



Trinity Quarterly

Issue No 12: December '25 – February '26



Diary for December			
Sunday	7th	10.30 am	Gift Service led by Revd Stan Chatikobo Followed by Christmas Lunch
Sunday	14th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Kate Dickinson with Holy Communion
Saturday	20th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday	21st	3.00 pm	NO Morning Service Carol Service
Thursday	25th	10.00 am	Christmas Service led by Revd Stan Chatikobo
Sunday	28th	10.30 am	Open Church led by Camilla Straughn
Diary for January			
Sunday	4th	10.30 am	Epiphany Covenant Service led by Revd Stan Chatikobo
Sunday	11th	10.30 am	Open Church led by Gill Hughes
Saturday	17th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday	18th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd Stan Chatikobo With Holy Communion
Sunday	25th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd Emmanuel Onabanjo
Diary for February			
Sunday	1st	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd Stan Chatikobo
Sunday	8th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Steve Mason
Saturday	14th	10.00 am	KFC Coffee Morning at St Martin's Parish Centre
Sunday	15th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd Stan Chatikobo with Holy Communion
Sunday	22nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Jackie Hall
Sunday	30th	10.45 am	Stevenage URC led by Revd Stan Chatikobo NO Service at Trinity Church

Youth Club Meetings at Trinity during term times – Friday evenings, for school years 6 – 9.
Trinity Quarterly is the newsletter of Trinity Church, Park Lane, Knebworth, Herts. SG3 6PD.

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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

The Trinity Quarterly Team wishes all our readers, families and friends a very Happy Christmas and send you Best Wishes for the New Year 2026. We also thank you for the kind messages of appreciation of the previous edition of Trinity Quarterly. Thank you to those who have contributed many interesting articles.

Where would we be without those who warmly welcome our congregation, visitors from Knebworth and beyond with smiles, food and information? Our congregation greatly appreciate our cleaners, management team, elders, social committee, worship leaders, gardeners, readers, musicians, our visiting preachers, the Revd Stan Chatikobo and his family.

Welcome home to our students, hopefully you will have time a wonderful time with family and friends. We look forward to hearing your news. It would be great to have something to put in next quarter's edition. Perhaps some tips for those working towards their next educational or vocational step.

Please could we have contributions for the March publication no later than 1st February, preferably well before. If possible, please send in Microsoft Word format.

Rosemary, on behalf of the Editorial Team:
Camilla, Maureen, Tricia and Rosemary

MESSAGE FROM REVD STAN

WHAT IS IT THAT THE LORD HAS DONE FOR YOU NOW?

The story of Zechariah has always been a fascinating one since Sunday School. This relates his encounter and conversation with the Angel and how he expressed doubt of his ability to have a son considering his age and the age of Elizabeth. To stress the seriousness of God's mission the angel made him speechless up to the naming ceremony of baby John.

However, there is a very interesting reaction from Elizabeth when Zechariah gets home with the news. As he could not speak I guess all the communication was through some sign language of some kind, or some writing as he tried to explain what happened. For Elizabeth it was a mixture of reactions, joy that at last God had remembered her and nervousness on having a pregnancy at her age. She was worried about the eyes of the community and the comments of neighbours that made her to have an isolated life. The Bible says she avoided public life and appearances for five months as she was trying to come to terms with the new development.

As part of many reflective questions she said, "Has the Lord done this for me now? He has removed my public disgrace" (Luke 1:25). She could not believe in the grace of God at her age.

During this period of Christmas will you be able to discover an amazing thing that God has done for you perhaps during the year. Possibly a successful diagnosis of an ailment, or a successful operation. But to Elizabeth it was a miraculous removal of public disgrace, and eventually she would be called John's mother. Take time to reflect and see what the Lord has done for you now.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you that you can remove many things that shame and disgrace us. Remove those things that hinder and take away our joy during this Christmas. May your love enlighten us to see a better future ahead of us. **Amen and Happy Christmas.**

Revd. Stan

FAMILY NEWS

CONTRIBUTION FROM GILL HUGHES

Thanksgiving for the life of Richard Dyster

We share much sadness at the loss of another member of our fellowship in October. Richard Dyster had recently moved to Knebworth Care Home, where he was surrounded by the same comfort and care as Hilary received there, until he was admitted to hospital where he died peacefully from a severe chest infection. Over recent years Richard's illness cruelly curtailed his active involvement and commitment to many of the ways in which we knew him. Hilary's faith and courage and the support of all the family carried them through those difficult times. Richard's faith continued to find expression, perhaps especially through the hymns which had been so much an anchor in his life.

His family funeral service took place in November. There will be a service in Trinity on Friday 19th December for us to all join and give thanks for his life and share time of refreshment to reflect together on his full life. Much of that life was living his faith through service in the churches he belonged to, especially in Knebworth where he and Hilary joined the Methodist Church in New Close on moving to Knebworth in 1981. He was especially active in serving as Treasurer and a Local Preacher in New Close, continuing those when Trinity was formed and he was ordained as an Elder in Trinity Church.

Richard brought his professional training and expertise to the role of treasurer and was meticulous in his attention to the finances of the church, guiding through some very busy times in the mission, outreach and day to day community engagement of our much-used building. His preaching skills were shared widely in churches throughout the St Albans / Welwyn circuit, and then the North Herts. Circuit and the URC local area. He is also remembered for regularly leading Bible Study groups at home in St Martin's Road, often involving our ecumenical companions in KFC.

Much can and will be said as we continue to recall what Richard's life has meant to each of us, and we continue to hold in prayer his daughters, Steph and Ruth and their families who were so central to his life, his sister and brother and all who were close to him over many years.

Gill



FAMILY NEWS (continued)

THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF PATRICIA RADLEY

And as we go to press we hear with much sadness the news of the peaceful death of Becky's Mum, Patricia. In recent months her health deteriorated and after some time in hospital she found good care at Woodlands View Care Home where they gave her and Becky the support needed to make her as comfortable as possible. We hold Becky and Ian, Andy and all Patricia's family in prayer in the coming weeks.

Gill

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

ARTICLE BY MEL MITCHELL



My parents are an interchurch couple- my dad Catholic and my mum Methodist. Among other things, this meant we were involved with two churches and part of the Association of Interchurch Families. We all gathered once a year at The Hayes conference centre in Swanwick for a weekend and a day in London earlier in the year. We grew from interchurch children into the young adults group. We had meaningful, heartfelt, honest discussions about what being a Christian meant to us, the ups and the downs, about how important confirmation into the Christian church, not into one denomination was to us and how our faith forms the basis of everything we do and the way we think. This all contributed in no small way to who I became and how my faith developed.

Adding to this, going to Mass on a Sunday morning then racing down the hill to my Methodist family church for the service was a regular event. I had a confidence in my faith that developed and I knew that God listens to us and loves us, that worship can take many different forms, that the cross and remembering it in Holy Communion is fundamental to our faith and can bring us together.

I am sure that my interchurch background has helped to broaden my mind as well as involved me in many different church connections. AIF has given me another family, one that I spent time in growing in age, faith and love with friends I have for life and beyond. Recently we met for the last time at Swanwick. I hadn't been for around 20 years but, as one member described, walking through those doors was like coming home. We were sharing memories and chatting as if no time had passed at all yet we were talking about our grown up children! How time vanishes! It certainly spurred me on to meet up with those friends more often.

My Godmother was part of this extra family of mine and her offspring like my brothers and sister. Christian unity was something I saw being encouraged by her and her husband and my parents and the rest of my AIF family, in our local churches and by others, too. A speaker from this weekend at Swanwick said our bonds of unity and things we do to bring people together in our churches can do more for others than anything else and he encouraged us not to underestimate the importance of this local effort. As we approach Christmas and look to a new year and the week of prayer for Christian unity, we are reminded of the fundamentals we agree on as Christians. The eternal love of Christ and the hope he gives us by the cross not only unites us but encourages us to show and share it with others.

I have put a poster up at church about AIF and would be happy to answer any questions or point people in the right direction if they would like more information. *Mel*

ARTICLE BY REVD JOHN WHITTLE

CHRISTMAS THAT LASTS ALL YEAR!

I once heard an interview with a man who had Christmas **every day**, with decorations, cards, and a daily Christmas dinner! Is that really a year-long Christmas?

Let me tell of Sui, who lived in China, and was a blind beggar boy. He knew nothing of Christmas, and in a bitterly cold wind he was begging, but passers-by were too anxious to get home to stop to throw a coin in Sui's begging bowl. It looked as he would go to sleep both cold and hungry. Then he heard the cry of a food-seller "Hot fresh dumplings for sale!" The smell wafted toward Sui, and filled his nostrils with their sweet odour. And to his great joy a wealthy lady with her maid, came by and dropped some coins in his bowl. Sui went towards the seller tapping his cane as he went. He bought a dumpling, and was just about to take a bite, when it was gone, stolen by Ming the lame-boy, who was always robbing poor Sui. Sui rushed in the direction of Ming's laughter, and was knocked down by an oncoming vehicle.

A kind man carried the injured boy to the near-by Mission Hospital. There he was washed, given a change of clothing, and had his wounds dressed. He was put to bed, and slept until roused by early morning singing. A nurse came and said "Wake up Sui, it is Christmas Day". Sui was taken to the chapel which was lit by many candles, and for the first time he heard the Christmas Story.

Some time later, a doctor examined Sui's eyes, and told him he could operate to give him sight, but only after his health was improved by staying at the Mission and eating well and building up his strength. During the waiting time he did what he could to help other patients by taking things to them when they cried out for help.

At last the operation was carried out, and after a few days bandages were removed and Sui cried out "**It's Christmas!!**" "No Sui it is not Christmas it is the middle of summer", but Sui cried- "**It is Christmas because there is light and joy!**"

Sui returned to the ward, and was told a boy had been brought in who was very ill, and he was in the bed next to Sui. In the night the sick boy cried out for water, Sui took him some, and tried to calm the boy down. In the morning Sui noticed there was something odd about the sick boy, he only had one leg! Ming awoke and Sui smiled at him, and said "You did me good turn for this place is wonderful, where it is Christmas every day. **Now I can see and I can help you, and when you are better we will eat fresh dumplings together.**"

Surely, Sui had found the truth of Christina Rossetti's carol?
'Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine'

John



ARTICLE BY SANDRA ROBEY

PEACE ON EARTH, GOODWILL TO ALL MEN.

Each Sunday in Trinity a candle is lit representing our hopes for world peace. We give our prayers to God, perhaps we might wonder when will our prayers be answered when each day we get updates on war-torn situations all over the world and violence persists, conflict, corruption, hunger, and injustice. Alongside that, we try to fit in our busy schedules: family life, things to do, almost desensitised to the pain so many suffer.

Advent is a time to reshape our personal journeys and to remind ourselves that Jesus came into this world, **for everyone**. He came as an outcast and there was no tinsel in that stable... His whole ministry was a witness to how things might be, if we tried to live in peace, in harmony, with **goodwill to all men**, being non-judgemental, forgiving those who have hurt us.

May this Advent journey put us on the right road, as we work towards peace in our lives, in our friendships, and families, it has to start somewhere.

Each day I receive a *pause for thought from Iona*, sometimes I share them with folk. The one below spoke to me in particular...one for us to ponder on.

Keep the faith dear Sisters and Brothers, let's try to bring peace into the lives of others through the love of Jesus, born in that dirty stable, that hidden place, and once again, acknowledge that He truly loves us and wants us to pass on His love **to everyone**, not just those we find acceptable.

Hard call? Yes, but God never promised us that life would be easy, it oftentimes isn't, but He did promise that He would be alongside us in everything, the good times, and the bad.

That is the real gift as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.

As the song says.... ***Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.***

Love in the Christ child... Sandra

I NO LONGER PRAY FOR PEACE:

On the edge of war,
one foot already in,
I no longer pray for peace: I pray for miracles.

I pray that stone hearts will turn to tender heartedness,
and evil intentions, will turn to mercifulness,
and all the soldiers already deployed will be snatched out of harm's way,
and the whole world will be astounded onto its knees.

I pray that all the "God talk" will take bones,
and stand up and shed its cloak of faithlessness,
and walk again in its powerful truth.
I pray that the whole world might sit down together
and share its bread and its wine.

Some say there is no hope,
but let's remember
that we are all loved by God.....
so that we may truly love one another.
I no longer pray for peace: I pray for miracles.

Poem by Ann Weems, a Presbyterian elder and poet

ARTICLES BY JOHN WHITTLE

LIFE TIME LEARNING

There is a debate running, asking the question, 'Is it worth going to University when so many graduates find they are unable to get jobs once their course is finished?' There was a man in New York City who died at the age of 63 without ever having had a job, because he spent his entire life in college acquiring endless academic degrees, but never using what he had learned in paid employment! Why? Because, when he was a child a wealthy relative died making him his sole beneficiary, on one condition that he be given enough money to support him every year for as long as he was still in education. When that ended his allowance would end, hence he never stopped learning, for he had a steady income for life; not what his benefactor had in mind! The man acquired more and more knowledge, but never did anything with it. I don't know if he died a happy man, and felt he had lived a fulfilling life. I wonder what you think, would you recommend your children follow his example and be a forever student?

James, the apostle, wrote '**Be doers of the Word and not only hearers**' (1v22). If we spend time reading the Bible, and hearing it expounded, but fail to act on its teaching, then we are like the man with his string of degrees, but never actually benefiting anyone but himself. **Be a life-long learner, but use what you learn to benefit society.**

I end with a quotation credited to D. De Haan-

.
**'We take delight to read God's Word
And say, "Oh, yes, it's true!"
But it's of little use to us
Unless we hear and do.'**

SUNFLOWERS (written for October Parish newsletter)

I spent ten days in August at my son's house in Marlow, with a heavy responsibility laid on me, for my grandchildren had grown over fifty Sunflowers which had grown to several feet high, reaching higher than the fence. I had to ensure they survived until their return from Majorca. They did largely thanks to regular watering, though some heads were beginning to droop! They are such bright flowers which are valuable from an economic as well as an ornamental point of view. The leaves are used for fodder, and the flowers yield both yellow dye, and seeds that give us cooking oil, and oil-cake which is used for feeding both live stock, and poultry; not forgetting our garden birds.

Sunflowers, however, seem to have another less obvious gift, and that is of absorbing radiation. So in 2011 when the Fukushima nuclear disaster occurred, and high levels of radiation spread over a wide area, locals began to plant sunflowers, which are known to absorb radiation; they planted two hundred thousand seeds, and millions of sunflowers now bloom in Fukushima.

Sometimes, it seems to me, we are called upon to act somewhat like sunflowers, brightening up others with smiles and laughter, but also as absorbers of some of the evil, and hatred that plague our society. Absorbing hurtful words and actions but not returning, nor passing them on. For is that not what Christ did, on a cosmic stage, by absorbing the evil toxins of our world?- "**forgive them for they know not what they are doing**", words uttered from the cross, and - '**he died that we might be forgiven**', words from a well-known hymn by Cecil Frances Alexander, known by its opening line: '**There is a green hill far away**'. I end with a verse from that hymn -

**'There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate of heaven and let us in.'**

John

ARTICLES BY JACKIE HALL

BUNGEE JUMP

A bungee jump - why? A good question and like most questions it has a simple answer - I had never done one before. How? Why? Ok, it all started when I received a newsletter from the hospice and completely forgot that it had led me astray before? Ok, does doing a sky dive really count as astray? Anyway, I had my cup of tea and relaxed to read the new latest opportunities to fundraise for a cause very dear to my heart. I looked at walks - done loads of them, golf - no golf clubs, so not a good idea. Then I turned a page, a bungee jump, hey that looks fun plummeting to earth head first from a tiny quite high platform! That looks fun - what could possibly go wrong ? I signed up quickly then told the family what I was going to do; a few rolled eyes and a sigh or two. They agreed to support me by putting my fundraising page on their social media and telling folk- everyone they knew - what their mother was up to NOW!

A couple of weeks before my jump date it was cancelled due to shortage of staff to safely launch me. I admit I was very disappointed but very quickly got a new date. The family agreed to come to watch but declined to join in, I don't know why.

On the day I was nervous and excited, both emotions increased as we got closer to Battersea Park which was the jump site. As we arrived at the park looking for the crane to jump from - not as easy to find as you might think – we were passed by a man running dressed as a banana, and lots of other runners followed, including a man dressed in a wedding dress - ok we shrugged our shoulders Afterall we are in London. They passed us again and we found out what they were doing - the Battersea Marathon - and they had to do seventeen laps, wow, that's hard respect to them.

The crane was found and I had to check in now, more than a little nervous but still determined to go ahead.

My harness was checked by three different people and jewellery taken off for safety. Then I started going up and up let's just say 160 feet might not sound very high but believe me when you are up there looking down it is it really is. A few moments to wonder what the heck I was doing then 3,2,1 go, and wow it was fun, exhilarating, wonderful, a little scary but as you bounce you get the feeling of wonderment. It was great. Would I do it again? Yes, and Steven even had a cup of tea waiting when I was lowered to the ground. I will look for a new challenge in two years' time

Many thanks to everyone who sponsored me and to everyone who prayed for my safe landing. I raised £800 for Isabel Hospice Thank you

In case anyone is wondering what would have happened if it had been cancelled again, my plan B, which I did the week before the bungee jump, was a skydive with the red devils which I neglected to tell my family about until after the bungee jump – oops!

Jackie



CHRISTMAS ARTICLE

Are you a merry Christmas type of person always insisting on the **Christ** part of Christmas as central to Christmas yes? Presents are great and what's not to like following God's example - an excuse to give and hopefully receive, so it's happy Christmas all the way and never never **Xmas!** No, let's keep Christ right at the front of Christmas where He belongs. That's what I've thought for many years possibly with a little drop of indignant righteousness thrown in just for fun - let folk keep their winter festivals bah humbug - I celebrate

Christmas!

Then one day I had a thought - oh come on! It had to happen one day not earth shattering I do admit but enough to put the kettle on and wish for a bikkie or two - deep breath - I was writing a card for someone and added some kisses xx hmm, why? They were a way of saying I send you my love what? Err, isn't that what Christmas is about - love - there are carols a plenty about love coming down at Christmas so what if Xmas isn't being lazy or perish the thought ultra-modern but a way of putting love right at the front where it should be - putting Christ's love for us central loud and proud and if it's as it so often is multi-coloured, flashing, tinselly and joyful, well, isn't that a part of Christ's story? I mean the angels certainly made quite a noise announcing Christ's arrival to the shepherds. A star certainly isn't the most secretive of signs and the Magi would hardly have been inconspicuous and we are still debating their gifts. So perhaps we should embrace both Christmas and Xmas as having the same meaning of peace, love, joy and hope for all, and concentrate on sharing the meaning using whatever language we choose. Now where did I put my tinsel?

Merry Christmas/ Xmas to one and all and love peace and goodwill for the New Year to all who read this.

Jackie

ARTICLE FROM SANDRA ROBEY

FRIENDSHIP: God plants people in our lives'

I truly believe that God plants people in our lives.... sometimes we may wonder how/why it happens... but it does, He uproots and replants us, for a reason...

I have a dear friend of 93... who still witnesses for God. He is using her where she now finds herself.... *giving out love to those in the care home where she resides...* she spends tender moments with those who might be afraid...or fading. God's light shines through her...it always has...

My first experience with this group of Methodist Network women was under the leadership then of someone called Kay Stafford... yes, from Trinity, some of you will remember her and her husband. There I met a woman, Silvia, with an "i", a compassionate Welsh woman. I was amazed at the things she was able to accomplish for God's glory. I looked on her as an important part of my own healing, a mentor, friend, a Sister in Christ.

Her father grew up in Tredegar, around the same time as Nye Bevan and, if any of you have been lucky enough to see the NT Nye play, based on those times, there is a tender moment, where as boys, one of Nye's friends tells him about a new book shop in the town... Nye's response was *well we cannot afford that...* then was amazed to learn that a **LIBRARY**, had opened, where you could go and choose a book, and return it, **FOR FREE!** Not sure how many of you are aware how Nye Bevan used his voice vehemently in his political career, and had used books from that same library to help with his speech impediment... there was no chance of getting medical help at that time. His father had taken him down the mines at age thirteen. I wonder if that spurred him on to greater things?

Silvia told me recently, how as a young girl, she was never taught Welsh at school, the Brits insisted on all children learning to speak *only English*. Oh dear, the sad injustices of those times. Silvia and I met early on in MWiB Network days, when she was part of what us Methodists know as NCH, now Action for Children serving as a Trustee and a lay preacher. I will always look up to her. She became a mentor and more importantly my friend. I

remember how she used a **holding cross mission** to bring comfort to those going through rough times. I became a recipient, a wooden cross handed to me... with some kindly, memorable words.

We sometimes feel that the things we do to witness our love of Jesus are not worthy enough.

I know there were many recipients of those holding crosses. I still have mine years later.

My lovely friend Silvia still goes around, holding the hands of many whose lives are fading....

Trust me, we can all do things to bring the love of Jesus into delicate situations, and, in the lives of those we touch, they become significant offerings. God will guide us.

He certainly plants us in the lives of others, so, let's enjoy the challenges ahead in 2026 and not be afraid to bring comfort where He plants us. **Amen to that.**

Sandra

PRAYER:

Dear Father God, as the calendar turns to this New Year, we lift our hearts to you in gratitude and hope. Thank you for sustaining us through the past year when times have been difficult, for every joy and every lesson learned. You are our constant source of strength, and we place our lives into your hands for the year ahead. In Jesu's name. AMEN.

GREETINGS FROM WALKERN AND SANDON!



Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service was led by Stan and our harvest gifts of tins, cans etc were donated to the Walkern Food Bank which is held in St Mary's Church. We also held a very enjoyable Harvest Supper for 30 members from the 3 Churches in the LEP. All the clergy have strong connections with Southern Africa - Revd Stan is from Zimbabwe, Revd Zdzisiu spent many years in South Africa and Revd Mark's childhood was in South Africa. To celebrate this we decided to have a Southern-African themed supper, prepared by ladies from the congregations who are also from Zimbabwe. We all enjoyed South African snacks on the tables, followed by Bobotie with sambals and chutney, Boerewors with tomato bredie, Haifridzi beef with sadza / mealie pap (Stan's favourite!) and Village chicken stew, together with mielies, geel rice with raisins and mixed salads. For dessert we had peppermint crisp chocolate pudding, koeksisters, melk tart and a salad of African fruits – all absolutely delicious! Many thanks to Victoria, Sharon and Miki. We also had a Harvest Lunch for those who did not want to come out in the evening to the Supper and this was more traditional – cottage pie and fruit crumble. We had agreed to support the Harvest Appeal from the Bishop of St Albans and from both events we were able to donate £400 to support education projects in Zambia and Uganda.

Steve has been continuing with a monthly contemplative service of Julian Prayer Meditation and we thought we might share the most recent one -

Meditation on Faith

Faith is the quiet knowing,
the stillness beneath the storm,
the candle that does not flicker,
though the wind may howl and the world may tremble.

It is given, not grasped;
a gift of divine courtesy,
planted deep in the soul where no shadow may uproot it.

Faith brings hope,
not as a distant promise, but as a present warmth;
a hearth in the heart where despair dares not to dwell.

It guides us in love,
not by command, but by invitation;
soft as the turning of a leaf,
strong as the pull of the tide.

Faith upholds us in life,
not by lifting us out of sorrow,
but by dwelling with us in it;
a companion in the dark,
a whisper in the silence:
“All shall be well, and all shall be well”

And finally, as mentioned last time we have started our journey with EcoChurch so also wanted to share a photo of Ivy Lodge, our luxury 5-star “Air Bee&Bee” – full board available!

Best wishes from Steve and Olga



Here is the notice sheet sent by Ashwell to keep us informed of their church life:

Ashwell United Reformed Church **High Street, Ashwell, SG7 5NL**



Notices for November

WORSHIP

Sunday 9th Remembrance Sunday

10.00am Joint service at St Mary's

10.45am Act of Remembrance at the War memorial

Sunday 23rd

10.45am Morning Worship with Holy Communion
led by Revd Stan Chatikobo

Further information:

Church Secretary: Chris James
chrisjames56@btinternet.com

01462 742684

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

OPEN CHURCH – Friday 21st November

Revd Stan will be in the vestry from 10.30 – 12.30 available to talk. All welcome.

COMMUNITY HUB – Every Thursday 2.00-4.00pm

This is a social group meeting weekly in our hall, led by the Garden House Hospice Compassionate Neighbours team. All welcome.

ECO-TIP – aim to combat climate change & reduce heating costs by sealing up all those draughts round your home. Pray for those who might be feeling the cold as we move towards winter.

CAMEO - Wednesday 17th December, 2.30 – 4.30pm

Subject: CHRISTMAS – carols, stories, poems, jokes. Come along and bring a favourite Christmas thought.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT – Sunday 21st December, 3pm

Followed by seasonal refreshments.

Bring friends and family to enjoy this special service.

Thought for the month: When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.



ARTICLE GLEANED FROM KATHY AND ROSEMARY

HARVEST LUNCH

Our Harvest event in October was well attended. Following the service we enjoyed our monthly birthday celebrations together with a bring and share Harvest Lunch. Stan and Victoria kindly set the hall up on the Saturday evening. A good time of fellowship was had by all.

Many gifts were bought to the morning service for Haven First, the centre for the homeless in Stevenage. Thanks to all who organised and cleared away the furniture and crockery, also those who laundered table cloths.

Maureen and Peter delivered the gifted items to Haven First on the Monday morning, and they were very appreciative.

TRINITY SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT - MEL MITCHELL

FAITH AND DEVELOPMENT

Our **'away day'** is booked at Trinity for **Saturday 21st February 2026**. Our theme will be 'True Worship' and we will be having fun exploring the meaning of this and how we can deepen our worship. The timing will be confirmed but it's likely to be approx 11am to 3pm with coffee breaks, bring our own packed lunches (with soup available) and informal sessions on music and crafts and an interactive Bible activity. If you can only make part of the day, please do come to that. We'd like everyone to feel able to be part of it as much as possible. Hope to see you there.

Bible for All

Our next planned session for Bible for all will be on **Sun January 11th**. During our sessions we look at different passages together after the service in an informal interactive way using some great resources. We have put some notes up from a couple of sessions on the noticeboard in the large hall next to the coffee hatch. Please join us next time if you can.

Worship planning

Our next worship planning group meeting will be in the New Year. Please let any of the group know if you have any worship styles or ideas you would like us to discuss for Trinity.

Singing/musical group

We are aiming to keep building on our music group at Trinity. Please join us if you would like to on the third Sundays when Victor is around after the service for 20-30 minutes. We will be learning some new songs/hymns and perhaps adding some harmony and percussion to the ones we already know.

Thank you,
Mel

KNEBWORTH PARISH NEWS ARTICLES

ARTICLE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE PARISH NEWS BY JACKIE HALL

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Hopefully by the time you read this your celebration plans are well in place but even if you are a last-minute type of person I wish you well. The most difficult part of any journey is deciding to leave your home to take the first steps, and in our beloved Christmas story there are many journeys both physical - think Mary Joseph, Shepherds, Magi and probably many others, including those staying at the inn and the family and friends of Mary and Joseph and of course the mental journeys all those participating in the wondrous story have to travel from the ordinary to the extraordinary. From those whose journey is literally just beginning such as Jesus to those whose journey is nearly at an end such as the Magi, apart from getting back home that is. I wonder were they desperate to sleep in their own beds gasping for a cup of tea or the ancient equivalent when they got home? Did they tell everyone what they had seen and done **then what?** And what about the poor shepherds roused from sleep - a journey to see Jesus - **then what?** Who would they tell whilst on the hillside watching their sheep?

All journeys whether short or long change us in some way, whether we gain experience, witness wonder or simply tick something off our list, like a Christmas card posted through a friend's door then home to the beloved cuppa and possibly a few happy thoughts about others who have shared some part of our life journeys but know this - however long or short our journeys, hard or easy we never travel alone. Jesus travels with us each and every step of the way **then what?**

Let's enjoy Christmas and the New year and try to fill the world with peace, love and good will to all, then our personal journeys big or small really will be wonderful.

Jackie

ARTICLE FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE OF THE PARISH NEWS BY REVD STAN

TO WHICH GROUP DO I BELONG THIS CHRISTMAS?

The birth of baby Jesus created commotion and nervousness within the leadership of the time. It is given that when the Wise Men from the East saw a sign, they had to travel to Jerusalem and their question was, "Where is the one who was born to be the King of the Jews? We saw his star and have come to worship him" (**Matt 2:2**).

1. Upon hearing this Herod reacted with surprise coupled with fear that gave rise to his hostility. To him this little child was going to interfere with his life, place, power and influence so he thought to destroy him. This represents those who are negative about prayer or belief in Christ, because it disturbs their freedom and interferes with their lives. So, they do not even contemplate letting Christ into their lives.

2. As he was in a rage, he summoned the chief priests and scribes to find out where this child was supposed to be born. They affirmed that it would be Bethlehem in Judea. But to the Priest and Scribes it was not a significant story and they were not concerned about it. They were preoccupied with their temple rituals and legal discussions, and they disregarded Jesus. This represents those who are interested in their own affairs, and they have nothing to do with Jesus, prayer or the Church even during such times as Christmas.

3. On the other hand, the Wise Men really wanted to go and worship the baby Jesus and to lay at the feet of Jesus the noble gifts they had brought.

It is true that a person who desires only to do what he or she likes has no place for Jesus Christ in their life. A Christian is a person who ceases to do what he or she likes but does what Jesus would like them to do. Paul says, "It's no longer I that *liveth* but Christ lives within me" (**Gal. 2:20**). Are you ready for a new beginning in 2026?

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, teach me to value your love and grace in my life particularly during this Christmas. **Amen. Happy Christmas!!!** *Revd Stan*



Three Wise Men



Herod the Great



Baby Jesus



KNEBWORTH FAMILY OF CHURCHES

We are pleased to report that the traditional **Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial in Old Knebworth** was again a successful event. Groups who marched in parade from the Lytton Arms to the War Memorial included the Royal British Legion and Knebworth Scouts and Guides with their friends and families. The Service was led by Reverend Charles King, with representatives from Trinity and St. Thomas More, and wreaths were laid by representatives from a wide range of local families, groups and organisations. We estimate that there were about 250 people there – and the weather was just about kind to us.



CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

As is usual at that time of the year, the organisation of the October KFC Coffee Morning was handed over to the local Christian Aid Committee. And what a success they made of it! A total of **£518.40** was raised for their very worthy cause, and will be sent to the Christian Aid Sudan Appeal. Thanks are due to all who helped to make this event such a success.

The KFC Coffee Morning on Saturday, 20th December will be in aid of the Waterways Experience. This is an all-volunteer charity operating three canal boats from a beautifully landscaped boat base on the Grand Union Canal near Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire. It enables everyone, regardless of age, physical ability or social disadvantage, to experience the fun and the beauty of our waterways.

Graham Fothergill, Secretary: The Knebworth Family of Churches

MISSION AND CHARITY NEWS

We are pleased to report that we have sent the £400 raised in August for the Orphan fund of the Presbyterian Church in Zimbabwe, and will report back in the New Year on how they are doing.

Below are the charities we are supporting at Trinity in the next 3 months. You can help through our charity offerings at services, coffee money donations, or directly if you can't make it to church. Don't forget that Gift Aid adds 25 pence to every pound you give. If you pay UK tax, just give your name and address on the envelope, or ask Alan or Maureen.

December

Action for Children



We have our traditional **Gift (Toy) service on 7th December**. We are collecting gifts for children for the 'Toy Shed' in Stevenage, who distribute Christmas gifts to families in need. Clothing and toiletries are also accepted. New items only please.

Action for Children is the UK's leading Children's charity. It supports the UK's most vulnerable and neglected children, young people and their families, so that they can reach their full potential. Some are unable to live with their birth families, while others are disabled or experiencing severe difficulties in their lives.

Action for Children's vision is a world where all children and young people have a sense of belonging and are loved and valued.

January

North Herts. and Stevenage Samaritans



Since 1953 Samaritans have been offering 24-hour confidential emotional support to anyone in distress. Their vision is for a society where fewer people die by suicide because

people are able to share feelings of emotional distress openly without fear of being judged. They believe that offering people the opportunity to be listened to in confidence, and accepted without prejudice, can alleviate despair and suicidal feeling. The service (in UK and Republic of Ireland) is offered by 18,300 trained volunteers and its future depends on voluntary support. <https://www.samaritans.org> We're here if you need us. Call 116 123

February

Médecins sans Frontières UK Doctors without Borders UK



MSF is an international, medical and humanitarian organisation working in more than 70 countries around the world. Their medical teams work fast to save people's lives in conflict zones, natural disasters and epidemics. They go where they are needed most.

Go to their website to see the work they do: <https://msf.org.uk/home>

Maureen, on behalf of the Mission Group

DATES OF SOCIAL EVENTS

Please note there will be a Christmas tree display board in the entrance hall with dove-shaped cards for you to post up Christmas greetings. Any donations received will go to the December charity, Action for Children.

7th December - Gift Service followed by **Fellowship Christmas Lunch**, all welcome

21st December - Candlelit Carol Service at 3pm followed by **Mince Pies** etc

3rd January - Open church coffee morning at 10am

14th February – Craft day from 10am with light lunch and tea and cakes

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:



20th December

17th January

21st February

RECIPE CORNER - RECIPES FROM TRICIA

STICKY BACON-WRAPPED PARSNIPS

The simple tangy-sweet glaze gives them a festive shine, making them perfect as a tasty nibble or as a standout side dish alongside your Christmas chicken/turkey, they're sure to become a holiday favourite.

Serves 6 people **Prep.** 20 mins
Cook 35 mins



Ingredients:

8 medium-sized parsnips (approx. 1 kg), peeled and cut in half
250g pack thin-cut streaky smoked bacon
3 tbsp tomato ketchup, 1 tbsp Dijon mustard, 1 tbsp clear honey, 2 tbsp sunflower oil

Method: Preheat the oven to 200F Gas 6

Bring a pan of lightly salted water to the boil and add the parsnips. Cook for 5 minutes, drain, and allow to cool for 5 minutes or so until cool enough to handle.

Take a rasher of bacon and stretch it out slightly on a board using a round-bladed knife. Wrap a bacon rasher around each half of parsnip.

Mix together the ketchup, mustard, honey and oil and brush thickly over the bacon-wrapped parsnips. Arrange onto a non-stick baking tray and cook for 25-30 minutes, until golden brown and the glaze is sticky. Serve at once

See overleaf for more recipes...

REFRIGERATOR BARS

These **quick and easy refrigerator bars** come together in minutes and make the perfect no-bake treat when time is tight. The mix of melted chocolate, honey, muesli, and dried fruit creates a chewy, fruity, satisfying bar with a gentle sweetness. They are a delicious go-to any day of the week.

Ingredients:-

3 ½ oz plain chocolate, 1 ¾ oz low fat spread, 3 table spoons runny honey,
12 oz unsweetened luxury muesli, 2 ¾ oz dried chopped apricots. 1 ¾ oz sultanas

Method:- Place chocolate, low-fat spread, honey, into a pan. Place over a low heat till chocolate has melted. Stir in remaining ingredients, then spoon into a 18cm x 27cm tin and refrigerate for an hour or until firm. Cut into 12 bars

TRINITY WINTER REMEDY - Soothing Garlic and Honey Syrup

Why not try this simple **Trinity Winter Remedy**? Take a tablespoon hourly for easing cold symptoms or daily for supporting your immunity through winter.

Ingredients: Whole bulbs of garlic (Peel) ,runny honey, parsley.

Method: Crush the garlic with a mortar and pestle or garlic press then add the honey and parsley. Cover and allow to infuse for at least 24 hours.

Tricia

FROM THE METHODIST NEWS

Leaders of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches have issued the following statement in response to the government's announcements on proposed changes to its asylum and returns policy:

“Let us keep loving our neighbours”.

Public debate around migration has increasingly been shaped by voices that trade in fear, resentment, and the scapegoating of those who already carry heavy burdens. We fear that the tone and content of the Home Secretary's recent announcement on asylum policy reform risks deepening these fractures rather than healing them.

What threatens our social fabric is not the presence of vulnerable people seeking sanctuary, but rhetoric and policy that sets neighbour against neighbour and encourages suspicion instead of solidarity. The solution is not to try and appease those who seek to divide us, but to build a fair, compassionate and well-managed asylum system, that reflects Britain's values and responsibilities.

Our Christian faith compels us to hold that such a system should prioritise human dignity, and treat people as any of us would wish to be treated. That means it must be resourced to make decisions swiftly rather than leaving people in limbo for months or even years; allow those applying for asylum to work, support themselves and contribute to society; enable families to be together if possible; and encourage integration into local communities. Yet many of the UK government's new proposals would have the opposite effect, and place more demands on vulnerable individuals and an overstretched system.

We welcome the promise of new safe regulated routes for people to be provided with sanctuary in the UK, sponsored by individuals and communities. We have long believed this to be a far better approach to tackling dangerous channel crossings than ever more hostile policies. In this, we glimpse seeds of hope.

Our churches continue to be enriched by the involvement of those who have sought refuge in this country, and our experience is of people who wish to contribute positively to British society. Our calling and commitment is to keep loving our neighbours, and our heartfelt longing is for our society's approach to immigration to embody those values.

ADVENT LETTER FROM THE URC MODERATOR REVD GEORGE WATT

Dear friends,

As Christians we are people of hope and expectation. During Advent we look forward to the coming of Christ and even though we know that he has already come, it is a time of reflecting on the world that Jesus was born into, circumstances which has many resonances with us today. The people longed for light to come into their dark world and to be rescued from oppression. It is one of the amazing truths of our faith which we celebrate at Christmas that God became incarnate in Jesus and lived amongst us. He came to bring about change but he faced resistance and today that resistance is as great as ever.

We believe that although Christ has come, we still await the coming of his kingdom in all its fullness as the world goes through birth pains (Mark 13:8). And in the meantime, we are called to carry on the incarnational work that Jesus began to be light, to be peace and also to bring joy to our world.

Prayer from *The URC Prayer Handbook 2020*:

O God Most High, you love justice, hate oppression and promise both liberty and justice.
Anoint us by your Spirit, that we may bring good news to the downtrodden,
bind up the broken and set the captives free.
Help us proclaim your favour, that those who mourn will be comforted,
tyrants face justice, and our earth be renewed according to your will. Amen

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and a blessed and peaceful New Year on behalf of the Synod Staff.

Thames North Synod Moderator



ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICES IN THE LADY CHAPEL

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

December 3rd

Revd Lisa Kerry Regional Minister, Central Baptist Association.

January 7th

Revd Simon Carver, Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain, St Albans Cathedral.

This service will include Holy Communion, to which all Christian believers are invited.

February 4th

Maggie Dodd, Anna Chaplain, St Albans.

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



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

Please send articles for the December issue of Trinity Quarterly to a member of the Editorial Team by 1st February at the latest:

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CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH by Camilla Straughn

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other.
Use the word bank below:

F	V	N	E	H	U	C	O	F	U	W	J	X	T	Z	M	H	B	T	H
X	G	G	O	L	G	N	F	J	D	S	Y	A	Z	U	E	Z	W	Z	G
L	S	P	O	I	B	S	B	L	E	I	H	F	R	R	G	H	R	T	F
H	L	W	K	F	T	A	L	O	T	S	G	N	S	E	J	L	K	H	L
W	O	I	F	H	I	A	T	F	I	K	U	U	E	T	U	R	U	Q	O
S	N	K	W	P	Q	R	R	S	B	W	V	S	Y	B	W	S	O	E	E
G	I	A	K	D	O	A	E	B	O	S	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	V
W	D	G	L	R	O	N	T	G	E	O	E	L	G	N	I	J	Q	B	O
P	T	R	O	L	M	O	D	H	N	L	I	N	H	R	B	E	E	D	L
G	P	V	Q	F	E	E	G	H	O	A	E	D	O	R	C	N	K	L	Z
S	F	F	S	S	C	L	D	J	D	K	M	C	C	I	R	K	F	N	K
K	F	L	K	A	E	Z	U	B	O	A	G	C	O	J	A	Y	I	E	V
U	D	N	E	S	A	O	D	I	X	R	Q	J	V	K	N	W	M	Z	I
G	K	P	D	G	U	A	T	Y	A	Z	E	I	P	C	G	F	W	S	Q
J	L	Y	V	K	E	N	O	E	N	R	M	T	P	C	E	I	A	Q	T
N	Y	O	I	A	P	J	M	W	L	H	K	G	M	J	L	T	O	I	Q
A	F	J	R	O	U	L	A	A	H	T	K	F	H	W	S	Y	X	J	I
D	Y	F	C	Y	Z	W	S	I	P	D	S	Z	C	Y	P	L	I	V	T
E	S	N	E	C	N	I	K	N	A	R	F	I	X	G	B	G	O	L	D
D	H	S	T	A	R	Z	Y	Q	H	X	W	T	M	E	S	F	Z	O	C

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. myrrh | 2. jesus | 3. king | 4. manger |
| 5. alleluia | 6. stable | 7. gold | 8. rejoice |
| 9. star | 10. love | 11. glory | 12. joy |
| 13. angels | 14. jingle | 15. peace | 16. frankincense |
| 17. goodwill | 18. shepherds | 19. mistletoe | 20. celebration |