



Trinity Quarterly

Issue No 3 September – November 2023



Diary for September			
Sunday	3rd	10.30 am	Open Worship led by Rosie Berry
Sunday	10th	10.30 am	Harvest Festival with Holy Communion led by Rev'd Zdzisiu Hendzel
Saturday	16th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday	17th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Rev'd Tony Ruffell
Sunday	24th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson
Diary for October			
Sunday	1st	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Jennifer Rogers
Sunday	8th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Frank Needham
Saturday	14th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday	15th	10.30 am	Café Style Worship led by Kate Dickinson
Sunday	22nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Jackie Hall
Sunday	29th	10.30 am	Joint Service at Trinity with URC Stevenage, with Holy Communion led by Rev'd Zdzisiu Hendzel
Diary for November			
Sunday	5th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Peter Rogers
Sunday	12th	10.30 am	Remembrance Sunday Morning Worship led by Rev'd John Whittle
Saturday	18th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday	19th	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev'd George Watt
Sunday	26th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson
Youth Club Meetings at Trinity during term times – Friday evenings - School years 6 – 9			

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

Minister: Position Vacant

Please contact one of the Elders or go to the church website

Church Website: www.trinitychurchknebworth.org.uk

Opinions in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the United Reformed and Methodist Churches. Similarly, they do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Team

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

Autumn is almost here, my favourite time of year, a time to sort out the garden and enjoy the remainder of some good weather. I do hope we have a little summer left; although we have been a little short of sun we have many things to be grateful for. Our gardens have flourished and we have had little to do with watering cans and hoses. So here is our Autumn edition of Trinity Quarterly.

As a team we wish our young people all the best for your next year at school, College, University or new employment. Congratulations and Best Wishes to Stephen who is moving to University at York. From personal experience I know that it can be an anxious time for parents and grandparents. I'm sure you will be included in prayers of the Trinity members, friends, and close family.

In this edition we have included reports of our very successful events held to Celebrate Trinity Church's Anniversary. Let's make our Tabletop Sale on the 2nd December a great and successful event. Do you have any gifts you don't need? It's time to sort out those cupboards or offer your time on the day (especially with setting up and clearing up afterwards).

Our thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. We encourage and welcome all of you to make contributions to the next issue of Trinity Quarterly, if possible in Word and Arial Font 11. However, don't worry about your skills, don't struggle, we can sort out any issues such as grammar, spellings and layout.

Please send your articles for the winter edition as soon as possible and before 3rd November.

Rosemary Rudkin, on behalf of the Editorial Team

MEMBER NEWS

Elizabeth Cross

We are saddened to lose a member of our church family, and so soon after she arrived in Knebworth and joined us. Elizabeth moved from Gloucestershire last year and arrived at Trinity one morning – I think it was “Open Church” that day – to continue her life-long active membership of the local church. As a daughter of the manse, joining a new local community seemed to come easily to her and it was soon clear that she felt at home with us, whether the worship was traditional or informal. She was always so encouraging and affirming of the welcome she received. She was determined to play as active a role as she could manage in the life and witness of this fellowship. She was also very understanding of the limitations we have had over recent years in terms of our reduced resources to physically help each other with transport and other practical support. We soon discovered how interesting and relaxed conversation was with Elizabeth, and I am only sorry that we have started so many unfinished ones.

We have been privileged to have her as a member (formally welcomed in a service led by Rev Val Reid in January) and we offer our prayers and extend our deep sympathy for their loss to her family, of whom she spoke with much love and pride.

We give thanks for her life and for all the ways Elizabeth shared her living faith in our community.

Gill Hughes

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

CONTRIBUTION FROM RITA DAVIES

On a beautiful hot sunny day in June this year my granddaughter Katy married Mark in Norfolk. Everything was perfect and it was wonderful to celebrate with family and friends - Mark's family and many of the couple's friends had travelled from Germany.

I am so pleased I was able to be there to share the special day.

Katy, her brother Robbie and cousins Joe, Rosie & Anna all attended Sunday School at the URC church before it became Trinity, so some of you probably remember them as they were then.

Rita Davies



The Davies family



Katy and Mark



Katy with Mother Elaine
and brother Robbie



Rita with granddaughter Katy

CONTRIBUTION FROM HEATHER PYCRAFT - ANNUAL ADVENTURE

As some of you may know, most years in July, I head north to the Lake District. Keswick on Derwent Water to be precise. I go to help set up a campsite run to provide accommodation for those attending the Keswick Convention. The Convention currently runs for 3 weeks offering Christian fellowship, bible study, services and missionary outreach.

I recently found some notes made by my father about his first visit to the Convention. He said the bible study was conducted by Dr Paul Rees." I neither before nor since experienced such a concentrated depth of spiritual insight and exposition of God's word." He went on to say that he and Mum attended every meeting that week, two speakers a night and communion on Friday.

My parents became involved with the setting up and running of the camp and this became our annual holiday. Initially this would be a week to set up, known as Advance and 2 -3 weeks of the convention. It will come as no surprise that Dad did most roles on camp over the years. Cook, Quarter Master and leader for Advance and Retreat. (taking the camp down) In those days food was sourced locally, milk from the farm in a churn, fresh veg and meat delivered by lorry. Bread from the Sunblest. The camp hired tents, blankets, camp beds, and a marquee. The toilets were chemical ones, in hardboard "wardrobes" (full of spiders) A team of willing volunteers would install all the amenities. It was very, very, hard work. These days the marquee and wash tents are erected by the hire company, the loos and showers are hired and installed for us. There are no hire tents etc. Four meals a day are usually provided by a team of cooks. I followed in Dad's footsteps, starting as a cook (cheap holiday), QM and leading Advance. It is hard work but the friendships made and the fellowship enjoyed make it well worthwhile.

This is also where the love of land rovers originates. Dad had three old land rovers over the years to convey us to the Lakes, help on site and generally have fun with. If having a flat tyre on the way to church is fun! We left Dad to change the wheel while we went on to church. (The smaller of the two Methodist Churches in Keswick, called Tithebarn)

Obviously COVID meant no camp for three years. The Convention went online etc. Last year it was decided that we would reinvent the camp but as self - catering only. This is a real culture change for the regulars used to meals being laid on for them. Sadly, we will lose a few die-hard campers, but we might gain new ones. It will be no less work for the Advance team as we try to organise the new look site.

I am hoping to go this year, but it will depend on when we move house. (We're off to Norfolk, eventually.) If I don't make it to the Lakes in July, then maybe later in the year. For me it is my spiritual home and a chance to relax and recharge the batteries. The beauty of the surroundings and the peacefulness. As the hymn says, 'O calm of the hills above. Take from our souls the strain and stress and let our ordered lives confess, the beauty of Thy peace'.

Heather

(Editors' note - We have since received the farewell greeting below from Heather)

So long, farewell, Aufwiedersehen. Goodbye...

In the words of that song from the Sound of Music...

Finally, we have moved. It has only taken two years. Thank you so much for the lovely card from you all. Thank you also for the many years of love and spiritual support that you have all given us. From Mary Stewart's fruit cake when my brother died, to John and Graham's car park duties at family funerals, trying to sing the descant at the Christmas Day services, Youth Clubs, Dad's rail trips and garden trains, a certain neighbour, appearing like the shop keeper in Mr Ben, the numerous cups of tea and just generally being a wonderful group of people.

We wish you all well, God Bless and Love - *Heather and Mark Pycraft*

CONTRIBUTION FROM JACKIE HALL - SKYDIVE



Shortly after Easter I received a fundraising booklet from Isabel Hospice and sat down to read with of course a cup of tea. Hmm, walk no! I had just done the Methodist Circuit walk on Good Friday and wanted a new challenge. A black-tie ball, err, I have nothing to wear and don't like parties so that's a no. Turning the pages I came across a skydive; oh, I thought, I've not done that before but it will be very popular, I probably won't get in. Click click, ah, I'm in, I've been accepted, I'm going to sky dive, I'm going to jump out of a plane whilst it's still flying. Oops ok, now do I tell my kids before or after I've done it? Hmm!

Big deep breath and message all the kids in one hit, then make another cup of tea seems a good plan. It worked, apart from the expected 'rather you than me' and 'you are doing what'? They were remarkably calm about it; possibly they are used to me doing daft things. Though they did ask if it was a good idea, pointing out I hadn't been in a plane for many years, actually since 1979 and then I landed still on board with the pilot. This time, I would race him down.

I didn't feel nervous at that time and got help setting up my Just Giving page and telling folk so they could sponsor me if they wanted. I asked family and friends to spread the word which they did. Also, Trinity and any church I went to were asked to pray for a soft landing. The Bowls club were also given the link to the fundraising page, and the money mounted up. Still, folk asked if it was a good idea.

The day dawned and my prayers for good weather were answered. Steven drove and Sarah came as well to help find the airport which was near Peterborough. At the booking in I had to be weighed, not sure why I held my breath at that point but apparently most folk do.

The training lasted 30 minutes. I listened very carefully and practised what I had learnt. Time to get changed, then to the plane with a quick wave to my kids and a brave smile. We were told last chance to back out. Really? It's not happening! I was going to jump if it killed me, though I did hope it wouldn't.

As the plane took off, I noticed some gaffer tape and hoped it wasn't holding anything vital together. I was attached very carefully to an experienced skydiver. I did ask how many he had done, hoping he wouldn't say it was his first, just as well he didn't! Then up we climbed. I thought we were jumping from 10 000 ft, but on and up we went. At 13000 ft we levelled out, a big gulp and fixed smile. I felt a bit nervous with the door open, sitting on the edge with arms crossed, feet tucked under the plane and preparing to hurtle towards earth face first. I did briefly wonder what the heck I was doing and was it really a good idea, was it perhaps too late to do a walk instead?

Then, phew! Off we went, the wind rushing past as we hurtled very fast towards the earth. It was great, exciting and scary all at the same time. I remembered to 'smile' for the camera. It was great, it was fun, wow wonderful! Then the parachute opened and it was suddenly peaceful, beautiful, I could see the wonderful green countryside. I had a 360-degree view double wow! All too soon, we were coming into land and trying to remember the training legs up position. Suddenly we were on the ground safely, wow oh wow, it was great exhilarating fun, I had done it yes and as my final total was £750, so yes it was a good idea.

Many thanks to everyone who prayed for my safe landing and who sponsored me.

Jackie Hall

CONTRIBUTION FROM CORLETTA STRAUGHN - MY FIRST YEAR AT UNIVERSITY

My first year at university was a mixture of new people, new locations, new feelings, and new ways of learning. It started in October 2021. We still had some COVID-19 restrictions, but things were finally more open and available on campus compared to the previous year. Uni started off with Fresher's Fair that introduced me to the vast range of societies that you can join at university, I chose to join BioSoc (Biology Society) and Student Cinema.

The next main event during Fresher's Week is the Sports' Fair. At university, there are so many sports clubs to choose from - aikido; wrestling; women's and mixed hockey; Latin and ballroom; and many more. From my sports fair, I decided to join mixed netball and I've been at the club for two years.

Lots of other events happened in Fresher's Week such as introductory sessions from societies, free taster sessions from sports clubs, introductory talks from my department, free showings of movies run by Student Cinema and also a paint party. I must also mention the loads of freebies from external companies such as water bottles, wrist bands and discount codes.

My lectures were pre-recorded and online in term one, so the start of my university experience involved sitting in my room listening to lectures and frequent netball training. There were some social events, but capacity was severely limited.

Eventually, about halfway through term two we were allowed to go into lecture halls (with masks on) and more social events with larger capacities. Societies started running more in-person events and I could get to meet some people on my course. I joined the First Love Church and attended their two-hour services on Sundays, straight after netball practice which was a challenge when tired from netball training (and also after Trinity's one-hour services I was used to)!

Term three is exam season (for most degree streams). Approximately half of term three was either in-person exams or for me, online exams. After the stress of exams, all there was left to do was attend as many socials as possible, go to netball and hang out with friends at any given opportunity.

So good luck on your first year Stephen, exciting times ahead!

Corletta

CONTRIBUTION FROM HILARY DYSTER - SUNDAY CLUB NEWS

It is encouraging to see that the age range of our Trinity Fellowship has been widened recently, now that we welcome up to six children in the younger group of our Sunday Club to morning worship. Their ages range from eighteen months to nine years and they certainly bring a lively, youthful perspective to our gatherings. It has been so encouraging watching young Malachi settle so happily with us, sometimes even without Mum or Grandma. Ezra is becoming more confident, with big sister Natalia and big brother Caleb James close at hand. We have welcomed Henry and Stanley, and it is always good to share news with them all.

Naturally, there is a wide ability range, but we have interesting conversations and often some surprising and challenging questions, as we seek to present the Gospel message in age appropriate ways.

Thank you to all those engage with the children Sunday by Sunday, it is good to see the whole Trinity family together and we are grateful to those who help during the sessions and provide cover during absences. Extra hands are always appreciated. - *Emma, Chris and Hilary*

Bible Quiz for all Ages by Hilary - I am a character in the Bible but who am I?

- 1 I built an ark before a great flood.
- 2 I led lots of people to safety through the Red Sea.
- 3 I had a brother named Andrew.
- 4 I climbed into a tree to see Jesus.
- 5 I was a doctor and wrote one of the Gospels.
- 6 I was a shepherd boy but became a King.
- 7 I wrote the last book in the Bible.
- 8 I had two sisters called Mary and Martha.
- 9 I killed a giant.
- 10 I was swallowed by a large fish.

Children to bring answers to Hilary at Sunday Club

CONTRIBUTION FROM MAUREEN AND PETER BODDEN - TRINITY@27!

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND OF 22ND AND 23RD JULY

Not denying the fact that we all grow older, gracefully of course, this year's Anniversary weekend was given a flying start on the Saturday afternoon when The Eden Consort, accompanied by Andy Lewis, entertained a full Sanctuary with music programmed as a Cafe Concert. Much cake was washed down with tea, coffee and gusto by all. The audience responded generously with their voluntary donations amounting to £323. Half of this went to church funds, and half to the new Anniversary charity, the Trinity Disaster Response Fund, set up to allow Trinity Church to respond to major disaster appeals.

On the Sunday morning worship was led by Hazel Beadle, who based her sermon on a well-informed insight into weeds and wheat as part of God's creation here on earth. Not resting there, a sizeable congregation stayed on to enjoy a BBQ, prepared outside but consumed in the Large Hall, thanks to another disappointing summer's day weather wise. Many delicious salads and desserts were brought in by members of the congregation, making it an enjoyable chance to share food and fellowship. £61.91 was raised towards the Disaster Response Fund.

An important reflection on the weekend is that Trinity's "all are welcome" approach continues to be blessed by attendance from people among the wider Knebworth community, as witnessed at the concert, as well as regular attendees on Sundays who are former members of the now closed St. Paul's Methodist Church in Stevenage.

A final, albeit brief, thank you to the Social Committee, especially Cathy Bowers and Tricia Easdale, who along with other volunteers, made the weekend's events such a success.

CONTRIBUTION FROM KATHY COLE –

CRAFTS AND CREAM TEA ON AFTERNOON OF 5TH AUGUST

What a lovely atmosphere, fun food and fellowship. We had four crafts being demonstrated and the opportunity to try whichever one we fancied. Tricia's book-folding proved very popular! Lots of scones, cream jam and tea were consumed with lots of chat and laughter. I reflected on this during Kate's service the next day, All are welcome!

We are lucky to have such pleasant premises to have community events such as the tea, and all the other events we hold during the year.

Kathy.



Book-folding

CONTRIBUTION FROM REV'D JOHN WHITTLE

TAINTED ART

Imagine you have been given a beautiful painting, or other piece of art-work. You prize it, and delight in its beauty, you bring it to your home and into your life; your friends envy you. Then one day you learn the creator of this wonderful piece of art was a paedophile, and a wife beater!

What would be your reaction be? To destroy it, sell it, or give it away - banish it to the loft or from your life forever?

That is dilemma facing those, who like the BBC, own a piece of art by Eric Gill, the statue outside Broadcasting House, installed in 1933, which features the characters Prospero and Ariel from Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*. Ariel, a spirit of the air, is depicted as a young naked male.

Does the quality of the art-work depend **on the morality of its creator**? We have similar dilemmas when it comes to the work by other great artists and authors, such as Charles Dickens and Rudyard Kipling, both of whom treated the women in their lives in ways which would probably lead to legal actions today.

The same problem is present with celebrities, whose lives do not stand up to our moral standards - Rolf Harris, a performer who I watched awestruck at his talent for painting/drawing, and listened to him singing songs- such as two little boys! Yet, he died in May at the age of 93, having served time in prison for sexual assault charges against young women. Yet, he was even commissioned to paint an official portrait of the late Queen Elizabeth.

So do beauty, artistic talent cease to have value, if the creator is seen to be immoral?

The church has faced a similar dilemma when considering the validity of the sacraments. It has, throughout its long history, to face the question - if the priest belongs to a part of the church regarded as heretical, are the sacraments he administered valid? If a Bishop was, similarly, of a dissenting denomination were the ordinations he carried out valid!

The conclusion was generally accepted that the validity did not depend on the morality or beliefs of the administrator. So, does beauty cease to be such if its creator was misogynist? What too, of the artist, who is sexually without sin, but is proud, uncaring and cruel, or suffers from other sins?

We have to recognize the truth of St Paul when he wrote: '**all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God**'. We have the touch of the divine image in clay vessels - flawed, but redeemable, thanks to the saving love of God, displayed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ – the one who alone knew no sin.

So can we recognize beauty, even if created by a flawed creator? I leave you to ponder this question; though I still cannot resist listening to the song: 'Two Little Boys'!

PRAYER sent by *Sandra Robey*-

Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands, with which he blesses the entire world.

Yours are the hands.

Yours are the feet.

Yours are the eyes.

You are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Amen

St. Theresa of Avila.

PARISH NEWS ARTICLES

*THIS IS THE ARTICLE FOR THE JUNE EDITION OF THE KNEBORTH PARISH NEWS
PREPARED BY ROSIE BERRY :*

What's in a name? My Huguenot family name is Lefever and we can trace our ancestry back to the French Protestants in the 1500s. There was religious unrest between Catholics and the Huguenots which was settled by the Edict of Nantes in 1598.

However, trouble flared again when this Edict was revoked in 1685. The Huguenots fled France, 50,000 refugees between 1685 and 1725. They went to Europe, America and Africa. My branch of the family travelled to the Channel Isles, Canterbury and Spitalfields. They were skilled silk weavers and soon established a viable community. They were known for speculative house building and you can still see the town houses in Spitalfields, built with an extra storey and large windows to maximise the light for the looms.

Some of the Huguenots were skilled silversmiths and you can see their work in the Courtauld Institute, London.

Some of the benefits, if you could trace Huguenot ancestry, were a hospital and school in Rochester, Kent. Two of my great aunts went to the school, but neither of the buildings survives now.

The male line of the Lefever family has died out, but my daughter has kept it going by taking Lefever as her surname.

Do you have an interesting family history?

Rosie

*THIS IS THE ARTICLE FOR THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF THE KNEBORTH PARISH NEWS
WRITTEN BY MAUREEN BODDEN:*

Give me love, give me life...Many of you will have enjoyed the songs of the Beatles at some stage in your lives, and some like me, as teenagers in the sixties, will have had a crush on their favourite member of the band. Mine was George Harrison, and I recently saw a broadcast on Sky Arts of the Tribute Concert held for him at the Royal Albert Hall in 2002. Listening to some of his favourite songs, I was struck by the meaningful words, in particular of the song 'Give me love'.

*Give me love, give me love,
Give me peace on earth,
Give me light, give me life...*

Echoing his wish to "connect with God".

At this time of the year, many are facing new beginnings - at school, at college, a new job, a new chapter in their life. The farmers have been busy bringing in the harvest, but now is not the time to sit back and ruminate. It can be an exciting and challenging time of the year, but also an anxious one. Can you remember your first day at primary school, big school, or your first day at a new job? I remember walking up a steep narrow flight of stairs to meet the headmistress of my first school, and it was terrifying. It helps to know that you have someone there to support you at such times of stress, whether young or old.

The George Harrison song went on to say,

Give me hope, help me cope with this heavy load.

As Christians we place our hope in God, and follow the teachings of Jesus, trying to do our best to help others who need support. For us God is love, Christ is our Light, our Life, and we pray for peace on earth.

Maureen

THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER

God never promises exception,
He does promise companionship, which is better.
He does not promise to deliver us from pain, sorrow, or economic disaster
but He does assure us that He will help us through.
He says, 'I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you.'
These are the words of Jesus.
Tricia

TRINITY SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Please keep Saturday 4th of November free in your diaries for our church away day at Trinity. The day will include all age worship together, a session led by the Herts. and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and a craft workshop. It will be a time of fellowship, fun and encouragement in our continued faith development. We would love to include all ages in the leading of the music and all aspects of the worship so please let me know if you would like to be involved.

Mel

BIBLE FOR ALL SESSIONS - These will re-start in September. We are hoping for after the service on the 24th. Please come along if you can. Details:

Since January we have met together after a service once a month to look at a Bible passage. Each session has been led by a different person who chooses a few verses. We look at some questions and those who feel moved to, share their thoughts. There is no prior knowledge of the Bible needed and no need to speak if we don't wish to. So far, we have shared in a short lunch before the discussions begin and the session is as long as the conversations run but no more than an hour. I would encourage anyone who is even just a little curious to come and join us. Thank you to those who have come so far.
Mel

POEM sent by *Tricia Easdale*

THE VALUE OF A SMILE

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too.

I walked around a corner
And someone saw my grin
When he smiled too
I realised I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about this smile of mine
And realised what it's worth
A single smile begun by me
Could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel your smile begin
Don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic
And get the world infected.

By Spike Milligan

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

The charities of the month at Trinity for September to November are as follows:

September



We will be collecting items for Haven First at the Harvest service on 10th September. Watch out for notices.

The Haven plays an important part in supporting vulnerable people in the community who do not have the privilege of a home to which they can return each evening. At the centre of what we do, is having a full understanding of the complex issues surrounding homelessness. With our team of highly trained and experienced staff, we support over 200 people per year, not only with a warm bed and hot meals, but with the vital support needed to lead an independent life and move on from our sites, into permanent, independent accommodation.

Haven First

6 Ditchmore Lane
Stevenage, SG1 3LJ

Tel: 01438 354884

E-mail: info@havenfirst.org.uk,

October



Our partners are Christian Aid and Global Justice Now. Our four partner regions are Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Central America (Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala).

Commitment for Life is the United Reformed Church's global justice programme.

Commitment for Life is a way in which local congregations are enabled to participate in actions for justice around the world.

Commitment for Life belongs to every congregation. Many choose to support a region in the world through prayer, learning, advocacy, and action for justice.

www.urc.org/cfl

Tel. 020 79168638

November



Location: 25 Marylebone Road,
London, NW1 5JR, UK

Phone: 020 7467 513
www.allwecan.org.uk

All We Can is a pioneering international development, relief and advocacy organisation that believes in the power of partnership. It has its roots in the British Methodist Church and is inspired by Christian principles to focus on those in greatest need. The charity works through partnerships to end the cycle of suffering caused by poverty, inequality and injustice.

DATES FROM THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (and KFC coffee mornings)

- 9th September **Bike and Hike** event. The church will be open, with Prayer Stations around the building 9.00am - 5.00pm
- 10th September **Harvest Festival Lunch**, after morning service
- 16th September **KFC Coffee morning** at St Martin's Parish Centre 10.00am
- 23rd September **Quiz Night** - See back page for full details
- 14th October **KFC Coffee morning** at St Martin's Parish Centre 10.00am
- 18th November **KFC Coffee morning** at St Martin's Parish Centre 10.00am
- 2nd December **Tabletop Sale**, see Notes from the Editors, page 2
For more information contact Becky on 0790 8288 037
or Tricia on 0799 9027 102



All Welcome

at the

Knebworth Family of Churches Monthly Coffee Mornings.

We look forward to seeing you at St Martin's Parish Centre on the following **Saturdays** between 10.00am and 12.00 noon:

16th September

14th October

18th November

16th December

Sent by Sue Burrell

KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES, INCORPORATING CHRISTIAN AID



The monthly Coffee Mornings at St Martin's Parish Centre have continued to be successful; the proceeds are forwarded to a nominated charity which for June, July and August was Action for Children. In addition, at the July Coffee Morning, through the sale of Ukrainian-style cakes, a total of £75 was raised for the Christian Aid Ukrainian Flood Appeal.

By the time this article appears in Trinity Quarterly, our second "Holiday at Home" event will have been held. This was on Friday, 18th August, at which about thirty of our senior citizens enjoyed coffee, lunch, afternoon tea and a day of fun and friendship at St Martin's Parish Centre. The event, which was organised by Reverend Karen Turner with help on the day from members of Trinity, St Thomas More and St Martin's and St Mary's Churches, was funded by a grant through Herts. County Council. Meetings of the KFC Steering Group were held on 26th April and 10th July. Together with the usual business, it was agreed that Knebworth Family of Churches should seek to involve the Passion For Christ Tabernacle in our activities, and invite them to our events.

Although still a couple of months away, the next significant KFC-organised event will be the Remembrance Sunday Service on 12th November at the War Memorial in Old Knebworth. All are welcome; please make a note of the date and time (12.30 pm) in your diary.

Christian Aid Week: 14th – 20th May

Just prior to the start of Christian Aid Week, an envelope was delivered to every household in the village. On the envelope was a note asking you to return it - with your donation, of course - to the collection points in the Co-op or the Post Office. Alternatively, you were able to donate online at <https://bit.ly/KnebworthCA23>. When the returned envelopes were opened, the online donations were added and Gift Aid was included, the total raised during the week was just over £1200 (rather less than last year). However, when the proceeds of other events in the early part of the year were added in, a cheque for just over £1900 was sent to Christian Aid. Thank you to all who donated to this very worthy cause.

The Service for Christian Aid Week held at St Thomas More Catholic Church on Sunday, 14th May was a well-attended and inspiring event. In addition to prayers, hymns and Bible readings, there were sung pieces from The Eden Consort but especially we heard from Lucy Hamilton about the important work, supported by Christian Aid that is going on in Malawi and other parts of Africa.

Graham Fothergill

Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches

WHAT HAVE YOUR GIFTS TO CHRISTIAN AID ACHIEVED?

The generous people of Knebworth and the churches in particular, have raised thousands of pounds for Christian Aid. I thought it might be useful to highlight some of the work this money has helped to fund over the past year. I want to highlight just four particular areas of the world where vital aid has been given.

The first is the help given to the people of Malawi following the second deadliest African cyclone this century. Cyclone Freddy made over 500,000 people homeless and destroyed the crops and hopes of income for many hard working farmers. It left Jen Bishop's family surviving on pumpkins, and uncertain

what they would eat when these were gone. With your help, Jen and her community are being helped to recover with seeds and with climate-resilient pigeon peas to plant for a better future.

The next example is the aid given when the earthquake struck Turkey and parts of Syria in February 2023. Help was given in the form of crucial shelter, warmth and food. Within 48 hours £650,000 had been raised by Christian Aid's supporters, and many contributed via the DEC appeal which raised £100 million in just two weeks. Following the initial search and rescue phase, local partners worked round the clock to provide shelter, bedding, food and clean water to the survivors in some of the hardest hit areas. The work is still going on to protect the most vulnerable, including those in rebel-held areas of Northwest Syria.

Our third example comes from Cox's Bazaar, the world's largest refugee camp which houses thousands of Rohingyas children who fled the persecution in Myanmar some six years ago. Thousands of children are stuck in this vast and dangerous camp, but thanks to you and other Christian supporters, they are not forgotten. Thirty eight thousand Rohingyas refugees have been helped and many children, such as Fatima, have been able to continue their education. So, for Fatima, education has been a ray of light in the darkness and she wants to become an advocate to help her community. She says, **'My dream is to study higher and become a lawyer'**. She also says that the support of a 'Women and Girls' Safe Space', a project supported by your giving, has helped her **'not give up hope for the shining days ahead in my life'**.

And finally, a concern close to many of you is help given to the thousands upon thousands of Ukrainians who had to flee the invasion forces of Russia. With your help, lorry loads of food, hygiene kits and cash grants were made available to assist the refugees. Your donations to the DEC Ukraine Appeal have now helped over 800,000 Ukrainian people through Christian Aid programmes and partnerships. In addition, the emergency gifts following the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam have helped get people to safety and provide immediate food, water and shelter. Christian Aid's Response Director in Ukraine, Iryna Dobrohorska, has said, **'We are really grateful for your contributions to support people in Ukraine who are suffering from this devastation'**.

In summary, 171,463 people have been given shelter and protection and 322,140 lives improved by health initiatives. Christian Aid offers the following words of thanks: **'Thank you for being such a kind member of the Christian Aid community. These aren't easy times. But by continuing to stand together we give each other courage in the face of hardship, trauma, loss and disaster. We show each other a better world is possible'**.

Rev'd John Whittle

THE METHODIST NEWS

Message from Rev'd Val Reid (Circuit superintendant until Rev'd Zdzisiu Hendzel takes over in September)

Dear friends,

I've just got back from a week at the [Methodist Conference](#) as a representative for the Beds, Essex and Herts. District. Conference meets every year to confer together on where we are as a national Church, to take decisions about our future direction, and to affirm that we are a Connexion – that slightly old-fashioned spelling reminds us that we belong together, and have done so for over two centuries.

So what was important to me at Conference this year? Three things (of course) I'd like to highlight:

1. **Inspirational worship.** I love the variety of worship in our circuit, from quiet traditional services in our small chapels, to the charismatic worship band at Christchurch. But there is something very

special about shouting 'they are worthy' to the ordinands in a packed Coventry Cathedral, or 350 people singing 'Captain of Israel's host and guide' unaccompanied in four-part harmony as Conference is adjourned for another year. We all need these moments when we encounter God together in a congregation that is larger than our local church, like the welcome service for our new ministers at 3pm on Saturday 2nd September at All Saints. All are welcome.

2. **A prophetic voice.** Conference unanimously received the '[Walking with Micah](#)' report, which reminds us that being a justice-seeking church is not an optional extra. It is God's imperative. It is embedded deep in our DNA as Methodists. And the report invites us to reflect on 'what is ours to do?' as individuals and as churches. Read it – it's brilliant!

3. **Great curry!** After the ordinations on Sunday afternoon, the BEH team went for a curry in Coventry. Great food, but – more importantly – an opportunity to get to know each other better, and to share together something about life and faith and challenges and hopes in our churches. It reminded me how much sitting around a table and talking with friends was a part of Jesus' ministry. I hope we can do more eating and talking together, and sharing and hoping together, in the year ahead, as Zdzisiu and Emmanuel join our circuit ministers' team and we begin to create a vision for our circuit's future mission.

Yours in Christ, Val

Circuit News (earlier newsletter from Circuit Stewards)

The next few weeks are some of the busiest in the year for all those connected to education. There are leavers assemblies and proms, sport's days, concerts, presentations, and not to mention the all-important giving of teacher's gifts!

At this time of year, we are also blessed with good weather and many celebrations. The community events happening throughout our towns will enable connections to be made, this is how community works. Being a part of community is so very important for our wellbeing, but for some this is uncomfortable, causes stress and isolation is an easier option.

In Christ we are never alone; he walks alongside us in all we do, including connecting with others and building community.

We will shortly be saying goodbye to Graham, Jane and their family, but the connection with them will remain with us. The work of God that has formed Graham's ministry in North Herts. will continue to bring God's love to this community.

As we welcome Zdzisiu, Emmanuel and their families, we will be inviting them into this community, where they will find love, peace and friendship. It is our prayer that through their ministry among us, the Kingdom will grow and more people will come to know Jesus as Lord. For those who favour isolation for whatever reason, God will enable His love to reach them in ways that are unique for them. God is not interested in forcing himself upon any of us, but he freely offers love and salvation to all.

As we connect with each other and people yet to become friends, let us remember how Jesus loves all people, including those who find community hard. May we all mirror this in all our summer activities.

Allison and Janet

Postscript. Thank you to everyone across the circuit who came to say goodbye to Graham and Jane at Stotfold on 2nd July – it was lovely to have a full church, and to celebrate Graham's ministry with us. £163.52 was raised from a retiring collection for the Training for Ministry fund.



PLEASE NOTE THE DATE - On Sunday November 19TH **The Rev'd George Watt**, THAMES NORTH MODERATOR, will be leading morning worship at Trinity. See below his biodoc with personal note at the end.

George was born and brought up in the Highlands of Scotland, living most of his childhood in the village of Lairg in Sutherland. He came to faith through the work of Scripture Union and was also nurtured through his local Church of Scotland and Youth Fellowship. His family moved to the Shetland Islands when he finished school and as he started studying at Stirling University. At University he gained a B.A. in history but also studied economics, statistics, marketing and religious studies!

On graduating he moved to the Medway Towns in Kent where he started work as a Statistician with Lloyds of London (insurance) and went on to become a Computer Implementation Analyst. He joined the URC in Gillingham and became an Elder at the age of 23. He met and married his wife Linda and then started training for the Ministry at Mansfield College.

His first pastorate was at Freemantle and Isaac Watts Memorial Churches in Southampton. In 1998 he moved to St Andrew's, Cheam, where he was minister for 12 years and then for the following 10 years he was minister at Reigate Park Church in Surrey.

George and Linda have three sons: Nathan, married to Emily, who works as a BT consultant; Jacob who is studying Medicine at the University of Aberdeen and Reuben who has just completed studying Ethical Hacking at Coventry University and is moving to Gloucester and has served as URC Youth Moderator. Nathan and Emily have a daughter, Iona, born last year making George and Linda doting grandparents.

In his spare time George enjoys cooking, gardening and walking.

George came into post as Moderator in 2021 and is enjoying the challenges of the role, in particular experiencing the variety and diversity of the Synod. He is looking forward to leading worship at Trinity, Knebworth.

Thames North Synod is one of thirteen Synods that make up the United Reformed Church. With the River Thames as the southern boundary, the 113 local churches of Thames North Synod serve communities in Greater London, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Essex.

You can go the website to find out more and to subscribe to the newsletter if you wish.

<https://urcthamesnorth.org.uk>



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICES IN THE LADY CHAPEL

A **Free Church** service is celebrated monthly on a **Wednesday** of each month at 11am with our Free Church chaplain and other ministers, and with a congregation from all denominations across St Albans.

20th September Kenneth Guest, Salvation Army

4th October The Very Reverend Jo Kelly-Moore, Dean, St Albans Cathedral.

1st November The Reverend David Jebb, Superintendent Minister
of St Albans & Welwyn Methodist Circuit.

6th December The Reverend Kevin Walton, Canon Chancellor, St Albans Cathedral.

Contact: The Rev'd Simon Carver simoncarver@btinternet.com

www.stalbanscathedral.org

BIKE AND HIKE EVENT

On September 9th the area's Bike and Hike event will take place. Cyclists call at churches to get their cards signed. I would like to have Trinity Church open that day, with prayer stations around the building. There will be a light lunch on offer. Tea and coffee will be available all day, with the church open from 9.00 am until 5.00 pm. If you feel you could come and support me as we need two people in the building at all times for safeguarding, then I would be very grateful; if all you can spare is an hour, that's fantastic. If you can provide a prayer station/display, I would be grateful if you could contact me as soon as possible so I can work on spaces needed.

Thank you.

Becky Washington

Please send items for the December issue of Trinity Quarterly to a member of the Editorial Team by Monday, 3rd November at latest:

Contact details of the Editorial Team:

Maureen Bodden: maureen.haycock@gmail.com

Tricia Easdale: peasdale@aol.com

Camilla Straughn: camillastraughn@yahoo.co.uk

Rosemary Rudkin (please see the church directory on the website)

IT'S QUIZ NIGHT

Trinity Church Knebworth

Come along and join us on

Saturday 23rd September 2023

There will be a Professional Quiz Master

Round 1 starts 7:30PM DOOR Opens 7.00pm

£5.00 Entry Fee which includes Jacket Potato with filling and a soft drink

Profits to be shared between Haven First and The Trinity Disaster Response Fund

To sign up contact Kathy on 07587024760 or email:

kathycole52@gmail.com

There will be tables of 6 so get your team chosen or come along on your own or with a friend

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE