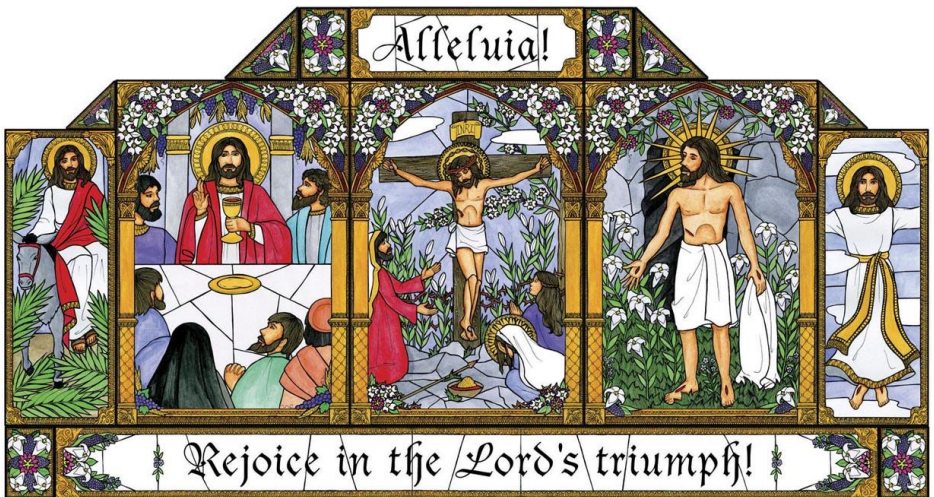


Trinity News

No. 485

April 2019



Trinity United Reformed Church
Mansel Road, Wimbledon

Minister's Letter



Dear Friends,

This month sees the culmination of Lent in the arrival of Holy Week, before Easter breaks upon us in triumph.

Looking back, the most profound Holy Week memory for me occurred several years ago when I was taking part in a Good Friday walk of witness through a Sussex village. It was a sunny day, and the volunteer marshals were doing sterling work in directing the traffic safely past us. All at once, an open-top car found itself having to pause alongside the procession for a moment. I'm glad to say there seemed to be no irritation on the part of either the walkers or the driver; but I was deeply struck by the lyrics of the song that happened to be playing at full volume on the car's stereo: Rihanna, *we found love in a hopeless place*.

The story of the culmination of Christ's life and ministry – the crucifixion on Skull Hill, by which he suffered a humiliating, tortured death on a trumped-up charge – is a story indeed of Love being found in a hopeless place. And the Church has never stopped singing.

On **Palm Sunday** 14 April, Christians from across Wimbledon will gather at 10am outside the Tesco Metro (formerly the Old Town Hall) next to Centre Court shopping centre – where a donkey will join us! We'll share in a short act of worship together before making our way to our various churches. At Trinity, this is scheduled to be our first Sunday back in the church after five Sundays worshipping in the Old Hall; as we share in a sequence of words and music for Palms and Passiontide, it'll be a fitting debut for our new digital organ.

For the first three days of **Holy Week**, I shall be providing a devotional reflection and prayer for use each day at home or at work. These will be made available in different formats: via Trinity's website and social media accounts, via email subscription, and in printed form for those who prefer.

On **Maundy Thursday** 18 April in the evening, when we remember and commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus, our Communion service

will include the symbolic washing of feet by which Jesus taught his disciples to serve one another. Traditionally this Maundy Thursday service concludes with a narration of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights.

We have two events on **Good Friday** 19 April: a 10.30am service of readings and reflections on the Cross of Jesus; and at 4pm "The People's Passion", a participative re-telling of the events leading up to Christ's crucifixion. Published and promoted by Riding Lights Theatre Company for use in local churches, this was a well-received and helpful feature of Trinity's Holy Week programme in 2018 and so we look forward to repeating it, together with friends from other churches, this year.

Sunday 21 April brings us at last to the celebration of **Easter Day**. The day begins with a dawn communion service at St Mark's Church of England (time to be confirmed, but it will be early!), followed by breakfast in the Mansel Road Centre. Then at 11am at our Easter Day Communion service we're delighted to be welcoming Revd Nigel Uden, Moderator of the United Reformed Church's General Assembly. Nigel is no stranger to Wimbledon: before moving to Cambridge a few years ago he was Moderator of our URC Southern Synod, and indeed he was brought up in the nearby Surrey Hills. Whilst here, Nigel will be dedicating the new digital organ. Above all, though, he will share with us the Easter declaration of an empty tomb by which we affirm that in Jesus Christ, God's irrepressible care for the world is made known, death's power over us is finally defeated, and we find Love even in what seemed to be a hopeless place.

Every Blessing

Domine

Church Family News



Baptism

On Sunday 24 February the Minister baptised Adrian O'Dwyer and he was then received into membership.



Deaths

Our sympathies are with Joyce Chiu Broadbent whose husband Michael died recently. The Minister officiated at the funeral service in Trinity on Saturday 2 March.

Alison Amies, a longstanding former member and the widow of a former Session Clerk of Trinity, who died at Hayling Island on 15 January, aged 101.



For your diaries!

Moderatorial visit on Easter Sunday

We look forward to welcoming the Revd Nigel Uden, an old friend of Trinity, and Moderator of URC General Assembly. Nigel will share the leadership of our Easter Celebration with Dominic and has agreed to dedicate the new organ during the Service.



Nigel became minister of St Columba's, now Downing Place, at the end of 2010, inducted to serve it and Fulbourn URC in a village some five miles east of Cambridge. The 2016 General Assembly of the United Reformed Church elected him to serve from 2018-2020 as its ministerial Moderator, alongside Mr Derek Estill, an elder from Blackburn.

He believes that worship and pastoral care undergird the life of a church as it serves God's mission to the community by 'participating in the movement of God's love toward people, since God is a fountain of sending love'

Wednesday Social Group

At the April meeting of the Group Vernon Williams, one of our own members, will be talking to us about his "Recollections". We look forward to hearing what he has to tell us!

The meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd April at 2.30pm and all will be very welcome.

The usual tea will be served after Vernon's talk.

There is a card available, showing the programme for the Group for the rest of the year. Please take one from the rack in the MRC entrance.

Christian Aid week 2019



Christian Aid week starts on 12 May, many volunteer door to door collectors will be needed for us to cover the streets around the church which we need to collect from. Please contact Margaret via the church office (office@trinitywimbledon.org).

If you would like to help but don't want to do it alone do get in touch. We do need help!

On the morning of Saturday 11 May there will be the annual Christian Aid Car Boot Sale in St Mary's field in the Village. Do come along; donate books or bric a brac for us to sell for Christian Aid or clear out your loft and come early with your car to sell your unwanted stuff. It is always a great event.

Margaret and Mike Tulloch

LECTIO DIVINA



Praying with the Scriptures

Lectio – Read the Scripture passage for the first time. Listen with the “ear of your heart”

Meditatio – Reflect, relish the words. Let them resound in your heart.

Oratio – Respond spontaneously, then return to repeating the word in your heart

Contemplatio – Rest in God, open yourself to a deeper hearing of the Word of God. Would you like to grow in your relationship with God? We will discover different ways of being in relations different moments of being with God.

The first Trinity Lectio Divina group will be on Tuesday 23 April at 7.30-9.00 pm at Rosalie Bolland’s home – email: robol@btinternet.com for further details.

News from Trinity Toddlers!

Every Friday morning in term time, the Old Hall is filled by the excited sounds of pre-school children playing happily with a wide range of toys. They are brought by their parents or childminders who also have an opportunity to meet and chat whilst keeping an eye on their charges.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are served throughout the morning. The sessions last from 10-11.30. There is always a craft or playdough table and a short story about half way through. The main highlight of the morning comes when we tidy the toys away and have a 'music time' usually led by Miriam Grant and her viola. During music time any birthdays are celebrated when the boy or girl wears a special birthday hat and an there is an enthusiastic rendering of 'Happy Birthday'!!

So popular is Toddlers that we have an ever-increasing waiting list, though there is always room for Trinity children. We are self-financing and in fact make a sizeable contribution to Trinity's funds.

The leaders of Trinity Toddlers are Miriam, Susan Collins and Janet Young with a rota of very willing 'coffee makers'. (If anyone would like to join the coffee rota please speak to one of us!!)



Junior Church Birthdays Happy Birthday to

12 Oliver Khurshid (17) 23 Lauren Probert (17)
17 Ella Mansfield (5) 23 Daniel Probert (17)

APRIL



3	Wed	14:30	Wednesday Social Group Speaker: Vernon Williams on "Recollections"
		20:00	Elders' Council
4	Thu	19:30	Prayer group
5	Fri	10:00	Trinity Toddlers
6	Sat	16:00	Pilots
7	SUN	10:30	Elders' Meeting
		11:00	Morning worship with Holy Communion
10	Wed	20:00	Church & Society
11	Thu	19:30	Prayer group
14	SUN	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	
		10:00	Ecumenical service at Wimbledon town centre
		11:00	Morning worship
18	Thu	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	
		19:30	Service with Holy Communion
19	Fri	<i>Good Friday</i>	
		10:30	Good Friday service

21	SUN	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	
		05:30	Easter Dawn Service at St Mark's CoE
		10:30	Elders' meeting
		11:00	Easter celebration with Holy Communion Led by the Minister & Revd Nigel Uden, Moderator of URC General Assembly
22	Mon	<i>Easter Monday Bank Holiday</i>	
25	Thu	19:30	Prayer group
		20:00	Children & Youth Work Team
26	Fri	10:00	Trinity Toddlers
		20:00	Friday Fellowship
28	SUN	10:00	Confirmation class
		11:00	Morning worship
30	Tue	20:00	Calendar Planning Group





As part of the Good Friday events this year, Trinity URC will be once again be hosting a performance of 'The People's Passion'.

Created by Riding Lights Theatre Company. It's an instant Passion Play everyone can take part in without having to act or learn lines.

Friday 19 April, 4-6pm at Trinity URC

From the roaring crowd at the entry into Jerusalem to the moving drama of the crucifixion, be part of the crowd that tells the Easter story. A powerful piece of theatre and worship, The People's Passion brings the community together to re-create the events of Holy Week.

Bring your friends, family, co-workers, neighbours... Let's have the church full for this special Holy Week experience! See you there!

Posters will be available – if you can take some to distribute let me know or I can send you the flier as an e version or jpeg.

Katrina Clifford

katrinamclclifford@googlemail.com

THE FINAL DATE FOR COPY FOR THE MAY EDITION OF
TRINITY NEWS TO REACH THE EDITOR IS 10 APRIL
PLEASE BE PROMPT

Merton Winter Night Shelter 2019

It's the final morning of this project. After breakfast has been served to our 10 (all male) guests, they will leave for an uncertain future. However, thanks to the amazing work of Nicki Zisman and her team, every one of them has a good prospect of having a roof over their head tonight.

Nicki is the project co-ordinator and has been since its start in 2012. This winter more people than ever have moved through the shelter, reflecting Nicki's ability to find help for them. This year, problems with drugs and alcohol have been more obvious than in previous times, though Trinity has had no trouble at any of its sessions. Rehab/detox services have been accessed but there is a need for general mental health support too, which is harder to find especially for non-English speakers.

You don't need to spend long with our guests to realise that it is very easy to become homeless. Most of Trinity's membership have a family support group as well as the church itself; for those without such a network, e.g. anyone who has grown up in care, when things go wrong the spiral downwards is steep. Moreover, the sense of shame experienced often prevents the victim from asking for help, nor appreciating how many people do actually care.

We wrote about the general structure of the programme in last month's Trinity News so won't repeat any of that here. 23 volunteers have contributed their time this year, including two new names both from outside the immediate Trinity family. Our marvellous team was Cynthia Betts, Grace de Grouchy, Phil de Grouchy, Christine Denwood, Penuel Downey, Lies Goodchild, Tanya Graham, Rev. Dominic Grant (who stepped in to save the day at short notice) Gwyn Hawden, Ian Henning, Roz Hubley, Michael Mackintosh, Ian McClelland, Jan McClelland, Michael Maguire, May Nicol, David Reeves, Maria Rice-Jones, Jean Taylor, Alban Thurston & Mike Tulloch. Massive thanks to everyone for their contributions.

We will need more volunteers next year, particularly for the early morning and overnight shifts. Any offers of help are always appreciated. Being part of the team can be enormously rewarding - both because what we do is greatly appreciated by all our guests, and through being part of a wider community group comprising people of

faith who similarly care about the homeless and are willing to do something about it.

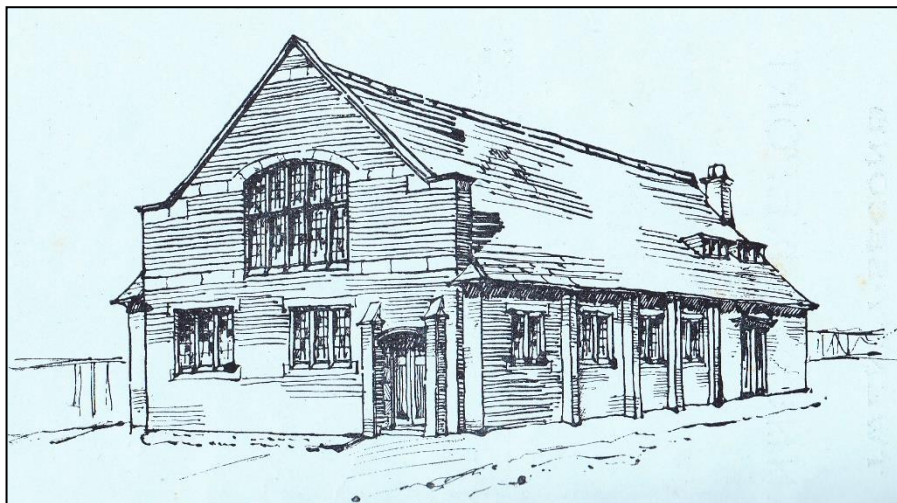
Please don't hesitate to contact any of us if you'd be interested in being involved in 2020 – presuming the project continues and Trinity's participation continues.

Ralph Goodchild ralphgoodchild@gmail.com

Rosalie Bolland rosbol@btinternet.com

Robin Goodchild robin.goodchild@sky.com

From the archives Through the decades No3: 1900s



St Cuthbert's Hall 1905

For Trinity probably the biggest event of the first decade of the 20th century was the dedication on 17 June 1905 of Trinity's Mission Hall, christened 'St Cuthbert's', in Effra Road. The cost of the land and the building amounted to £2344, most of which had been raised by the opening day.

Back in 1887, just six months after the arrival of Trinity's first minister, Revd W J Maxwell, it was decided to open a 'mission Sunday

School in South Wimbledon'. A small hall in Southey Road was rented and a circular letter was sent out inviting parents to send their children 'unless they attend another Protestant Church'.

Within two months there were 43 names on the roll. Numbers steadily grew and by the turn of the century it was clear that the Mission urgently needed new premises. So, the plot of land in Effra Road was purchased, funds were raised, and the hall was built.

By 1910 the St Cuthbert's Sunday school roll contained 341 names with an average weekly attendance of 261! It was announced that 'the school must now be considered as full and new scholars can only be admitted as vacancies occur'.

Alan Young

For the full story of St Cuthbert's, and indeed Trinity, visit the history section of the church website.



St Cuthbert's District Presbyterian Church in 1937

Stop Press:

Two views of work in progress in the church last month, during the first week of organ dismantling activity. Watch for images of the work completed in May edition of Trinity News.



Further photos can be seen on Trinity's website and Facebook page.

