

Trinity News

No. 494

March 2020



Trinity United Reformed Church,
Mansel Road, Wimbledon

Minister's Letter



Dear Friends,

Eight years ago this month I had the pleasure of meeting many of this church's members and congregation for the first time, when I was invited as a prospective minister for Trinity. Now the time has come for me to be drawing my ministry in Wimbledon towards a close. I have accepted a call to Barnet United Reformed Church and St Andrew's Chesterfield Road URC in North London, and will be moving towards the end of April.

It's been a privilege and a joy to serve the church and community in Wimbledon. Miriam, Matt and I have made good friends here, and will look back on this time with great fondness. But we're not gone yet; I have one more "Minister's Letter" to come, in next month's *Trinity News*, so I'll save up some suitable remarks for then! Meanwhile, perhaps a few practical comments will be helpful now.

Both within Trinity and beyond, planning is already underway for the ministerial vacancy into which our church will enter. Soon our South London Synod Area will nominate an Interim Moderator to work with a vacancy team here, as the process to call Trinity's next minister gets underway. Our Elders' Council has begun the task of constituting this vacancy team.

Once a pastorate profile and various other documents have been finalised, the vacancy will be officially "declared" by our Synod - and will therefore be included on the list of ministerial vacancies discussed monthly by the Moderators of all 13 Synods. In broad terms, vacancies are handled on an "introduction" basis: sometimes the Moderators approach a suitable minister, sometimes the initial expression of interest comes from the minister herself or himself, but in either case only one minister at a time would be introduced to the church for consideration.

How long might the vacancy continue? It's difficult to predict – sometimes it can be just a few months, though quite often it's more than just a few. That can be daunting, of course; but it's important not to try to speed through the process. Bear in mind that, ultimately, it's easier for a church to sustain a long ministerial vacancy than a too-hasty ministerial appointment!

And what can *you* do to help ensure a smooth vacancy and a positive outcome?

Firstly: please plan to be at Trinity on **Sunday 29 March for our Church Meeting** directly after morning worship. In addition to our election of Elders, this meeting will include an important item on the vacancy team being constituted at Trinity. Both these matters are hugely significant as we prepare to enter a period of ministerial vacancy, so a strong mandate from all Trinity's members is really important.

Secondly: please continue to be **faithful in your attendance, and generous in your offering** of time and talents to Trinity. At its best, a ministerial vacancy can be a time of real cohesion and growth for a church; but this is always a collective endeavour! Your Elders and vacancy team will need to know that they can rely on people to say "yes" when asked for help or participation.

And thirdly: please **pray** for those who will be seeking to guide and assist Trinity through the vacancy process. Pray for our vacancy team, our Joint Church Secretaries and Elders' Council; for Ernest our Associate Minister; for our Synod Area Pastoral Committee; for those (from within Trinity and from beyond) who will be leading worship here Sunday by Sunday. Pray for the person who will in due course be called as Trinity's next Minister.

And please be assured of my prayers also.

Every Blessing

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dominic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a few small dots above the letters.

Calendar for March

1	SUN	10:30 11:00	Elders' meeting Morning worship with Holy Communion & Commitment for Life speaker – Hannah Jones	
		14:00	Merton Winter Night Shelter	
2	Mon	14:30	Pastoral Team	<i>1st week of Lent</i>
4	Wed	15:00 20:00	Wednesday Social Group Elders' Council	
5	Thu	14:00	Bible study house group	
6	Fri		<i>World Day of Prayer services</i>	
		10.30 20:00	St John Fisher Church, SW20 9DB Christ Church, W Wimbledon, SW20 0RZ	
		10:00 20:00	Trinity Toddlers Friday Fellowship	
7	Sat	16:00	Pilots	
8	SUN	11:00 14:00	Morning worship Merton Winter Night Shelter	
9	Mon			<i>2nd week of Lent</i>
11	Wed	20:00	Church & Society	
12	Thu	10:30	Lettings Team	
13	Fri	10:00 20:00	Trinity Toddlers Friday Fellowship	
14	Sat	10:30	Synod Together at East Croydon	
15	SUN	11:00 16:30	Morning worship Messy Church	
16	Mon			<i>3rd week of Lent</i>
19	Thu	20:00	Finance Team	
20	Fri	10:00 20:00	Trinity Toddlers Friday Fellowship Film Night	
21	Sat	16:00	Pilots	

22	SUN	<i>Mothering Sunday</i> 11:00	All age worship	
23	Mon			<i>4th week of Lent</i>
26	Thu	20:00	Elders & Door Stewards	Spring party
27	Fri	10:00	Trinity Toddlers	
		20:00	Friday Fellowship	
29	SUN	11:00	Morning worship followed by Church Meeting & Election to Elders' Council	
30	Mon			<i>5th week of Lent</i>

.....

'Saintly' Messy Church – Sunday 15 March



Our next Messy Church will take place between 4.30pm and 6.30pm in the Mansel Road Centre.

We will be thinking about St George, St Patrick, St Andrew and St David.

Come along to make thistles, shamrocks, daffodils, dragons and much more!



There will be craft, music, worship and a hot meal, so save the date and bring your friends!

Any questions to Susan Collins (susancyoung@hotmail.com).

Mothering Sunday – 22 March

The morning worship will be suitable for all ages, and the whole church family. Why not take the opportunity to bring friends and neighbours to celebrate this day with us?



*Thank God
for Mums!*

Church Meeting - 29 March

Following a shortened service there will be a Church Meeting for all church members for the election of Elders and also appointment of a vacancy team for the forthcoming ministerial vacancy. (See the Minister's letter in this magazine.)

.....

Church Family News

Birth

Congratulations to **Winz and Alex Woo** on the safe arrival of their son **Jacob** on 14 December 2019.



Commitment for Life

There will be a special service for Commitment for Life (CforL) on **Sunday 1 March**.

In September 2019, twenty-one members of the United Reformed Church accompanied Derek Estill, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, on a visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (IOPT). This educational visit was not a tour or a holiday, but for those who attended, it was an immersive pilgrimage with much time immersed in the lives of people who are among the world's most maligned, treated as strangers in their own land.

Hannah Jones, who was one of the group, (seen eleventh from the right in this photo) will be speaking about the visit and the work of Commitment for Life during our Morning Worship on 1 March. Israel and the Palestinian Territories is our partner region for CforL.

The usual Lent collection for CforL, with envelopes in the pews, will start on that Sunday and continue on the following two Sundays.



‘This educational visit...was an immersive pilgrimage with much time immersed in the lives of people who are among the world's most maligned, treated as strangers in their own land’

Wednesday Social Group – 4 March



Using old photographs and postcards, Alan Young will lead us back to visit "**Past Wimbledon**" and we will see how the town has developed from a quiet village to the place we know today.

Please note the change of time – 3pm this month!

As always, we will have tea at the end of the afternoon. All will be very welcome.

Some future dates for your diary !

Our programme for the next few months is:

- 1 April - A musical afternoon with Miriam and Dominic
- 5 May - Visit of the "Sweet and Low" singers
- 3 June - Jean Jerram presents "125 years of the National Trust"
- 1 July - Strawberry tea

Register of Elders

A register, listing all Elders and their dates of service, from the formation of Trinity in 1884 to the present day, has been produced. It will be on display at Sunday coffee time during March.

Lent 2020

#LiveLent:Care for God's Creation is the Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2020.

With weekly themes shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance God has created. This year's **#LiveLent** challenge offers 40 short reflections and suggested actions to help you, your family and your church live in greater harmony with God, neighbour and nature.



“This Lent, we hope both adults and children might engage in God’s plea for us to ‘Care for Creation’. It is an opportunity for us to rebuild our relationship with our planet, and in turn with the God who is Lord of everything. During this time, we hope you might engage in prayer, learn more about the remarkable world we have been given and build habits that last beyond the season to protect and honour the earth.”

- *Archbishop Justin Welby & Archbishop John Sentamu*

THE FINAL DATE FOR COPY FOR THE APRIL EDITION OF TRINITY NEWS TO REACH THE EDITOR IS 10 MARCH.

We're thinking about Angels

A day-time Bible study group formed in November and everyone is very welcome to come along. You don't need to commit to every month, although it would be lovely to see you! We are meeting at the home of Cathy Dundee, 22 Courthope Villas (off Worples Road) on the first Thursday afternoon of each month at 2pm. The next two meetings are on **Thursday 5 March and Thursday 2 April**.

At the moment we are looking at 'Angels' - their role in the Bible and in our lives. Did you know that 34 of the Bible's 66 books talk about angels in detail? The word *angel* occurs more than 250 times in Scripture. Jesus himself referred to angels as real beings who were involved in every realm of human activity. So we've got plenty to be thinking about for a few months! Do come along. We'd love to see you.

World Day of Prayer - Friday 6 March

Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' to join this day of prayer. It was back in 2012 that Zimbabwe was invited to prepare the 2020 World Day of Prayer. At that time, the country was facing many challenges.



Since then, Zimbabwe has gone through many changes notably the ousting of Robert Mugabe. But the new dawn that so many had hoped and prayed for has not happened. In fact, life for ordinary Zimbabweans is harder than ever.

Please continue to pray for Zimbabwe.

The local services this year will take place as follows:

10:30 St John Fisher Church, 207 Cannon Hill Lane, SW20 9DB

20:00 Christ Church, West Wimbledon (Corner of Cottenham Park Rd and Copse Hill), SW20 0RZ

Further details are available on the vestry corridor noticeboard.

From the archives

Through the decades No 12: 1990s



This photograph shows Revd Ceri Lewis with the group of fourteen young people who were confirmed on Easter Sunday 1992. How many of them do you recognise? They are:

Back row - Daniel Lewis, Raymond Rambaran, Malcolm McGilchrist, David McLeish, Nadeem Houry, Rhiannon James, Claire Jackman

Middle row - Laila George, Marie Broad, Sheliza Rambaran, Jennifer Kissiedu, Elizabeth Young

Front row - Jean Kissiedu, (Ceri Lewis), Abena Kissiedu

It is a sign of how things change nowadays that only one of these young people (Elizabeth, now our Church Administrator) is still a member of the Church.

Impressive as this group looks, a further four who could not be present on Easter Sunday, were confirmed on the first Sunday in May. They were Andrew and Katrina Hunt, Alexia and Tamara Cox.