

# Trinity News

No. 491 November 2019



**Trinity United Reformed Church,  
Mansel Road, Wimbledon**

# Minister's Letter



*When you go home,  
tell them of us and say:  
"For your tomorrow  
we gave our today"*

Every year this Kohima Epitaph is repeated as, at churches and civic war memorials alike, all are summoned to silence on Remembrance Sunday. There is perhaps an added poignancy to its use this year, as it is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Imphal and Kohima: fought in stages between April and June 1944, this is considered a turning-point of the India/Burma campaign in the Second World War – though victory for the British-Indian and Commonwealth forces of the 14<sup>th</sup> Army came at great cost.

It is sobering to acknowledge that so soon after our four-year period commemorating the Centenary of the Great War (the "War to end all Wars", as it was so naively dubbed by those who lived through it), our Remembrance focus must now shift from World War I towards the significant anniversaries of World War II. It is 80 years since the formal commencement of hostilities; and Kohima is one of three key battles of 75 years ago (the others being Montecassino and D-Day) highlighted by the Royal British Legion in the resources they have produced for schools and communities.

In particular, the Legion wishes to draw attention this year to the multi-national and multi-cultural nature of many of the military units deployed. The Kohima War Cemetery, for example, records 1,420 Commonwealth military burials and a further 917 Hindu and Sikh soldiers who were cremated in accordance with their faith-traditions.

Today we live in a political context marred by overt populism and threatened by the worst aspects of nationalistic fervour. The spectre of military escalation seems close-at-hand: at the time of writing, the borderlands of Turkey/Syria are under aerial and ground bombardment, as international protection appears to have been

abruptly withdrawn from Kurdish forces to the consternation of many in the region and beyond. Who can tell how this will play out? Theatres of war have always, of course, been shaped by international relationships, alliances and rivalries. But no less significantly, the outcomes of conflict continue to shape global relationships for many generations afterwards – for good or for ill.

So, this year's focus on "Remembrance Together" is an important and helpful corrective. Our keeping of the Two Minutes' Silence, and the placing of wreaths at our War Memorials, is not merely a passing moment of thinking about history. It is a re-commitment to learn history's lessons, to care for all who bear the scars of war, and to play our part in building a world in which peace with justice is our common cause - with the power to cross every border and to break down every barrier.

There can be no higher calling; but as Christians let us take comfort from the assurance that the task does not rely on our own strength or ingenuity:

*By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
(Luke 1.78-79)*

*Every Blessing*

*Dominic*



The memorial at Kohima featuring the Epitaph

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**



### **Confirmation**

On 13 October, the Minister confirmed Harriet Vary who was received into membership of Trinity.

### **Vera-Thank You**

Vera Broadbridge would like to thank all Trinity friends for their good wishes and gifts and especially to Junior Church for the beautiful handmade card on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.



### **Harvest Thanks**

Thank you all for your generous donations at Harvest. They weighed 149.8 kg in total and were gratefully received by Wimbledon Foodbank.

To put it into context, an average food parcel weighs around 7kg per person and is intended to last for three days. That means that our donation will be sufficient to feed over 21 people for three days or provide 192 meals.

Before Harvest the total stock in Wimbledon weighed 6 tonnes. That sounds (and looks) like a lot but it's just enough to last for six weeks. Last year Wimbledon Foodbank received donations totalling 52 tonnes and they gave out 50 tonnes through their four distribution centres across the borough.

If you'd like to see what the Foodbank does, then you are welcome to drop in and see them at their temporary home in St John the Divine Church on High Path on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 and 12 when they receive and sort all the donations. Work on their new location in Merton Hall is still progressing but they hope to be in before Christmas.

We continue to collect donations every week for the Wimbledon Foodbank. These can be placed in the trolley in the Mansel Road Centre. You can check their website to see a list of urgently needed items: <https://wimbledon.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

## Reminders and Notes for Your Diaries

### Church Meeting - Thursday 21 November

Our next Church Meeting for all Trinity members and friends will be held on **Thursday 21 November at 8pm** in the Mansel Road Centre.

All members are reminded of their commitment to participate in the life of the church by attending Church Meeting. Please note the date now and come. Minutes of the last meeting are available on the Notice Board in the vestry corridor. An agenda will be published shortly.



### Wednesday Social Group

This month the Social Group is looking forward to a visit from Dr Robin Goodchild who will tell us about his recent visit to the Holy Land. This will be on Wednesday 6 November (2.30pm).

Especially this month the Group would like to invite any members of the congregation who are free to come to hear what Robin has to tell us and to join us for tea afterwards.

## Christmas Crafting Afternoon



Join us on Saturday afternoon **9 November** when we are planning to spend an afternoon making some of the decorations for our Christmas Tree Festival together.

Some materials will be supplied, but bring your own too, and we can share ideas and enjoy making things for our special event. No special skills are required – this is just for fun! Everyone is very welcome – young and not so young. Come along to the Mansel Road Centre any time between 2:30 and 4:30pm.

Tea and cake will be provided too!

## Messy Church



Our last Messy Church took place on 14 July and was another great success. We looked at the theme of 'Kindness' through the story of The Good Samaritan and there was plenty of paint, cutting, sticking, making and drawing, followed by our usual informal worship and lively singing. Our grand finale was our summer BBQ in the courtyard, a chance to unwind and catch up in the sunshine (and I think a spot of cricket may have been viewed!)

Do come along to our next Messy Church on 3 November at 4.30pm in the Mansel Road Centre. This will be our Lights Party and as well as the usual craft, worship, song, food, there will be fireworks! All packed in to 2 hours and not to be missed! Sign up in the vestry corridor or email the church office to book your places!

Messy Church is for all ages. It's a chance to explore faith through craft, friendship, worship, song and a shared meal. You don't have to be a church goer to enjoy all that we share, so bring your friends and neighbours along!

## Daily Devotions from the URC

Did you know that you can now listen to the 'Daily Devotions' that the URC sends out? Until recently it was available to read but you can now listen or listen and read as you choose.

The link is [www.devotions@urc.org.uk](http://www.devotions@urc.org.uk)

Each morning at 6am the URC send out a daily devotion – a reading reflection and prayer – to more than 1700 people, while hundreds more follow online and through the dedicated Facebook page.

The project creator and coordinator Revd Andy Braunston says he is amazed at the reach of the devotions both within and beyond the URC. We know that many people in Trinity follow the devotions daily and two Trinity members have written daily reflections.

If you do not do so already, why not join the followers?

## Choose your favourite Bible passage

You may remember that a while ago we asked the congregation to tell us their favourite hymn. This led into a very successful 'Favourite Hymns Service'.

We would now like you to tell us your favourite Bible passage or story. We will be distributing voting forms during November and we hope that this may lead to a special service at which we can enjoy these. Look out for further details with the Notice Paper.

# NOVEMBER



1	Fri	<b>All Saints Day</b>	10:00 Trinity Toddlers 20:00 Friday Fellowship
2	Sat		16:00 Pilots
<b>3</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>Gift Day "For Others"</b>	10:30 Elders' meeting <b>11:00 Morning worship with Holy Communion</b> 16:30 Messy Church "Lights Party"
4	Mon		14:30 Pastoral Team
5	Tue		20:00 Children & Youth Work Team
6	Wed		14:30 Wednesday Social Group - "Holy Land visit", Robin Goodchild 20:00 Elders' Council
7	Thu		10:30 Calendar Planning meeting
8	Fri		10:00 Trinity Toddlers 20:00 Friday Fellowship
9	Sat		14:30 Christmas Crafting Afternoon
<b>10</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	<b>10:45 Morning worship</b>
12	Tue		19:30 Lectio Divina 20:00 Communications & Publicity Team
13	Wed		20:00 Church & Society
14	Thu		20:00 Finance Team
15	Fri		10:00 Trinity Toddlers 20:00 Friday Fellowship
16	Sat		16:00 Pilots



<b>17</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Morning worship with baptism</b>
21	Thu	10:30	Lettings Team
		<b>20:00</b>	<b>Church Meeting</b>
22	Fri	10:00	Trinity Toddlers
		20:00	Friday Fellowship
<b>24</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Morning worship led by Trinity elders</b>
26	Tue	19:30	Lectio Divina
		20:00	Worship & Faith Development Team
28	Thu	20:00	Queens Road Housegroup
29	Fri	10:00	Trinity Toddlers
		20:00	Friday Fellowship



*Happy Birthday in November to*

9	Jethro Pratt	(6)
24	Freyja Stirling-Curran	(5)

**THE FINAL DATE FOR COPY FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY EDITION OF TRINITY NEWS TO REACH THE EDITOR IS 10 NOVEMBER PLEASE BE PROMPT**



# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

**6-8 December 2019**

Friday 6 Dec 10:30-16:30

Saturday 7 Dec 10:30-19:00

Sunday 8 Dec 12:30-16:00  
16:30 'Carols among the  
Trees' and refreshments

at Trinity Church  
Mansel Road  
Wimbledon SW19 4AA

<http://ctf.trinitywimbledon.org>

in aid of

## CRAFT & GIFT FAIR

\*

Saturday  
7 December  
11:00-15:00

\*

Visit  
**FATHER  
CHRISTMAS**  
in his Grotto !



London's  
Air Ambulance  
Charity

# **Christmas Tree Festival**

## **Friday 6 to Sunday 8 December**

## **Craft & Gift Fair**

### **Saturday 7 December**

**We are just a few weeks away from our Christmas Tree Festival, with a Craft & Gift Fair on the Saturday.**

**Again, this year we are supporting London's Air Ambulance Charity.**

For three days during December our church will be filled with a spectacular display of about forty decorated Christmas trees and lights, representing "Anniversaries" in recognition of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of London's Air Ambulance and our 5<sup>th</sup> Festival. It will be another fantastic event when we welcome a great many visitors to Trinity.

Many of those who hire our premises week by week will decorate trees, along with some local schools, organisations and businesses – and, of course, Trinity individuals and groups. There will be a prize for the best decorated tree!

**In addition, we are holding a Craft & Gift Fair** on Saturday 7 December from 11:00 to 15:00 featuring a variety of unique hand-crafted items.

The Festival is a Trinity outreach project, so everyone's help is needed, young and old. We cannot do it without you! Look out for specific requests for help, and *please* sign up.

Please advertise the events among your friends, family and neighbours. Spread the word verbally, share on social media by joining the Facebook page or Instagram page, or by distributing flyers to any clubs or groups you attend during the week. Getting

people to visit is the most important part of the Festival, and we need *everyone* to help us with this.

**We need offers of help to deliver our Festival leaflets locally. During the Festival it is very important that we have plenty of Trinity people around to welcome our visitors. We also need volunteers to help serve refreshments. Please let us know as soon as possible how you are willing to help.**

On Sunday 8 December at 4.30pm we will close the Festival with 'Carols among the Trees', followed by seasonal refreshments. This will be another great occasion for you to bring your friends.

Admission to the Festival will be free, but we hope to raise a substantial amount for London's Air Ambulance from donations.

**Don't miss it! BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

### **London's Air Ambulance speaker**

We will welcome a speaker from London's Air Ambulance to our Morning Worship on Sunday 1 December. Come and hear about the life-saving work of the charity we are supporting at our Christmas Tree Festival.



### **Can you help?**

From 24 November we will need people to post leaflets through local doors – giving details of the Festival and our Christmas Services.

On Sunday 1 December we will need some strong people to help carry the boards on which we stand the trees down from the gallery.

During Tuesday 3 December we need to get all our trees into position ready for our decorators. Can you help with this?

On Wednesday 4 December we need people to welcome our tree decorators and serve them tea and coffee.

## **FESTIVAL ORGAN CONCERT - 21 SEPTEMBER**

Planning for the concert began even before our new digital instrument was dedicated on Easter Sunday. We were fortunate to secure the first available Saturday in the busy diary of Professor Ian Tracey of Liverpool Cathedral, and an internationally renowned musician. Thankfully, Karol Szwech - a talented young Polish musician (and organist at the Warsaw church where Trinity's former pipe organ is to be installed after restoration) agreed to participate, and we were delighted to welcome him and his wife to Trinity on the morning of the concert. Andrew, our own and valued Director of Music, kindly agreed to play also and to choose music to complement the choice of his fellow participants.



***Andrew with Professor Tracey***

Following extensive advertising, there was a large audience, many of whom were from Trinity's congregation and their friends, but with a large number from local and wider communities, various other URC congregations, and Polish speakers from other nearby churches.

The audience responded warmly to the highly varied programme, which enabled all three musicians to display not only their prodigious skills, but also to demonstrate the versatility of the organs generally and of course, specifically of our wonderful, new

digital instrument A very popular added dimension to the concert was the live broadcast on the church screens of the organists' hands playing at the organ console – thanks to the skill of Dominic, our Minister, as both cameraman and technical expert.

Thanks also to all who attended and supported the Concert, and most especially all those who contributed to the publicity and preparation for the Concert and who helped to make it such a memorable occasion.



***Andrew with Karol Szwech***

Trinity's new organ is now firmly 'on the map'.

- AMcL

## From the archives Through the decades No 9: 1960s



This photograph was taken on Rededication Sunday, 7 October 1962. The minister, Revd H Burns Jamieson, is reading the first lesson from the pulpit.

Apart from the size of the congregation – there was a record 325 communicants that day – what do we notice that is different?

Behind the pulpit is the rose window which was closed off when the organ was replaced a couple of years later. There are 'Communion cloths' on all the pews. The chancel is much as it was in last month's 1955 photograph except that there is now a new lectern.

And on a lighter note, it is difficult to find a lady who is not wearing a hat. How fashions change!

- AY