

Trumpeter

News and views for Trinity Methodist Church
Leighton Buzzard



*"Saint Carannog", Wales, by
Donald Wray. (See back page)*

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NOVEMBER 2017





Sunday services at Trinity will be conducted by:

NOVEMBER

- 19 10.30 Rev Seung-Wook Jung
- HC
6.00 Local arrangements
- 26 9.15 Early Church
10.30 Local arrangements
6.00 Rev Seung-Wook Jung
- Cafe

DECEMBER

- 3 8.30 Rev Seung-Wook Jung
- HC
10.30 Rev Seung-Wook Jung
Parade and gift service
6.00 Roger Owers

- 10 9.15 Early Church
10.30 Joan Gregory
6.00 Sunday Night Live @
The Square
- 17 10.30 Rev Wallace Edwards
- HC
6.00 Rev Seung-Wook Jung
Circuit Service
- 24 10.30 Rev Nina Johnson
4.30 Messy Christmas - All
age
23.30 Rev Seung-Wook Jung
HC
- 25 10.30 Rev Seung-Wook Jung
31 10.30 Rev Seung-Wook Jung

Tuesday Worship at Trinity *(followed by refreshments)*



10.00 am to 10.30 am will be led by:

NOVEMBER

- 21 Rev Seung-Wook Jung - HC
28 Cilla & Phil Wagner

DECEMBER

- 5 Rev Wyn Jones
12 Colin Dimmock
19 Roger Owers
26 No Service

‘Be still for the presence of the Lord’ is one of my favourite songs. And it is also what I try to be.

Responding to an urgent need and making quick decisions lead me to make mistakes. There is a Korean proverb: ‘When in a hurry, take the long way round’ which essentially has the same meaning as the English proverb ‘Haste makes waste.’ We know too well about our mistakes from hurried decisions but sometimes we find ourselves in circumstances that make it inevitable.

While I was moving into Linnet Way I found myself in that situation quite a few times and I did make a few mistakes. Thankfully none of them were serious but I did need to spend some time and money to fix them. But if our mistakes affect relationships, it is not easy to fix ‘normally’. We have to spend much more time and en-

From the Manse



ergy rebuilding that relationship. It is the same with God.

Christmas is coming and soon it will be one of the busiest times of the year again. So this is the moment. Before we prepare for Christmas, before we are hurled into the time of busyness, we need to think about ‘being still’. And savouring the time we spend with friends, family, and most importantly God.

And lastly, thank you for all your prayers and support for our move into Linnet Way. It went well.

Seung-Wook

Sermon without words

For many years old George operated a small ferryboat service between two remote islands, using his rowing boat. On one occasion a passenger noticed that on the handle of one of his oars there was carved the word FAITH and on the other the word ACTION. When asked about the significance of the carvings, George simply slowed the boat, lifted one of the oars out of the water and pulled hard on the other. The result, of course, was that the boat went round in a circle. He then did the same with the other oar. He smiled at the passenger, then pulled on both oars and they soon reached their destination.

The Editor writes



Do you sometimes feel that the world is falling apart? Resignations in the government here, threat of a great famine in Yemen, continuing nuclear confrontation on the Korean peninsula — and countless other world stories that consume our headlines and face us with the realities of what we still like to call “God’s world”.

Did God really intend that it should be like this? Of course not. But he made us free agents and as we see daily, evil is ever present and often seems to be winning.

Of course the world has often been in a bad way — read the Old Testament about all the wars that were going on in those days. Today we hear about them every hour, rather than months or years after.

But God had a plan. And we are about to celebrate part of that plan as we come up to the Christmas period — the birth of a Saviour, — Jesus Christ, God incarnate. Amid all the frippery and present giving let us never forget what is the real Christmas story — the redemption

of the world. It might seem far off but in this interim period we can work and pray for each and every situation that disturbs us, in the knowledge that ultimately God is still in command.

In this issue we report two notable experiences at Trinity — the Harvest Festival and the visit of the Treorchy Male Choir — both bringing joy and happiness to many.

On our front and back covers we feature the three winners of the Trumpeter holiday photo competition. Thanks to all who took part. The worthy winners — Donald Wray, first prize (front page), and Mary Edwards and Helen Edwards, Commendations (back page). A small token of appreciation will be presented on the day this issue appears.

On page nine is the announcement of a special issue of Trumpeter to carry all your Christmas Greetings. This has become something of a tradition at Trinity so I thought we would make it special. Owing to my indisposition (due to hip replacement) I would appreciate email, snail mail or telephone entries rather than just popping it in the rack.

Thanks for all your help.

REG



A report in The Guardian and on BBC Autumn Watch stated that in 27 years there has been a decline of 78% in flying insects. Wasps, flies, beetles and moths, etc., as well as other species are an integral part of life as both pollinators and prey. Their loss will have a profound impact on humans. Insects make up about two-thirds of life on earth. They pollinate flowers, and provide food for birds, bats, fish, reptiles and some small mammals. Their losses are most likely due to widespread use of pesticides, destruction of habitat, and climate change.

The UN has denounced the widespread dousing of whole landscapes with pesticides, as unnecessary. This practice provides no real benefit to farmers while decreasing soil quality, air and biodiversity. Moreover they contaminate water, food and air.

There is no monitoring of the facts so it could take years for the impact to be known. Environment Secretary Michael Gove, has said that changes to pesticide rules are being considered.

(NB: Car drivers used to have

their windscreens spattered with dead insects but hardly ever now.)

Researchers in Switzerland have found traces of pesticides in honey world wide. The concentration is very low. Honey is an excellent indicator of pesticide pollution across bees local landscapes as they travel far to collect pollen and nectar.

The Health Research Institute has found traces of the weed killer glyphosate in Ben & Jerry's ice cream but not enough to cause health problems.

A disturbing report from Butterfly Conservation concerns the wedding industry and "butterfly confetti". Live butterflies are released from a box during wedding ceremonies — £350 for 50 guests to hold a box containing a butterfly. When the boxes are opened the butterflies fly like a cloud to the air conditioning (which could spread diseases and prevent conservation). The happy couple embark on married life in a cloud of dismembered butterfly parts.

Now that the season of colds and sneezing has arrived experts are calling on the public to wash their hands for 20 seconds to get rid of germs. It is the only safe way of eradicating viruses and bacteria. 84% of us do not wash our hands for long enough. Twenty seconds is the time it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice.

Singing is good for us as well!

Janet Graham

Harvest Festival challenge at Trinity

The Parade and Harvest Festival Service in October demonstrated the importance of helping those who are less fortunate.

Richard Bates introduced the theme by saying:

“We are giving these goods to the homeless project. So many people around the world have less than we do, and yet we live in a town and culture of haves — we have so much.

“I remember coming back from my two years in Eritrea, and, as it was lunch-time, my sister and I agreed I would go and get some bread, so I walked across the road from my flat to Morrisons. I found the bread aisle ... I was stuck. I wanted bread ... but I was stuck ... rye, bagel, rolls, whole, brown, seeded, floury, freshly baked, manufactured, sliced, unsliced, thick, thin, toastable Aaaaaagh! I had to phone my sister. I truly could not cope! We have so much.

“And yet, there are people so close to home who do not have enough. People who struggle to feed their family each day, people who go without in order to feed



*A selection of donated goods
(Photo: Anne Gray)*

their children. People who have to choose between eating and heating. People who have lost their job, had marriage breakdown, had health issues and ended up with no home.

“Poverty isn’t a life choice, it is circumstantial.

“People in this church and other churches in the local area work hard to help homeless people in Leighton Buzzard. The goods brought in today will help make a huge difference, providing food for meals, and products to help those in need.

“If we had nothing, what would we need?”

Nobel Peace Prize Congratulations

The Rev Loraine N Mellor and Jill Baker, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, congratulated the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

ICAN, a coalition of hundreds of non-governmental organisations and faith groups, received the award after being instrumental in getting the majority of the world's nations to sign up to a UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. In recognition for their work towards peace, ICAN will receive nine million Swedish kronor (£940,000) in prize money towards their cause.

The Rev Loraine N Mellor said: "Nuclear weapons are totally opposed to the love that God has for humankind. They represent a denial of hope, a challenge to community and a threat to peace. We live in a world of tension and it is becoming abundantly clear that nuclear weapons do not make us safer but are themselves a source of fear and dispute."

The Methodist Church has consistently stated that nuclear weapons are incompatible with

ethical principles and international law. It has advocated for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons through resources and support of community action. Methodist Church leaders and members have joined with other churches and faith groups in the UK on many occasions, for example with statements in 2015 and in 2016

Jill Baker added: "This recognition of the important work of ICAN ... could not be more appropriate. Through this campaign, peace activists, lawyers, city mayors, faith leaders, survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and many others are speaking with one voice. The message is clear: there can be no moral or legal justification for threatening whole populations with devastating and indiscriminate nuclear weapons. Following the introduction of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the test of a responsible nuclear weapons power will be its commitment to present concrete plans for progressing towards a world without nuclear weapons."

(Methodist News)

Caribbean hurricanes — Methodist support

Hurricane Irma struck the Caribbean at the beginning of September, and Hurricane Maria struck not long after. Both hurricanes caused the displacement of thousands of people in a number of countries, a number of deaths, power outages and extensive damage to property and infrastructure.

Our most affected Partner Churches were in the Antigua and Barbuda District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA) and the Methodist Church in Cuba.

The World Mission Fund sent a solidarity grant of £10,000 to the Cuban Methodist Church, to support the rebuilding of manses and churches in the districts of Villa Clara, Ciego de Avila and Holguin Norte. The Cuban state will

offer humanitarian aid, while some of the solidarity funds will be used to buy mattresses, clothes and basic foodstuffs to give to local communities.

Puerto Rico was badly hit by Hurricane Maria. Over three million people were without electricity on the island at one point.

The money raised by generous donations to our Caribbean hurricane appeal has been sent to our relief and development partner in the region, the United Committee on Development and Relief (UMCOR). Presently, UMCOR is working with the MCCA, the Methodist Church in Cuba and the Methodist Church in Puerto Rico to evaluate the damage caused by both hurricanes.

(World Church News)

Does anybody do anything at our church?

There was an important job to be done at the church. Everybody was sure that somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but nobody did. Somebody got angry about that, because it was everybody's job. Everybody thought anybody could do it, but nobody realised that everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that everybody blamed somebody when nobody did what anybody could have done. Ah well! I'll do it myself.

Trumpeter will have a special edition in December featuring your Christmas Greetings



For a number of years Trumpeter has opened its pages for your Christmas Greetings. The idea is that you send your greetings in this manner to those in the church in lieu of sending cards. The money you save can then be given to your favourite charity. It's also ecological!

This special edition will appear on Sunday, 17 December. The absolute deadline for entries is

FRIDAY, 8 DECEMBER at 12 noon.

NB: Email, snail mail and telephone messages most welcome. Items in the rack at Trinity might not reach me in time. Ed.

Christmas Eve Nativity.

Due to a lack of volunteers for the 'traditional' Messy Church event, we will be having a Christmas Eve Nativity Service followed by Messy Church Activities with drinks and cakes; 4.30-6.00 pm, 24 December. This will follow the format of an all age nativity service (4.30-5.15 pm) led by Jane & Graham Seaton (children are encouraged to dress up!) and then drinks and mince pies in the hall. During refreshment time there will be several tables out with Messy Church style crafts and activities for anyone to participate in. This will be an all age friendly service and activity -- we want the whole church congregation to feel a part.



Treorchy Male Choir thrill Trinity

In a demonstration of professionalism the world famous Treorchy Male Choir thrilled the capacity audience at Trinity in October.

A stirring version of Men of Harlech began the programme and showed the capability of the choir to both fill the church with glorious sound and register the piano passages with clear diction and attention to detail.

Originally formed in 1883 the choir folded because of the two world wars and the great depression. It was reformed in 1946 and has since travelled the world taking its music to Canada, the

United States, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and France as well as throughout the United Kingdom.

The choir has shared the stage with some of the world's great entertainers, such as Harry Secombe, Tom Jones, Katherine Jenkins, Bryn Terfel and Cliff Richard.

In a mixed programme of favourite melodies, the first half of which featured mainly Welsh language items -- Calon Lan and Cwm Rhondda stood out until, that is, the entertaining compere told the story of how the choir had

(Continued on next page)

Treorchy Male Choir thrill Trinity

participated in France in the celebrations to mark the centenary of the First World War in 1917 and introduced the song Roses of Picardy. The rendering of this caused all to both remember and reflect on the horrors of that war and how so many gave their lives that we might live.

The second half of the programme included an African melody and the well-known You Raise Me Up. The concert closed with the National Anthem and the Welsh Anthem Land of My Fathers.

The concert was splendidly organized by Marilyn Powell (I'm sure with the support of her fam-

ily!) on behalf of the 1st Leighton Buzzard Girls' Brigade, celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, and Trinity Fellowship Circle.

The aim of the concert was to raise funds for the St Francis Children's Society, an independent adoption agency and children's charity.

The charity is especially committed to finding families for children who wait longest in the care system. Most of these children will have had a difficult start in life and are likely to have been neglected or abused.

The final result of the concert showed that £1500 plus was raised by this sell-out event.

Science and religion

While many claim science and religion shouldn't mix, a new survey has suggested almost a third of scientists have a faith in God. One thousand people were questioned from professions linked to science with 13 per cent saying they practised a religious faith and 18 per cent saying they were non-practicing, but religious. Around 25 per cent said they were atheist suggesting scientists are more likely to be religious than atheist. A quarter of respondents said science and religion were contradict-

ory but just under half said the two cannot be compared as they refer to different things. Speaking to Premier Christian Media about the findings, Professor Keith Fox, from the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion said: "I don't see a conflict between the two. "Science itself is fairly neutral as to whether there is or isn't a God. It's a wonderful world that we live in - science is privileged to explore it but there's limits to what it can do and what it can say."

News from Eaton Bray

Our first service in October was a moving Communion Service led by our Minister, Rev Nigel Bibbings. He reminded us of the need for us to look out for others as well as ourselves in these uncertain times. Focusing on the fallibility of humans, he pointed out that God understands when we change our minds or make mistakes. This does not excuse wrong behaviour but as Christians we always have the chance to start again.

Fiona Arscott-Smith, a welcome visitor to our pulpit, took our service on the second Sunday. Her sermon was drawn from Jesus' "parable of the evil farmers"; its warning to stay true to His teachings and not become prescriptive or presumptive in the manner we practise our faith.

In the Cafe Service on the following Sunday our own Keith Blackburn focused on the proposition that 'Every day is a gift from God'. The discussion was enlightening and we count ourselves well blessed to have gifted members who can lead us in Local Arrangements.

Tina Salmon, a familiar and well-loved preacher, visited us on the fourth Sunday. The theme for

her sermon was from Matthew 22:17 Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar? It was a thought-provoking message about the choices we as Christians have to make. We have to decide sometimes between loyalty to God and loyalty to our nation state/government.

At our cafe lunches and several of our services we have had a craft stall loaded with an astonishing and ingenious array of beautifully crafted gifts made by June Jarrett and Celia James and these have raised a significant amount of money. We are indeed fortunate to have such skilled and generous members.

Dates for your Diary:

Cafe Community Sat-
aturday, 11 February 2018 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.

Social Afternoons
Weekly on Thursdays 1.30 pm
—3.30 pm

Chat, meeting friends, games, refreshments. All Welcome.

In an office where it seemed everything had to be done as though there was no tomorrow, a thoughtful new employee soon got the message and he made a big sign which stood on the edge of his desk. It read A S A P. One of the directors was doing the rounds and he said to the young man, "Good for you, 'As Soon As Possible' eh? You've clearly got the message." The young man replied, "Yes sir, but for me the message is, 'Always Say A Prayer' and I find it helps me a lot." The director was lost for words!

Prayer Corner

O Lord our God, from whom neither life nor death can separate those who trust in your love, and whose love holds in its embrace your children in this world and the next, so unite us to yourself that in fellowship with you we may always be united to our loved ones whether here or there; give us courage, constancy and hope; through him who died and was buried and rose again for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple (1881-1944))



Thanks for life of Geoff Bocutt — much loved local preacher



There was a packed congregation at Toddington to celebrate and give thanks for the life of Geoff Bocutt who died on 25 September after a battle with brain tumours. Geoff was much appreciated at Trinity both on Sundays and in the Tuesday worship. The following poem was read by his son Paul, at the service:

The Final flight

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard his call,

I turned my back and left it all.

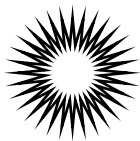
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savoured much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my life seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

(Anonymous)



Trinity Fellowship Circle

Tuesdays at 7.30 pm

NOVEMBER

- 21 Peter Baker
- 28 Rev Peter Dudeney

DECEMBER

- 5 Christmas dinner
- 12 To be announced
- 19 Christmas Party
- 26 No meeting

Flowers in church

NOVEMBER

- 19 Marina and Carina Mele in loving memory of Marina's father and brother
- 26 Evelyn Frankland in loving memory of my darling husband Derek

DECEMBER

- 3 Toy Service - Flower Circle
- 10 'Cilla & Phillip Wagner in



- loving memory of our little daughter Celeste, sister to Christian
- 17 Ken & Joan Gregory and Jean Farmer in loving memory of their parents
- 24 Flower Fund
- 31 Flower Fund

We were sorry to hear of two recent deaths of people associated with Trinity.

Maureen Thomas, wife of local preacher Paul Thomas, a former Scout Group leader at Trinity died in October. Her funeral was to be held at Stewkley Methodist

Church on 16 November.

Peter Hopkins, well-known by many at Trinity, also died in October. His funeral was also to be held at St Barnabas Church on 16 November.

Condolences to both families.

Weekly activities at Trinity

SUNDAY

- 8.30 Holy Communion. Optional breakfast (usually 1st Sunday in month)
- 9.15 Food 4 Thought (Chatteris Suite - returns in the Spring)
- 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 (Christmas Greetings edition) will appear on
Sunday, 17 December. Deadline for contributions will be

NOON on FRIDAY, 8 December 2017

Deadline for the following issue will be Friday, 26 January 2018



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

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TRUMPETER HOLIDAY PHOTO COMPETITION



The Trumpeter Holiday Photo competition attracted some 20 entries. The judges, Chris Lowe and Robin Gurney were unanimous in their choice of winners. Donald Wray's depiction of "Saint Carannog" in Wales (see front page) was adjudged the Best in Competition and the two on this page (top, Mary Edwards, "Bath"; bottom, Helen Edwards, "Portugal at Night") were Highly Commended. Thanks to all who entered.

