

Trinity News

No. 484

March 2019



Trinity United Reformed Church
Mansel Road, Wimbledon

Minister's Letter



Dear Friends,

God's initiative comes first, and all that we might say or do in God's service is a response to what God has done.

That's a principle which we acknowledge at the very start of almost every Sunday worship service at Trinity. As the congregation is invited to stand when the Bible is brought in to the church, we acknowledge that it is God's revelation to the world (to which the record of Scripture testifies) that constitutes our summons and our mandate to gather.

What's more, the shape of the worship service tends to reflect this pattern of revelation and response. Having come together in praise, we listen for God's word to us – and then we seek to act upon what we have heard. Therefore, notably, the *offertory* and the *prayers of concern* normally occur within the last part of the Sunday service: our giving and our prayer are prompted by our grateful recognition of God's purposeful presence in our history, in our lives today, and in the world we share.

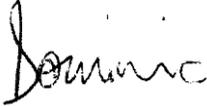
It's a principle which indeed has long been embodied in the faithful living of God's people. As the Psalmist wrote: *I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness and sing praise to the name of the LORD* (Psalm 7.17). Our offering is made because it is “due” – it is a response to God's own generosity – and likewise our prayers and praises arise because of God's “name”, God's reputation and renown.

How might we more fully immerse ourselves in this Godly pattern of revelation and response? The season of Lent, which begins this month, provides a good opportunity for us to reflect upon our practices of Prayer and of Giving. Our Sunday morning services during Lent will be themed on different aspects of *Giving* – both monetary and in terms of attention, time and energy in God's service. Meanwhile our midweek Lent groups will explore the topic of *Prayer* in all its richness and diversity. You'll be able to find further

details of the Sunday series, and a sign-up sheet for the Lent groups, on the notice board in the vestry corridor at Trinity.

Arising together in response to the gift of God's revelation, our Prayer and our Giving are fundamental to Christian living. So, let's rejoice in God's grace as we seek to deepen and enrich these key aspects of our discipleship!

Every Blessing



Church Family News



CIVIL PARTNERSHIP

Michael Young and Thomas Voelker-Worth became Civil Partners on 5th February.

Messy Church



Messy Church is a fun, informal and sociable form of worship for all ages and our next one is coming up on 24 March! Come along at 4pm and you will receive a warm welcome from our team. You can explore our "Thank you" theme thought arts, crafts, games, story, music and much more! Our short and informal worship with music and song is always a huge hit and we'll even offer you a hot meal before you go home!

Please do come along and let us know by signing your name in the vestry corridor or by emailing the church office. Bring your friends and family, the more the merrier!

Susan Collins

Wednesday Social Group

This month we look forward to welcoming back the always popular "Sweet and Low" singers who will give us a selection of well known, and some less well known, music.

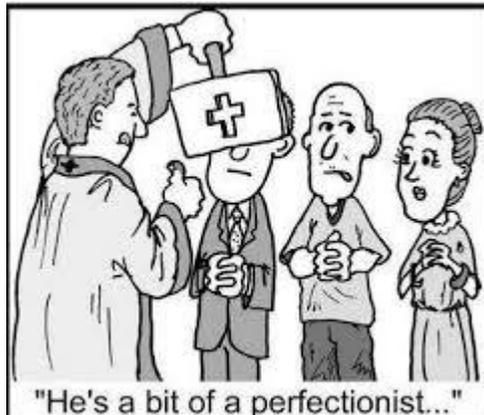
This will be on Wednesday 6 March (2.30pm) and there will be the usual tea afterwards.

Everybody will be very welcome - why not bring a friend?



Ash Wednesday

To mark the beginning of Lent, we will welcome members of St Mark's church to Trinity on Ash Wednesday, 6 March. Revd Clive Gardner, Team Vicar of St Mark's will preach at this service of Holy Communion at 8pm. Please come.



Commitment for Life

As in previous years our annual collection for Commitment for Life will be during Lent. On three Sundays there will be envelopes in the pews for your contribution. Commitment for Life (C for L) is the URC programme funding specific work by Christian Aid in four parts of the world, Bangladesh, Central America (Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador), Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and Zimbabwe.

The programme has been running for over 25 years. Trinity signed up to support C for L some years ago. C for L is a way in which churches support Christian Aid projects. The URC is the biggest church supporter of Christian Aid. 75% of the money raised goes to specific Christian Aid projects in all the four countries and 5% to Global Justice Now which campaigns for a more just and equal world. The rest pays for the administration of the programme.

Although the money raised goes to all four country projects churches are encouraged to 'partner' one specific area. Trinity is linked with Palestine and the Occupied Territories. Information on our partner is put on the notice board from time to time. In 2014 Bassam Abu Said's home, olive and date trees in Gaza were destroyed by an Israeli bombardment. His 12 family members were left homeless and without an income. They had to live in a temporary shelter made of rusty pipes and nylon sheets with no power or running water. The children struggled at school, suffering from continuous illnesses caused by the conditions. After two long years, Bassam and his family finally have a new home, constructed with support from Christian Aid's partners and the Disasters Emergency Committee. The house has provided the family with the safety and protection they need.

More information at
<https://urc.org.uk/our-work/commitment-for-life.html>

Margaret Tulloch

The Organ Project: an update



After nearly seven years of researching options, taking professional advice and much discussion, Church Meeting agreed last summer with the Organ Project Group's recommendation that Trinity should apply to Synod for approval to replace our existing pipe organ with a customised, digital instrument of superior quality. Synod's approval was received in October 2018. The new instrument was ordered from the leading UK supplier of digital church organs, and will be arriving from the manufacturer, based in The Netherlands, during this month.

Over recent months, we have been in discussion with various organ builders about the complex task of dismantling and removing our existing pipe organ and organ console. Timing of the work proved complicated since we require it to be carried out without disrupting seriously the ongoing programme of activities and lettings of the church and the Mansel Road Centre, with the essential condition that the existing fabric and aesthetics of the worship area are protected, and that the existing façade of organ pipes is restored and unchanged. We were approached by various people in the UK and in mainland Europe about carrying out the removal work and became attracted especially by the interest shown by a young, knowledgeable organ builder based in Gdansk, Poland, who had carried out such work previously in the UK. We were attracted not only by his professionalism, but also by his plan to refurbish the Trinity organ for use in a church in Poland. We were delighted to meet at Trinity recently three representatives of a Roman Catholic church located near to central Warsaw, and they have since expressed the wish to commission the Polish organ builder to restore the Trinity instrument and install it in their large and impressive building. Fortuitously, the cost to Trinity of engaging the Polish organ builder is likely to be significantly lower than involving a UK-based counterpart.

It is planned to start the main dismantling and removal work on 11 March and that it will be carried out in two stages and completed during week ending 29 March. The installation and commissioning of the digital organ at Trinity is due to commence on 8 April, and to be completed during that week. It is planned that the new organ will be played for the first time in the morning service on Palm Sunday (14 April) and it is hoped that the instrument will be dedicated during the morning service on Easter Sunday (21 April) when Revd. Nigel Uden, Co-Moderator of the United Reformed Church, and well-known at Trinity, will be preaching the sermon.

The dismantling and installation work in the church will necessitate our morning services being held in the Old Hall between Sunday 9 March and Sunday 7 April inclusive. Car parking on the church forecourt throughout this period will be very restricted.

The new organ will be 'voiced' to maximise and optimise its capability and performance by Professor Ian Tracey on a date after Easter yet to be agreed, and it is intended that a concert of organ music will be held at Trinity during the summer months, to provide a memorable opportunity to hear the wonderful range of sounds and styles of which our *Johannus Ecclesia* instrument is capable.

We will be hearing, with some sadness, our existing organ being played for the last time at Trinity by our Director of Music for the last time at Trinity on Sunday 3 March, when we will salute an instrument that has served Trinity and one previous church so wonderfully for over 90 years. It is heartwarming that in two years' time, once refurbished and rebuilt, 'our' pipe organ will be serving yet another church in their worship to the Glory of God. We will be keeping in close touch to learn about its progress. For Trinity, the music in our worship is about to begin a vibrantly new chapter.

If you have any questions about the above or about the organ project, please do speak with me or one of the other members of the project group, who are named below:

Revd Dominic Grant, Catherine Paul,
Andrew Davies, Andrew Melrose

Sandy McLeish

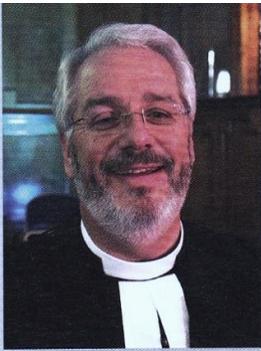


MARCH

1	Fri	<i>World Day of Prayer</i>	
		10:00	Trinity Toddlers
		20:00	Friday Fellowship
2	Sat	16:00	Pilots
3	SUN	10:30	Elders' meeting
		11:00	Morning worship with Holy Communion
		13:00	Merton Winter Night Shelter
6	Wed	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	
		14:30	Wednesday Social Group
		20:00	Service including Holy Communion with St Mark's at Trinity
7	Thu	19:30	Prayer group
8	Fri	10:00	Trinity Toddlers
		19:30	Film Club
		20:00	Friday Fellowship
10	SUN	11:00	Morning worship
		13:00	Merton Winter Night Shelter
13	Wed	20:00	Elders' Council
14	Thu	10:30	Lettings Team
		19:30	Prayer group
		20:00	Church & Society
15	Fri	10:00	Trinity Toddlers
		19:30	Film Club
		20:00	Friday Fellowship
16	Sat	16:00	Pilots
17	SUN	11:00	Morning worship
			Followed by Church Meeting & Election to Elders' Council
21	Thu	19:30	Prayer group
		20:00	Finance Team

22	Fri	10:00 20:00	Trinity Toddlers Friday Fellowship	
24	SUN	11:00 16:30	Morning worship Messy Church	
27	Wed	20.00	Queens Road House group	
28	Thu	19:30	Prayer group	
29	Fri	10:00 19:30 20:00	Trinity Toddlers Film Club Friday Fellowship	
31	SUN	<i>Mothering Sunday</i> 11:00	All age worship	<i>British Summer time begins</i>

Moderatorial Visits - two dates for your diary!



On **Easter Sunday, 21 April**, the Moderator of General Assembly, an old friend of Trinity, the Revd Nigel Uden will visit us and preach at our morning Communion Service.



And on **Pentecost Sunday, 9 June**, our service will be led by the Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, Moderator of URC Southern Synod.

Merton Winter Night Shelter 2018/2019

Trinity's eighth annual shift as part of the Merton Winter Night Shelter project is close to concluding for another year. Since 27 January, we have been accommodating up to 14 guests on a Sunday afternoon & evening/Monday morning. They are almost exclusively men, predominantly from eastern Europe.

Regular readers will know that the MWNS draws on 14 faith-based organisations to provide overnight accommodation for selected homeless people in the borough for 15 weeks from 26 November through to 11 March. Christmas week was spent with Crisis in London, so each venue does seven sessions. The full team comprises 12 churches, the Wimbledon Synagogue and the Durnsford Road mosque, operating in two shifts each taking a specific day of the week. Moreover, a group of Hindu women do the cooking for the Methodist Church in Griffiths Road, so the project is a genuinely a multi-faith effort – a powerful reminder that we share significant common values.

Trinity's effort has some specific features, most notably opening at 14.00 so guests have somewhere warm and dry to stay at a time when few public facilities are open on a Sunday afternoon. Cynthia Betts has again masterminded the early shift and it is hugely appreciated. We also benefit from volunteers from the Polish Catholic Church in Putney who join us for the evening shift. Most of our guests' English is limited and they greatly appreciate the conversation in their own tongue; we also greatly appreciate having a translator. And we can offer excellent space. Hopefully, next year we will also have a shower facility.

All venues operate under a strict set of rules so, for example, alcohol is not permitted at any Shelter premises. The project is co-ordinated by the Wimbledon YMCA led by Nicki Zisman with two support assistants. One of them normally visits during the evening shift. Over the years, the opportunities to move guests out of homeless to which the project has access, have increased significantly, so Nicki and her team have plenty to talk to our guests about. This is in addition to health care and other personal issues, including those who are struggling to comply with the Shelter's rules. It is hard NOT to become an alcoholic when homeless, so remaining sober is a

challenge for several our guests and we do have to be vigilant that alcohol is not being brought in.

The four shifts operate as follows: Cynthia's group set up the Old Hall and provide tea and biscuits to those guests wanting shelter on a Sunday afternoon. Each guest is allocated a self-inflating mattress and pillow; they are provided with their own sleeping bag and ruck sack when they join the project. However, so that they don't have to carry their luggage around with them all day, it is transported for them (we pick it up from the Seventh Day Adventist church in Stanley Road).

Guests are required to arrive at the venue by 20.00 at which time supper is served. A rota of fabulous chefs prepare some splendid pork dishes (pork being Trinity's allotted meat to ensure a varied diet) and a nutritious dessert. Four people are assigned to the overnight shift which enables everyone to get at least 4 hours sleep while still having at least two people awake in case of emergencies (thankfully there have been none to date). The morning shift starts at 6.30 and involves serving a cooked breakfast + clearing up in time for the first hirers at 9.30. Our guests have a packed lunch to take away as well; some leave as early as 5 am because they are working, but everyone has left by 8.30. It then just remains for the luggage to be transported to the next venue and the pillow cases etc. to be washed ready for the following week.

We will provide a fuller report in May once we have the full details on all the progress achieved by guests while in the Shelter, as well as recognising the contribution of so many members and friends of Trinity who have volunteered. Thanks also to everyone who donated on Gift Day which contributed £500 to the MWNS project, and/or separately either with money or blankets. In the meantime, don't hesitate to ask any of us for more information, particularly if you would be interested in participating.

Ralph Goodchild (ralphgoodchild@gmail.com)

Rosalie Bolland (rosbol@btinternet.com)

Robin Goodchild (robin.goodchild@sky.com)

From the archives Through the decades No 2: 1890s



This photograph was taken on 28 July 1892 at the annual outing of the Trinity Sunday School, a marquee at the back, children at the front, teachers and friends at the back. The fashions of the day are interesting, especially the children's hats!

We cannot now know for sure the names of any of the people except perhaps the gentleman in the dark hat at the rear on the left. It is almost certainly Trinity's first minister, Revd W.J. Maxwell. Is that Mrs Maxwell either in front of, or behind him? Who are the other bearded men in the back row, all hatted?

The Church's annual report says that the outing was on 'a splendid summer's day in Mr Preece's field at Crooked Billet, kindly lent by him'. Mr Preece was actually Sir William Preece who lived at Gothic Lodge which is now 6 Woodhayes Road. Sir William is remembered for his interest in electricity. His house was the first to have electric light in the London area (and an electric kettle, iron and telephone).

In 1894 he put on a public demonstration of electric lighting in the High Street and, on his proposal, the Council built a local power station on Durnsford Road.

Where is this?



An unusual view of part of the Trinity buildings!

It is the very top of the spire with the lightning conductor above, taken a few years ago by steeplejacks.



New location for Wimbledon Foodbank

After over seven years of working from Elim Pentecostal Church in High Path, the foodbank is moving. The current church site is being demolished to make way for a new school, and we will be moving with the church to a new location in Kingston Road, South Wimbledon.

From Monday 18 February until the new building is ready, we will be based at **St John the Divine Church, High Path, SW19 2JY**, which is just down the road from our current building. The move to Merton Hall, 78 Kingston Road, SW19 1LA will take place in a few months' time.

You helped a thousand people in December!

Yet again, we were desperately short of food in mid-October and very fearful about meeting the needs of our clients in the coming weeks. And yet again, our magnificent supporters came to our aid with such generous donations that there was food for everyone who came to us during December. We gave out 563 food parcels, which helped **over 1,000 people**. And that doesn't include all the extras like toys, laundry products and toiletries. Plus, thanks to you, everyone received an extra bag of seasonal treats such as mince pies, chocolates and Christmas pudding. Being able to celebrate in the same way as friends and neighbours brings dignity back to families living in great hardship. All expressed their heartfelt thanks - many of them tearfully - and we are glad to pass that on to you.

Please do continue to bring your donations and leave them in the trolley in the MRC foyer.

We are particularly short of some items and completely ran out of tea this week!

The items that we are most in need of are:

Tea
Tinned meat
Coffee
Juice/squash
Pasta sauce
Tinned tomatoes

Can you spare some time?

As well as sorting donations and making up food parcels, a vital role is greeting the clients and making them feel welcome. A friendly face can really help when they are facing difficult times. We currently have two Trinity volunteers doing this on Mondays but really need more help. The time commitment isn't great, we are open from 12-2 so even if you were able to come on alternate weeks that would be a great help. If you'd like to know more about what is involved then please speak to Miriam Grant or me, we'd be happy to tell you more.

Cathy Dundee