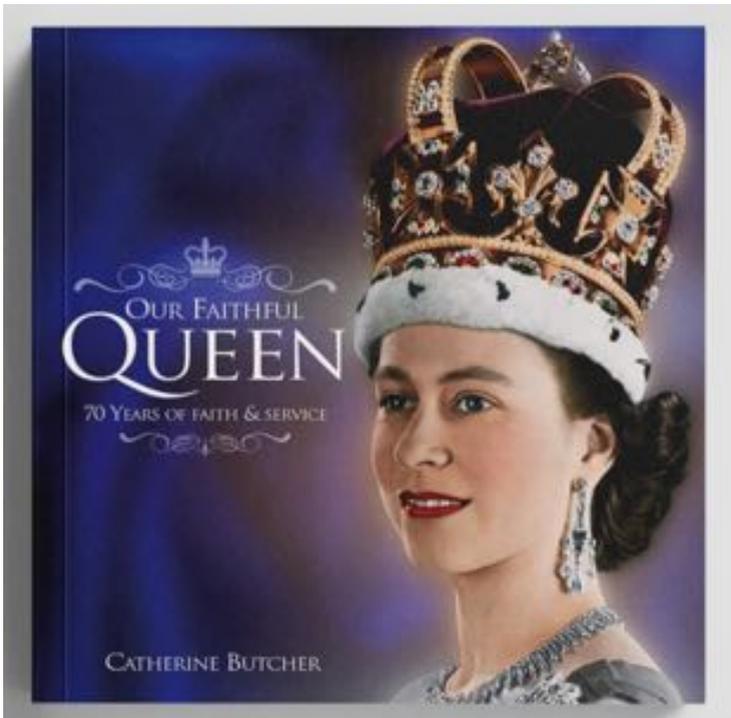


Trinity News

June 2022

No.520



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org



JUNE WORSHIP

- 5** ***Pentecost & Platinum Jubilee***
Please note: this will not be a Communion Service
- 11:00** **Morning worship led by Revd Geoffrey Roper
(retired URC minister)**
- 12:15** **Celebratory drink in the Old Hall**
-
- 12** ***Trinity Sunday***
- 11:00** **Morning worship led by Revd Alistair
Cumming (Church of Scotland Minister &
Clerk of Presbytery of England)**
-
- 19** **11:00** **Morning worship led by Dr Stephen Tomkins
(Editor of 'Reform' magazine)**
-
- 26** **11:00** **Morning worship led by Trinity's Elders**



JUNE MEETINGS

- | | | | |
|----|-----|-------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Wed | 20:00 | Elders' Council |
| 10 | Fri | 20:00 | Film Club |
| 18 | Sat | 10:30 | SLSA meeting at East Croydon |
| 24 | Fri | 20:00 | Film Club |

Church Family News

In memoriam

Margaret Birrell Noble (1934-2022)

Margaret, who died after a short illness on 1st May, was born and grew up in Fife, Scotland. She attended university at nearby St Andrews, where she studied modern languages. It was there that she met her future husband, Andrew, and where they were married in 1959. Over the next ten years, following Andrew's work, they lived in various parts of the north of England, where their daughter and two sons were born.



The Noble family later moved to Wimbledon, living quite close to Trinity, and Margaret and Andrew became members in March 1970, beginning what was to be a deep and significant family relationship lasting for more than fifty years.

Margaret was ordained as an Elder in February 1981, having become closely involved in the life and work of the congregation in Junior Church and with social activities. She was a keen badminton player and a founder member of the new Badminton evenings in the

1970s, first on Wednesdays and later on Mondays.

She took over as Secretary to the Women's Committee in 1975 and served in that capacity for nine years. Andrew and Margaret served with distinction as Joint Church Secretaries between 1984 and 1990. Soon after the redevelopment of the church buildings in 2007, Margaret agreed to assume leadership of the new Lettings team and was instrumental and quickly successful in establishing completely new and often complex administrative arrangements.

As leader of the weekly Coffee and Chat group, a role which she undertook with customary enthusiasm and effectiveness until 2014 and, for many years, an active and committed member of the Pastoral team, Margaret utilised her excellent relationship and caring skills to

good effect. In addition, she acted for many years as Trinity's Authorized Person for registering marriages held at Trinity. She was a member of the prayer and book groups, and an exemplary pastoral Elder.

Margaret was intelligent and perceptive, widely read and interested in the world around her, and for a time making good use of her teaching experience whilst a school governor. She supported Andrew strongly during his impressive professional career until his untimely death in September 2000. She was a greatly loved mother and grandmother.

A proud Scot but also a committed European, Margaret had been an enthusiastic golfer, and one-time Lady Captain of Wimbledon Park Golf Club. Above all, she was a person of faith, a warm, engaging, caring person with an infectious sense of humour, an encourager, invariably positive in outlook. She was much respected and loved at Trinity, and will be much missed and remembered very fondly by all who knew her.

We send our love and the promise of our thoughts and prayers, to her daughter Alison and sons Michael and Peter, their spouses and her six grandchildren, in their loss.

Congratulations

.....to Dr Hannah Jones



'After eight years of being at St George's, numerous exams, a few essays, lots of hours standing around on wards trying to find something to do and a few tears, I've done it! I can finally say that I am Dr Hannah Jones BSc MBBS (Hons)'

Hannah celebrating with parents
Roger & Gillian

Change of address

Hugh Nowell – Room 3, Kew House, Spencer Hill Road, SW19 4EL
M: 07802 629343



June birthdays

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including

Toby Collins, Grace de Grouchy, Mark Dennis, Jean Jerram, Olivia Li, Sarah Li, Amelia Lowe, Nathan Mansfield, Oliver Mansfield, Raychel Matika, Alex Rostron, Joyce Sarpong, Olivia Scharinger, Edna Sloan and Andrew Sutton.

If your birthday has been omitted it's because we don't know when it is! Please let us know the date.



If you are in church on Sunday 5 June you will receive a copy (one per household) of a special gift book entitled "Our Faithful Queen". Superbly produced and sensitively written, this 64-page gift book includes many rarely seen photographs from the Queen's early life through to the present day, as well as prayers from a book of devotions given to the Queen to use in the days leading up to her coronation. It provides a powerful witness to the Queen's enduring Christian faith.

From the Archives – Jubilees



There have been four Coronations and two Silver Jubilees since Trinity was founded, plus the celebrations for Queen Elizabeth's Golden and Diamond Jubilees. No doubt all these events have been remembered in our Sunday services but there is little or no record still in existence. An exception was in June 1977 when Her Majesty's 25th anniversary was celebrated in Trinity by a visiting minister, Revd Brian Bailey OBE, Secretary of the Council for World Mission, as Revd John Weller was ill in hospital.

The event of which we have the best record is the Silver Jubilee of King George V in May 1935.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES.
CHURCH SERVICES.

Meantime we are speaking of nothing and hearing of nothing but the King's Jubilee. We all rejoice that God has granted us in this difficult and dark age a monarch of such ripe wisdom and deep sympathies as King George. He has nobly fulfilled the Christian ideal of being amongst us as "one that serveth." Throughout the bright and dark days of his reign, Queen Mary has stood by him and by the nation as a tower of strength. We need not be boastful but we have reason for profound thanksgiving. The loyalty of the Presbyterians in this realm is beyond impeachment and we hope to express it in our Jubilee service on the morning of May 12th. May our feeling of loyalty and gratitude find full expression in a crowded service that day!

We have agreed to surrender our evening service on May 12th, so that we may join in the great united service at the All-England Tennis Centre Court. We fully expect that there will be well over 10,000 present at that service. Entrance is by means of the Form of Service, which costs 3d. Mr. Kenneth Young has been appointed to take charge of the distribution of these Forms of Service. May 12th ought to be a memorable day for us all in our national and church life, which are so closely intertwined.

As will be seen from the excerpt from Trinity's magazine (above), the occasion was recognised with a special service in Trinity on the morning of 21 May and, in the evening, there was a United Service in Centre Court at Wimbledon Tennis, to which admission was by programme, price 3d.

SILVER JUBILEE
OF THEIR MAJESTIES
KING GEORGE V.
and QUEEN MARY

1910 - 1935

Order of Service

THE CENTRE COURT
ALL ENGLAND LAWN TENNIS CLUB
CHURCH ROAD, WIMBLEDON

SUNDAY, MAY 12TH, 1935
At 6.30 p.m.

Entrance to Centre Court
by
STAIRCASE 10

Price THREEPENCE
ADMISSION ONLY BY THIS
PROGRAMME
(which guarantees a seat)



Queens Road housegroup



In Ezekiel 27 the prophet likens the prosperous maritime power, Tyre, to a ship. Impressive, prosperous and wealthy, the ship is suddenly hit by a storm and, at the height of its wealth, the ship - Tyre - is destroyed. A warning to all nations that their power is limited and can be ended at any moment the Lord chooses. This will

be the central topic for discussion when the Queens Road Housegroup meets in June.

It is hoped that this month we will be able to meet 'live' - at 217 Queens Road on **Wednesday 8 June at 8pm**. All would be very welcome to join us. Alan Young or Andrew Sutton would be happy to provide more information.



Wimbledon Foodbank

The Foodbank continues to meet the needs of many local people but asks for our continued support. The trolley in the Mansel Road Centre entrance makes it convenient to leave gifts at any time.

Whilst all gifts are welcome, the Foodbank is in particular need of tinned meat, noodles, tomato sauce / ketchup, jam, soup (tins or packets) and biscuits.

Thank you for your ongoing support!





Trinity URC – Outturn & Prospects

Elders’ Council, in their role as Trustees of Trinity URC Wimbledon Charity, approved its annual Report and Accounts for 2021 on 4 May. As last year, those accounts show a deficit. While the Covid pandemic continued to negatively impact Lettings Income, the major reason was the cost of significant repairs. Let me tell you what the accounts show.

Trinity’s overall income in 2021 was £343,999 and its total expenditure £373,684, leaving a deficit of £29,685. These figures are much higher than 2020, by 19% and 20% respectively due to several major one-off transactions on both sides of the ledger. For clarity, they are listed below:

Income:	Insurance Proceeds:	
	2020 Loss of Income	£55,000
	Fleches & Old Hall Floor Repairs	£34,396
	URC Repair Grant	£24,000
	HMRC Furlough Payments	<u>£11,471</u>
	Total	£124,867
Expenditure:	Chancel and Old Hall Fleche repairs	£130,170
	Old Hall Floor replacement	<u>£18,385</u>
	Total	£148,555

The expenditure was for repairs to the fleches above the chancel and Old Hall, plus renewal of the Old Hall floor following a water leak from a radiator pipe. Insurance contributions were received towards both of these works as well as capital and revenue grants from the URC

Southern Synod. In addition, there was a Furlough contribution while the MRC was not able to operate to full capacity, plus insurance monies for Loss of Income in 2020. Trinity was fortunate when its insurance policies were renewed for a 5-year period in 2019, that it had cover for Loss of Income as a result of the Pandemic. A second payment has recently been received for £43,371 for Loss of Income in 2021, which will be reflected in this year's accounts. For the record, no legacies were received in 2021, for the first time since 2015.

Excluding all the one-off items, there was a deficit on recurring income and expenditure of £5,997. This reflected that Lettings Income was still 45% below pre-pandemic levels (though 23% up on 2020). Notwithstanding recurring expenditure was lower than 2020 by 7% with income 6%. This reflected strong Planned Giving and reduced regular building maintenance and Ministerial costs

The key metric for Trinity's financial health is the extent of its capital reserves. These comprise two categories – Restricted and unrestricted monies. Restricted capital is money given/received for a specific purpose. Currently Trinity is in receipt of rent from the Manse which is being let while we wait for a new Minister. The Manse is owned by the URC Southern Synod and they specify that net rental income can be spent only on the Manse itself, so it is not available for general expenditure. Thus, I focus on the extent of Trinity's unrestricted capital.

At the year end, Trinity's unrestricted funds totalled £326,343, 8% lower than a year earlier and 14% down on the highest level reached in 2018. These are designated as follows:

General Reserve	£100,000
Roof Fund	£125,000
'For Others' Fund	£13,749
Technology	£4,758
Music	<u>£5,000</u>
Total Designated Funds	£248,507
Unallocated	<u>£77,836</u>
Total Capital ex Restricted	<u>£326,343</u>

Overall, our unrestricted reserves have fallen by £50,000 during the Pandemic while we have managed to repair the two Fleches at a total cost of £185,000, so our position could be a lot worse.

2022 is providing new challenges. As everyone is aware, utility costs have exploded and will be significantly higher; the economic outlook is also uncertain which could negatively impact on both Letting Income and Planned Giving. We therefore need to be highly vigilant. The Planned Giving Secretary and I will be extremely grateful if anyone is in a position to increase their support to Trinity.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for a set of the 2021 Accounts or on any other financial matter. Planned Giving enquiries should be directed to Andrew Melrose (tel: 020 7371 4073, email: andrew.melrose@hotmail.co.uk).

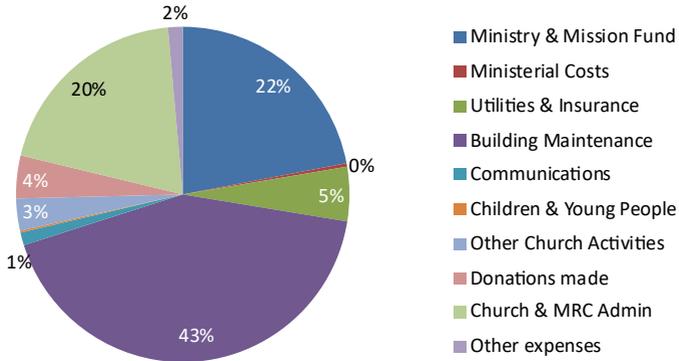
Donate

[Click here](#) or go to www.trinitywimbledon.org

Income in 2021



Expenditure in 2021



Total Expenditure £373,684

Robin Goodchild, Congregational Treasurer
Tel: 0771 4095007, email: robin.goodchild@sky.com



Trinity News

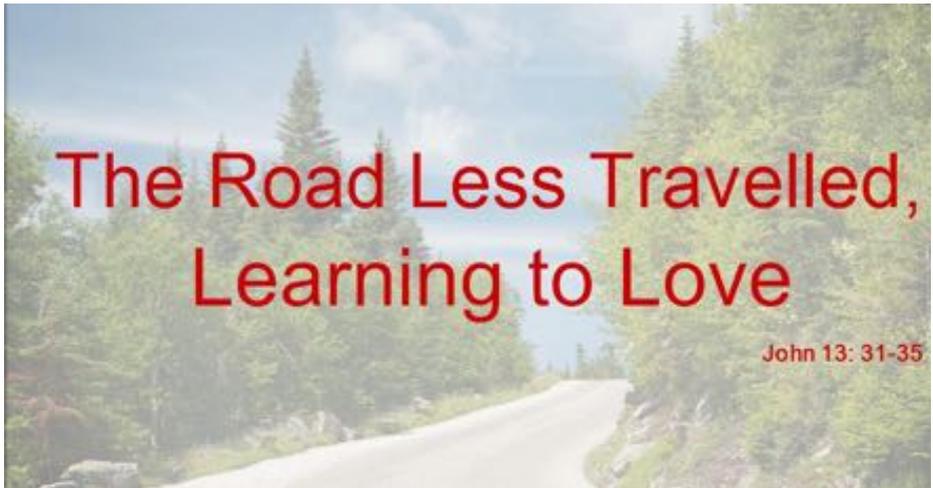
Final copy date for the July/August edition of *Trinity News* is 27 June. Please send items to catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com



Christian Aid Week House to House Collection 2022

It's not too late to make a donation to Christian Aid Week. [Click here](#) to give online.





**Sermon preached at Trinity by the Revd Clive Gardner,
Team Vicar, St Mark's church, Wimbledon on 15 May 2022**

A college professor once had his sociology class go into the Baltimore slums—a really deprived area of America—to get case histories of 200 young boys. At the end they were asked to write an evaluation of each boy's future. In every case the students wrote "He hasn't got a chance."

Twenty-five years later another sociology professor came across the earlier study. He had his students follow up on the project to see what had happened to these boys. With the exception of twenty boys who had moved away or died, the students learned that 176 of the remaining 180 had achieved more than ordinary success as lawyers, doctors and businessmen.

The professor was astounded and decided to pursue the matter further. Fortunately, all the men were in the area, and he was able to ask each one, "How do you account for your success?" In each case the reply came with feeling, "There was a teacher."

The teacher was still alive, so he sought her out and asked the old but still alert lady what magic formula she had used to pull these boys out of the slums into successful achievement.

The teacher's eyes sparkled and her lips broke into a gentle smile. "It's really very simple," she said. "I loved those boys."

I wonder if you are someone who has been lucky enough to have known love in your life. It could be the love of a husband or wife, a mother or father, a friend, God, or all sorts of other relationship. If you have been you'll know how wonderful it can be. It can transform your life, it can help you get through tough times, it can make the good times that much brighter. Love may or may not make the world go round, but it does make the ride worthwhile.

This morning I invite you to come with me on a journey to an area just outside of Jerusalem to listen to a man who knew a thing or two about love. To Jesus, whose words and touch breathed love into every encounter he had with people, whose words echo out of the centuries and still speak to the human heart.

In our gospel passage today, Jesus talks about love: about how we are to love one another. It's part of a longer passage where he expands on this theme. This morning, I'd like to look again at these words to see what they might teach us. That seems particularly appropriate today as we start Christian Aid week, which is all about expressing love in practical action.

Jesus said this:

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

The first thing I want to say is this:

***Love is a choice.
Jesus says that to love is a commandment.***

In other words, it's something we can choose to do or not do. Love is a choice.

That needs to be said in today's society, because too often love is seen as a feeling. Of course, there are feelings of love – and they are wonderful. And it is easier to love when we feel the feelings, but it is possible to love without them. At the end of the day, for the Christian, love is a decision. It is a choice.

The person who truly loves does so because they have made a commitment to be loving whether or not they feel like it. Maybe you know that quotation: "The heart is like a garden. It can grow compassion or fear: resentment or love. What seeds will you plant there?"

Actually this is liberating to us. For it means that any of us can love, because we can all choose to love.

Whenever I meet a couple who want to get married in church, I always go through the service with them, and the vows they make to each other. And I make the point that, despite what Hollywood might say, at no point in the service do they utter the words 'I do'. No, they say, 'I will'. Love is an act of the will. It is a choice.

If you're anything like me, to be asked to love some people can be met with, let's say, resistance. Unholy thoughts may fill our minds. However, if we are able to observe these thoughts and choose to move beyond them without acting on them, we allow for the possibility of love. In doing so we enlarge our hearts. We feel better about ourselves – bigger somehow, more grounded, more mature.

I suspect that Baltimore teacher didn't have *feelings* of love towards all those boys all the time, yet she still chose to love them.

Let me give you two ways that some people find can help us love someone when we have few feelings of love:

First of all, concentrate on the good in that person. Sometimes it is well hidden, but it is always there. Remember that this person is some mother's son or daughter. Choose instead – and there's that word 'choose' again – choose instead to try to nurture what is good within their souls, instead of concentrating on the bad.

Let me tell you about Howard Hendricks. Howard Hendricks was in year 5 at school. He was a complete tearaway. He felt insecure, unloved and generally angry. His teacher once said to him in exasperation, "Howard, you are the worst behaved child in this school!"

And then he went up to year 6. The first day of the school year, his teacher went down the register, and came to his name. "Howard Hendricks" she said, and looked up at him. "I've heard a lot about you." Then she smiled and added, "But I don't believe a word of it!"

Howard wrote later:

... that moment was a fundamental turning point, not only in my education, but in my life. Suddenly, unexpectedly, someone believed in me. For the first time in my life, someone saw potential in me... She gave me little jobs to do. She invited me to come in after school to work on my reading and arithmetic. She challenged me with higher standards.

... someone was willing to give me a chance. Someone was willing to believe in me while challenging me with higher expectations. That was risky, because there was no guarantee that I would honour her trust.

Now, I'm not saying that when we extend love to someone who we find difficult they are going to change overnight – or even at all. But we might be used by God to give that person a chance.

And secondly consider with compassion how they might have ended up the way they are. Have they been shown love in their lives? What have they suffered? What have they not been taught?

An elderly woman at Church is argumentative and always seems to be angry. Criticisms flow from her lips with alarming regularity. No one knows that she has never got over losing her baby daughter 40 years ago.

A young man is constantly in trouble with the law and getting into fights. He can't hold down a job – or a girlfriend. He always seems withdrawn and uncommunicative. No one knows he doesn't know who his Dad is, and his Mum is in prison, and he spent most of his teenage years with foster families.

I'm not saying that someone's past always provides a valid excuse for their words or actions, but it can help us look with compassion on them. We don't know what experiences they have had that have brought them to where they are now. There but for the grace of God go I.

So, love is a choice.

Secondly, there is the idea of reciprocity – we need to receive as well as give.

***Receive as well as give.
Jesus said love one another.***

We'll be no good to anyone if we give and give and give, but never receive, and end up with some kind of love burn out.

Even Jesus needed to receive love from his friends. In the Garden of Gethsemane when he was almost overwhelmed with his mission of dying on the cross, he needed to take his three closest friends with him while he prayed.

And the man who washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper, he too had his own feet washed by Mary just a few days before.

Loving others is never to be confused with being a doormat.

And thirdly, Jesus says this:

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

***Jesus says there is a connection then
between our loving one another,
and our becoming joyful.***

In one 2007 study, two groups of students were asked to complete surveys which indicated how happy they were. Then one group of students were asked to perform five random acts of kindness a week for six weeks, while the other group had no such request made of them. The group who did the acts of kindness were significantly happier at the end of the six weeks.

The psychiatrist Viktor Frankl, who survived the Nazi concentration camps, wrote this:

"The more one forgets himself – by giving himself to a cause to serve or another person to love – the more human he is and the more he actualizes himself."

Loving others is also correlated to lower levels of heart disease, faster times for wound healing, and stronger immune systems.

One academic, in summarising many different research projects about the psychological and physiological benefits of loving others wrote this:

“Unselfish love and kindness, including manifestations such as forgiveness, displace emotional states such as rage, bitterness, loneliness and hatred, all of which cause stress and stress-related illness through adverse impact on immune function.”

As Christians, this should not surprise us – we are, after all made in the image of God, and we become more fully who we were meant to be, when we behave like our maker – like the God who is rich in love. We were made to love.

And lastly,

Love is demonstrated by action.

And here we are back to Christian Aid Week. Jesus says,
No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

You see if love is not ultimately a feeling but a choice, then it is also only real love if it is shown by what we do. Love is as love does. It’s all very well having feelings of love towards someone, or even to choose to love them, but unless that comes out in what we do, then it is not real love.

A compulsive gambler may say he loves his family when he’s slumped over a double whiskey in the casino, but his actions prove otherwise.

If you want to know if you are a loving person, look at your actions. Look at how you behave towards others. Look at what you say and do.

So we have looked at four aspects of Jesus’ teaching on love:

1. That it is a commandment, and therefore a choice.
2. That we are to love one another – it is a two-way process. We are to receive love as well as to give.
3. It fulfils us: it leads to joy, as Jesus said.
4. And love is as love does.

Let me end with some words from that great practitioner of hands-on love in action: Mother Teresa:

Spread love everywhere you go: first of all in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next-door neighbour... Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier: be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face; kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile; kindness in your warm greeting.

Let's pray together:



I'd like to begin by asking you to call to mind anyone who has shown love to you over your lifetime. It could be in small or large ways. It could be someone who is alive or who has passed away. In the quiet, call them to mind, and give thanks for them.

And now I'd like you to call to mind someone who you find it hard to love. It could be someone at work or at home, or another member of the family, someone at church or someone at a social group. As you think about them, consider their good points, and also think about what might have caused them to be like they are.

And because of that, or despite that, remember Jesus' words to love them. It is a choice. Do you wish to make that decision? And what will you do—what practical things will you do?

The heart is like a garden. It can grow compassion or fear: resentment or love. What seeds will you plant there?



Further letters of thanks for our Gift Day 2021 donations.....



I'm writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for helping to raise £500 for Alzheimer's Research UK.

Your efforts have led to vital funding, which means that you're now helping our scientists to discover more about this devastating condition and bringing us closer to discovering a life-changing dementia treatment. That's something very special, so thank you for being a part of what we do.

Should you wish to find out more about the research that you are making possible then our website, contains all our latest information and news www.alzheimersresearchuk.org. There you'll read about everything from our research to our campaigning work, but please know that everything we do can only happen because of people like you.

Director of Supporter-led Fundraising



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.

Mind Events Team