

Trumpeter

News and views for Trinity Methodist Church
Leighton Buzzard



"Hope of summer" Photo: REG

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<i>and much more</i>	

MAY 2017





Sunday services at Trinity will be conducted by:

MAY

28 9.15 Early Church
10.30 Robin Gurney
6.00 Rev Nigel Wright -
Cafe

JUNE

4 8.30 Rev Wallace Edwards
- HC
10.30 Shepherd Kombo
6.00 Colin Quine
11 9.15 Early Church
10.30 Rev Nigel Wright -
Baptism
6.00 Sunday Night Live @
Taddington

18 10.30 Rev Nigel Wright - HC
6.00 Local arrangements
25 11.00 Circuit celebration &
picnic - Dunstable
Downs

JULY

2 8.30 Rev Nigel Wright - HC
10.30 Rev Nigel Wright -
Parade
6.00 Christina Salmon
9 9.15 Early Church
10.30 Rev Dr David M
Chapman - Church
Anniversary
6.00 Rev Nigel Bibbings

Tuesday Worship at Trinity

(followed by refreshments)

10.00 am to 10.30 am will be led by:



MAY

30 Robin Gurney

JUNE

6 Ken Harris
13 Rev Nigel Wright - HC
20 Roger Owers
27 Donald/Sarina Wray

JULY

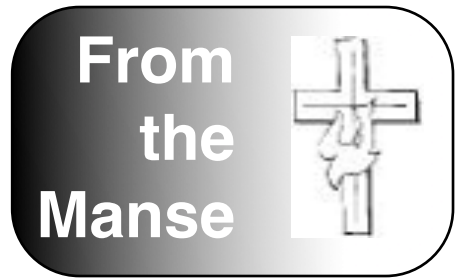
4 Robin Gurney
11 Rev Nigel Wright - HC
18 Frankie Fisher
25 Colin Dimmock

*'You are the salt of the earth...
you are the light of the
world' (Mt 5:11-16 – NIV)*

There is a school of thought that says that the church should stay out of politics. But as we approach an election Archbishop Tutu's words challenge us "When people say that the Bible and politics don't mix, I ask them which Bible they are reading."

Because of course the Bible is very political; it is trying to influence the way in which a country is governed, which is part of the definition of 'politics' according to the Cambridge Dictionary.

From the law of the Old Testament, through the prophets, to the leaders of the early church, unjust or corrupt practices are spoken against, the behaviour of rulers and those in authority is criticised and a better way is demonstrated. Jesus himself



was executed because of the challenge that he posed to the leaders of his society.

Jesus spoke of his followers being 'salt' and 'light' to the world, to give a Godly flavour to our surroundings and to throw light on what has been hidden in the darkness. Accordingly we are called to engage with the world around us and the issues of the current day, and it is important that we cast our votes in the General Election on Thursday, 8 June, and to vote for those who in our opinion most clearly embody the politics, priorities and values of the gospel and the Kingdom of God.

Nigel

When the white missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes and when we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land.

Desmond Tutu

The Editor writes



While on holiday recently I came across what I think of as a relevant poem for our time, even though written many years ago by English poet John Donne (1572-1631):

*“No man is an island,
Entire of itself,
Every man is a piece of the
continent,
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the
sea,
Europe is the less.
As well as if a promontory were.
As well as if a manor of thy
friend's
Or of thine own were:
Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in
mankind,
And therefore never send to know
for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.”*

I could not help but think that this 17th century poet was more attuned to the world than our nation is today. Are we that “clod” that is about to be washed off-shore? Are we still aware that

every killing and death in all parts of the world diminishes each of us? Do we still feel involved in the whole of humanity? Do we still welcome the stranger? Or are our thoughts, our focus, our actions more and more concentrated on our own narrow concerns, our own limited horizons?

The General Election, might tell us which way our nation is going, although our first past the post system rarely reflects the views of much more than one third of the population.

As with all elections our church leaders are urging us to pray for all who stand for election and all who will govern us in the future — that is the least we can do.

This issue of Trumpeter, after all that I have said in this column, is very much concentrated on “domestic” issues. A report from the Annual Church Meeting held in April, the Outreach Appeal to keep many of our activities viable for the future, and significant anniversaries of some of our more senior citizens are all featured.

There is a short report reminding us of events away from our shores and it is good that our future king should be the one to express concern about the “evil” of religious persecution pervading our world.

Much more in this issue — enjoy!
REC



I was surprised to see on BBC news of Henderson Island and its beautiful beach littered with plastic waste, not dropped by people, the island is uninhabited, but which has been washed up by ocean currents. Plastic is reaching every corner of our planet, from uninhabited Pacific islands to coastal communities across the UK, and even in Arctic sea ice. It will take centuries to degrade.

Plastic waste will continue to grow, littering beaches and polluting seas. It is killing sea life and destroying ecosystems and permeating the food chain. It has been found in the seafood on our plates.

Every living thing in our oceans is in danger and slowly being poisoned by plastic. It is ruining coastlines and destroying habitats.

Corporations profit from plastic packaging and don't count the cost to marine life. Businesses must accept responsibility for the true cost of their products and re-

duce the amount of plastic they use and switch to packaging that can be reused, recycled and composted.

We are encouraged to drink out of throwaway plastic bottles. Most of these are not recycled and end up in our waterways, seas, and landfills. One solution is a deposit return scheme (DRS) — perhaps 10p added to the purchase cost and refunded on return of the empty to collection points. DRS schemes are found in Europe, the USA, Canada, Israel, Fiji, and Australia. According to a report from Greenpeace collection rates are as high as 98.5 per cent.

Marine creatures are being choked, seabirds are starving to death. At least 170 species have swallowed plastic in mistake for food. The UN has called the situation a “Toxic time bomb”.

Last year we called on politicians to ban microbeads in cosmetics, toothpaste, and cleaning products. They listened and have promised to ban them in most products. We depend on healthy oceans for the air we breath and for food.

“All nature is at the disposal of humankind, We are to work with it, without it we cannot survive.”

Hildegard of Bingham.

Janet Graham

Trinity Annual Church Meeting

2 April, 2017

The following is a summary of the main points from the Annual Church Meeting on 2 April, 2017:

- * Anne Gray & Sue Stokes were re-appointed (Sue retiring in August 2017) as Stewards. Alison Arnold, Ann Guy, Catherine Roots and Tasha Williams were appointed as Stewards.. Thanks were expressed to Marina Mele, Donald Wary and Sheila Pollard for their service as Stewards.
- * The existing representatives to the Church Council were re-appointed. Sue Stokes (from August 2017), Marina Mele, Sheila Pollard, Judy Whyman-Bates and Donald Wray were appointed as new Church representatives to the Church Council.
- * Brief reports from many church groups had been displayed in the Ante-room for the whole church to review.
- * The minister reported that, over the last year Helen Wray had been confirmed, four members had moved away and/or resigned their membership, two people had transferred their membership to Trinity. Sadly, five of our congregation have passed away. Prayers were offered for their families. A Remembrance Service will be held on 16 July. This service was introduced in 2012 and has been particularly beneficial for the families of the bereaved. Patience Owers & Sue Horsefield have agreed to become Pastoral Co-ordinators to develop the recommendations of the Pastoral Care Review. Nigel then drew attention to some of the highlights of the past seven years: eight Preaching Series; work with Girls' Brigade & Scouts preparing Parade Services; Weekend Away in March 2016; three year Vision Plan & Trinity Towards Tomorrow; employment of leader for Trinity Toddlers (Alison Arnold then Karen Purton), co-ordinator for Messy Church (Alison Arnold then Tasha Williams), TTT/Church Administrator (Debbie Melvin then Tasha Williams); XTT for 7-11 year olds (ran for two years); Freedom Generation for teenagers; formation of additional housegroups; Alpha courses twice a year for three years; stall at May Fair for last five/six years; Drop-in service providing meal for homeless on Wednesday evenings; formation of Sewing Circle; Picnics in the

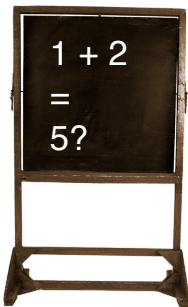
(Continued on next page)

Trinity Annual Church Meeting

(Continued from previous page)

Park; Nativity Festival; Church website; information packs. Nigel thanked everyone for their support and wished the church well as we start to make plans to work with Rev Seung-wook Jung from September.

- * Peter Baker summarised the work of the Worship Consultation Group. He drew attention to the Holy Week reflective services, Easter services and the Church Anniversary on 9 July, when Rev Dr David Chapman (District Chairman) will conduct the 10:30 service.
- * Roger Owers had provided a summary of the financial position and Sheila Pollard spoke in his absence. The Annual Report for year ended 31 August 2016 shows a deficit of £3,500 which had been predicted and budgeted for. There is, however, a deficit of £17,000 predicted for next year, caused by there no longer being any residue from the TTT funds which covered the cost of employees' salaries this year. It was agreed to hold a Gift Day on 6 May 2017 to raise money to continue our outreach work and the employment of Toddlers' & Messy Church leaders.
- * Tim Hitchcock outlined work on the property that has been carried out recently, with a list of suggestions for future work. However, no further large amounts will be spent until the results of the Quinquennial Survey, due on 3 May, are known.
- * Dates of next Church Councils: Wednesday, 14 June 2017; Thursday, 2 November 2017.
- * Date of next Annual Church Meeting: Sunday, 29 April, 2018.



David Dawes sets us some brain teasers

Pat has recently moved into a new house, which has a three-digit number. The sum of this number and its three individual digits is 742. What is the product of the three digits, which make up the house number?

Answer on page 11

Grace

Today we send our Greetings
To a very special Friend
Who celebrates her birthday
Of eighty years and ten!
We thank you for your friendship,
And for your love throughout the years,
For all the fun and laughter,
And the tears we have shared.

We thank you all from Trinity
For all that you have done,
Singing with the choir
Bringing joy to everyone.
Arranging flowers in the Chapel,
With a smile across your face,
Your love and sense of humour
Make the world a better place.

Cooking lunches in the Cellar,
We remember corned beef hash,
With the juices and the flavour,
With the peas and creamy mash!
All the sewing and embroidery.
And the knitting you have done,
For the poems you have written
And the hymns that you have sung.

Having gone through life's experiences
And the Crosses – hard to bear,
Your Faith was strong and trusting
In your Saviour, He was there,
God bless you in your Journey
And keep you in His care,
May his Peace and Love surround you
That is our wishful prayer.

Sarina Wray



Grace Horsfall celebrated her 90th birthday on 14 May. Sarina Wray wrote the accompanying poem in honour of the many years of devoted service that Grace has given and still gives to Trinity. (Photo: Donald Wray)

Also celebrating birthdays on that same day were Donald Wray and Ruth Gurney (no guessing their ages!) but they don't match Grace - just yet. Its not often that three people celebrate on the same day, hence this mention!

For another significant celebration see next page.

Former Trinity Minister, the Rev Nichola Jones spoke at a gathering in Dunstable about her recent visit to Israel/ Palestine. She focussed on the work being done with the Palestinian people. A full report will appear in the next Trumpeter.



Jim's still up for it!

Jim Wood will celebrate his 95th birthday in June. Demonstrating that it is never too late to learn — Jim thought of offering his service to Early Church with a quick riff on the guitar.

(Photograph courtesy of Donald Wray.)

See backpage for more photographic information

Sunday 25 June 2017 At 11 am

CELEBRATION

Music - Drama - Worship - Kites

Praise with a big view!

**Join us at the Dunstable Downs car park
for a day of fun and worship (Car park £3
NT members free)**

A warning from Prince Charles

The growing threat of religious persecution has been branded "evil" by the Prince of Wales who has compared the dangers facing minority faith groups across the world with the "dark days of the 1930s".

In a video for the religious freedom charity "Aid to the Church in Need", Prince Charles said the scale of the problem is underestimated and not simply limited to Christians in the Middle East, claiming research shows other groups including Jews and Yazidis are also being targeted. He said: "We are now seeing the rise of many populist groups across the world that are increasingly aggressive towards those who ad-

here to a minority faith. All of this has deeply disturbing echoes of the dark days of the 1930s."

He went on to say it was "beyond all belief" to him that "such evil persecution" still exists, more than 70 years after the Second World War. He added, "I was born in 1948, just after the end of World War Two, in which my parents' generation had fought and died in a battle against intolerance, monstrous extremism and an inhuman attempt to exterminate the Jewish population of Europe."

He also described a recent meeting with a Jesuit priest from Syria who feared there may not be a single Christian left in Iraq within five years.

What's happening to Songs of Praise?

Senior church people have raised concern over the consequences of the BBC losing the right to make Songs of Praise. It has been announced that the much-loved programme is to be produced by independent companies for the next three years. One bishop said, "It's a worry to some of us that it will be another nail in the coffin of our religious literacy as a nation." Another said, "An independent company may well bring a fresh approach to Songs of Praise, but the BBC should also continue to bolster its religious output. At a time when the need for religious literacy and understanding is more acute than ever, the expertise of the BBC's religious department is an asset that needs protecting." The change comes after a new charter agreement with the Government meant existing BBC Studios network TV output must be put out to competitive tender.

Outreach Appeal



Approaching £14,000 says Treasurer

Many thanks to all those who have given to our Outreach Appeal. The gifts and promises amount to £11,312 which with gift aid makes about a little under £14,000 at the time of writing. The appeal is ongoing and we would like to reach £20,000. Your gifts will still be gratefully received.

We believe that outreach is a vital part of our work at Trinity. Currently we have paid staff who are responsible for our regular Messy Church events, Toddler group and social media and publicity work. Many of you will have seen the leaflet and the display board which gives more detail about the work that this appeal supports.

We are now in the position to continue to pay for staff for at least

another year. With the help of any further gifts and promises and possible grants we hope to be able to establish a fund that can continue to support the work well beyond next year.

On a practical note please remember that any cheques should be made out to Leighton Buzzard Methodist Church. You can also transfer directly into our account; details are available from the treasurer. Some people find that it is best for them to give a regular amount each month either in an envelope marked "Outreach Fund" or by standing order. If you are a tax payer, gift aid provides us with an extra 25% on your gift. Please contact Roger Owers, the church treasurer, who will be pleased to help you.

Answer to David Dawes math question on page 7.

The first digit must be a seven since we need 700. The second could be 2 or 3 but not 4 since we need to add at least 7 to the house number. If the second digit was 2 and the third given the letter c then $72c+7+2+c$ would equal 742. That is the last digit would not be a whole number. Therefore $73c+7+3+c=742$ and $c=1$. Answer: house number is 731.

News from Eaton Bray

On the second Sunday in April our Cafe Worship was led, for the first time, by Elisabeth Bibbings. We considered the thoughts and motives of the crowd who welcomed Christ so warmly on Palm Sunday and who called so violently for his execution a few days later. It was a reflective service, remembering that Jesus had to die in order to remove our sins so that all could be redeemed for evermore. We look forward to welcoming Elisabeth again.

We were delighted that our minister, Rev Nigel Bibbings, was able to take our Easter Sunday service. On this wonderful day of celebration he focussed on God's One Eternity; Jesus' offering, once given, stands for ever and were reassured that there is no-one beyond God's love.

On the third Sunday we were made welcome at Edlesborough Methodist Church.

Our final service of the month was a United Service with the Salvation Army and our fellow Methodists from Edlesborough. Joan Gregory, a much-loved preacher,

treated us to an interesting sermon on the Emmaus story, helping us to think of our lives as journeys and how we gain strength in difficult times along the road.

May commenced with a typically thoughtful sermon by Rev Wallace Edwards who helped us consider the Psalm 23, its contemplation of pastoral leadership and its emphasis of the "still waters" which refresh us and our faith.

Dates for your Diary:

Social Afternoons

Weekly on **Thursdays** 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Chat, meeting friends, games, refreshments. All Welcome. First meeting free, then £2 per session

Music Night

Saturday 10 June 2017 at 7.30pm.

There will be an organ recital by Stephen Turner (organist at The Square, Dunstable) and choral singing by the Dunstable U3A Choir, led by Elaine Trevor. We will be delighted to see you if you come to join us and support the collection for Christian Aid.

A quick-thinking, elderly, retired clergyman was driving his car well over the speed limit, when he noticed a blue flashing light behind him. He pulled over and looked sheepishly at the police officer who said, "If you can give me a good reason why you were speeding I'll let you off with a caution." The vicar replied, "Years ago my wife ran off with a policeman and I thought for one awful moment you were bringing her back." The policeman left.

Prayer Corner

May Easter live on in us

Living, Almighty God,
Thank you that by your Spirit living in me,
made possible by the life, death,
resurrection and ascension of Jesus, you
give me all I need.

Like Peter, you forgive and re-commission me;
Like Thomas, you meet me in ways tailor-made for me.
Lord, thank you for the daily personal “nudges”
that assure me of your reality, your presence in my life,
just when I need so much to know you are here.
Thank you that we are Easter people every day,
because of Jesus, and in His name we pray.



Daphne Kitching

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



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBĀN

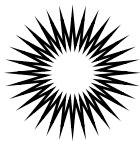
7 June 2017: Preacher: **The Reverend David Ronco**, Baptist
Minister, Central Baptist Association.

5 July 2017: Preacher: **The Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John**,
Dean, St Albans Cathedral.

2 August: Preacher: **The Reverend Rosemary Fletcher**,
Superintendent Minister,
The St Albans & Welwyn Methodist Circuit.

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

Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain: Reverend Simon Carver,



Trinity Fellowship Circle

Tuesdays at 7.30 pm

MAY

30 Janet Stow/Toddington

20 Sally Jones/Luton

27 Robin Gurney

JUNE

6 Visit to Dobbies Garden
Centre/Tea

13 Croquet @ Pages Park

JULY

4 Joan Gregory

15 (Saturday) Cream Tea @
Sarina & Donald's home

(Please contact Mary Edwards for further details.)

Flowers in church



MAY

28 Catherine Roots in
celebration and thanks
for the lives of my
husband Alan, mother
Edith and father
Kenneth.

18 Christine Taylor in loving
memory of her husband
Eric

25 Flower Circle — Circuit
celebration on
Dunstable Downs — 11 am

JUNE

4 Janette Cook, David & Fiona
Jane in loving memory of
husband and father Drew.

11 Grace Thorn in loving
memory of her dear husband
Fred, father of Kathy &
David

JULY

2 Flower Circle (Wedding)

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
- 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
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The next issue of Trumpeter will appear on
Sunday, 9 July. Deadline for contributions will be **NOON** on
FRIDAY, 30 JUNE 2017
Deadline for the following issue will be Friday, 11 August 2017



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

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Trumpeter Holiday Photo Competition



Everybody, it is said, now takes photographs. Trumpeter invites you to submit memories of your 2017 holiday. Entries will be judged by outstanding photographer, Chris Lowe and the Editor (that excludes them from taking part!). Closing date - 15 September 2017. The results will feature in later editions of Trumpeter. Prizes — that's a secret for now but winning entries will be printed in Trumpeter. Printed copies of photographs only will be accepted. Digital versions will be requested from winners. Entries may be placed in the Editor's rack at Trinity.

Go on — give it a go!