

Trinity News

November 2021

No.513



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

Sundays in November

Sunday 7 November at 11:00 – Gift Day 'For Others'
Service with Communion led by the Revd Alistair Cumming
(Church of Scotland minister, Clerk of the Presbytery of England)

Sunday 14 November at 10:45 - Remembrance Sunday
Service led by Sandy McLeish (Trinity Elder)

Sunday 21 November at 11:00
Service led by Mark Dennis (Trinity Elder & Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher)

Sunday 28 November at 11:00 - Advent Sunday
Service led by Revd Stephen Lewis (Minister of Twickenham & Hampton Hill URCS and Trinity's Interim Moderator)



November diary

| | | | |
|----|-----|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 3 | Wed | 20:00 | Elders' Council |
| 5 | Fri | 20:00 | Film Club |
| 7 | Sun | Gift Day 'For Others' | |
| | | 10:30 | Elders' Meeting |
| 18 | Thu | 19:30 | Finance Team |
| 19 | Fri | 20:00 | Film Club |
| 24 | Wed | 20:00 | Church Meeting |

Church Family News

New email address

Mrs Violet Lovett - violetlovett@hotmail.com

Congratulations

A very happy birthday to those celebrating birthdays in November, including David Chan, Sam Elliot, Brian Lewis-Lavender, Sandy McLeish, Jethro Pratt, Alan Young and Revd Ernest Yu.



The ministerial vacancy

The presentation slides relating to the vacancy that were shown at the 12 September Church Meeting were emailed to all those who have subscribed to receive such messages, and may be found also on the church website.



A meeting of the Vacancy Team with the Synod Pastoral Committee to discuss the Pastorate Profile for Trinity and the scoping of the proposed role of our next minister, has been arranged for Monday 1 November. A progress report to the congregation will be provided later this month.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do ask me.

The Vacancy Team value your continuing prayers of support.

*Sandy McLeish, Vacancy Team Leader
October 2021*

Gift Day 'For Others' - Sunday 7 November



We are hoping to raise at least £10,000 this year and the funds raised will again be allocated in accordance with the vote taken recently by Trinity members and friends from a list of charities. The following charities have been chosen and will receive £500 each:-

Local Charities

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| St Raphael's Hospice | South London Refugee Association |
| South West London Samaritans | Wimbledon Foodbank |

National Charities

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Alzheimer's Research | Cancer Research UK |
| Macmillan Cancer Support | |

International Charities

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Medecins sans Frontieres | Save the Children |
| Barnabas Fund | |

Following provision of £2,000 for Disaster Relief, the remaining funds will be split 2/3rds to Faith-In-Action and 1/3rd to Water Aid.

Normally Gift Aid envelopes would be distributed but, in view of the current circumstances, electronic payment to the Trinity bank account may be preferred by donors. Our bank details are provided below or alternatively you may prefer to pay by debit/credit card. In this case click the red button below to make your donation to Gift Day at Trinity via the online giving website.

So - will you please help us raise sufficient money in order that we may meet the challenge of our mission to serve our local community and the needs of the wider world? Should you be attending the service at Trinity on 7 November or in the following weeks in November there will be Gift Day donation envelopes available to donate on the day. Alternatively, you may post your cheque payable

to Trinity URC to our 'For Others' Secretary, Robin Ingram, c/o Trinity church office.

Bank: CAF Bank
Sort Code: 40-52-40
Account: Trinity URC
Account Number: 00009610

Trinity thanks you in advance for your support.

[Donate](#)

Please click on the **donate button** to give securely online. Donations are processed by The Charities Aid Foundation.



Fairtrade Stall



For more than fifteen years - we are not sure of the exact date when she began - Cynthia Betts has organised and run the Fairtrade stall at Trinity. The stall has been very much appreciated by Trinity's congregation over the years, and has done much to raise awareness of Fairtrade and its work. Cynthia has now decided that the time has come to hand over the organisation to someone else.

We are grateful to Elizabeth Scharinger who has now taken over. The stall will be back in operation from Sunday 7 November and Elizabeth looks forward to seeing you then.

Changing Our Planet – Speaker Event, Christchurch West Wimbledon 9 October

This event, which was publicised in a number of *Trinity News* editions, proved to be an excellent affair. The three speakers gave highly complementary contributions so there was little overlap despite all being highly focused on the COP 26 conference at Glasgow. A key theme was that, globally, 'We are all in the same storm, but we are not in the same boat'.



The first speaker, Ben Niblett: 'Renew our World' Campaign Coordinator at Tearfund is working with local churches, principally in the developing world, to mitigate the worst effects of Climate Change. Tearfund's focus is on providing practical contingency planning that is relevant to local situations; for example, in Bangladesh because of the greater risk of flooding there, families' livelihoods can be wiped out in minutes if they do not have a means of escaping the rising waters. The charity also has a major campaign in respect of COP26 which includes both a declaration to the UK government that can be supported and prayer resources,

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/reboot-campaign>

The second speaker, Diana Sterck: CEO of Sustainable Merton, was looking at things from a much more local perspective. Her charity is on a mission to improve our environment through addressing issues around Waste, Air Quality, Energy and Food for a better, more sustainable future. They work principally through Community Champions and the website is full of practical ideas for contributing positively to the climate crisis. There is an App which tells you where you can go to reduce the use of plastic by refilling, for example, drinking water bottles and coffee cups. They also have teams who go on regular litter picks. Getting the right information on, for example, how best to replace a gas boiler (which we will all need to do if we are ever to reach net-zero carbon emissions) is also available from Sustainable Merton



<https://www.sustainablemerton.org/>

The final speaker was Molly Clark from Young Christian Climate Network <https://www.yccn.uk/>. YCCN is an action-focused community of young Christians in the UK aged 18-30, choosing to follow Jesus in the pursuit of climate justice and Molly's church is in Clapham. The charity's main focus is their Relay to COP26. This started in Cornwall at Carbis Bay, where the G7 world leaders met in June, and has made its way to Glasgow via ten centres, including London, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle and Edinburgh.



A key feature of the relay is a boat which has travelled the route. It symbolises the key theme of the evening - 'We are all in the same storm, but we are not in the same boat.' In general, Climate Change is affecting developing countries much worse than places like Britain, yet their populations have not caused the problem by producing excessive CO₂ emissions for nearly 200 years. The headline on the sails, 'Rise to the Moment,' emphasises the critical importance that COP26 achieves results.

Those of us who attended were very pleased to have supported the event and learnt a lot. In particular, Trinity can certainly engage more with Sustainable Merton at many levels.

Robin Goodchild, Outreach & Witness Team

Queens Road housegroup

The next meeting of the housegroup will be on Thursday 11 November at 11:15am. All will be very welcome. For further information contact Alison Trehearn (atrehearn@hotmail.com).



Eco-friendly Christmas wreath making workshop

**Monday 13 December from 7.30pm
(lasting approx. 2-3 hours)**

A special Christmas wreath-making workshop has been booked at the church for a maximum of 12 people.



The cost per person will be £20 and this will include all the materials to make a beautiful Christmas wreath (wreath base, variety of foliage, berries, twigs, pinecones, dried orange slices, cinnamon sticks and hessian ribbon for making a bow).

If you would like to join (first come first served) please contact Elizabeth Scharinger (office@trinitywimbledon.org) as soon as possible.



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've had a limited response to our plan for 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..... 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.

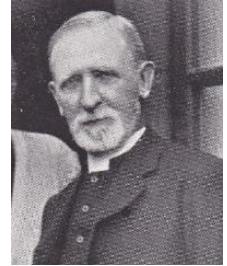


From the archives

Continuing our look at Dr Macgregor's visit to the Far East in 1921/22

Part Two: Into China

Dr Macgregor arrived in Swatow (now known as Shantou), where a Presbytery had been formed in 1881, on 6th November 1922. He was joined there by the Foreign Missions Secretary, Revd Dr Maclagan. He arrived in an area that had been devastated, first by an earthquake in 1918 and then by a typhoon as recently as August 1922, which caused severe property damage and a death toll of between 60,000 and 100,000.



The Doctors remained in Swatow and its hinterland, the 'Hakka country' for several weeks, meeting the missionaries, learning of their work, getting to know the churches and bringing encouragement from London.

Meanwhile, back in Wimbledon Revd Dr Hugh Lenox Hodge had begun his time as Minister in charge. Before the War Dr Hodge, an American Presbyterian minister, a man 'of mature years', had served for many years as minister at Sewickley, Pennsylvania but during the War he worked with the Army YMCA and this brought him to the Camp on Wimbledon Common. He and Mrs Hodge, who was Scottish, became members of Trinity's congregation and, as the Camp was closing, the timing was right for him to be invited to serve at Trinity, his only proviso being that if he received a 'call' from a church back home, he should be released to accept it.



Revd Dr Hugh Lenox Hodge

On 16th December, Drs Macgregor and Maclagan caught a steamer for Amoy (now Xiamen), 120 miles distant, arriving next morning. Amoy was the oldest Presbyterian mission in China, dating from the 1850s.

Unfortunately their arrival coincided with unrest on the frontier between the provinces of Kwangtung (Guangdong) and Fuhkien (Fujian). Troops were massing and military materials collected. This rather affected the plans made for visits to the inland churches but they were able to make several lengthy train and river journeys, visiting mission outposts at Chao-chow-fu (Chaozhou), Sam-ho and Iam-tsar. They remained in Amoy until the first week of February.

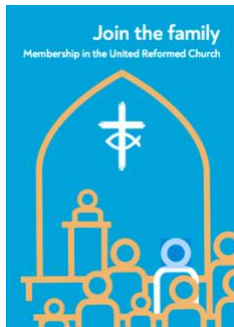
One visit that did go ahead as planned was to the mission station in Formosa (Taiwan). Dr Macgregor sailed from Amoy to Kelung (Taipei-Keelung). The island was then under Japanese control. He visited Tainan, Taihoku (Taipei), Shoka (Changhua, where he visited Dr Landsborough's hospital), Takow (Kaohsiung) and Akau (Pingtung) and found the churches 'lively and growing'. But he reported, 'with a population of two million, including several small tribes of savages, our own Church is the only Protestant mission at work. What a grave responsibility it lays on us.'

To be concluded.....



Church Membership

If you'd like to know more about church membership, please speak with the Church Secretaries, Sam and Catherine, who will be delighted to talk privately with you and give you a no-commitment opportunity to find out more about us as a church, about opportunities to learn more about the Christian faith and about what being a member at Trinity might entail.



We are planning to receive new members during the service on Sunday 28 November so contact us as soon as possible if you are interested.

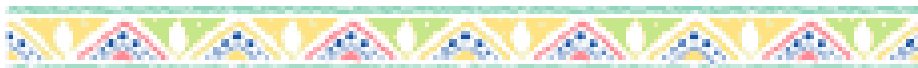
The URC's booklet "Join the Family" gives helpful information. Click [here](#) to read it.

Wimbledon Foodbank

At this time of year we always receive a lot of donations from harvest festivals at local schools and churches and we are very grateful for the 113 kg of food and toiletries donated by Trinity members.



To assist us with weighing, sorting and storing so much in a short space of time, a number of local companies and one school provide us with additional volunteers during our normal Monday, Tuesday and Thursday sessions. Many hands do indeed make light work and it is amazing to see just how much can be done in only two hours when there are lots of helpers.



Faith in Action



On 1 October Faith in Action resumed serving hot lunches. This has been well received by our service users and it is particularly good timing as we approach winter, and a sandwich just doesn't hit the spot.

We offer one meat and one vegetarian dish and pudding. This is in addition to the usual tea, coffee, toast and cereal service for breakfast. It is nice to see more of our 'old' volunteers back in the kitchen again and resuming cooking.

Personally I'm delighted that I can go back to making and serving tea and coffee and not being responsible for shopping, preparing and organising the Wednesday lunch bags.

Cathy Dundee

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STOP PRESS:

Many congratulations to Katrina Clifford whose recent lay preaching assessment was successful. In fact, Katrina was awarded 'excellent'. Katrina says, 'I am very much grateful to God for giving me the needed energy for the day and for all that I've learnt from both Trinity and New Malden.'