pm at Kate's home. All are welcome, new ideas needed please!

Kathy Cole

Tea and Chat

Trinity Tea and Chat has been taking place monthly on a Friday afternoon at Trinity Church between 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm for several months now. It has proved to be very popular and has given people the chance to meet with old friends as well as make new ones, share experiences and to sit and chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

The next Trinity Tea and Chat is on **Friday, 6th September**. For further details, please contact Kate on (01438) 225399.

Kate Dickinson

KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES

KFC Coffee Morning: Saturday, 14th September, 10.00 am – 12 noon

You will be very welcome to drop in to **St Martin's Parish Centre** for a drink and a chat. There will be the usual selection of cakes and you'll also be able to do some shopping at the Traidcraft stall.

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

Christine Goodwin

METHODIST NEWS

Malcolm's Message

Dear Friends,

We have a new Prime Minister. There are some who would say that religion and politics don't mix and I have some sympathy with such a view when I reflect on the complex situation in Northern Ireland where religion is used as a pretext to justify atrocious acts - thankfully this has become far less in recent years.

Yet I would want to argue that faith and politics have to mix - religion and faith are not the same, faith is the personal response I have with respect to my relationship with God. My relationship with god has an impact and an influence on every part of my life and being. My faith influences the things I do, the way I think, the values and morals I espouse. This in turn has an impact on the things I will support and hold precious. I cannot be a Christian, a person of faith, unless every part of my life is affected, and this has to include politics.

Our faith in God underlines the importance of truth, compassion, mercy, justice, fairness, equality. Our faith in God reminds us of the need to speak out against injustice, cruelty, self-seeking. For our faith to be real these qualities and values need to shape every part of our life including politics in the widest and best sense. The values which underpin our Christian faith need to be the values against which we measure our engagement and involvement with politics.

There is no simple solution when it comes to engaging in politics. There are people of faith who will support our New Prime Minister, Boris Johnson; there are people of faith who will support the Leader of the Opposition, Jeremy Corbyn; there are people of faith in all of the parties and there are people of faith who despair of all parties. I find it encouraging that people of faith, in terms of the whole population, are over represented in parliament. Faith and politics have to mix because both faith and politics deal with life at the most basic and fundamental levels. In coming weeks politics will take a place of importance in the nation as Brexit is reworked. As people of faith let us make sure we engage in the process and the issues asking the questions that flow from our faith.

The Brexit debate has hurt and to some extent poisoned our nation. As people of faith we have to be involved in the healing. We can only do that when we ask the questions that flow from our faith and challenge those who represent us to show the same concerns that we have for these basic and fundamental values of human life.

Malcolm

{The above item was reproduced from the August edition of the North Herts Circuit Newsletter}

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

Wednesday, 11th September at 11.00 am
Preacher: **The Rev'd Canon Kevin Walton**
Canon Chancellor, St Albans Cathedral



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SÄINT ÄLBÄN

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

Please send items for the October issue of Trinity Times to Graham Fothergill by Thursday, 19th September:

E-mail gafothergill@gmail.com

Telephone 01438 813371

or drop them in at 7 Stockens Dell, Knebworth