

Trumpeter

News and views for Trinity Methodist Church
Leighton Buzzard



"In the grip of winter" Photo: REG

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FEBRUARY 2018





Sunday services at Trinity will be conducted by:

FEBRUARY

- 4 8.30 Rev S-K Jung - HC
10.30 Peter Baker - Songs of Praise
6.00 Steve Rogers
- 11 9.15 Early Church
10.30 Roger Owers
6.00 Sunday Night Live @ Olive Tree

- 18 10.30 Rev S-K Jung - HC
6.00 Christina Salmon
- 25 9.15 Early Church
10.30 Local arrangements
6.00 Rev S-K Jung - Cafe

Tuesday Worship at Trinity *(followed by refreshments)*



10.00 am to 10.30 am will be led by:

FEBRUARY

- 6 Rev S-K Jung - HC
13 Robin Gurney
20 Roger Owers
27 Cilla & Phil Wagner

MARCH

- 6 Rev S-K Jung - HC
13 Elisabeth Bibbings
20 Ken Harris
27 Frankie Fisher

Trinity Methodist Church
North Street, Leighton Buzzard

Bric-a-Brac and Bacon Butties

Saturday 3 March
9.00 am to 12.30 pm

Instead of making a New Year's resolution
Consider committing to a biblical solution
-Mary Fairchild

When I asked "What is your new year's resolution for 2018?", quite a few people said "I don't make it anymore" and I think many people can understand why.

Making and failing is not a pleasant experience and especially if it keeps on happening for years and years.

So Mary Fairchild's suggestion could be a good solution for that matter. But is it really any different? We know how things will go with our new year's resolution as I mentioned but don't we know about biblical solutions? How many times have we tried to commit ourselves to a biblical solution and failed?

**From
the
Manse**



Not every resolution has failed but many have and I think it is the same with a biblical solution. The only problem in both of the cases is that we get tired of trying, too easily. And it reminds me what the Bible says in Galatians 6:9 "So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest."

We have another new year like we have had many times but whether it becomes really new or not depends on us. If we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest!

Seung-Wook

A blessing in disguise

It was a cold winter's Sunday. As we approached the church we saw a scruffy looking man leaned up against the wall outside. He wore a long shabby trench coat, a hat pulled down to shield his face and shoes full of holes. Like many we glanced in his direction and walked by into church. A couple near to us were chatting about the man, but it seemed no-one had bothered to approach him. We were waiting for the preacher to take his place. We heard a few gasps from the back. The man we had passed was walking down the aisle to the front with his head down. He approached the pulpit, took off his hat and coat, and there stood our preacher! He took his Bible from the stand and said, "I don't think I have to tell you what I am preaching about today."

The Editor writes



What does the turning over of a page in the diary, or starting a new one, do for you? It always strikes me as a bit odd that just because we change the date and start a new year we expect things to change. Whether it be because of New Year resolutions, which are rarely kept, or whether the nations of the world are going to turn over a new leaf, beggars belief.

Having said that, it has been sobering to see the welcome, although limited, rapprochement between the two Korean states. Maybe it is only sport that has brought them closer together but at least it seems to have dampened the tension a little.

In our own country 2018 will be a decisive year in our relationship with the rest of the European Union and with the rest of the world. While all acknowledge that the referendum was won by a narrow margin of voters it is also a fact that only 37 per cent of the eligible voting population went

along that line. What will eventually happen is anyone's guess.

And in our own church and churches in this land — what will happen? Many new initiatives will be started, old ones will be discarded as having run their course. I am convinced though, that the Church of Christ will go on. It will have setbacks, it will have advances, it will have joys and sorrows, but the Holy Spirit of God will continue working in the hearts of all who seek to move closer to the one who died on Calvary for our sins.

Lent begins in a couple of weeks (14 February) and that is the time for reflection and study in the period leading up to Easter — which this year will be celebrated on 1 April. Look out for the Churches Together groups which will be meeting throughout the town and if possible join one. You will benefit spiritually and socially for joining in such a gathering.

Thanks to all who regularly comment and encourage the editor of this newsletter and an especial thanks to those who submit material for publication. It is always most welcome.

I note that this is the 84th edition that I have edited! Wow, how time flies.

REG



The news at present is full of rubbish, mainly plastic, and of how to dispose of it. The use of almost indestructible materials to make single use products is bound to lead to problems. Last November the Treasury said how taxes and other charges on single use plastics like coffee cups and takeaway cartons would be a welcome move and could reduce the impact of dumped plastic on bird and marine life.

WWF director of science said: "any action to tackle single use plastics would be a good thing but we must be sure any action is truly ambitious if we want to make a real difference and help save the planet."

Some coffee shops offer discounts for customers who bring their own cups. MPs are calling for a 25p charge to reduce the numbers thrown away. Only one in four hundred can be recycled as they are made from cardboard with a tightly bonded plastic liner.

Some coffee chains have introduced recycling bins for cups that are sent to one of three specialist recycling facilities.

A week or so ago the Prime Minister announced a 25 year plan to crack down on using plastics and to stop all avoidable plastic waste. The only immediate plan seems to be to widen the 5p charge for a plastic bag, to smaller shops.

A Greenpeace spokesperson said the environment needs a 25 month emergency plan, more than a 25 year vision, in order to tackle climate change, air pollution, fracking.

WWF said: "These commitments will only become a reality if they are backed up by the force of law, money, and a new environmental watchdog."

Recycling centres are mainly run by local authorities who have been hit hard by austerity cuts. Plastic is now so pervasive that systems cannot keep up. Most plastic waste ends up in landfill and leaks into the natural environment causing huge damage to eco-systems.

The problem has been highlighted because of the Chinese decision to no longer accept our plastic waste.

Janet Graham

Pastoral Care — Can You Help?

The reorganisation of the Pastoral system is virtually complete. However, we do need some new Pastoral Friends, to replace those who have retired after many years of service. There are still a few people who are not attached to a house group or Pastoral Friend and who would appreciate someone specifically for them.

The role of Pastoral Friend is similar to that of the former Pastoral Visitor. However, the new title denotes the fact that not everyone will want a visit, some people prefer a phone call, an email or a text. The important thing is to maintain a link with the person who is allocated to you and be a friend within the church community. If there are any difficulties or concerns, Patience and I are available to talk to, or it may

be more appropriate to contact Seung-Wook.

Anyone undertaking the role of Pastoral Friend has to have a DBS police check and participate in Safeguarding Training. They also need to be a member of the church. If you would like to consider taking on this important role and want to discuss this further, then please contact Patience or myself, after 13 February.

*Patience Owers and
Sue Horsefield
(Pastoral Co-ordinators)*



A guide for 2018

Looking in all directions

LOOK UPwith wonder

LOOK BACKwith gratitude

LOOK AROUNDwith love

LOOK WITHINwith honesty

LOOK AHEADwith expectation

Thinking Lunch in St Albans

This month's Thinking Lunch will be held on **Thursday, 1 February 2018, at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans** and will feature Tim and Mayonne Coldicott of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions. They will be speaking on "Saving Israel – what next for the Palestinians?"

In 1962, as a post-graduate student, Tim worked on a kibbutz close to Nazareth. He then travelled around Israel, before taking up his career in industry. In 1968, eight months after the "Six Day War", Tim and Mayonne visited Israel. Jerusalem, now under military occupation, was empty of tourists and the destruction of Arab property had begun.

In 2013, shocked by the film "The Promise", Tim and Mayonne took a political study tour to Israel/Palestine, and returned four times. Meeting Palestinians and Jews, in Israel and the occupied West Bank, they have repeatedly been asked: "don't forget us; tell what you have seen". People whose homes had been demolished have said "we refuse to be victims; we simply want to live in peace on our land". Bereaved people from both communities meet and share experiences, say-

ing "we refuse to hate". The personal risk these activists take in campaigning for justice and human rights for all demands support. The prolonged military occupation damages Israelis as well as the families and society in occupied Palestine.

Tim and Mayonne are now retired. Mayonne's career includes a degree in Psychology, Marriage Guidance, Personnel Management in industry, and outplacement consultancy. Her volunteer work includes hospice home support, and the community village shop. Tim's career developed into management consultancy. He also worked as a Relate counsellor, trained as a Family Therapist, and worked in the NHS in an adolescent in-patient unit.

The lunch is at **Marlborough Road Methodist Church**, 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm, drinks are provided but bring your own sandwiches!

The charity chosen is the Israeli Committee against House Demolitions, recognising its role in supporting families affected by Israel's policies, and enabling people to learn about the needs and dreams of Israelis and Palestinians.

Trinity to host Women's World Day of Prayer



The international and interdenominational movement of the Women's World Day of Prayer invites you to attend the service being held on **Friday, 2 March in Trinity**. This will be one of some 5000 services being held that day with the title "All God's Creation is Very Good". It is estimated that some three million people, men and women, around the world will join that day in a service, which this year has been compiled by women in Surinam, South America.

Starting in Samoa as the sun rises, and ending as the sun sets off the coast of American Samoa,

the service will have been translated into more than 95 languages and 1000 dialects as we are reminded that we have responsibilities in caring for this wonderful world in which we live.

This service is for all the people of Leighton Buzzard and District, so be sure to invite all your church friends as well as others who might be interested.

The service is being organised by a group from Trinity, led by Catherine Roots. Mark the date and show your support: **Friday, 2 March at 2.30 pm**.

Angel shower thanks

A very big thankyou to everyone involved in any way in the Angel Shower over the Christmas period. It was a great success — more than we ever hoped for. There will be more in the next Trumpeter, but until then, thankyou again.

Sandra Digby

Time for a smile

A minister was giving a children's address on the subject of 'big words which are difficult to understand', with the object of explaining the meaning of some of the more obscure words in the Bible. He asked at one point if any of the children knew what a Thesaurus was and a bright young girl at the front shot up her hand and said, "It's a dinosaur named Roget with a big vocabulary."

A more accurate New Testament

Bible scholars have claimed that they have used early Greek manuscripts to create a more accurate version of the New Testament.

The new edition, printed in its original Greek, was published recently by researchers from Tyndale House, a bible research institute in Cambridge. Dr Dirk Jongkind, vice-principal of the institute, explained in a press release the motive behind the new publication. He said: "The scribes who copied the texts that have become our earliest known manuscripts of the New Testament were only human, and inevitably they made small mistakes. The great thing is that now we have so much evidence at our fingertips, we can study the types of errors the New Testament scribes made and come to more informed conclusions about what the text being copied would have said."

The new version took 10 years to produce and the researchers have said it could pave the way for more accurate English translations. The New Testament was originally written in an early form of Greek in the first century but was translated into Latin.

An edition was published in the original Greek by Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus in 1516, which relied on early texts.

Dr Jongkind explained errors in earlier versions occurred for a number of reasons including when scribes included elements from Matthew's gospel while transcribing Mark's because they wrote from memory. He said, "Previous editors allowed themselves considerable liberty in standardising spelling, making paragraph divisions, deciding punctuation and other matters. This may hide significant data about the origin and even interpretation of the Greek New Testament. However, Christians need not be dismayed by their findings." He explained, "Christians will be relieved to know that our 10-year study of the most important manuscripts shows that while errors are part and parcel of the copying process, there is no evidence whatsoever of systematic revision of the text. So while a scribe might accidentally change 'Jesus Christ' to 'Christ Jesus', we don't encounter textual differences between the manuscripts that materially change the meaning."

History and contemporary action

In a recent sermon at Trinity Geofrey Best cited the words of Martin Luther: “Here stand I. I can do no other. God help me.” It was a reminder that 2017 celebrated the 500th anniversary of Luther nailing his 95 theses to the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany and, history tells us, fired the Protestant Reformation.

The 500th anniversary certainly caught the imagination of a wide spectrum of the media. Even the

revered *The Economist* carried a six page report under the title *The Stand* stating: “Protestantism shaped the development of the modern liberal West. What does its current revival mean for the developing world?”

While we in this country lament the falling congregations we should be aware that in other parts of the world, Latin America and parts of Asia, Protestant Churches, mainly Pentecostal but not exclusively, are gaining followers for Christ daily.

Don’t let us despair but go on witnessing for Christ.

(EN)

Fairtrade Fortnight

26 February — 11 March 2018

Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 will challenge the British public to open their doors to Fairtrade and help close the door on the exploitation facing the people who produce the things we love to eat, drink, and wear.

The nationwide celebrity fronted campaign ‘Come On In’ will run from Monday, 26 February until Sunday, 11 March and will invite you to come in to the world of the people who grow our food to see what life can be like when

farmers and workers aren’t paid fairly.

The campaign will also explore how businesses, farmers, workers and shoppers come together through Fairtrade to change this. Thousands of events will take place including breakfasts, breaks, bake-offs and more as people ‘come on in’ and find out more about Fairtrade.

Keep an eye open for local events

Bequests to Trinity

In the last few months Trinity has been left substantial legacies from Ann Pape and Viv Willis. We need to consider what would be an appropriate use for these legacies. There are no restrictions on what they could be used for.

Ann Pape gave a great deal to Trinity and the Circuit through her preaching. She particularly supported causes such as Christian Aid, Open the Book and eco issues.

Viv Willis was a lifelong supporter of Methodism in Leighton Buzzard. He often spoke about churches that his family building-firm had erected around the county.



We would like your help in suggesting projects that would be appropriate for these bequests. If you have any suggestions please talk about them and speak to myself or any member of the leadership team. Over the next few months the Resources Committee and the Leadership Team will be discussing possible projects and will be bringing suggestions to Church Council later in the year.

Roger Owers.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,
It was good to read all the greetings we send to each other in the December Trumpeter.

Once again Jean and I have been thinking about all those who were once part of our fellowship.

Are we the only ones who keep

in touch with folk who loved us and left us for one reason or another?

So we ask again where are they now? Come out from under the covers and tell us about past members who contacted you last Christmas.

We would love to hear their news.

Colin and Jean Dimmock

News from Eaton Bray

Our Carol Service was presented by the Sunday School and was a joyful celebration of the Christmas story. In an inspiring programme of carols, mimes, tableaux, readings and interactive sessions with the congregation, the young people made us think about the central facts of the Nativity by emphasising the importance of Christ's birth.

On the fourth Sunday we were welcomed by our friends at Edlesborough and on Christmas Day, they joined us in a service led by our Minister, Rev Nigel Bibbings, who gave a powerful message; although we do not know what the coming year will bring we have no need to fear. We have all the reassurance we need in Jesus Christ who came to us that special night so long ago.

Rogers Owers made a welcome return to lead our Communion Service on Sunday 31st. Could we say that Christmas was over? Indeed not. Jesus entered our world and changed it forever. As Simeon realised, Christ's birth was the fulfilment of a promise that God is always with us.

On the first Sunday in 2018 we welcomed back our own Jaque Stamp after several years of residence abroad. Her message focused on Epiphany – that 'moment of sudden realisation', when the

kings bearing gifts arrived to acknowledge the arrival of the greatest king of all. Jesus shook the world and Jaque asked us to take up the challenge, to use the gifts Jesus gave us on God's behalf.

The following Sunday was also a special one as we welcomed the Rev Dr David Chapman, Chair of District, to lead our Covenant Service. In the context of new beginnings, the anticipation and the fear that they inspire. David reminded us that the people of God turn back to God and the hope we have because of his steadfastness.

It was with pleasure that we heard Steve Rodgers had successfully completed his trial period. We enjoyed his visit on the third Sunday when he spoke vividly of Jesus's calling the disciples to work with him.

Dates for your Diary:

Cafe Community:

11.00 am – 1.00 pm.

Saturday 10 February 2018.

Saturday 10 March

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.

Prayer Corner

Saturday Prayers

We meet regularly from 9.00 - 9.30 am to pray for situations in the world and closer to home.

If you are unable to attend on a Saturday but would like to be involved by praying at home, please let us know.

The prayer board is there to be used. If you need prayer for someone, or some concern but need for it to be confidential, please put the prayer request in



an envelope and pin it to the board.

We welcome newcomers and those who can come occasionally. God Bless.

From the Prayer Group. *JLG*

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

7 February 2018

The Reverend Simon Carver,
Senior Minister,
Dagnall Street Baptist Church,
Free Church Chaplain, St Albans Cathedral.

7 March 2018

The Reverend Ian Green,
Minister,
Amersham Free Church.



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

*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**



Trinity Fellowship Circle

Tuesdays at 7.30 pm

FEBRUARY

- 6 The Sound of Music with Marilyn
- 13 Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Night
- 20 Games Night/Beetle Drive
- 27 St David's Night

MARCH

- 4 Sunday. Anniversary Tea and Service
- 6 'Before I became a Minister' with the Rev Wallace Edwards
- 13 Fish & chip supper

Flowers in church

JANUARY

- 28 Peter Baker in memory of Caroline and to give thanks for the fellowship and support of Trinity



loved and for continuing fellowship at Trinity

FEBRUARY

- 4 Mavis Edes in loving memory of her dear husband Ron

- 25 Janet & Roy Curzon in loving memory of Janet's parents

MARCH

- 11 Flower Circle
- 18 David & Julie Kellett in memory of all those we have
- 4 Betty Batt in loving memory of her husband Douglas
- 11 Mothers' Day - Flower Fund

A reputation is not so much built on what we do, but on who and what we are.

If it wasn't for the last minute, such a lot of things wouldn't get done.

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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Sunday, 18 March. Deadline for contributions will be

NOON on FRIDAY, Friday, 9 March 2018

Deadline for the following issue will be Friday, 20 April 2018



Website: Trinity: www.trinitylb.org.uk
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Trinity Methodist Church is a Registered Charity, No: 1151861



"Snowdrops — promise of Spring" Photo: REG

"It is always springtime in the heart that loves God"

Jean-Baptiste Marie Vianney, French Priest

His providence has brought us through
another various year;
we all with vows and anthems new
before our God appear.

Charles Wesley (Singing the Faith 127 v 2)