

Trinity News

50
Faith – Hope – Love –
Since 1972

November 2022

No.524



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org

November worship



- | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|---|
| 6 | 11:00 | Gift Day 'For Others'
Worship with Holy Communion
led by Revd Lesley Charlton
(Minister of Kingston URC) |
| 13 | <u>10:45</u> | Remembrance Sunday
Morning worship led by Sandy McLeish
(Trinity Elder) |
| 20 | 11:00 | Morning worship led by Revd Alistair
Cumming (Minister of the Church of Scotland) |
| 27 | 11:00 | Advent Sunday - Back to Church Sunday
Morning worship led by Revd Bill Bowman
(Retired URC minister) |

Church Meeting

Thursday 24 November at 8pm
in the Mansel Road Centre

If you have never been to a Church Meeting
(or even if you have!) please come along.
All church members have a responsibility to attend
and to share in the life and work of Trinity.

Church Family News

Birthdays in November

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including David Chan, Sam Elliot, Brian Lewis-Lavender, Sandy McLeish, Alan Young and Revd Ernest Yu.

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

Welcome visitors



This photo shows Penuel with Pirada (known as 'Pink') and her parents, Phairoj and Suchada Teraphatanakul, who were on holiday here in London from Thailand for several weeks. They did a lot of sightseeing and I hear much shopping too! However, we were so pleased they joined us at four of our Sunday Services where the format is apparently quite similar to theirs though the hymns are different. They worship at First Church in Chiang Mai, the largest city in Northern Thailand. It is really not easy at all to find a Christian church in a Buddhist country. Pink has said they found the Trinity congregation welcoming and friendly.

-PMD

Former member

News reached us last month of the death of one of Trinity's former elders, Dr David Macrae Tod, an Elder of Trinity from 1972-82. David died at Frittenden, Kent on 16 September aged 92 years

The Minister Vacancy – an update



I am very pleased to report that the URC Southern Synod has confirmed that the Trinity pastorate has been added formally to the minister vacancy list, and will be advertised within the denomination during this month.

This is welcome and encouraging news, and provides hope that we will make good progress during the coming months. Of course, it does not mean that our next minister will be arriving soon, and it seems likely that we will be well into 2023 before we will be able to predict when that will take place, but we have passed another significant milestone.

Regular progress will be given in Trinity News and at Church Meetings. In the meantime, the participation of the whole congregation in our worship and wider church life will continue to be important as we look forward to the induction of our next pastor.

If you have any questions about the vacancy process, please do let me know.

Sandy McLeish, Vacancy Team Leader



Advent - a season of preparation

The Worship & Faith Development Team are preparing a four session Advent Course, based on Advent hymns and Christmas carols.

It will be held on Zoom, probably on Monday evenings 28 November, and 5, 12 and 19 December.

Please note your diary and look out for further information!



Gift Day 'For Others' - Sunday 6 November

Each autumn it has been the custom to write to everyone who is part of our Trinity family as a reminder that our annual Gift Day will soon be upon us. Once more, Trinity appeals for your support of Gift Day. We are hoping to raise at least £10,000 this year which, with the benefit of Gift Aid, will increase the total figure to over £12,000.

The funds raised this year 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

Merton Winter Night Shelter
St Raphael's Hospice

Merton Street Pastors
Wimbledon Foodbank

National Charities

Alzheimer's Research
Macmillan Cancer

Cancer Research UK

International Charities

Médecins sans Frontières
Barnabas Fund

British Red Cross

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.

Electronic payment may be made to the Trinity bank account. Our bank details are provided below or alternatively you may prefer to pay by debit/credit card. In this case if you go to the Trinity website and click on the Donate button this will allow you make your donation to Gift Day at Trinity via the CAF Bank 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 Sunday 6 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.

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

thank you

Happy Birthday United Reformed Church!



Despite the unfortunate cancellation of the national Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving owing to rail strikes, local churches around the denomination marked the day with special services, delicious spreads, the lighting of candles, and the sharing of photos of the Uniting Assembly.

At Trinity we celebrated following a special service of Rededication and Jubilee Thanksgiving led by John Ellis (Past Moderator of General Assembly). Photos from the event are shown above.

URC staff also marked the anniversary through several interviews with a variety of Christian media outlets.

The Revd Dr John Bradbury (General Secretary) appeared on UCB Radio's to reflect on the special day. Listen to his interview [here](#).

The Revd Fiona Bennett (Moderator of the URC General Assembly), and the Revd Dr Michael Hopkins (Clerk to General Assembly) spoke to the Religion Media Centre about the significance of the union and the outlook of the URC today. Read their interview [here](#).

The Revd Fiona Bennett also appeared on Premier Christian Radio's *Inspirational Breakfast with Esther Higham's* to talk about the anniversary and how the jubilee principles of the Old Testament are inspiring the URC to seek God for the future. Listen [here](#).

Fiona will be leading our worship on 26 March next year, and we look forward to welcoming her to Trinity.

The Revd Dr Jooseop Keum (General Secretary for Council for World Mission [CWM]), visited Church House with the Revd Dr Michael Jagessar (CWM Mission Secretary), to meet with the Revd Dr John Bradbury (URC General Secretary), Karen Campbell (Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries), and the Revd Philip Brooks (Deputy General Secretary - Mission), to congratulate the URC on its 50th anniversary and present an engraved silver plaque as a gift.



Christian Aid gave the URC a shout out on its social media channels, thanking God for the denomination's dedication to social justice and giving. It also prayed for the future of the Church.

**Congratulations to the
United Reformed Church on
their 50th Anniversary.**

**We thank God for their
dedication to social justice and
for giving, acting and praying
with us as key partners for 50
years.**

**We pray for the future of the
URC and look forward to
celebrating this jubilee year.**



An amazing summer for Christian CARE

This gloriously sunny school summer holiday was packed with Children's and Family Activities. We praise God that all the complicated arrangements worked out, everyone travelled safely; special times and so many new experiences were enjoyed by all.

This year we sent two **large** families for a week's stay at Butlins in Bognor Regis. In one case this was a celebration that, after eight years of struggles and deprivation, both parents and children can look forward with hope to the future. In the other case we wanted to honour a lone mother who, starting from nothing, has battled so hard for four years to bring up her four children and give them a better life; we are so pleased that she has come back feeling much less stressed and quite overwhelmed by the experience. Our secretary Pat arranges these holidays with careful concern for each family's requirements.

Nine 8–11-year-olds went to Carroty Wood Falcon Camp in Kent. Only one of the youngsters had been before and there were a lot of really nervous parents and children. But we knew that Joy and Kevin, in their last year as camp leaders, would give them a great time. One father emailed us immediately his sons got back: *"The boys returned this morning full of smiles and with happiness showing on their faces. Words cannot actually express how happy and grateful they are. I think they have still got a lot to tell from the experience they had at the camp."*



Carroty Wood Falcon Camp

Their older sister had her first experience of Oakwood Falcon Camp at Bracknell for the 12–17-year-olds. Her mother phoned as she returned very tearful – she could have stayed a whole month it was so wonderful! Another of the eight older campers came back to impress



Oakwood Falcon Camp

upon his mother how important it was that they prayed and read the Bible every day. Lydia and her team are truly amazing in engaging at a deep level with the teenagers. It was the first time that Mary had organised the whole process of getting seventeen youngsters to camps and she did so well.

A new venture this summer was a trip to Hounslow Urban Farm for thirty-six parents and younger children – and two grandmothers, one disabled and the other speaking only Urdu! Clare, as Outings Organiser, researched and set it all up with calm efficiency. We travelled in a luxurious, air-conditioned coach with a Disney film playing and a driver who, because of his own childhood experience, shares our desire to bring happiness to these families. We were thrilled that it was so successful. It started with the animal experience encountering and holding, stick insects, millipedes, giant cockroaches, salamanders, tortoises and snakes.

Next Clare had prepared a picnic for everyone in a shady marquee. Then it was time to wander around the farmyard, feed the goats and sheep and meet the rather grumpy alpaca.



Hounslow Urban Farm

All this happened through the hard work of our Children's Activities Team which also includes Julia who prepares birthday cards and gifts for the children. Sadly, the team is leaderless after the retirement of Sue. Please pray with us for someone with an understanding and experience of children's needs to come forward soon. Another key member of that team, Transport Organiser, Lizzie, who set up the eight drivers and chaperones for the Butlins holidays and the ten drivers and

chaperones for the Oakwood Camp, is also stepping down in the New Year; we are now starting to look for someone to take over the transport organisation that she has streamlined over the past five years.

Gillian Thick, CARE Coordinator

For more information visit: <https://www.christiancaremerton.org.uk>



Each year, part of our Gift Day money is allocated to Disaster Relief. During this year, the following donations have been made:

DEC Ukraine	£750
DEC Afghanistan	£900 (includes payment made in Dec)
DEC Pakistan	£500
British Red Cross Tonga	£100

Queens Road housegroup



At our November meeting we will continue our study of Ruth. In chapter 2, Ruth and Naomi have settled in Bethlehem and we meet Boaz for the first time.

We will meet on **Thursday 10 November** at 8pm at 217 Queens Road. As always, we will be happy to welcome anybody who would like to join us. Further details from Andrew Sutton or Alan Young.

Eco Day

Saturday 10th December
10am - 3pm



Craft & Gift Fair

sustainable, hand-made
eco-friendly gifts



Clothing Exchange

Bring items you no longer wear,
exchange them for other things
£2 entry fee



Christmas Wreath Making Workshops

Wreaths made from all natural
materials and fully recyclable.
Workshops bookable on
www.guidedwellbeing.co.uk

at **TRINITY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**
Mansel Road Wimbledon SW19 4AA
www.trinitywimbledon.org

Supporting Sustainable Merton

**Final copy date for the December edition of
Trinity News is 16 November. Please send
items to catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com.**



Christmas Hampers

Every year for the past seven years Christian CARE has prepared hampers for around thirty families that we knew well.

This year we feel it is even more important that families can have a special celebration on Christmas Day. Can Trinity help us to make this happen in 2022?



Could you pack a whole bag? Or could you share with others to pack one?

Choose a large seasonal bag and then fill it with these items –

Sparkling non-alcoholic drink

Large or mini Christmas pudding [non-alcoholic], chocolate puddings

Mince pies, chocolate log, stollen

Tin/box chocolate or fancy biscuits, tin/box shortbread

Tin fruit, tin custard, cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy

Box chocolates, children's sweets

You would be told the sizes of the families, which range from one to eight persons.

Pam Rostron will bring them to our Office at Martin Way Methodist Church early in December. We will add a token to buy fresh food, a Christmas card, presents for the youngsters, and deliver them to the families in time for Christmas.

These Christmas Hampers are so much appreciated.

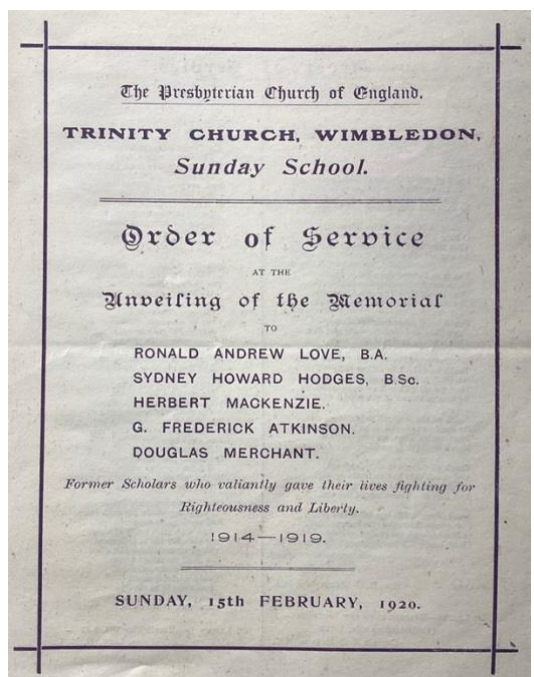
Please let Pam Rostron know as soon as possible if you are able to pack a Christmas Hamper and bring joy to a family this Christmas.

From the archives



Soon after the Great War ended, the Trinity Sunday School teachers decided that the five former scholars who died in the War should be remembered with a permanent memorial. The original intention was to raise the necessary funds within the Sunday School but in the end many other friends contributed and were present in good numbers at the Service of Remembrance on Sunday 15 February 1920. (Actually the service was originally planned for a date a few weeks earlier, but the memorial had not been delivered. Completion had been delayed because of a trade dispute involving the wood carvers!)

"The desire to see these five names written up in such a manner that they might spell out inspiration as long as the Church shall stand, found expression in a very finely carved Table and Reading desk which it is intended shall be used at every service of the Sunday School." Over a century later the memorial is used weekly by the Chinese Group.



As the children and friends entered the Hall, they saw the memorial on the stage covered by a Union Jack. They sang Kipling's "Land of our birth, we pledge to thee", there were readings from Ecclesiasticus and Revelation, they sang "When he cometh to make up his jewels", there was an address by Revd D C Macgregor, Trinity's minister, and then, as the School and congregation stood, the flag was drawn aside by Mrs Macgregor and "two sheaves of lilies were placed above the fallen soldiers' names." The service ended with the singing of "For all the saints" and the National Anthem.

More information about Trinity's fallen can be found at <https://trinityremembers.wordpress.com>

The burning bush



The Burning Bush (Exodus 3: 1-12) was the theme of our Harvest and Creationtide service, led by members of our Outreach & Witness Team, on 25 September. The fire that called to Moses did not consume or destroy the bush. The flame revealed God's presence, and God's spirit calls us to listen to the voice of Creation. Prayers of the congregation were hung on the bush and displayed after the service.

A big 'thank you' from the Wimbledon Foodbank team



Thank you for your support of Wimbledon Foodbank. Only with the help of the local community are we able to support families and individuals experiencing food poverty. We have gratefully received your amazing food donations of 102.8 kg, which will provide 115 meals to local people.

Wimbledon Foodbank works with families who are in crisis in the Merton area. For example, for 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.

Last year we took on Merton Growbaby which is a free second-hand baby clothing and equipment charity for local families. We are always looking to welcome volunteers to our charities. Please feel free to email us to see what volunteer roles are available.

Three hundred voucher holders have now signed up and to date over 649 tons of food have been donated. We have fed 26,155 local people in the last two years, many of whom are children. These figures are above and beyond our expectations when opening on 31st October 2011.

Wimbledon Foodbank Team
Elim Pentecostal Church, 76 Kingston Road, SW19 1LA
wimbledonfoodbank@gmail.com
www.wimbledon.foodbank.org.uk

Current requirements (please leave items in the trolley in the Mansel Road Centre):

- UHT milk
- soup (tins or packets)
- tinned fruit
- jams/ spreads etc
- ketchups





In addition to this earlier donation of 102.8 kg, we recently delivered the congregation's gifts (above) donated at Harvest on 25 September. These, along with a further £50 donated in cash, were also received with thanks.

Christmas Services

Sunday 11 December

No morning Service

18:30 Service of Carols & Readings by Candlelight

Sunday 18 December

11:00 'An upside down nativity play'

24 December

17:30 Christingle Service (all ages welcome)

23:15 Service of Holy Communion by Candlelight

25 December

10:30 Christmas Day celebration