

# *Trinity News*

July/August 2020



*Celebrating 500 editions  
of Trinity News*

Trinity United Reformed Church  
Mansel Road, Wimbledon



## Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

Tucked away on a shelf in my study is a box stuffed with assorted cables, dongles, adapters and accessories accumulated over the years. Each of these has, at one time or another, been connected to my computer in order to fulfil a useful function. In theory, some of them might still be able to do so in the right circumstances. But for many of them the moment has passed; although I've held on to them on the basis they "might come in handy sometime", I'm grudgingly aware that they now represent outdated technology. If they still work at all they'll be excruciatingly slow, and indeed my current system may simply refuse to recognise them at all.

To give credit where it's due, the big tech companies have gone some way towards extending the useful life of older products. "Backwards-compatibility" is built-in to many new products: thus DVDs still work in Blu-ray disc players, and (for those to whom this means anything) a USB 2 cable will still fit a USB 3 socket. But every so often - whether prompted by technological constraints or simply market conditions - a manufacturer will decide that it's time to move on from support for such "legacy products"; the old cables will no longer fit the new sockets, and earlier accessories simply won't work anymore.

When that happens, we might meet it with a mixture of frustration and annoyance. We might even resist "upgrading", preferring to hold on to our existing equipment even if it means forgoing the prospect of improved speed or reliability. But in time, once the fuss has died down and any teething-troubles have been ironed out, we may allow ourselves to try out the new version - and we may even allow ourselves to enjoy it.

In our faith and practice as Christians too, we're sometimes obliged by circumstance to set aside familiar patterns because they simply won't fulfil their intended purpose any more. Jesus himself described this when, using the imagery of his day, he said: *"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved"* (Matthew 9.16-17). When something utterly new comes about, what's demanded is a readiness to respond, to change what must be changed – for if we were to refuse and resist, we'd risk losing everything.

At the time of writing, opportunities to gradually ease the Covid-19 lockdown come amid fears of a renewed spike in the spread of the disease; it's a delicate balance to navigate. Whether a gradual reopening of Trinity for worship begins soon or not-quite-so-soon, it's clear that there won't be a speedy or simple return to "how things were before".

But often, when adverse events force us to strip away our accumulated habits, the experience can help us discover new blessings that will endure. Not that I'm suggesting the pandemic is a mere pretext for God's "higher purpose" - such suffering does not fit the modus operandi for God who is Love. Without doubt, though, we have been brought to a circumstance that is unprecedented, and God is at work in the re-evaluation this has prompted of all that we are and all that we do.

As our recent congregational Survey, helpfully and enthusiastically completed by so many of you, has begun to clarify: there are some aspects of our life together which we miss and yearn to resume, but there are other areas where we may now feel emboldened to try doing things differently.

With every blessing



# Worship "At Home"

**Join the Services via any of the following:**

Trinity's website: [www.trinitywimbledon.org](http://www.trinitywimbledon.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/trinitywimbledon.org](https://www.facebook.com/trinitywimbledon.org)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/TrinityWimbledn](https://www.twitter.com/TrinityWimbledn)

Subscription email service: sign up via the Trinity website (as above):  
follow the link in the left-hand column of the home page

## Sunday 5 July

Rest and Revelation (Matthew 11.25-30)

## Sunday 12 July

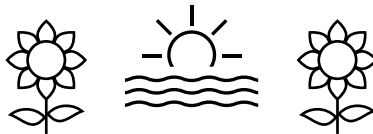
How does your garden grow? (Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23)

## Sunday 19 July

10:30 Southern Synod Service for all ages, including Communion

## Sunday 26 July

What's it worth? (Matthew 13.44-52)



## Sunday 2 August

A little goes a long way (Matthew 14.13-21)

## Sunday 9 August

Wind and Wave (Matthew 14.22-33)

## Sunday 16 August

Pushing the Boundaries (Matthew 15.21-28)

## Sunday 23 August

"Do you know who I am?" (Matthew 16.13-20)

## Sunday 30 August

Cards on the Table (Matthew 16.21-28)



## Synod Service – 19 July

On 19 July at 10:30 we will be joining the online Synod all-age service including Communion. This will be led by Revd Bridget Banks (newly nominated Moderator of Southern Synod). Revd George Watt (minister of Reigate Park URC and currently providing Moderatorial Cover with Bridget) will be speaking. There will be involvement from others in the Synod.

There will no separate service from Trinity on that day, but everyone is encouraged to join the Synod service. Full joining details will be circulated before 19 July.

## Coffee time for everyone at Trinity



Following the Synod service on 19 July there will be an opportunity to join friends at Trinity for coffee time by Zoom at 12:00. Make your own coffee, pull up a chair and enjoy 30 minutes of chat! If lots of people join, we will split off into smaller rooms so there will be room for everyone. Joining details will be sent out nearer the day.

## Church Family News

To all those celebrating birthdays in **July**  
(including Ellie Chau, Janet Mutelo, Dodie Khurshid, Ian Henning and Joshua Scharinger)

and in **August** (including Gayle Derrick, Sarah Elliot, Robin Ingram, Gilli Lewis-Lavender, Cameron Lowe, Maddie Lowe, Olivia Ray, Tania Ray, Elizabeth Scharinger, Christine van der Walt and Lesley Wilmot)

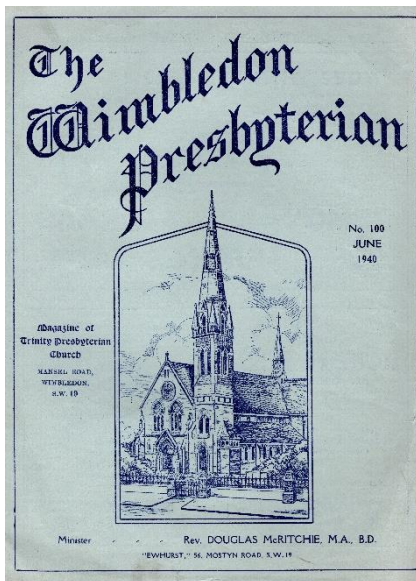
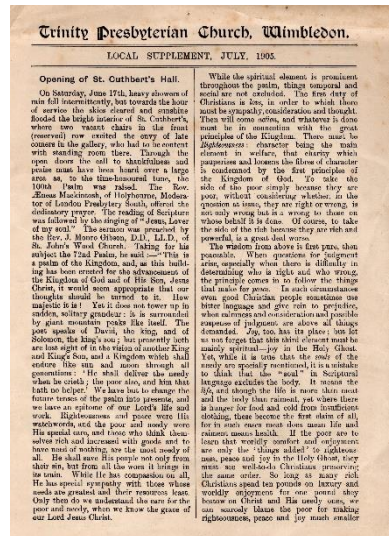


..... we wish you a very Happy Birthday!

# Trinity News - 500!

So 'Trinity News' reaches its 500<sup>th</sup> issue. Not once has the Church's magazine failed to appear - even in the present pandemic crisis, though it is sad that at present it is, of necessity, being produced in a rather different form.

In fact, Trinity's magazine goes back long before 'Trinity News' first appeared, forty-eight years ago. Trinity's first newsletter or magazine, probably started in about 1900, although we have no exact record of the date it first appeared, was a wrap around supplement to the denomination's monthly magazine the 'Presbyterian Messenger'.



In 1930 it was decided to publish an independent monthly magazine, 'The Wimbledon Presbyterian' - an impressive 12-page publication with an attractive blue cover and lots of written material and advertisements. This was distributed not only in the Church but in surrounding roads.

During WW2 a paper shortage required the magazine to become smaller and less ambitious, and this continued through the 50s and 60s.



With the formation of the United Reformed Church in 1972 the magazine was re-named 'Trinity News', the first issue appearing in November of that year, a 4-page leaflet edited by Ian Stewart who had served as editor of the 'Wimbledon Presbyterian' for twenty-three years. It was printed by the Shamrock Press Ltd of Church Road.

**TRINITY NEWS**  
 Magazine of Trinity United Reformed Church, Mansel Road, Wimbledon  
**NOVEMBER, 1972**

MINISTER: ... .. The Rev. H. BURNS JAMIESON, MA.  
 8 Parkside Avenue, Wimbledon, SW19 5ES. 01-946 3841

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11 am and 6.30 pm SUNDAY SCHOOL: 11 am

CHURCH SECRETARY	MR. JAMES P. GIBBETTSON	3 Asherberry Road, SW20 8AE. 01-946 5603
SECRETARY TO	MR. H. P. WALKER	
ELDERING MEETING	154 Parkway, SW20 9HG.	01-542 1473
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	MR. ANDREW S. SIBBLE	
TO ELDERING MEETING	62 Woodside, SW19 7AF.	01-946 4944
SECRETARY TO	MR. K. M. G. YOUNG	
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	21 Muriel Road, SW19 4PD.	01-946 3806
CONGREGATIONAL TREASURER	MR. A. S. BREMNER	
	7 Danhill Road, SW20 0HP.	01-946 2415
FREE WILL OFFERING AND	MR. D. M. YOUNG	
GOVERNANTS TREASURER	14 Danhill Road, SW20 0HR.	01-946 0379
WELL KEEPER	MISS M. K. PATTERSON	
	2 Totham Lodge, Richmond Road, SW20.	01-946 5175
ORGANIST	MR. R. BYUL WILLIAMS, B.Sc., P.R.C.O.	
	37 Seymour Road, SW19 5LL.	01-946 1628
SUNDAY SCHOOL	MR. T. G. C. BROAD	
SUPERINTENDENT	21 Deepdale, SW19 5EZ.	01-946 7796
EDITOR	MR. IAN R. H. STEWART, F.R.A.S.C.O.T.	
	11 Farquhar Road, SW19 8DA.	01-946 0611
CHURCH OFFICER	MRS. D. JENSON	
	2 College Road, SW19 2BS.	

CHURCH TELEPHONE 01-946 9281

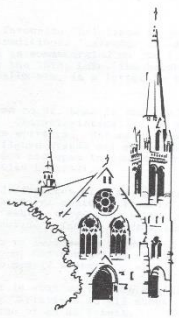
**Minister's Notes**

My dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it has actually happened and that we are now a congregation of the United Reformed Church for we have been talking about it so long and making so many preparations for it. But you have only to look at the new heading of this magazine to see that it is now a fact. The actual day of union with its meetings of the two Assemblies in the morning and then the wonderful Thanksgiving Service in Westminster Abbey in the afternoon are now part of history but anyone who shared in them will never forget that day, for the great sense there was that something big and of real importance was being done. Here in Trinity we celebrated the inauguration of the new church with a joint service with our United Reformed friends from St. Mark's, at which we were given greetings and good wishes by representatives from other denominations. There was a very full church probably as full as any of us have ever seen it and the Rev. A. L. MacArthur preached a most inspiring sermon. On the following Wednesday we had our first Church Meeting and quickly got through the complicated business of fitting in all our administration to the new church's structure. That sounds rather dull but in fact it was a very good and happy meeting. I am glad that we have moved into our membership of the new church in this way which has truly brought us new inspiration and encouragement. I myself have felt as I have attended meetings of the new District Council and of the new Synod real stimulation from making new contacts and realising the new relationships we are going to be involved in with many congregations hitherto unknown to us. I hope that this stimulation will work through

In 1975 Alan Young took over as editor. Revd John Weller came as Minister in succession to Revd H Burns Jamieson. Escalating printing costs required changes and two years later it was decided to change to a 12-page magazine format typed in-house and produced at the Rapid Results College. The first issue in this new style was No.50 - the new style gave more room for editorial material and extra space for news and reports.

**TRINITY NEWS**  
 TRINITY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
 MANSEL ROAD, WIMBLEDON



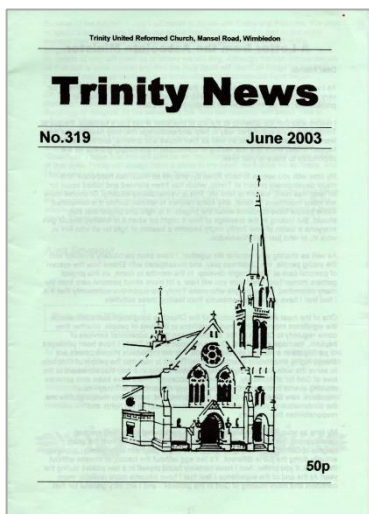
No: 50      OCTOBER 1977  
 MINISTER:      REV. JOHN G. WELLER BA  
                          TRINITY LODGE  
                          35D ARTERBERRY ROAD,  
                          SW20 8AE  
                          (01-947 7610)

Three years later, issue No.84, Catherine Young (Paul) began a twenty-three year stint as editor. That year Revd Ceri Lewis succeeded John Weller as minister. Over the following years the magazine, in a variety of covers, continued to provide a regular link between the minister, the leaders and the various organisations, as well as being a useful record of services, baptisms, new members, address changes and so on.



Trinity's centenary in 1984 was celebrated with a special issue, bearing the 'Burning Bush' symbol that the Church had adopted as a Centenary logo. This issue announced the Centenary services, a big reception at the Civic Hall and a special Junior Church outing to Thorpe Park, marking their own centenary.

With the advent of the 'home computer' Catherine was able to bring in new innovations - photographs, for example - and to make the magazine increasingly readable and attractive.

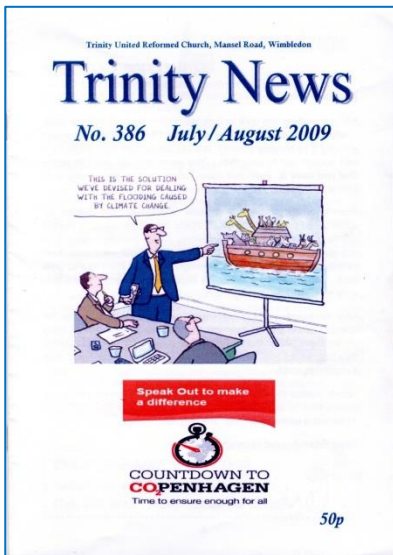


No.318 was Catherine's final issue as editor, and Sandy McLeish took over the reins, originally for one year, that eventually extended to seven!

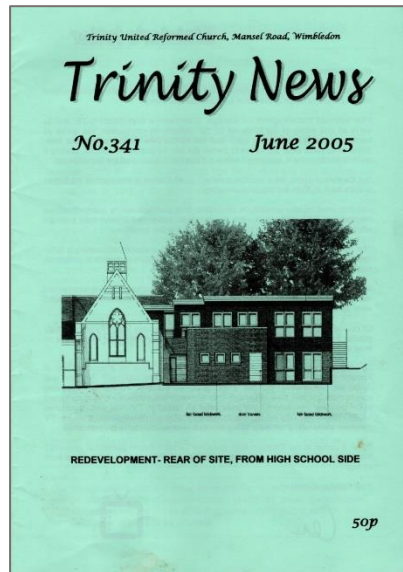
The 'Redevelopment' and building of the Mansel Road Centre were fully reported



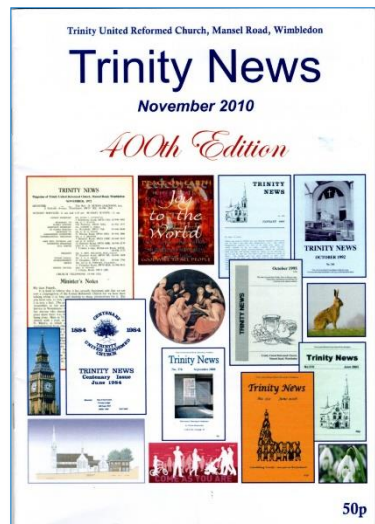
Colour covers were introduced – No.386 was the first, and Sandy continued to experiment, maintaining the high standard of previous years.



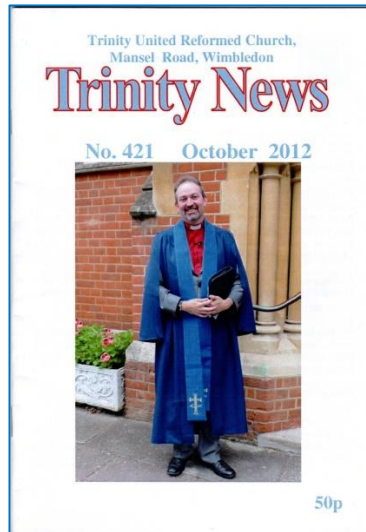
Anne Broadbridge became editor at No.398, in September 2010. The 400<sup>th</sup> edition was marked.



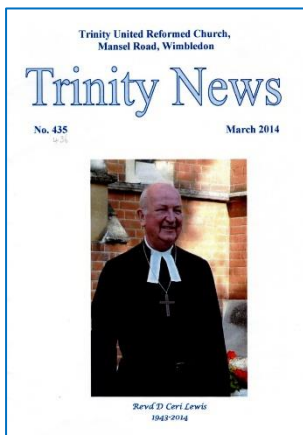
The early death of Sue Lewis was recorded, as was Ceri's retirement a year later.



Revd Dominic Grant arrived as Minister in September 2012 - issue No.421.



During Dominic's ministry, outstanding events have been the series of musicals produced by Roger Jones, the installation of the new organ and, sadly, the death of Ceri Lewis, all of which have been fully reported. Anne continues to produce a magazine of which Trinity can be proud and to do so ten times a year requires dedication and hard work.



Now we await the end of the pandemic and the return of 'Trinity News' in its usual format. Roll on the next 500!

## Florence Nightingale – 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary

2020 is the bi-centenary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, on 12 May.

The founder of modern nursing, a social reformer and statistician, she was born in Florence, Italy where her parents were on holiday, into a wealthy, well-connected, Anglican family. She was extensively educated by her father at home at Embley Park in Hampshire. She strongly rejected the expected role of a young woman of her status, and possibly was considered eccentric by her peers.



When a teenager, she experienced what she believed was a call from God to devote herself to the service of others, nursing.

Opposing her mother, she determined to seek nurse training and, in 1850 and 1851 enrolled at the Institute of Protestant Deaconesses in Kaiserswerth, Germany to learn basic skills caring for the sick and deprived.

In 1853, through social connections she became the superintendent of a nursing home in London. The following year the Crimean War broke out. The newspaper reporting of the appalling, inadequate care of the sick and wounded soldiers at the British hospital in Scutari raised an outcry.

The Secretary of State for War, Sidney Herbert, who knew of her determined methods, appointed her to lead a group of nurses to Scutari. Florence Nightingale arrived there with her team of nurses and nuns in November 1854.

Appalled by the insanitary conditions at the hospital, in which the wounded soldiers were ten times more likely to die from infectious diseases than from battle injuries, and overcoming the hostility of the British medical hierarchy, she organised the cleaning of the wards, the establishment of a laundry for bed linen and uniforms and improved the diet of the soldiers, though it was only after the Sanitary Commission sent out by Lord Palmerston in 1855 resulting in the

clearance of the sewers and improved ventilation that the death rate fell dramatically.



After her return to Britain at the end of the war, she had an audience with Queen Victoria and, with her backing, persuaded the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to make improvements. Her meticulous compiling and use of statistics to demonstrate her theories convinced the government that widespread reform was essential. Much less known about Florence Nightingale, 'The Lady with the Lamp', was her genius as a statistician. She was the first woman to be inducted to the Royal Society of Statisticians in 1888.

In 1860 she established the Nightingale Training School for Nurses at St Thomas's Hospital, funded from her own means. Her 'Notes on Nursing', written the previous year, was the cornerstone of the nursing curriculum.

Whilst at Scutari she contracted brucellosis, a bacterial infection then known as Crimea Fever, and by the age of thirty-eight she was partially bed-ridden. In spite of that she continued her work on healthcare reform, persuading influential people, from her bed, with her evidence-based arguments.

She died at her home in London on 13 August 1910. Respecting her last wishes, her family refused a state funeral and she was buried in the family plot at St Margaret's Church, East Wellow, near Romsey, Hampshire. Her monument simply states her initials, F.N..and the year of her birth and death.

International Nurses' Day is celebrated every year on her birthday, 12 May.

- Anni Struthers (Retired Nurse)

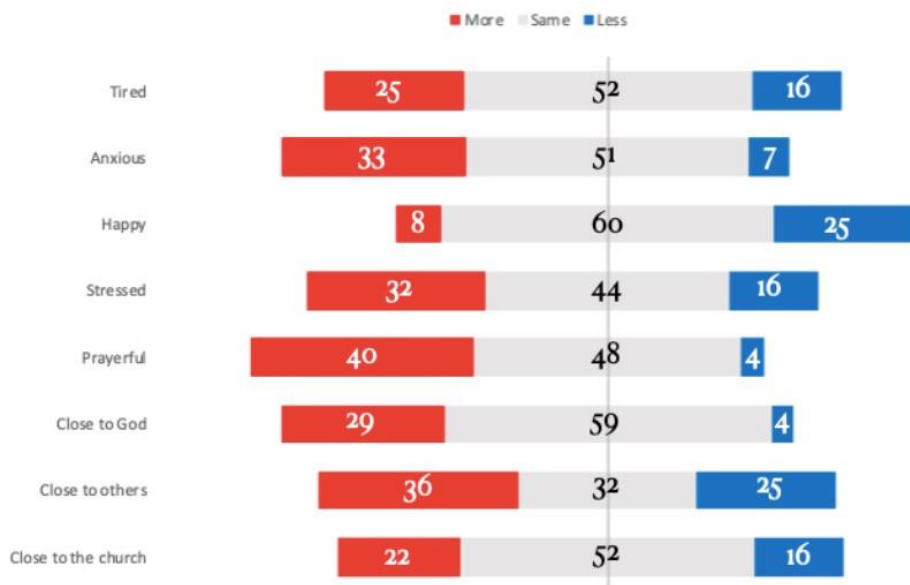
# Six things we have found out from our Covid-19 survey

## 1. Trinity members are engaged and involved

In the first half of June we asked Trinity members and friends to complete a survey about how lockdown was for them, what they thought of the support Trinity was offering, and their thoughts and concerns about the future. We received exactly 100 responses - thank you to everyone for such a fantastic response.

## 2. The congregation is worn down, but reflective

We asked people how they were feeling during lockdown. Understandably, respondents report being more anxious, less happy and more stressed, but equally many felt they were more prayerful.

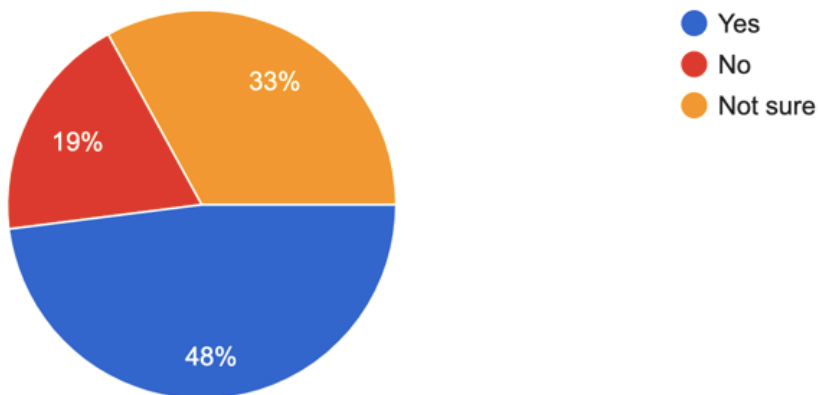


### 3. Trinity is holding together as a community

At the start of lockdown we knew how important it was to try and make sure that Trinity folk stayed in touch with each other. We were therefore pleased to see that **97%** said that they had had contact from someone else connected to Trinity during lockdown.

### 4. As a community, we have different views about returning to worship - for a number of different reasons

We asked you what your views would be about coming to church to worship in the next few months, bearing in mind that social distancing measures would need to be in place, and the services might be quite different, perhaps with no singing, for example. You said:

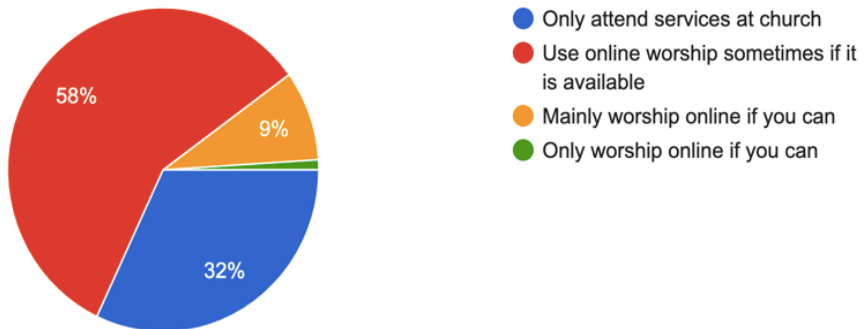


We asked those who said No or Not Sure why they felt that way. **26%** were concerned that aspects of worship they particularly valued might be absent; **17%** said they were generally anxious; and **21%** felt they were clinically vulnerable or a member of their household was.



## 5. Online worship and communication are here to stay, but we can't leave people behind

We asked the following question: When the church does reopen for worship will you be likely to....

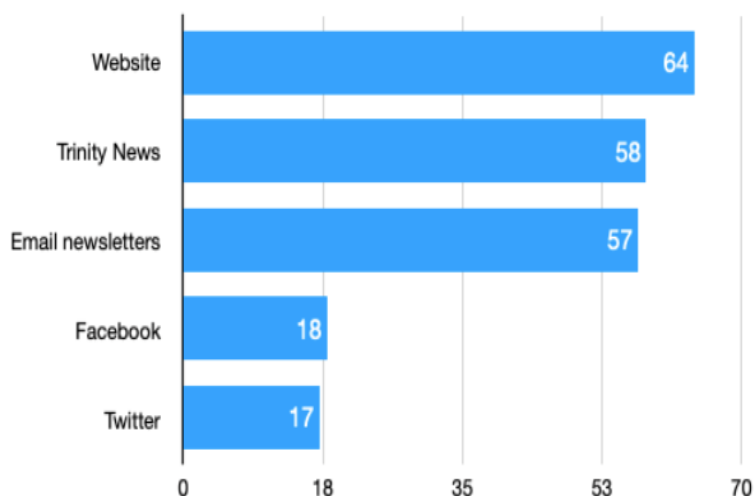


We can see that many people would like our online services to continue either as an alternative to communal worship, or as an occasional complement.

Lots of people have also been using the website and other online resources to find out information from Trinity.

We also found out, however, that **15%** of people have not been using any of these. While the internet brings rich opportunities to spread the word about Trinity and our work in God's name, we must be mindful of not leaving those without such access behind.

Have you used the following to find out information from Trinity?



## 6. We see the virus as an opportunity to rethink how we do things at Trinity

We asked you whether you agreed or disagreed with the following statements:



It's striking how many people see this period as an opportunity for Trinity to think about our future. Elders Council are working hard on this and we hope to update you more about our proposals and suggestions very soon.

If you would like to see the full results of the survey click [here](#) or email [churchsecretaries@trinitywimbledon.org](mailto:churchsecretaries@trinitywimbledon.org).

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The URC Communications Department has produced a range of information booklets which you can download from the URC website. They include "Join the Family" – a leaflet on how to become a member of the United Reformed Church and what this involves, a series designed to give information to those who have been asked to consider taking on a voluntary role in the URC, and a range of booklets on the use of social media which are especially helpful at this time. Go to: <https://urc.org.uk/information-guides.html> or ask the Church Secretaries for further information.

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**DIVESTMENT** - Stop press: URC Southern Synod's financial reserves were moved into a new fund that excludes the oil, gas and coal industries at the end of May.

## Psalm 121

### Assurance of God's Protection

#### A Song of Ascent

I lift up my eyes to the hills —  
from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.  
He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.  
The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and for evermore.

