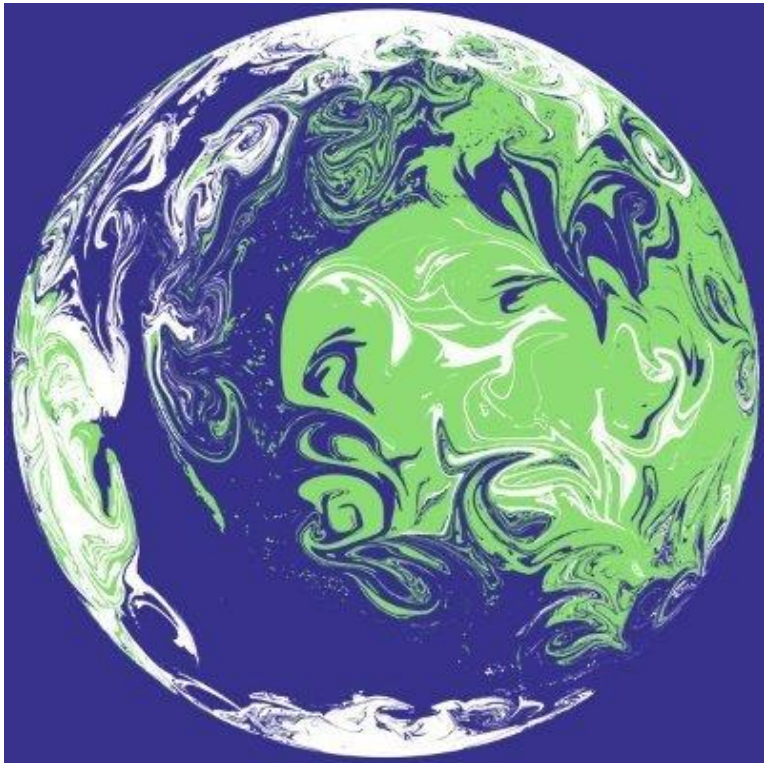


Trinity News

October 2021

No.512



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



Sundays in October

Sunday 3 October at 11:00 – Rededication Sunday

Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd Ernest Yu

Sunday 10 October at 11:00

Service led by Revd Bruce Stuart (retired URC minister)

Sunday 17 October at 11:00

Service led by Sam & Sarah Elliot

Sunday 24 October at 11:00

Service led by Revd David Marshall-Jones (retired URC minister & former Interim Minister at Trinity)

Sunday 31 October at 11:00

Service led by Revd Dr John Bradbury, General Secretary of the URC



Church Family News

Change of address

Mrs Jean Jerram - Flat 413 Signature Senior Lifestyle, 94 North Side, Wandsworth Common, SW18 2QU

Tel: (020) 8103 7010. M: 07903 438207

E: jeanjerram@btinternet.com

Congratulations

A very happy birthday to those celebrating birthdays in October, including Vera Broadbridge (102nd birthday), Joyce Chiu-Broadbent, Matilda Henning, Hoi Ching Charlene Kwok, Su Lambert, Kate Mansfield, Catherine Paul, Guy Rostron, Pam Rostron, Abena Sarpong and Elijah Siphika.



Rededication Sunday - Sunday 3 October

The last two years have been a time of enormous change at Trinity, as everywhere, and we will continue to see change and development as we go forward. Those of you who were able to attend the Church Meeting on 12 September heard about some of our hopes and aspirations for the future, and the process of seeking our next minister.

In becoming members at Trinity, each of us has promised to share in the life of this church, and to be faithful in our commitment. **Rededication Sunday on 3 October** is an excellent opportunity for each of us to reflect upon and to renew that commitment, so that by strengthening our church life together we might equip each other to be better disciples in the world.

By remembering God's hand in our lives, we're able to commit ourselves to another year of Christian fellowship and activity, looking forward to all that God has in store for Trinity.

We do hope to see you in church on Sunday 3 October.

October diary

1	Fri	20:00	Film Club
6	Wed	20:00	Elders' Council
14	Thu	19:30	Finance Team
15	Fri	20:00	Film Club
19	Tue	19:30	Worship & Faith Development Team
21	Thu	19:30	Outreach & Witness Team



URC General Secretary's visit - 31 October

On 31 October our service will be led by the General Secretary of the United Reformed Church, the Revd Dr John Bradbury.

John was Minister of Earle Road United Reformed Church in Picton, Liverpool, from 2004 to 2007. He moved to Westminster College, Cambridge, to teach systematic theology and Church history, and he became Vice Principal. In the last few years, he has served several churches in Cambridgeshire, before becoming the General Secretary in 2020.

Dr Bradbury will be helping to lead the URC through some challenging times - coming out of the pandemic, and trying to work out how things have changed and how things need to change.

Interviewed for Reform magazine last year, he was asked...



What's your hope for the coming years?

"My hope is that we can be faithful, not fearful. This is a really difficult moment to be Church in the place where we are called to be, but God has placed us into the situation we're in. The Church never dies. God always calls God's people to be present in the midst of the world. We need to learn to be faithful enough that we never lose hope.

"And to be faithful enough not to pretend that we are the be all and end all, and that the preservation of our own structures must be our primary concern. If we can be faithful, not fearful, that would be, to my mind, an amazing gift that the Spirit could give us."

Please come to hear Dr Bradbury on 31 October and welcome him to Trinity.

The ministerial vacancy



The Church Meeting held on Sunday 12 September provided a welcome opportunity for the Vacancy Team and Elders' Council to update members on the minister vacancy position, and to describe the content of and explain the rationale behind the key themes in the Pastorate Profile, which was sent last month to the Synod Pastoral Committee.

It was emphasised that in compiling the Profile, we drew heavily on the results of the congregational survey conducted earlier this year. The realities of the current shortage of ministers across the UK, and the likely impact on the filling of some current and future vacancies, also were explained.

A copy of the presentation slides shown at the Church Meeting were emailed to all those who have subscribed to receive such messages. If you have not received a copy of the slides and wish to receive one, please contact me.

We await now a discussion with the Synod about the Profile and the filling of the vacancy at Trinity, and the congregation will be kept up to date on progress. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do ask me.

The Vacancy Team will value your continuing prayers of support.

*Sandy McLeish, Vacancy Team Leader
September 2021*



Queens Road housegroup

The next meeting of the housegroup will be on Thursday 14 October at 4pm. All will be very welcome. For further information contact Alison Trehearn (atrehearn@hotmail.com).

Gift Day ballot



Each year we conduct a ballot for Gift Day nominations, and we now need to decide which charities will benefit in 2021.

The ten charities selected will comprise 4 local, 3 national and 3 international organisations. There is further information at the bottom of the voting form.

Complete this [Voting Form](#) and return it to Robin Ingram ('For Others' secretary) at robin.h.ingram@gmail.com or put a printed copy in the ballot box in the vestibule at Trinity on Sundays, or post it to Robin at the Trinity office by 11 October.

Do contact either Robin Ingram or Robin Goodchild if you need any further information.

When the Gift Day appeal is launched later in October the charities receiving most support in the ballot will be highlighted.

Please take the time to vote in this important fundraising event in the Trinity calendar.



**Gift Day 'For Others' 2021 will be on
Sunday 7 November**



Lay preaching training update

As you may know, this year I've been training to be a Synod recognised lay preacher with the URC. Before I began my preaching training back in January, I asked to be placed with a church where I wasn't known. As I could be called to lead worship anywhere in the Synod, I felt that training somewhere "new" would be a good test of my skills. I was assigned the Revd Peter Flint from New Malden URC as a mentor and have been undertaking the "practical" elements of the training there.

Of course, Covid has impacted my training in that there have obviously been some differences in what elements of a service I can include or how they can be delivered. However, I believe it's made me reflect on different ways of engaging with worship much more than if I'd trained in "pre-Covid" times. Music-wise it afforded me a little more freedom when congregational singing wasn't possible. New Malden had one person singing, and a small band. Therefore, as long as they knew the hymns I was choosing that was the main thing and I didn't need to worry if enough people in the congregation would be able to follow the words and the music.

Whilst initially I might have wanted to dive straight in and take a whole service early on, it was helpful to concentrate on just an element at a time as it took me a while to get used to being in front of a different congregation. It also meant I have thought more deeply about each individual element and how to make them "fit" with the rest of the service in a coherent way.

In the training sessions we looked at different aspects of sermon construction alongside the other parts of a service. There was homework to do, writing prayers, choosing hymns, writing sermon outlines, or asking questions as if we were being asked to preach at a new church. As ever, the training can only cover a fraction of what we need to know and the practical experience I'm getting by leading

worship at New Malden and reflecting upon it is as much a part as the formal sessions.

I feel I'm finally starting to find my "voice" when it comes to worship, but know I need to be aware that I can (and should) vary my style a little from time to time as I feel fits the readings or the occasion.

I've been very much encouraged by the informal feedback that people have given me following services and I do appreciate people telling me what does or doesn't work for them. It's a privilege to be asked to lead any aspect of worship and I know how important it is for it to be meaningful for everyone worshipping.

I finished my formal training at the end of August though I'm still doing a little more at New Malden. My assessed service will be on 24 October at Hampton Hill URC. Hopefully if all goes to plan, I'd then be able to lead services anywhere in the Synod.

As an aside, I was very delighted (and more than a little shocked!) to have been a finalist in the *Preach Magazine* "Sermon of the Year" competition earlier this year. Having surprised myself by getting to the top 10 last year, I only decided to have another go just a week before the closing date. I had had a few musings about what I could write, but in the end the sermon just wouldn't leave my thoughts and it had to be written! It was certainly an interesting process filming it in Trinity in front of just two other people and preaching to the judges online. It's a real shame I didn't get to meet the other finalists, but the pre-recorded nature did mean that many people who couldn't have been there for an "in person" event could still share in watching the final.

The video of the final can be found here:
<https://www.preachweb.org/final>

Whilst I didn't win, it's been a chance to further develop the gifts that I feel God has given me (even if I've not quite worked out why!). As part of the recording, the three finalists had to give an "acceptance speech" ready for the big reveal on the night. I don't recall everything I said but I do know I thanked everyone who has supported me on my ongoing journey of discernment which has led to me training in lay preaching. Many of you over the last few years have taken time to give me opportunities to try things out, offered feedback or thoughts (or just listened to me tip everything out of my head!). It's

all been very much appreciated, and this competition has affirmed to me that others have also seen something in me that you had already said was there.

The Lay Preaching course runs again in January and if anyone wants to talk to me about it then I'd be happy to share my thoughts.

Katrina Clifford

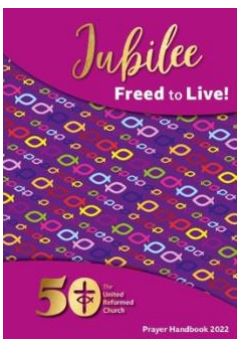
Communion washing up



Could you spare 20-30 minutes after a Communion service to help wash up and put away the Communion glasses and silverware?

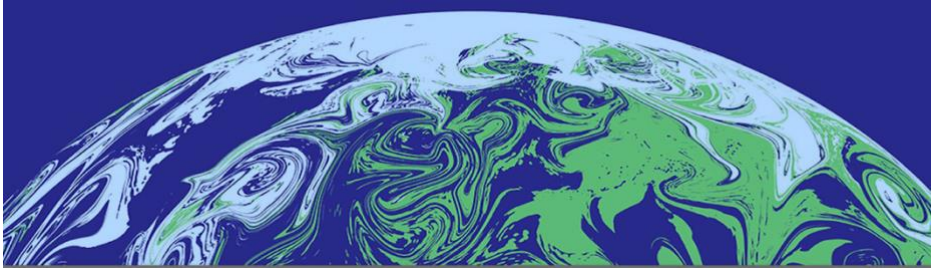
You will join a rota of helpers and only be asked once every six months or so. It is a very easy and sociable job.

Please contact Yvonne Morrissey who organises the rota (yvonnecoverack@gmail.com; (020) 8647 6533).



It's 50 years since the United Reformed Church came into being.

Recognising this significant milestone, *Jubilee: Freed to Live!* is the theme for the 2022 URC Prayer Handbook. Available in A5 standard and A4 lectern editions. £5.49-£10.99 +p&p from the URC Bookshop (publishing@urc.org.uk)



Changing Our Planet - Saturday 9 October 2021, 6 to 8pm

The EcoChurch Group at Christ Church, West Wimbledon are organising a speaker evening in the lead up to the COP26 conference.

Speakers will be

Ben Niblett: 'Renew our World' Campaign Coordinator at Tearfund. Ben will speak about Tearfund's Sustainable development work.

Diana Sterck: CEO of Sustainable Merton who will give a local perspective.

Molly Clark: from Young Christian Climate Network and one of the organisers of the Relay to COP26.

Tickets are free and available through Eventbrite. [Click here.](#)

For more information contact Mike Tulloch or Elizabeth Scharinger, or visit <http://www.christchurch-westwimbledon.org/>. We hope for a good attendance from Trinity.

Live your Faith

Think about someone who is finding life difficult at the moment. Make a point of listening to them and offering them encouragement - perhaps face-to-face or by writing them a card.



Are you an early riser?

Trinity's regular cleaner has recently broken her leg and is expected to be off work for some time. The agency that we use are struggling to find reliable cleaners to work for them, and so our levels of cleaning have dropped quite significantly.



We are therefore looking for someone in the congregation who might be willing to work for a few hours each morning to ensure that our rooms, toilets and communal areas are clean for the day hirers.

If you or anyone you know might be interested, please speak to Elizabeth Scharinger, the Church Administrator (office@trinitywimbledon.org; (020) 8946 9281).

Christmas 2021

Do you have a nativity crib scene? If so, would you be willing to lend it to the church for a few days before Christmas (probably the weekend of 18/19 December)?

We are thinking of having an exhibition of as many nativity scenes as possible - the more variety the better. Old, new, home-made, wooden, metal, large and small, Chinese, British..... But we can't do this without your help. We have had one or two offers, but need lots and lots more.

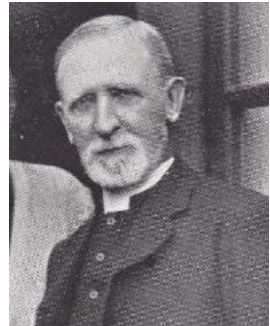


Please contact Catherine Paul (catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com) as soon as possible so we know whether we will have enough scenes to exhibit, or for further information.

From the archives

Slow boat to China!

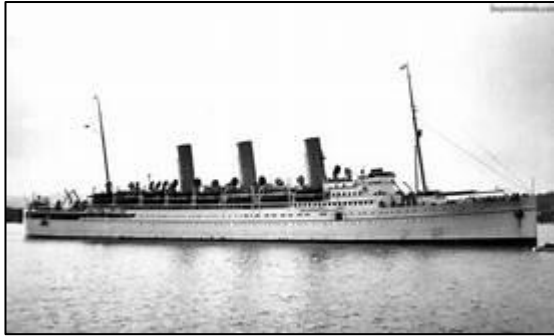
Almost a century ago Trinity's Minister paid a visit to China and the Far East. This must have been a thrilling adventure. Nowadays we can fly to Hong Kong in a few hours. His absence lasted eight months. Over three issues of Trinity News we will trace his journey.



Trinity's minister, Revd Dr Macgregor, who had recently had the degree of Doctor of Divinity conferred upon him by Edinburgh University, was Convenor of the Foreign Missions Committee of the Presbyterian Church of England. In that capacity he was invited to visit the 'mission stations in the East'. He was granted eight months leave of absence and he arranged for Revd Dr Hugh Lenox Hodge of Philadelphia, a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of the United States who was working at the military camp on the Common, to act as 'minister in charge' during his absence. We'll hear more of Dr Hodge at a later occasion.

So it was that on the morning of 21 August 1922 a sizeable group from Trinity met at Waterloo Station to bid farewell to 'the Doctor', as he was affectionately known. He boarded the 'Empress of India' at Southampton, bound for Quebec, on the first stage of his adventure. Via Cherbourg and Greenock he arrived in Canada on 28 August, having sighted icebergs off Labrador.

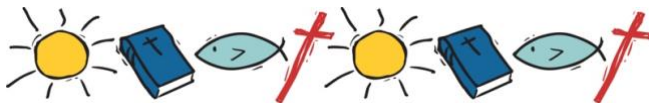
Dr Macgregor made slow progress across Canada, visiting Toronto, Montreal (where he preached), the Niagara Falls, Winnipeg, Calgary, the Rocky Mountains and Vancouver, where he arrived on 27 September. He set sail from Vancouver on the 'Empress of Australia', but they had only travelled thirty-six hours when engine trouble forced a return to Vancouver and he was transferred to 'Empress of Asia'. This delay lost him three days from his time in Japan.



Empress of Asia

The ship berthed at Yokohama, Japan. From there Dr Macgregor spent a while admiring the Japanese countryside, he visited Tokyo and passed Mount Fujiyama (her peak sadly hidden by cloud). He crossed Korea and spent some time in Peking (Beijing) which, he said, was like a scene from the 'Arabian Nights' and 'quite indescribable'. He spent a week with a niece in Mukden, Manchuria and from there he travelled by train, crossing the Yangtze and Huang Ho rivers, to Shanghai where he boarded a ship for Swatow (now Shantou), the first official destination of his travels. He arrived there on 6 November.

To be continued.....



The Church in China is growing faster than we can possibly imagine with around one million people coming to faith each year!

These new believers long for a Bible of their own but, for many the cost is too high. **Around half of rural Christians in China still don't have a Bible.**

Read more [here](#) at the Bible Society's website.

Psalm 23 Garden

- Design tips for a calm green space



A full-colour book is published to accompany Bible Society's entry to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2021 - a garden based on Psalm 23, designed by Sarah Eberle who won a gold medal for her design.

The book is now available (from 2 October).
ISBN: 9780564049677. Paperback.

Key features:

- Beautiful photos of the Psalm 23 Garden, taken at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2021
- Tips from medal-winning Chelsea garden designer Sarah Eberle on how to create a peaceful outdoor space
- Meditations on each verse of Psalm 23 (English Standard Version)
- Personal stories of people who have been impacted by the psalm

