

Trumpeter

News and views for Trinity Methodist Church
Leighton Buzzard



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MARCH 2017



Sunday services at Trinity will be conducted by:

MARCH

- 5 8.30 Rev Nigel Wright - HC
10.30 Rev Nigel Wright -
Parade
6.00 Rev Nina Johnson
- 12 9.15 Early Church
10.30 Rev W Edwards
Disciple Group
6.00 Rev Nigel Bibbings -
Trinity Fellowship
Circle
- 19 10.30 Rev Nigel Wright
6.00 Local arrangements

- 26 9.15 Early Church
10.30 Joan Gregory
6.00 Rev Nigel Wright - HC

APRIL

- 2 8.30 Rev Nigel Wright - HC
10.30 Rev Nigel Wright -
Annual Church
Meeting
6.00 Stephen Poxon
- 9 9.15 Early Church
10.30 Rev Nigel Wright
7.30 Sunday Night Live @
Beech Hill

Anyone for Badminton?

If you have played badminton before, would you like to take it up again?

We are a group aged teens and upwards who meet on Monday evenings at 8 pm for a couple of hours play in the Hall.

We play doubles, so the exercise is not too strenuous. We do not teach but have a couple of spare racquets if you want to try it out first.

The charge is £3 per evening, including refreshments. If you are interested, phone Jan Cornfoot on 01525 373697.

Trinity Sewing Circle

Coffee Morning
Saturday, 18 March
9.30 - 12 noon
In the Chatteris Suite

There will also be a crafts and cake stall to include small gifts for Mothering Sunday and Easter.

Proceeds for Alzheimer's Research

“Zacchaeus just stood there, a little stunned...Master I give away half my income to the poor..” (Luke 19:8 - The Message)

The story of Zacchaeus is fascinating; we don't know very much about him apart from him being a chief tax collector who was rich and short in stature. Many translations have him saying to Jesus that he will give half of his possessions to the poor, and presumably this is his response to his encounter with Jesus who had invited himself to Zacchaeus' home.

However the language of the original Greek is in the present tense, rather than the future tense, and there are a couple of translations, the Message and the King James, which reflect this. Is Zacchaeus indicating that this was his usual practice? Have we unfairly maligned him over the centuries?

From the Manse



Whatever our interpretation, if Zacchaeus did give the poor half of his income, he would have made a real positive difference to the people around him.

What difference do we make to the people around us? Each of us is called to make a difference to the people around us, showing and sharing God's love amongst our loved ones, in our work-places, in our leisure activities and with those whom we come together with to worship God. What positive difference can you make to someone's life today? Let us all ask God to help us to see with his eyes, to listen to his voice and to speak his words.

Nigel

Advice from AD 55

Does anything ever change?

The budget should be balanced. The Treasury should be refilled. Public debt should be reduced. The arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled. The assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance. (Cicero)

The Editor writes



As a self-confessed “News Junkie” I have been fascinated and not a little concerned with the appearance of the phenomenon called “fake news”. There was no such phrase when I first started to work in the LBO office many years ago.

Fake News in a post-truth society could lead to dire consequences. Many of today’s dilemmas stem from the rise and rise of social media as a means of communicating. Not everyone is into Twitter and Facebook but many millions of people are — including yours truly — and it is there that many of the lies and conspiracy theories begin.

How to confront these, how to know the difference between fact and fiction, calls for the implementation of one of my favourite words “discernment”. We must learn how to discern — to see the difference between good and bad, falsehoods and fact. That is not easy in the current world, national and local atmosphere but it is essential.

Those people on the front lines of famine, for example, have had to make a measured judgment before calling the situation in South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia and other countries as famine stricken areas. The Methodist agency All We Can has issued an urgent appeal for funds to help (see page 7) and who can doubt the message of those in the front line of humanitarian action.

As we enter the period of Lent, those 40 days in the build up to the great Easter celebrations, may we have the ability to discern not only right from wrong in our society but also that which needs looking at in our own lives and in the lives of those we influence and come in contact with day-by-day.

As this issue goes to press we in Trinity have said goodbye to one of our oldest and most respected members, Viv Willis. A recognition of the life and times of Viv will come in our next issue but sufficient to say here is that the work that Viv did in documenting the history of our town will be his lasting legacy.

There is much more within this issue of Trumpeter that I hope will inspire and convince you that this Editor is doing his best to avoid presenting that “fake news” so much on our minds. *REG*



The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Earth Hour is being celebrated on 28 March at 8.30 pm. The message is switch off your lights for an hour to show your support for action on climate change.

You could, during that time, enjoy a candlelit dinner either at home or where a restaurant is taking part. The National Trust is also planning to turn off the lights at key properties. Here is one practical way that you could take action on caring for the earth.

The international treaty on climate change, known as the Paris Agreement has now been ratified by major countries and groups of countries — the European Union, China, India, Brazil, the USA. Many more are in the process of doing so.

By the end of 2016, 121 nations had taken action, counting for more than 80 per cent of the world's greenhouse gases. These nations are now committed to limit the rise in global temperatures

but this won't be easy. The WWF is working with governments, businesses and leading experts to see that this is implemented. An example of the actions taken shows that Brazil, which emits 2.5 per cent of carbon dioxide and other polluting gases has reduced its emissions, in part to try to slow down the deforestation in the Amazon.

I guess we have all read about the levels of pollution in our cities, much of it caused by polluting vehicles. A number of our major cities are planning to tackle the problem with restrictions on access for vehicles or higher charging and parking fees for the most polluting vehicles.

At the other end of the world, at the bottom of the ocean in one of the deepest places on the sea bed, who would have expected to find gross pollution?

An exploration by a robotic submarine in the six mile deep Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean has discovered that small crustaceans there have 50 times more toxic chemicals than the crabs that survive in China's heavily polluted rivers. Pollution clearly has to go somewhere — even if it is to the bottom of the ocean.

Janet Graham

Discrimination — what is it?

In view of recent events in the world, particularly in the United States under the new Trump administration it is perhaps more important than ever to draw attention to the issue of discrimination.

The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, the Rev Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, recently addressed this issue saying: “Discrimination is all about justice, and justice must be expressed in rights. Rights belong to structures of accountability; universal human rights are what the national states should implement in their legislation and systems of justice. Rights are defined in international conventions and agreements.”

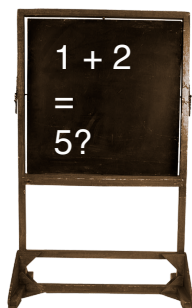
When these definitions are connected with religion, many dimensions are added to the discussion. Tveit continued: “What does it mean that we are accountable to God when we discuss religion and discrimination? My answer is, it

means a lot, what we mean by moral accountability and even legal accountability.”

The WCCs long-running concern for justice and peace is meant to address all forms of discrimination. “Being accountable to God, to the living God and the creator of all, is to be accountable to the living of today. Particularly — and first and foremost — we are accountable to other human beings, all of whom are created in the image of God. To be a human being is to be ‘the fellow human being’, always relating to the others, even the unknown and the stranger” Tveit continued.

Can religion bring hope for tomorrow? Is religion something we use to secure our own future, to safeguard the reproduction of our clan, our group, our nation only, or is it a basis and an inspiration for what we can call the future of humanity?

(WCC/REG)



David Dawes sets us some brain teasers

The average age of the four members of the ‘Old and Grumpy’ pop band is 62. What is the mean age when they are joined by a 42 year old youngest?

Answer on page 11.

East Africa Famine Appeal

South Sudan is the first nation in six years to declare a famine, but the United Nations has issued a stark warning that other countries face extreme food-shortages across East Africa.

All We Can and the World Church Relationships Team of the Methodist Church in Britain are calling for support for an urgent appeal to respond to immediate needs in South Sudan and to help avert famine in other countries on the verge of disaster.

Ongoing food crises have pushed many East African countries to the brink of catastrophe with millions across the region facing malnutrition, illness and death. On 20 February 2017 it was announced that South Sudan had already reached tipping point with two counties being declared as officially affected by famine.

Droughts and unpredictable rainfall, protracted civil conflicts and entrenched economic crises, have led to widespread food insecurity across East Africa and people are already dying. Without urgent support, many other communities across the region face the threat of famine in 2017.

The Methodist Church in Britain is urging people to respond quickly, generously and collectively to this catastrophic situation by supporting the appeal being managed by All We Can.

All We Can hopes to reach other countries in the region that are at risk of famine because of widespread food insecurity resulting from drought, unpredictable rainfall and regional conflicts.

All We Can's Humanitarian Aid Manager Jason Snuggs said: "This situation is incredibly serious, it is not one we can ignore. We need supporters to give generously and without delay so we can respond to the need in South Sudan and help towards averting famine in other countries in the region on the verge of disaster."

In South Sudan alone, 100,000 people are facing famine in the northern-central part of the country and a further one million are classified as being on the brink of famine.

Gifts to this emergency appeal will enable All We Can and its partners to respond quickly to those in greatest need. To support the East Africa Famine Appeal go to: www.allwecan.org.uk/famine.

What happens in Lent?

Lent this year began on Ash Wednesday, 1 March. It is a season of reflection and preparation before Easter. Christians who observe Lent are remembering the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion, centring on the 40 days he spent in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry.

Christians regard Jesus' time in the wilderness, when he was tempted in all areas — hunger, thirst, power, self-awareness — as

the key event to study for the duration of Lent.

Lent is also marked as a time of fasting although few people today fast for the whole of Lent.

Churches use Lent as a time for prayer and penance. Those who still fast see this as reflecting Jesus' struggles in the wilderness and a test of self-discipline.

At Trinity there will be a series of events marking the Lenten period. Please look at Weekly News for more information.



Trinity Methodist Church
North Street, Leighton Buzzard
Thursday, 6 April 2017

Come and enjoy homemade soup, roll, dessert and tea or coffee for £5 and help raise funds for

M H A
(Methodist Homes for the Aged)

This will be served in the Chatteris Suite from
12 noon until 2 pm

There will also be a 'bring and buy' stall.

We look forward to seeing you.

For further information contact Joan Gregory or Catherine Roots

“Frances Young House” at Queen’s

The Queen’s Foundation in Birmingham and the Methodist Church have announced that a newly purchased building, will be named after a renowned theologian and minister.

“Frances Young House”, in Edgbaston, is the latest building to be made available to the Foundation, which offers academic ecumenical theological education and trains Methodists and Anglicans for ministry.

The building has been purchased by the Methodist Church, which has had a partnership with the Foundation since 1970.

Building works are currently underway and scheduled to be finished by April this year.

Designed by a local architect, the newly refurbished structure will boast a new lecture theatre, offices, facilities and living quarters as a new space to “live, learn and reflect”.

The building takes its name from the Rev Professor Frances Young OBE, a Methodist minister and established theologian.

When asked about her reaction to finding out that she would have a building named after her,

Frances said: “My first reaction was one of astonishment – it was so unexpected, and so out of sync with the sermon I was preparing about humility!

“But since finding out, I’ve been increasingly grateful, seeing it as a sign of mutual regard – of the College’s appreciation for my long standing association, and of my own appreciation for all the College has given me over the years.”

The Rev Canon Dr David Hewlett, Principle of the Foundation, added: “I am delighted that the house will be named after the Rev Professor Frances Young.

“Professor Young is already closely connected with the Queen’s Foundation as one of our International Research Consultants and her lifelong work and ministry exemplifies the best of Christian scholarship.

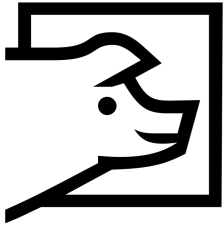
“The new building will be a wonderful addition to the Queen’s campus, providing first class accommodation for our student community and excellent additional teaching resources.”

(Methodist Media Service)

Foolish Fellow Finds Forgiveness

Feeling footloose, fancy-free and frisky, this feather-brained fellow finagled his fond father into forking over his fortune. Forthwith, he fled for foreign fields and frittered his farthings feasting fabulously with fair-weathered friends.

Finally, facing famine, and fleeced by his fellows in folly, he found a feed flinger in a filthy



farmplot. He fain would have filled his frame with foraged food from the fodder fragments. "Fooey! My father's flunkies fare far fancier," the frazzled fugitive fumed feverishly, frankly facing fact.

Frustrated from failure and filled with forebodings, he fled for his family. Falling at his father's

feet, he floundered forlornly.

"Father, I have flunked and fruitlessly forfeited further family favours." But the faithful father, forestalling further flinching, frantically flagged his flunkies to set forth the finest fatling and fix a feast.

The fugitive's fault-finding frater, faithfully farming his father's fields for free, frowned at this fickle forgiveness of formal falderal. His fury flashed, but fussing was futile.

His foresighted father figured, "Such filial fidelity is fine, but what forbids fervent festivities? The fugitive is found! Unfurl the flags! With fanfare flaring, let fun, frolic and frivolity flow freely. Former failures are forgotten and folly forsaken. Forgiveness forms a firm foundation for future fortitude." (Phew!)

No prizes for picking the parable!

One morning the minister's wife woke up with a start. Her husband asked what was the matter. She told him, "I just had a dream that you gave me an expensive pearl necklace for Valentine's day. What do you think it means?" "You'll know tonight," said the vicar confidently. Later that evening, he arrived home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it, only to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams."

A Lenten Poem

During Lent 1991, the United States was engaged in conflict with Iraq when Maren C Tirabassi, wrote this poem. It is taken from Gifts of Many Cultures, published by United Church Press, USA

Lent comes.
We draw a holy comma
in rushed and busy lives.
We follow down
old scripture words
the journey to Jerusalem.
We stumble into prayers again
and whisper soft
the dearest, fearest
of our thoughts.
Lent comes.
Last year's palms
crumble into ashes.
Last year's peace
weeps into war.
We sing of Gethsemane
amid new tears, new blending.
The screaming bombs

burn crosses in our hearts —
th's too is God's story.
Lent comes,
but also Ramadan's fast,
Passover's freedom memory,
Easter's crazy contradictions.
Faith is born of prayer
and sings with courage,
while all the children
of the earth
shelter in the wings of God
awaiting our embrace.



Answer to David Dawes math question on page 7.

The total age of the four 'Old and Grumpy' pop band is 248 and hence after the 'youngest' has joined the total age will be 290. Average age will be then 58.

News from Eaton Bray

Our annual Covenant Service was led with great conviction by Roger Owers on the third Sunday in January. It was valuable to restate our commitment to God's project. We were reminded that God will always look after his people but we need to keep the promises we have made. In the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we were delighted that the Rev Wallace Edwards made a return visit in order to hold our monthly Communion Service. He recalled the divisions in the early church that St Paul had worked so hard to heal and left us in no doubt that, whatever denomination we belong to, we can still be in union with all other Christian believers and together grow in grace. On the last Sunday of January John Enejo came to preach. He focused on the theme of prayer as the master key to all problems in life; sin will be forgiven and people will be healed. Prayer is an appeal for help and an expression of thanks afterwards. Our first service in February was a very joyful one as it included the baptism of Reuben

Eden David Bursnell, a delightful, calm and contented four-month-old boy. Our Minister, Rev Nigel Bibbings, led the service and his address was on the theme of striving, like the Apostle Paul in Philip-
pians 3, "to win the prize for which Christ Jesus has already won us to himself". He likened the Christian life to a Marathon race, a lifelong endeavour, always looking forward, never behind. The February Cafe Service was both enjoyable and deeply meaningful; Stephen Poxon encouraged us to participate in a spiritual health check. As we shared our recent experiences and challenges in small groups we found a great deal of support and empathy, underpinned by the inspiring knowledge that God is always there for us, whatever our situation.

Date for your Diary:

Cafe Community

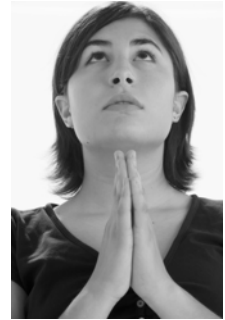
Saturday 11 March 2017,
11.00am – 1.00pm

We will be delighted to see you if you come to join us for a cup of tea/coffee and/or a light lunch.

Prayer Corner

Open our eyes, Lord

Gracious God,
we confess to you and to one another
the many ways we fail to live the lives
you want for us.
We make ourselves busy with many things,
and neglect to listen to your voice.
We see the worst in the world around us,
and look past your signs of hope.
We focus on our own hurts, anger,
and disappointments,
and close our hearts to your transforming
grace.
O Holy Light of the world, forgive us.
Open our eyes to your endless possibilities.
Give us courage to listen for your call to us.



You are invited to attend a Free Church
Service in the Lady Chapel on the following
Wednesdays at 11.00 am:

5th April 2017

Preacher: The Reverend Meryl Court,
Minister of the United Reformed Church, Thames North Synod.

3rd May 2017

Preacher: Major Heather Poxon,
The Salvation Army, International Projects Officer.

All services are followed by a fellowship lunch in the Abbots Kitchen
and all are welcome

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



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBÄN

Tuesday Worship at Trinity

(followed by refreshments)

10.00 am to 10.30 am will be led by:

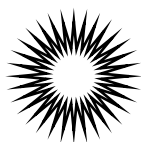


MARCH

- 7 Cilla & Phil Wagner
- 14 Derek Appleby
- 21 Sarina & Donald Wray
- 28 Rev Nigel Wright - HC

APRIL

- 4 Frankie Fisher
- 11 Rev Wyn Jones
- 18 Ken Harris
- 25 Hyacinth Taylor



Trinity Fellowship Circle

Tuesdays at 7.30 pm

MARCH

- 7 Rev Nigel Wright
- 12 (Sunday)
Annual Tea and Service
The Rev Nigel Bibbings
- 14 Musical interlude with Philip
Titcombe

- 21 To be announced
- 28 Members' evening

(Please contact Marilyn Powell for further details.)

Flowers in church

MARCH

- 5 Janet & Roy Curzon in
loving memory of Janet's
parents.
- 12 Marilyn & Michael Powell to
celebrate Fellowship.
- 19 Audrey & Jim Wood in
memory of their parents.
- 26 Mothers' Day - Flower Fund



APRIL

- 2 Elaine Green
- 9 Betty Batt in loving memory
of her husband Douglas.

Weekly activities at Trinity

SUNDAY

8.30	Holy Communion. Optional breakfast (usually 1st Sunday in month)
9.15	Food 4 Thought (Chatteris Suite - 5th Sunday in month)
9.15	Early Church, including creche (2nd and 4th Sundays in each month)
10.30	Morning Worship (coffee afterwards in the hall)
5.30	Freedom Generation (Youth group for ages 11-16) in Chatteris Suite
6.00	Evening Worship

MONDAY

8.00	Badminton in the hall
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TUESDAY

9.45-11.15	Mothers & Toddlers (Chatteris Suite) Term time only
10.00-10.30	Half hour market day worship + refreshments
1.30-3.00	Trinity Toddlers (Chatteris Suite (Term time only)
7.00-8.30	Cubs
7.30	Trinity Fellowship Circle

WEDNESDAY

Evening	Drop-in for homeless
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THURSDAY

2.00	Sewing Circle (Every two weeks. See Sandra Digby for details)
6.15-7.30	Beavers
7.30-9.00	Scouts

FRIDAY

9.45-11.15	Mothers & Toddlers (Chatteris Site) Term time only
6.00-7.30	Girls' Brigade - Explorers
6.30-8.00	Girls' Brigade - Juniors
7.00-9.00	Girls' Brigade - Seniors
7.30-9.30	Girls' Brigade - Brigaders

SATURDAY

9.00-9.30	Prayer Service
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For introduction to any of the above, please see a Steward

Trumpeter is edited by Robin Gurney at
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Sunday, 9 April. Deadline for contributions will be **NOON** on
FRIDAY, 31 March 2017
Deadline for the following issue will be Friday, 19 May 2017



Website: Trinity: www.trinitylb.org.uk
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