

# Trinity News



**September 2022**

**No.522**



**Trinity United Reformed Church**

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

[www.trinitywimbledon.org](http://www.trinitywimbledon.org)



## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

- |           |              |  |
|-----------|--------------|--|
| <b>4</b>  | <b>11:00</b> | <b>Morning worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Adrian Bulley (URC Deputy General Secretary – Discipleship)</b> |
| <b>11</b> | <b>11:00</b> | <b>Morning worship led by Revd Bruce Stuart (retired URC minister)</b>   |
| <b>18</b> | <b>11:00</b> | <b>Morning worship led by Revd Alistair Cumming (Church of Scotland minister)</b>                                  |
| <b>25</b> | <b>11:00</b> | <b>Morning worship for Creationtide &amp; Harvest Thanksgiving led by our Outreach &amp; Witness Team</b>          |

**'Creationtide' or the 'Season of Creation' is the period in the annual church calendar (from 1 September to 4 October) dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.**



**Please bring your harvest gifts for the Wimbledon Foodbank to the service on 25 September.**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Breakfast cereal</li><li>• Soup</li><li>• Rice</li><li>• Pasta sauce</li><li>• Tinned beans</li><li>• Tinned meat</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tinned fish</li><li>• Tinned vegetables</li><li>• Tinned fruit</li><li>• Rice pudding</li><li>• Custard</li><li>• Tea or coffee</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sugar</li><li>• Long life milk</li><li>• Juice</li><li>• Biscuits</li><li>• Snacks</li></ul> |
|---|---|--|



## Church Family News

### *In memoriam*

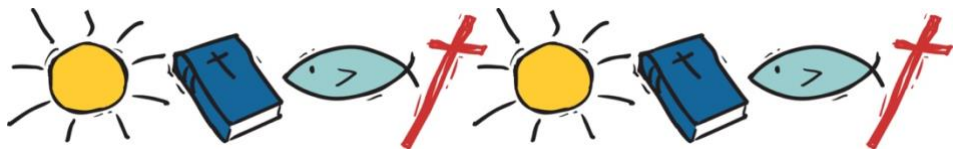
#### **Ivor Rice-Jones**

Ivor died peacefully at home on 13 August, aged 92.

Married at Trinity in August 1959, Ivor and Moya celebrated fifty-six years of marriage together, before Moya's death in 2015. Ivor became a church member in April 1963, and was ordained to the Eldership in March 1966. From February 2016 he was joint Senior Elder. Together with Moya he was a regular attender at Young Couples, later the Six Group, and for a while took on responsibility for organising Trinity's Christian Aid Week collection and Christmas card distribution in the neighbourhood.

Educated at King's College School, Ivor was a solicitor by profession, working for British Steel.

A much-loved father to Thomas and Matilda, and grandfather to Mariella, George, Eddie, and Matthew, our prayers and sympathy and are extended to all the family at this sad time.



### ***Birthdays in September***

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Winz Cheung, Lydia Khurshid, Elizabeth McLeish, Deon Nunoo, and Kwame Sarpong junior and Margaret Tulloch

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



## September calendar

Wed 7	20:00	Elders' Council
Thu 15	20:00	Church Meeting
Sun 18	13:00	Door Stewards' gathering
Sat 24	19:00	The Fifty Year Quiz Night (see below)
Thu 29	20:00	Queens Road housegroup

## Church Meeting – 15 September

Our next Church Meeting – for all Trinity members and friends – will be held on **Thursday 15 September at 8pm**. Please make a note of the date now, and look out for further notices.



## The Fifty Year Quiz: 1972-2002 Celebrating 50 years of the URC

On **Saturday 24 September** at 19:00 we'll be holding our own Quiz Night in the Old Hall to celebrate the URC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Don't miss this ever-popular event for church members and friends.

**To book your place email**  
**[churchsecretaries@trinitywimbledon.org](mailto:churchsecretaries@trinitywimbledon.org)**.

## Queens Road housegroup



At the service led by the Group in July we extended an invitation to the congregation to join us as we begin to study the Book of Ruth.

We will be meeting next at 217 Queens Road on **Thursday 29 September** (8pm) and would be very pleased to welcome anybody who would like to join us - even if on a trial basis! We will be using an LICC course book, copies of which can be provided.



### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Fruit Day

**Saturday 17 September – 11:00 to 14:30**

**St Mark's Church Hall & Grounds**

**(St Mark's Pl, Wimbledon, London SW19 7ND)**

**FREE ENTRY**

For further information see <http://www.abundancewimbledon.com>



The URC is still here after 50 years.

What does that say to us?

And what is God saying to us?

What opportunities does it give us to reflect on our story, on who we are, on what we stand for, on who we follow – and to share that with others?



# 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary events

On Saturday 1 October, a number of events are taking place to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the URC.

They include a Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, Open Church House events and a Walk to Westminster.

## Open Church House

On Saturday 1 October, from 10am-1pm at United Reformed Church House at 86 Tavistock Place, London, an Open Church House event will be held, with dozens of activities and crafts related to the jubilee including:

- a Living Library
- our Mersey Synod with LICC/LYCIG
- Free-to-Believe
- GEAR
- the URC History Society and Westminster College Cambridge
- a Prayer Labyrinth
- an Enquirers' Conference
- Greenbelt
- a café
- Christian Aid
- Roots for Churches
- Single Friendly Church
- The Trussell Trust
- an exhibition from the archives
- Church Related Community Workers offering activities around Café Church, community work and engagement



- many staff teams offering conversations and discussion activities
- Fresh Expressions plant-based activities and reflections
- badge-making and craft activities
- a puppet show
- an exhibition of Reform magazine's 50 years
- the URC Bookshop, and more.

Book your tickets to Open Church House through the Eventbrite booking system here: [bit.ly/urc50](https://bit.ly/urc50). Once booked, you will receive an email from Eventbrite which you must bring on the day – either printed out or on the Eventbrite app – to gain admission to the Open Church House event.



## Walk to Westminster

On Saturday 1 October, between Church House and Methodist Central Hall there is a Walk to Westminster with self-guided tours for all ages packed with buildings of interest to the Church and things to find for younger walkers.

Book your tickets to Walk to Westminster through the Eventbrite booking system here: [bit.ly/urc50](https://bit.ly/urc50). Once booked, you will receive an email from Eventbrite which you must bring on the day – either printed out or on the Eventbrite app – to take part in the event.

**Volunteers are needed to help on the day. If you are able to offer please email [50@urc.org.uk](mailto:50@urc.org.uk) for more information ASAP**



# Free tickets to the Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration

At 2.30pm on **Saturday 1 October 2022**, in Methodist Central Hall Westminster, London, where the Uniting Assembly of the URC took place in October 1972, a chance to give thanks and to celebrate the five decades of the United Reformed Church.

We want as many people as possible from across the denomination to attend.



Book your tickets to the Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration through the Eventbrite booking system here: [bit.ly/urc50](https://bit.ly/urc50).

Once booked, you will receive an email from Eventbrite which you must bring on the day – either printed out or on the Eventbrite app – to gain admission to the venue.

**For further information see <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/our-50th-anniversary/50th-anniversary-tickets/>**

## From the archives

**Come ye thankful people come!**



*Trinity harvest decoration 1981*

In Britain thanks have been given for successful harvests since pagan times. An early harvest festival was celebrated at the beginning of the harvest season on 1<sup>st</sup> August and was called 'Lammas', meaning 'loaf Mass'. Farmers made loaves of bread from the fresh wheat crop and these were given to the local church as Communion bread during a special service.

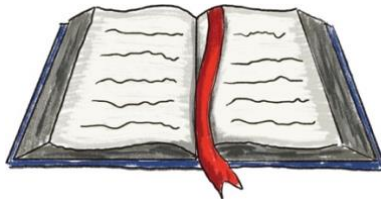
The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843 when Revd Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Hymns such as '*We plough the fields and scatter*' and '*Come ye thankful people come*' helped to popularise the services together with the custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce.

When Harvest Thanksgiving was first celebrated in Trinity it is hard to say but it was clearly well-established by 1909 when this report appeared in the church magazine:

*The decoration of the church was undertaken by the choir and our hearty thanks are due to the friends who sent gifts of flowers, fruit and vegetables. Especially we are indebted to the Misses Thomson for lending the beautiful palms and other plants with which our Church was adorned. Some of the fruit was sent to the South Wimbledon Cottage Hospital.*

*Special music was rendered by a full Choir. In the morning Maunders' 'Sing to the Lord of the Harvest' was sung and in the evening Goss's 'O Taste and See.'*

*In the morning Revd E Miller of Streatham took as his text, 'Praise the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits', and in the evening Revd D Macgregor preached on 'Piety in the Home'.*



## **The Centre of the Bible**

It is pretty strange or odd how it worked out this way.

What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?      Answer: Psalm 117

What is the longest chapter in the Bible?      Answer: Psalm 119

Which chapter is in the centre of the Bible?      Answer: Psalm 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalm 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalm 118

Add these numbers up and you get 1188

What is the centre verse in the Bible?      Answer: Psalm 118:8

***Psalm 118:8***

***It is better to trust in the Lord than to depend on man.***



## Tea Party

On Wednesday 24 August, thirty-three Trinity members and friends enjoyed Afternoon Tea together in the church garden. It was a lovely sunny day and a couple of hours passed very happily together – it was good to be able to meet each other again socially after so long. Thanks go to Alan and Janet Young for organising everything from invitations to the catering, and to those who baked cakes and scones, and helped on the day. £125.50 was raised for Wimbledon Foodbank.

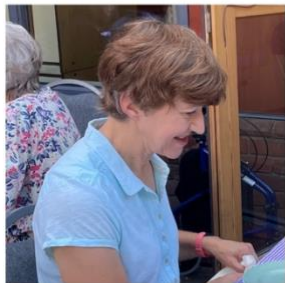






***Seen here:***

Hugh, Edelweiss, Jan,  
Ernest, Dick, Michael,  
Sandy, Sarah,  
Andrew, Vera, Jane,  
Miranda, Chris,  
Janette, Landa,  
Andrew, Hugh, David,  
Penuel, Jan, Alison &  
Pat



**Above:** Alison, Isobel, Norman, Andrew, Alan, Brian, Janet, Edelweiss, Janet, Catherine, Jane, Anne, Pam, Alan, Janet, Lesley, Jean, Anne, Cathy & Gilli





## Further distribution made to charities

At the July meeting of Elders' Council it was agreed to distribute the longstanding undistributed monies from past Gift Days. The Finance Team recommended that the £13,749 in the fund should be distributed to three charities – two local and one international: the Wimbledon Foodbank, Faith-in-Action and the Disasters Emergency Committee. Each charity therefore received £4,583.

*Another wonderful gift for Faith In Action from Trinity United Reformed Church. £4,583 is most welcome as the cost of running the Drop-In is increasing. Please pass on our sincere thanks to all your congregation.*

Pauline Southgate, Trustee and Treasurer  
Faith in Action Merton Homelessness Project

*Thank you so much for blessing us with the cheque for £4,583 from Trinity United Reformed Church Wimbledon to support the work of Wimbledon Foodbank. This will prove crucial in helping us to continue to serve those who are struggling with food poverty in our community.*

Corinne Marshall, Wimbledon Foodbank Team



**Fairtrade farmers are planting seeds of a greener, fairer future – will you sow your solidarity?**

Click here to find out more.

<https://bit.ly/3bSdrRy>



Trinity News

**Final copy date for the October edition of Trinity News is Friday 16 September. Please send items to [catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com](mailto:catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com)**



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

## **To: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships**

Dear Friends,

Is anyone back to normal?

After two years of pandemic and lockdown, and Covid still with us (thankfully, for most, in a much weaker form), we can now worship together in person and find fellowship again. But for most of us it is not simply a return to how it used to be; some people have not returned to church, some have died or become too frail, some churches have closed and others considering it.

Now we have significant European turmoil and its likely effect on fuel and food prices for us in the UK. Thank God that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13 v.8). Whatever else changes, He is our rock, our cornerstone.

Financially, things were extremely tough for churches in 2021. Plate offerings had collapsed; some regular givers had to reduce or entirely stop giving to support God's work; and those churches which hire out their premises had seen income from that source disappear. Even those churches where the majority of the giving was by standing order or bank transfer (*if you have not considered regularising your giving in this way, please do – it helps your treasurer significantly*) may have seen a 20%+ drop in income.

If this had been replicated in giving to the M&M Fund in 2021, we might have been faced with a serious financial crisis last year.

But no, through the generosity of individuals, churches and Synods, we can report that income only fell by 4.4%. With a similar reduction in expenditure the Ministry & Mission (M&M) Fund result was a deficit of only £80,000 (less than one-half of one percent of income), a deficit that can be comfortably covered by reserves.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2021 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

With churches and individuals under financial pressure, 2022 is not going to be an easy year either. The M&M Fund budgeted income (based on Synods' projections) will not be sufficient to cover expected costs and we are reconciled to dipping into our reserves more seriously as a result.

However, if we "ordinary Christians" are to fulfil the call of Jesus to be His witnesses in the world around us we need ministers and other workers "on the ground" and we need shared resources which are often best created centrally. That all comes from the M&M Fund.

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer (Robin Goodchild) who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ

*Ian Hardie (Treasurer)*

*Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)*



Thank you to all those at Trinity who make regular use of our 'contactless' donation device at our Services. It is simple to use with either a debit or credit card, or mobile phone.

If you have used it in the past, thank you. If you haven't, then please give it a go!



# From Presbyterian church to Hindu Temple

Trinity's former 'mission church', St Cuthberts in Effra Road, is now the Hindu 'Shree Ghanapathy Temple'. The photograph, taken recently by Andrew Sutton, shows a colourful and lively scene. Also shown is the building as it looked when it was a Presbyterian Church - as can be seen, the front of the building is considerably altered and well worth a visit.



Left: Shree Ghanapathy Temple 2022, preparing for the Ther (Chariot) Festival

Below: St Cuthbert's Presbyterian Church 1935



The Temple's website contains a photograph of the inside of the building taken when it was being 'converted'.

# Eco Fair



**We are planning an Eco Fair on**

**Saturday 10 December**

**as part of our plan to gain  
a Silver Eco Church award**

**This event will involve a**

**Craft & Gift Fair, Clothing Exchange  
& Eco Wreath Making Workshop**

**We hope that it will be a festive, community  
event, raising awareness of environmental issues.**

**Watch this space for information on how to help.**