

Trumpeter

News and views for Trinity Methodist Church
Leighton Buzzard



“On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame....”

Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| From the Manse | 3 |
| The Editor Writes | 4 |
| Eco concerns | 5 |
| Reflections on the Daffodil Rally | 6 |
| News from Trinity Scouts..... | 8 |

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Prayer Corner | 13 |
| <i>and much more</i> | |

APRIL 2017





Sunday services at Trinity will be conducted by:

APRIL

- 9 9.15 Early Church
10.30 Rev Nigel Wright
7.30 Sunday Night Live @
Beech Hill
- 16 10.30 Rev Wallace Edwards -
HC
6.00 Rev Nigel Wright -
Reflective
- 23 9.15 Early Church
10.30 Rev Nigel Wright
6.00 Rev TJ Wesley
- 30 9.15 Peter Baker - F4T
10.30 Peter Baker
6.00 Circuit Service @ High
Street, Leagrave

MAY

- 7 8.30 Rev Nigel Wright - HC
10.30 Thursday Evening
House Group
6.00 Revelation
- 14 9.15 Early Church
10.30 Stephen Poxon
6.00 Circuit Service @
Beech Hill
- 21 10.30 Rev Nigel Wright - HC
6.00 Circuit Service @
Harlington
- 28 9.15 Early Church
10.30 Robin Gurney
6.00 Rev Nigel Wright -
Cafe

Tuesday Worship at Trinity

(followed by refreshments)

10.00 am to 10.30 am will be led by:



APRIL

- 11 Rev Wyn Jones
18 Ken Harris
25 Hyacinth Taylor

MAY

- 2 Ben Williams
9 Colin Dimmock
16 Rev Wallace Edwards
23 Joan Gregory
30 Robin Gurney

Support outreach work at Trinity — Gift Day 6 May

Over the past four years we have supported outreach work at Trinity through TTT funding. This ends this summer. We would like to set up an Outreach Fund to continue this work. We employ paid staff for our Messy Church events, toddler group, social media and publicity work. £20,000 and any additional grants will allow us to continue this work for two to three more years.

More information from **Roger Owers**, (Church Treasurer)

"...just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life" (Rom 6:4 NIV)

While writing this piece I am surrounded by signs of new life with the blossom on the apple trees in the garden and the forsythia at its peak.

We are fast approaching Easter too with the reflective services during the evenings in Holy Week, the united services at Hockliffe Street Baptist Church and the Market Cross on Good Friday, and the glorious message of the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Day and the new life that God brings to us all through him.

We will be celebrating new life too during the coming months with two baptisms and one infant dedication already planned and the potential for more following a number of recent enquiries.

I am also pleased to report that there have been a number of people who have come forward to stand as stewards and by the time you read this the elections to the post of steward will have taken place at the Annual Church Meeting on 2 April.

As you may be aware Sue Horsefield and Patience Owers have also been appointed as Pastoral Co-ordinators at the recent Church Council in March. A Pastoral Review Team was set up in late 2015/early 2016 to look at the formal pastoral arrangements at Trinity. There were concerns about the current

From the Manse



system's future viability and its effectiveness as it worked very well for some people but not for others.

There was then a process of consultation about pastoral care including a questionnaire and an open meeting during 2016. The Pastoral Review Team also visited a couple of other Methodist churches to find out how their systems operated. This resulted in a report coming before Church Council in November 2016 recommending a series of changes to the pastoral care system which would be started once at least two Pastoral Co-ordinators were appointed.

Sue and Patience will be in touch with the existing Pastoral Visitors and the different groups within the life of the church to explore this, and once that has been carried out there are plans to send out a letter providing details of the changes.

Our thanks go to Enid Dawson who has stood down from the role of Pastoral Co-ordinator after many years of faithful service.

I do hope that you all have a good Easter. *Nigel*

The Editor writes



Our nation, indeed the world, is facing an almost unprecedented period of uncertainty and change.

With the triggering of Article 50 to begin negotiations for the UK to leave a union that has been part of our life for 43 years that uncertainty can only increase, for at least the next two years but arguably way beyond.

With the withdrawal of the Bill to change the health system in the United States we see that it is much easier to proclaim the rhetoric in campaign mode than it is to be a President where other considerations, and indeed other people have to be taken into consideration.

What does all this mean for you in your little corner and I in mine, as the old hymn says? For those of us getting on in years it is now much more difficult to see how we fit in. Where once we might have “marched” with the protesting masses, hips and knees prevent such demonstrations. Maybe just encouraging the

younger folk to become involved is the new role.

Technology can also help us feel involved. Joining campaigns run by organisations like AVAAZ or making our voice heard on social media such as Facebook, Twitter or similar allows us to continue to be part of the local, national and world scene. Anyone with a smart phone, tablet or computer can be part of all this. And, of course, as Christians we cannot fail to mention prayer and its effect.

As I prepare this issue of Trumpeter I have looked forward to the glorious period of Easter when we celebrate once more the resurrection of Christ from the dead — the centre of our faith. May our prayer be that we might see the resurrection as replacing the uncertainty so prevalent with us at this moment in time.

In this issue there are also reports from the Daffodil Rally, enjoyed by so many each year, a short report to remind all that Trinity Scouts remain very active, and a tribute to one of Trinity’s much loved members who passed away earlier this year. There is much more — turn the pages and discover for yourself something new and exciting. Happy Easter!

REG



Reports from climate experts at Leeds University and a climate change coalition, including the RSPB, National Trust, WWF and the Women's Institute say that climate change is wrecking some of our great sites: Wordsworth's Gardens in Cumbria and England's white cliffs, by flooding and erosion. Professor Peter Foster said "climate change often seems like a distant threat but it is already impacting on some of our most treasured places. Warmer temperatures are seeing less salmon in our rivers and some visiting birds no longer come to important wetlands. Our winters are generally getting warmer, with severe storms and heavier rainfall."

The Paris Climate Change Agreement exempted aviation and shipping. A new study on aviation points out that five per cent of man made climate change is caused by aviation. Aircraft emit greenhouse gases and their vapour trails alter the way radiation is re-

flected back to earth.

Scientists at Reading University say that making small tweaks to flight paths could reduce the effects aircraft have on climate by as much as 10 per cent for about one per cent increase in operating costs. Airlines could make these changes by optimising their routes according to the weather, time of day, and time of year. If flights were rerouted there is the potential to reduce climate impact.

The Tearfund Prayer diary in March reminded us: "Be part of God's work renewing creation. God has entrusted his beautiful world to our care, all he has made; birds, animals, fish, abundant varieties of plants, for food and medicines.

We in the UK consume three times our fair share of the earth's resources. Huge amounts of waste go to landfill which in turn produces methane gas which leads to climate change and pollution.

Churches across the world are taking steps by switching energy to renewables, reducing waste, and bearing witness to people in positions of power. God often works through our small offerings to create huge impacts. Like the small stones in David's sling and the boy with five loaves and two fishes.

Janet Graham

Reflection on the Daffodil Rally

by Dorothy Coates, Toddington

Setting off for London on a bright sunny morning was an unexpected bonus on an eagerly anticipated day. We arrived in time for a walk round St James' Park before lunch and we saw the whole of Spring in one vista. Some late snowdrops, carpets of crocuses and daffodils and even blossom on the trees.

Entering the Great Hall to the swell of the magnificent organ and the sound of nearly two thousand voices is uplifting in itself. Rev Dr Martyn Atkins was unable to be present but sent an apology as he is recovering from surgery.

The theme for the afternoon was "Life Changing Prayer" and was carried through the music, readings and interviews. The music was diverse; from the choral music beautifully sung by the choristers from Westminster Abbey Choir School to the robust hymns of faith by the congregation.

Anando Mukerjee, on his 10th appearance at the rally, sang a duet with Tabitha Webb, as well as a beautiful rendition of The

Lord's Prayer. When interviewed by Rev Tony Miles and Pam Rhodes both Tabitha who has appeared in Phantom of the Opera and Les Miserables and Sadia McEwen in The Lion King, both stressed the importance of prayer in their lives, meeting with Christian friends in the theatre before each performance.

Anne Browse, in her last year as President of MWIB, told us how four years ago she seemed called to give up teaching and immediately found that MWIB were needing a new president.

Rev Steve Wild, who arrived late, with his own inimitable sense of humour told us how his train was delayed and he got engaged in conversation with a man in the buffet car who ended up taking a cross with him at the end of the journey. Would that we could all be witnesses for Christ in adverse circumstances instead of venting our frustration on British Rail.

Another inspiring Daffodil Rally. Thank you Mary for making the arrangements to get us all there.

✝ The passing of a town “character”

Raymond Vivian Willis - 9 August 1921 - 13 February 2017

Trinity has recently lost one of its oldest and most respected members. With the death of Viv Willis a link with the Wesley Methodist



Church in Hockliffe Street and indeed a link with the history of the town of Leighton Buzzard has been broken.

Everyone who ever met Viv called him a “character” — not unkindly, but with admiration for the way that he overcame blindness, an affliction which came upon him as a young man but which he refused to allow to limit his life and work.

Viv maintained many interests not least Methodism. Up to a few months ago he was brought to the Tuesday morning service by his carer and commented to his brother Don that he enjoyed those services more than Sunday morning — he was never short of a quip.

The Regnal League, a fellowship formed during the first World

War to serve military personnel while they were away from home was another of his interests. He was a mover and shaker behind many of the activities of this group both locally and nationally. He even persuaded this writer to speak to the national gathering back in the 1980s.

Together with Jean, his wife, they organised many of the Regnal League summer holidays with the title of “Summer Sunday by the Seaside”. The influence of these events still lives on.

The Round Table was another of Viv’s interests. This linked naturally with his professional life within the family building firm of Willis and Dawson. Many of the houses and estates in the town and surrounding area, including the house where this writer was born, are part of Viv’s legacy.

In the annals of Leighton Buzzard, Viv’s book *The Coming of a Town* will forever be a reminder of his skill as a historian and his love of the town in which he was born and died.

Robin Gurney

News from Trinity Scouts

March has been busy for Trinity Scouts. On the 19th the Scouts joined the rest of the district at Ashridge to take part in Beacon Assault. This was a five mile challenge with a number of tasks to complete. They included a map symbol challenge, crossing a crocodile infested water challenge, a semaphore challenge, a knot challenge, a pioneering challenge. The team of six came third out of ten.

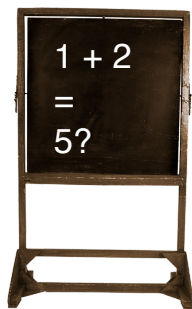
The 24-26 March six of the scouts joined Heath and Reach Scouts at the Caldecotte Experience, where they stayed in Yurts to sleep and eat. They joined in activities including zorbing, climbing and archery.

The Cubs organised and led a pop up fayre,

with stalls such as tin can alleys, guess the number of sweets, beat the goalie, guess the name of the teddy, how long can you lift the weighted down bucket? And many more. They raised £60 for the RSPCA.

We are all looking forward to the summer and lighter nights.

Richard Bates



David Dawes sets us some brain teasers

In the sequence of numbers, which begins 1,4,5,10, . . . each number after the first is the sum of all of the previous numbers in the sequence. What is the 10th number in the sequence?

Answer on page 11.

Trinity Church Council – 16 March 2017

The following is a summary of the main points from Church Council on 16 March:

- Church membership currently stands at 167.
- Following the Pastoral Review, a new system of Pastoral Friends will be progressively introduced. Enid Dawson has stepped down from being the Pastoral Co-ordinator and the mantle has been taken up by Patience Owers & Sue Horsefield. Sue has, therefore, resigned as Baptismal Secretary, so that position is vacant. We are very grateful to Enid for the conscientious way she has fulfilled her role as Pastoral Co-ordinator. Kathy Lazar & Jan Cornfoot were appointed as Pastoral Friends.
- Anne Guy is succeeding Catherine Roots as Safeguarding Representative. Thanks are due to Catherine for her work in this field.
- Rev Seung-wook Jung has been appointed as our minister from September 2017.
- The Worship Planning Meeting has arranged for a series of reflective services during Holy Week; the Church Anniversary on 9 July, when Rev Dr David Chapman (District Chairman) will preach; Remembrance Service on 16 July for families of those whose funerals have been held during the last year.
- The Leadership Team is still anxious to find more volunteers to join them. It is important to recognise that 'systems' do not have to be continued in the same way as they have in the past.
- The Property Committee reported that the ante-room windows now have their protective film and the external signage has been replaced. The Quinquennial Review is imminent, so no great spending will take place until any requirements of the review are known.
- There has been a suggestion that we should install a de-fibrillator in church. Research has shown that this would cost £1200+, and no-one is trained in its use. It was decided that it was not appropriate to pursue this at the moment.
- Roger Owers reported that income to date is as expected, but our expenditure is about £2000 worse than expected. However, for 2017/18 a deficit of £17k is forecast which needs to be addressed. It was resolved that a proposal be made to the Annual Church Meeting that we hold a Gift Day in May, for on-going employment and outreach work (and plead for increased regular giving).
- There have been two recent donations for work with the homeless. Further discussion is needed to clarify how the money should be spent. Church Council agreed to the Resources Committee making decisions about how this money is spent, so long as the Treasurer's provisos were met.
- Dates for Safeguarding Training have been arranged: Foundation Course – 9:30am on 13 May at Trinity; Refresher Course – 2:00 pm on 1 April at Trinity. Training now has to be renewed every four years (not five years).
- Approval has been given by the Circuit that the District should proceed with the closure and sale of Linslade Chapel. The matter is due to be taken to Synod. Rev Nina Johnson has been appointed to the Circuit. Rev T J Wesley will be leaving the circuit in May, for a variety of family & health reasons, and returning to America, where he will retire. His farewell service will be on 14 May. [Since the meeting Rev Eric Mustapha has visited the circuit and accepted an invitation to come to the circuit in September to those churches where Rev TJ Wesley is currently the minister] There are plans, led by Rev Nigel Bibbings, for a circuit celebration service on Dunstable Downs on 25 June. The circuit is still working on establishing a presence amongst the new housing development in Houghton Regis. The circuit is in the process of looking for a replacement manse for Rev Seung-wook Jung.

Elizabeth Hitchcock

A resurrection story

(or: How life can blossom again)



It was hard to watch her fail. Physically she was growing thinner and more stooped. And she was losing her mental ability. Initially, my grandmother had fought against the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease that were eroding who she had always been.

Eventually, anger gave way to frustration. Grandmother had always been a strong woman. Into her eighties, she was still doing much of her own work around the house. And she had a deep faith.

As she lost her ability to live alone, she moved into our home. She seemed to enjoy being surrounded by the noise and activity of a lively family. As she slipped further away from us mentally, grandmother would occasionally have moments when she knew where she was and recognized those around her.

Toward the end of her life she became convinced that her mother had knit everything she owned. "Mother knit my coat," she would say with a vacant smile as we zipped her up; or "Mother knit my hat."

On one occasion we decided

to go on a family outing to a local fair.

Grandma loved flowers, so my dad bought her a rose. She carried it proudly through the fair, stopping often to breathe in its fragrance. We spotted a bench close by, where she could wait for the rest of us while we enjoyed the rides.

A sullen-looking young woman already occupied the bench but she said she wouldn't mind sharing. "Mother knit my coat," my grandmother told the woman as she sat down. We didn't let grandmother out of our sight.

When we came back to the bench to get her, the young woman was holding the rose. It was clear she had been crying. "Thank you for sharing your grandmother with me," she said.

Then she told us her story. She had decided that this was to be her last day. In deep despair and feeling she had nothing to live for, she was planning to end it all. While she sat on that bench with grandma, with the noise going on around them, she found herself pouring out her troubles. "Your

(Continued on next page)

A resurrection story

grandmother listened to me," the young woman said. "She told me about a time in her own life, when she had lost hope. She told me that God loved me and that He would watch over me and would help me get through my problems. And she gave me this rose. "She told me that my life would unfold just like this rose and that I would be surprised by its beauty. She told me my life was a gift. And she said she would be praying for me." We stood, dumbfounded, as she hugged my grandmother and thanked her for saving her life. Grandma smiled – a rather vacant smile.

The young woman waved as she left and grandma waved back. She turned to us as we stood there amazed. "Mother knit my hat," she said.

A N Other



Time for a smile

A new sister was welcomed to a silent monastery and told she must not speak until directed. After five years she was told she could say two words, so she said "Hard bed." A better bed was provided. Five years later she was told she could say another two words, so she said "Cold food." Steps were taken to provide better food. On her 15th anniversary at the monastery, she was told she could say another two words, so she said "Must leave." She was told it was probably the best thing as she'd done nothing but complain since she arrived.

Answer to David Dawes math question on page 7.

The 5th number will be 20, 6th = 40, 7th = 80, 8th = 160, 9th = 320 and hence 10th = 640.

News from Eaton Bray

On the third Sunday in February the service was a local arrangement led by members of the Wednesday Bible Study Group. Based on their study of Mark's Gospel and guided by the Good Book commentary, they examined how Christ's followers come to recognise him as King. *We learned that recognition can appear in the most unlikely places and that faith is the gracious work of God in us.*

On the fourth Sunday, Joan Gregory made a welcome return, preaching on the Transfiguration of Christ and the way he transforms peoples' lives.

Our minister, Nigel Bibbings took the Communion Service on the first Sunday in March. His sermon focused on guidance in the ways of developing a personal private relationship with God through following the teachings of Jesus; how to praise, pray and act charitably towards others in a quiet and unpretentious manner.

On the second Sunday Martin Wallis led our Cafe Worship, basing it on the passage in John 3, which states that all believers need to be "born again..... of water and the Spirit". We discussed this difficult concept and agreed that allowing the Holy

Spirit to work freely in our hearts transforms and renews us completely.

Visiting us on the third Sunday, John Enejo gave a stirring message urging us to love and value everybody and, like the woman at the well, introduce other people to Jesus. He brought some welcome visitors who also played a part in the service: The Rt Rev Michael Kekinde Stephen, an Archbishop in the Nigerian Methodist Church, and Helena Vilaca from the Methodist Church in Portugal.

On the last Sunday of March we were glad to welcome back Stephen Poxon who gave us a wide-ranging and inspiring sermon encouraging us, among other things, to avoid judging others, dealing instead with tact and understanding.

We have had a number of very busy, lively Saturday cafes in recent months and have been delighted to see new faces joining in.

Date for your Diary:

Cafe Community

Saturday 13 May 2017 - 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

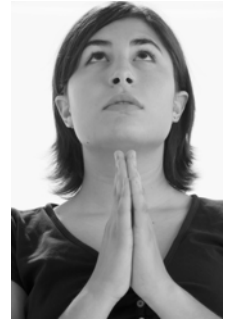
We will be delighted to see you if you come to join us for a cup of tea/coffee and/or a light lunch.

Prayer Corner

An Easter Prayer

Lord of all life and power
who through the mighty resurrection of
your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with you in glory;
to whom with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

Amen



Dunstable Methodist Church, The Square

GALA CONCERT

Dunstable Town Band & friends

on

Saturday, 13 May, 7.30 pm

featuring

Tammy Calvert - Songs from the Shows

Studham Village School Singers

Stephen Turner at the organ — Square Drama Circle Singers

Pay at the door £5 — Children/Students £1

Raising funds for Action for Children and Homes for the Aged



Trinity Fellowship Circle

Tuesdays at 7.30 pm

April

- 4 Colin Dimmock
- 11 No meeting - Holy Week Services
- 18 No meeting - Easter Week
- 25 Ray Rowilson

May

- 2 Fiona A Smith
- 9 Grace Horsfall
- 16 Visit to Poplars Nature Reserve/Tea
- 23 Rev Noel McGeeney
- 30 Janet Stow/Toddington

(Please contact Mary Edwards for further details.)

Flowers in church

APRIL

- 9 Betty Batt in loving memory of her husband Douglas.
- 16 EASTER Flower Fund Appeal
- 23 Sue Stokes & family in loving memory of Sue's beloved sister Alison and in appreciation of all the fellowship from Trinity.
- 30 Tony Oldroyd in grateful thanks for the work of the Flower Circle and for the prayers and support the church has given to Ann and myself during this last year.

MAY

- 7 Grace Horsfall in loving memory of her husband Fred and son Robert.



- 14 Donald & Sylvia, Fiona & Isobel Cameron in memory of Gavin Cameron, cherished son, brother and loving father.
- 21 Fiona & Kevin Arscott-Smith in remembrance of Hazel & Alice and in thanksgiving for Jamie & Adam.
- 28 Catherine Roots in celebration and thanks for the lives of my husband Alan, mother Edith and father Kenneth.

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, All Age Worship followed by 'Coffee&' in Chatteris Suite (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

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

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

For introduction to any of the above, please see a Steward

Trumpeter is edited by Robin Gurney at
3a Littleworth, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 0JX (robingurney37@aol.com)
and printed at The Print Place, North Street, Leighton Buzzard

The next issue of Trumpeter will appear on
Sunday, 28 May Deadline for contributions will be **NOON** on
FRIDAY, 19 MAY 2017
Deadline for the following issue will be Friday, 30 June 2017



Website: Trinity: www.trinitylb.org.uk
Follow Trinity also on Facebook and Twitter

Trinity Methodist Church is a Registered Charity, No: 1151861



"Easter Calling". Photo: REG