

Trinity News

February 2021

No.505



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



Lent (for adults)

Lent, which this year begins with Ash Wednesday on 17 February, is a special period in the Church calendar when we remember Jesus' time alone in the wilderness. Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13 tell us how, for forty days and nights, Jesus fasted and prayed to prepare for his work while resisting temptation from the devil. Traditionally, Lent provides Christians with space to reflect and contemplate. When recalling Jesus' sacrifice in the desert, we consider items or habits in our own lives we may want to change, and Lent can help us to focus more clearly on living a more Christ-shaped life.

Watch our website for some ideas for Lent activities or readings. We hope the ideas will offer a bit of inspiration to observe Lent as a time of personal reflection.

What is Lent (for children)?

In 1 minute 43 seconds - see

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztkxpv4/articles/z77jf4j>
(with pancake recipe!)



Front cover photo by [Les Anderson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What's on in February

Worship

Sunday 7 February – Holy Communion

Led by Revd Alistair Cumming

Sunday 14 February

Led by members of Elders' Council

Sunday 21 February

Led by Dr Steve Tomkins (Editor of URC's 'Reform' magazine)

Sunday 28 February

Led by Revd Dr Kevin Snyman (URC's Programme Officer for Global Justice & Partnerships) on Commitment for Life

Meetings

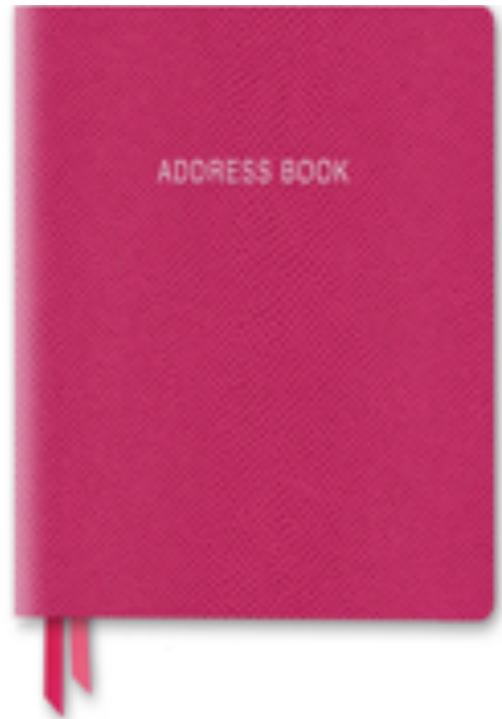
3 Wed	-	19:30	Elders' Council
10 Wed	-	19:30	Children & Youth Work Team
11 Thur	-	19:30	Meeting for all Elders
17 Wed	-	19:30	Elders' Council
24 Wed	-	19:30	Leadership of worship seminar (1) led by Revd Andy Twilley (Synod Training Officer)

Church Directory

Thanks to all church members who have recently updated their contact details and have given permission for them to appear in our Church Directory. This is being sent out over the next weeks.

Please remember that the information contained in the Directory is private and intended for the use of Trinity people only. Please keep your copy securely to prevent misuse of the contents.

Whenever your contact details change please let the Church Secretaries or Roll Keeper know (churchsecretaries@trinitywimbledon.org).



Birthdays in February



Many happy returns to those celebrating birthdays this month including Graham Angus, Joan Dennis, Edelweiss Dunfield-Prayero, Martha Khurshid, Danai Siva and Tara Yu.

The ministerial vacancy

Discussion across Trinity's eldership took place before Christmas and again this month about the vacancy and Trinity's challenges and opportunities for the future. The Vacancy Team has begun to draft a new Pastorate Profile to present to the Synod, a key milestone for us to reach.

The Team met again by Zoom this week and clarified further with Revd Stephen Lewis (our Interim Moderator) aspects of what we need to achieve in terms of the Pastorate Profile content. It is clear from our discussions with the Synod that it is unlikely, although of course not impossible, that our ministerial vacancy will be filled during 2021. Nevertheless, we will strive hard to find someone, as soon as possible, who is interested in becoming our next minister, with a specified ministerial role.

As soon as possible, and even whilst in-person Church Meetings remain impossible, the Team is considering suitable and effective means of arranging consultation within the congregation generally.

Once again, it will be so beneficial if all of us continue to be faithful in our participation in worship, to keep in touch regularly with others, to be generous as we offer time and talents to Trinity, and to pray for those who will be seeking to guide and assist Trinity through the vacancy process.

Regular updates will continue to be provided in *Trinity News* and by other suitable means. In the meantime, I hope that you will call or email me if you have any questions.

Sandy McLeish, Vacancy Team Leader

15 January 2021

Christingle Messy Church

Our second Virtual Messy Church went online at 4pm on 22 December 2020 and so far has been viewed at least 90 times by Trinity members and their friends and families. It had a Christingle theme, and the positive feedback suggests that families enjoyed watching, listening, singing, laughing and trying out some activities at home this Christmas.



It seems unlikely that we will be able to meet in the Mansel Road Centre for Messy Church in the near future, so keep an eye out for our next virtual celebration!



***The next Messy Church will be live on
Thursday 18 March***

The Mansel Road Centre



The Mansel Road Centre, as with many businesses, church centres and community centres, had a tough 2020. We closed completely during the first lockdown and worked hard to reopen at the end of August/beginning of September. We have some very loyal hirers, all of whom have been struggling themselves, and so were so pleased when we did eventually reopen. We picked up a lot of business from Wimbledon High School who needed extra rooms to help them socially distance their classes. We were also lucky enough

to pick up bookings from some who usually hire elsewhere but where venues didn't reopen.

With the help of Facebook and a new Instagram account for the MRC, we spread the word that we were open. During lockdown 2 in November, the restrictions were not quite so strict, so we were able to hire to our pre-school classes, training courses and educational bookings.

Our cleaning costs inevitably went up as we needed to ensure that the rooms were cleaned between hirers and also thoroughly each evening for the next day. We therefore came up with some innovative ways to raise funds. We asked people in the local community to make some facemasks for us to sell, we put collection tins throughout the building, we sold mini hand sanitiser bottles, and Elizabeth wrote to all the local supermarkets asking for their support. Waitrose and Morrison's both donated vouchers and cleaning products which helped immensely.



We are obviously looking at a quiet January and possibly February so if anyone has any good fundraising ideas, please let Elizabeth Scharinger know at office@trinitywimbledon.org

Fairtrade Fortnight 22 February to 7 March 2021



For two weeks each year at the end of February and start of March, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks, mine our gold, and who grow the cotton in our clothes - people who are often exploited and underpaid.

In 2021, Fairtrade Fortnight will feel very different. 2020 has been a hard year for everyone and we know that physically campaigning and meeting people will continue to be challenging in 2021 but we have also heard from so many of you that you want to continue to support Fairtrade through this time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us more than ever how interconnected we are globally. This interconnection is at the very heart of the Fairtrade message and is where your role begins. You are part of the Fairtrade movement and you have the power to drive long-term change, not only with your shopping choices but with your support in spreading the message. We just have to do this a little differently in 2021!

You can read more about Fairtrade Fortnight here:
<http://bit.ly/3olhfv0>

From the archives

The 'Spanish Flu' pandemic of a century ago: how Trinity was affected

It was suggested to me a while ago that we might have a look at how the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918/19 affected the area, and Trinity in particular. It is fair to say that, despite how serious it was, it has been largely forgotten.

The so called 'Spanish flu', so named because people thought erroneously that it came from Spain, was first seen in the USA, and soon in Britain, in Spring 1918. The first wave was fairly mild and seemed to have faded when a second wave arrived, much more serious, in August. At this time the world was still engaged in the First World War. Movement and mobilisation of troops placed large numbers of people in close contact and living spaces were overcrowded. There were no diagnostic tests that could test for influenza and doctors didn't know that influenza viruses existed. Vaccines did not exist and penicillin was not discovered until 1928.

The second wave spread throughout the Autumn, and the victory celebrations in November caused a surge of cases. A third wave between January and June 1919 was the period that seems to have affected Trinity the most.

Incredibly, one third of the world population was affected. In Britain the pandemic most affected those under the age of 5, the 20-40 age range and those over 65. In Britain at least 228,000 died, possibly as many as 250,000 (there had been 100,000 deaths in the coronavirus pandemic as we write in mid January). The north suffered worse than the south. Here in Wimbledon about 200 succumbed.

There was no centrally imposed lockdown. Some cities sprayed their streets with disinfectant. Some people wore masks. But there was no radio or television to spread news of the pandemic, the newspapers were censored because it was still wartime, and everyone appears to have just gone ahead with their daily lives.

It was suggested that cocoa might keep the illness away, and later porridge was recommended! Certainly life in Trinity continued with Sunday services, Sunday School, Guild meetings, and the 'Soldiers hall', at which soldiers from the camp on the Common were entertained, seemingly continuing as normal.

There are just one or two hints that Trinity was affected. There are vague mentions that attendance at events was maintained 'despite the amount of sickness around'.

The minister, Revd Duncan Macgregor, was sick with 'a rather sharp attack of influenza' throughout March 1919 and was absent from his pulpit on four Sundays.

George Cheal, of our St Cuthbert's mission church, was de-mobbed, only to fall ill with influenza. He died on 27 February 1919. Jasper Bruce, still serving in the army, died of influenza at Le Havre on 17 February 1919.

And, a particularly sad case, eight month old Eric Mackintosh died of influenza on the morning of 14 February 1919 at home, 20 Springfield Road, and his mother Mary followed the same afternoon, aged 33. George and Mary Mackintosh had joined Trinity in March 1916 and their first baby Alister, was baptised here the following year. Eric was baptised on 15 December 1918.

Eric and Mary were buried together at Bandon Hill Cemetery in Wallington, alongside a memorial that included Mary's two brothers, both of whom also died of influenza the previous October. George was left with a small son. They soon left Wimbledon and, in time, George set up shop in Epsom as a tailor. He died in 1955 and, perhaps by coincidence, Alister died locally in 1992.



The pandemic faded through the Spring of 1919 and seems to have been generally forgotten.

A prayer for our times



This prayer was first used in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, in April 2020, when 13 different Churches across the country, including the URC, took part in joint prayer.

The churches issued a letter with this prayer that reads:

“As we find ourselves living through a renewed phase of lockdown, we see in the Gospel of John (20: 19-23) that, in part, the experience of the disciples, even on the day of Resurrection, was one in which they found themselves locked in and behind closed doors.

“Their experience of lockdown was interrupted by the presence of Jesus as he came and stood among them.

“He speaks into the depths of their fears and anxieties: ‘Peace be with you. We hear these words and know that they speak to us.

“We listen again for what he will say and discover that Jesus simply repeats himself: ‘Peace be with you.’

“As we still ourselves, we hear those words of peace spoken and sense that they are spoken to us and to all who long to hear a word that heals and reassures: ‘Peace be with you’.”

We pray:

Living God, speak into the depths of our experience,
Speak the word that stills our fears
And calms our anxieties:
'Peace be with you.'

Speak your word to the lonely and to the broken,
To the bereaved and to those whose world has crumbled:
'Peace be with you.'

Faithful God, speak to us behind locked doors
As we remember others, who risk their own safety,
In order to serve others:
Peace be with them.
Carers and nurses, doctors and ambulance drivers,
Delivery drivers and shop assistants:
Peace be with them.

God who inspires Hope, speak to us in the present
And speak to us of the future,
For though the doors are locked, in time they shall be open:
Peace shall be renewed.
For those who lead the life of our Nation:
Our Queen Elizabeth, and Prime Minister,
and all who shape our common life,
For us all: Peace shall be renewed.

God whose name is love and whose gift is love,
Open our hearts to know you and to love you,
To love you and to love our neighbour
And as we do, to hear again: 'Peace be with you.'
May we find our strength in you,
And hear again:
'Peace be with you.'

Our Gift Day charities

You will remember that the funds raised at our Gift Day in November were allocated in accordance with the vote taken by Trinity members and friends from a list of charities. Read here some of the expressions of thanks for your donations.....



We would like to say a huge thank you for your donation of £500 which has been safely received. Because of your help we can support more people, answer more phone calls, and speak louder for everybody affected by mental health problems. Thank you again for your kind and generous support.

<https://mind.org.uk>



I am writing to thank you for your kind donation of £500 in support of the British Red Cross.

The British Red Cross plays a vital role in emergency response, and the ongoing, ever-changing situation concerning the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is no exception.

In times of crisis, we're here to help people. We're local and we're global and we've been doing this for 150 years. Our network of incredible staff and volunteers means we are uniquely placed to reach people in fearful, uncertain times.

But it's the generosity of supporters like you that enables our work to happen quickly and efficiently. With your help, we'll continue to

provide vital humanitarian, individual support for the most vulnerable, and those who fall through the gaps. Your generous donation will make a real difference to people in their hour of need. To read about the British Red Cross response to this urgent situation, you can view regular updates on our website at <https://www.redcross.org.uk/coronavirus-uk>



Thank you very much for the cheque for £500 representing a gift from Trinity United Reformed Church to the Barnabas Fund.

We greatly appreciate this most generous gift to help Christians who are suffering for their faith. We are so glad that you share our concern for these needy brothers and sisters. Gifts made through the Barnabas Fund make a real difference to people who often have nobody else to help them.

The season of Christmas and New Year is seen by some extremists as a good time to attack vulnerable Christian minorities. For example, Boko Haram terrorists in Nigeria attacked a mainly Christian village on Christmas Eve, killing at least eleven people and setting fire to ten homes and the church building. Please pray for the survivors of that attack and for protection for all our brothers and sisters in such situations, especially at this time of increased risk continues into the early days of the new year. Thank you for your support for the Barnabas Fund.

<https://barnabasfund.org>

SAMARITANS

I am the Director of our (Inner South West London) Samaritans branch and wanted to add my huge thanks to you for the donation which we have received from your church, and for your congregation's good wishes.

The early signs are that this latest lockdown is sadly having a far greater impact on the mental wellbeing of so many people, compared with any of the equivalent periods last year. Your generosity could not have come at a better time.

<https://www.samaritans.org/branches/inner-south-west-london/>



I'm writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for helping to raise £500.00 for Alzheimer's Research UK. Your efforts have led to vital funding. You're now helping our scientists to discover more about this devastating condition and bringing us closer to discovering a life-changing dementia treatment. Your support is so important to us and to our scientists. You are bringing us closer to the breakthroughs in dementia research that will change countless lives.

<https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org> contains all our latest news and information.



On behalf of Wimbledon Foodbank we want to thank you for your financial support, £500 cheque received. These donations will prove crucial in helping us to continue to serve those who are struggling with food poverty in our community.

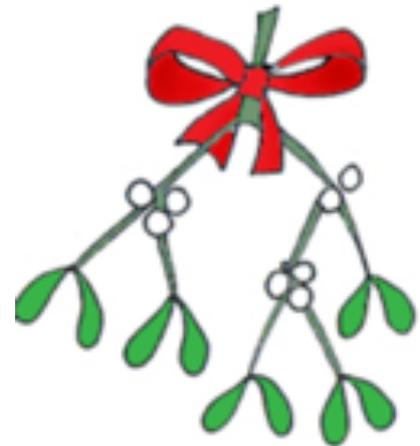
Wimbledon Foodbank works with families who are in crisis in the Merton area. For example, families who are coping with the day-to-day financial demands, until a crisis arises such as a broken boiler or a delay in benefits, redundancy could leave the family unable to feed themselves. The Foodbank will provide these families with three days of food and signpost them to the frontline professionals who can help solve the crisis.

250 voucher holders have now signed up and to date over 474 tons of food have been donated. We have now fed 13,700 local people in

the last six months, (which is double the whole of last year's figures) many of which are children. These figures were beyond our expectations when opening on 31 October 2011.

Thank you so much for your contribution, it will make a huge difference to the families which we work with and help us to continue supporting families in crisis!

<https://wimbledon.foodbank.org.uk>



Trinity's 2020 Christmas Quiz - Answers *(in red)*

Congratulations to the joint winners of the Quiz- Jane Fairbrother and Pam Rostron - who gave individually the same number of correct answers, and have each won a prize! (The scores of the other entries were very similar.)

With thanks to all who submitted entries, and those others who reported that they had enjoyed the Quiz.

1. In the much-loved old carol 'Good King Wenceslas', where did the poor man live, and what non-food item was the page asked to bring for him?
Underneath the mountain, right against the forest fence, by St Agnes fountain; pine logs
2. What did 'Noel' mean originally, in Latin? **'To be born'**
3. What author said this about Christmas? *"This is quite the season for friendly meetings. At Christmas, everybody invites their friends about them, and people think little of the worst weather.....Nothing could be pleasanter"*
Jane Austen
4. From the song 'The 12 Days of Christmas', add together all the numbers of birds, subtract all the numbers of musicians, and add the number of dairy workers. What number is left? **8 (eight)**

5. A drinking fountain in Finsbury Square, London, commemorates Tom Smith - what commodity did he invent in 1847? **Christmas Crackers**

6. From which town did Dr Seuss's *The Grinch* steal Christmas? - **Whoville** or *Wellville* or *Whereville*?

7. In which Harper Lee book appears this account of an unusual Christmas proposal?. *"Every Christmas, Uncle Jack yelled across the street for Miss Maudie to come marry him. She would yell back "Call a little louder, Jack Finch, and they'll hear you at the post office, I haven't heard you yet!" Jem and I thought this a strange way to ask for a lady's hand in marriage..."*

'To Kill a Mockingbird'

8. *'Twas the Night Before Christmas'* is a poem read traditionally on Christmas Eve, and refers to eight tiny reindeer, one only of whom is named like a Solar System body. What is that reindeer's name? **Comet**

9. How many Kings/Magi does the Bible say visited the infant Jesus? What are their popular names? **Number unspecified. Balthazar, Caspar, Melchior**

10. In *'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'* what presents does Father Christmas give to Lucy? a bow and arrows?, or a shield and sword?, or **a healing cordial and a dagger**

11. Solve these Christmas anagrams:

- *drastic charms* **christmas card**; - *tense aggressions* **seasons greetings**; - *deplored, he is the odder runner* **rudolph the red nosed reindeer**

12. The words of the popular carol *'Joy to the World'* are by which English writer, based on Psalm 98, and its original melody, later called *'Antioch'* is attributed to a famous composer. Who were the writer and composer?

Isaac Watts and **Georg Frederic Handel**

13. In what northern European country, might you receive gifts from a different Yule Lad each night, if you leave your shoes on the window sill on each of the 12 nights before Christmas? **Iceland**

14. Why did robins start to appear on Christmas cards? **The first post-men were often nicknamed as 'robins'**

15. In *'A Christmas Carol'* by Charles Dickens, which character says *"I will keep Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year"*? **Ebenezer Scrooge**

16. To what country is the Poinsettia, with its red and green foliage, native? **Mexico**

17. 'Love Came Down at Christmas' is a classic poem, whose words are used also in a beautiful carol. Who wrote them and for what other Christmas carol did she provide the words? **Christina Rossetti. 'In the bleak midwinter'**

18. Shakespeare wrote a play for Elizabeth I as a Christmas present. Which play? **'The Merry Wives of Windsor'**

19. Who wrote the book 'The Snowman' and what is the song made famous by the film of the book? **Raymond Briggs. 'Walking in the Air'**

20. When is Saint Stephen's Day in the UK? **26 December**

21. From which Christmas carol do these words of its second verse begin? – "Still through its cloven skies they come..." **It came upon a Midnight Clear**

22. In Italian tradition, what is the name of the old woman who fills the Christmas stockings of children with gifts on the eve of Epiphany? **La Befana**

23. How many sides or tips do snowflakes have? **6 (six)**

24. With what English city is the carol with this first line associated? "Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child..." **Coventry**

25. A Christingle is a symbolic object used at Advent and Christmas. What does the word mean, and what do the elements of the traditional Christingle orange and its decorations mean? **Little Christ Child; orange (the world); red ribbon (the love and blood of Christ); sweets and dried fruit (God's creation); lit candle (Jesus, Light of the world)**

Our thanks to Elizabeth and Sandy McLeish for creating such a enjoyable and informative quiz for Trinity.

