

Trinity News

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Faith - Hope - Love -
Since 1972

Dec 2022/Jan 2023

No.525



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org



Christmas Letter from the Moderator of URC Southern Synod



Dear friends

It has been yet another challenging year. Once again, it seems that we have had our roots shaken. The war in Ukraine feels so close to us. The rise in the cost of living and our fuel bills challenge us as never before. With fewer Stipendiary Ministers in the United Reformed Church, Church Life Review and our general decline, it may feel that we are living in a truly dark and tumultuous time. It is a real test of our faith to hang on and believe that God is still doing something amazing in the world when change, subversive politics and war surround us.

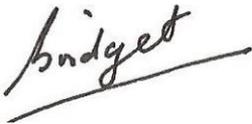
So, praise the Lord for Christmas where we welcome light in our darkness. We are reminded that God comes to be with us again. We don't need to be afraid of our future because we are all in God's hands. We have had to be creative in our thinking the last two years. As I go around the Synod, I still see signs of hope and growth. New people coming through the doors of our churches. Warm Hubs and other mission activities growing. I see people offering themselves for ministry of all types. It is very exciting. Yes, there are still places where challenges exist, but that is where God is calling us to be light.

Can I encourage you to reread the story of Jesus' birth, to sit with the passages and wonder, "what does Jesus' arrival mean for me?". There are Advent Bible studies going on all over the Synod which are a great way to engage further with this wonderful story. As in Isaiah 9:1-2, Christ is at the centre of Christmas which is something good to share

with our congregations. Is Christ at the centre of our lives though? With Christ at our very core, we will have peace and can be reassured that we and the world are still in God's hands.

Please pray for your Ministers, Local Church Leaders and Lay preachers during this busy season. They offer such a great service for the Church. Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas. May we all catch the hope of Christ to share at this dark time. May God continue to do a 'new thing' in you and in me.

Every blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Revd Bridget Banks



This Advent Season, the Worship and Faith Development Team are organising a series of four reflections based on favourite Advent Hymns and Carols. Each week will be led by a different member of the Team, encouraging us all to reflect on the waiting and preparation for Christmas, using the words of familiar and much-loved hymns.

All sessions will be held on Zoom, to encourage as many as possible to take part from the comfort of our own homes, starting on Monday 28 November, when our reflections will be led by Grace de Grouchy. Why not put Mondays at 8pm in your calendar and join us every week as we count down to Christmas Day. The Zoom links will be sent out each week.



December services

Sunday 4 December

11:00 **Worship with Holy Communion**

Led by Mark Dennis (Trinity Elder & Lay Preacher)



Sunday 11 December

(No morning service)

18:30 **Service of Carols & Readings by Candlelight**

followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Sunday 18 December

11:00 **'An upside down nativity play'**

This year will be a bit different, with the children playing the role of narrators and adults the costumed characters: Mary, Joseph, angels, wise people and shepherds!



24 December - Christmas Eve

17:30 **Christingle Service**

An opportunity to understand the meaning behind the tradition of Christingle and its relevance to the birth of Jesus. All ages welcome.



24 December - Christmas Eve

23:15 Service of Holy Communion by Candlelight

This traditional Communion service provides an opportunity for quiet reflection. We sing favourite carols and share in the bread and wine. Entering the church on the 24th, we walk out into Christmas Day.



25 December - Christmas Day

10:30 Christmas Day celebration

A short service to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Children are invited to bring one of their presents.



Faith in Action Christmas gifts



A traditional Christmas lunch is planned again this year for the service users with a gift for each.

Traditionally Trinity members have provided the gifts. Wrapped gifts, labelled for a man or woman (over 90% of our service users are men), would be very gratefully received. Suggested items are new hats, gloves, scarves, warm socks, deodorant, sweets/ chocolate/biscuits.

If you are able to provide a gift, please bring it to church on **Sunday 4 December, or the evening service on 11 December** (there will be no morning service on 11 December). Thank you for your generosity and support.

Our Christmas collections

This Christmas, our offerings at all our Christmas services (Carols & Readings by Candlelight, Christingle, Communion by Candlelight, and Christmas Day) will be donated to the work of Merton Winter Night Shelter. You can also give online using the 'Donate' button on the church website.



Have you been to a Christingle Service?

Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are lit during the service. Christingles are oranges wrapped in red tape, decorated with dried fruit or sweets, with a candle on the top.

During the service, each person makes a Christingle, and the candles are all lit to create a warm, magical glow symbolising the light of Christ and bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Christingles are made using oranges and a few other bits, as you choose. Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:



- The orange represents the world
- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Our Christingle Service will be held at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve. Everyone is very welcome – especially children. Bring your family and friends!

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

Church Family News

In memoriam

Mrs Gwendoline Vera May Broadbridge (Vera)



The death was announced during October of our oldest member, Mrs Vera Broadbridge, after a short illness. Vera had just celebrated her 103rd birthday. She was born in October 1919 in East Finchley, North London, where she lived with her parents and older brother Bert.

Attendance at Sunday school (as many prizes testify) led to her becoming a Sunday School teacher and being involved in other church activities.

Employment at the Hospital Saving Association (now Simply Health) was interrupted by the outbreak of WW2 during which Vera worked in the Army Pay Corps. She met her husband Bob whilst billeted in Preston, and they married in 1951. Their marriage lasted happily for forty-four years until Bob's death. With their daughter Anne, they moved firstly to Kensington, and then in 1971 to Wimbledon, when Vera, Bob and Anne began to worship at Trinity and to serve in various areas of Trinity's life.

In their youth, Vera and Bert were competitive ballroom dancers, and this continued to be a lifelong interest, along with theatre, cinema and holidays in Italy.

A charming and spirited Christian lady, Vera had been a great supporter of Coffee & Chat and the Wednesday Social Group. Over more than twenty years since joining Trinity, she was a very regular attender at worship until the coronavirus closures.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Anne, Vera's daughter, at this sad time and in the coming days.

David Muir Young

We have heard with sadness of the death of former Trinity Church Secretary David Muir Young on 9 November at the age of 93.

David grew up in Trinity and joined the Church on Profession of Faith, becoming an active member of the Fellowship of Youth where he met his wife Molly (Black). His father had founded the Rapid Results College and David worked for the family firm, living for periods in South Africa.

Between 1960 and 1985 the family was back in Wimbledon and David was ordained to the Eldership and served as Freewill Offering Treasurer for ten years and then, for seven years, as Church Secretary.

Another spell in South Africa was followed by a move to Dorking where David and Molly joined the United Reformed Church and where David served as Treasurer.

David retained his interest in Trinity and received *Trinity News* each month.

Molly died in 2015. We send our condolences to the family, especially Andrew, Sheila, Jean, Pauline and Peter.



David M Young (left)
with Trinity Elders
Jimmy Grimstone and
Hubert Walker (1974)

Birthdays in December

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Andrew Davies, Chris Jeffery, Harry Khurshid, Greta Malherbe, Dena-Jo Nunoo, Kwabena Sarpong, Yaw Sarpong, Johannes van der Walt, Sophia van der Walt, Hailey Wong, Jacob Woo and Janet Young.

Birthdays in January

Norman Angus, Ann Bremner, Katy Collins, Susan Collins, Harriet Vary, Madeline Vary, Adashe Siva and Mike Tulloch.

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

Sign up for Trinity updates!

If you'd like to receive occasional emails about services, news and activities at Trinity, click the 'Subscribe' button on our website (www.trinitywimbledon.org).



Have you moved house?

In order to keep our mailing lists and other records up to date, please let us know when you change your address. (email: churchsecretaries@trinitywimbledon.org).

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



Trinity News

Queens Road housegroup



At our December meeting we will continue our study of Ruth with chapter 3. The session is entitled 'Loving through risk'.

We will meet on **Tuesday 6 December** 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.



A Song for Faith in Action

When we were part of the community at Trinity, we were both involved in Faith In Action (FiA) Homelessness Project (I was a trustee and Nic volunteered, helping with laundry and showers). I have written the words to a song that we are sharing to raise awareness and funds for FiA.

The music was composed for us by Helen Sanderson White and Ruth recorded the song with David Barton at the Summerfield Studio, near Birmingham. The second verse was something the group aimed for, the basics of food, shared together, extending a warm welcome, and finding friendship in a cruel, uncaring and unforgiving city.

Ruth and I earnestly hope that home in all senses of the lyrics are found again within the lives of the people we met. It is to them we dedicate and sing this blessing, and any profits or donations go to FiA Homelessness Project.

'A Homely Blessing' is available on all major music platforms including free to listen to on Sound Cloud <http://bit.ly/3GxvppA>. We encourage people to listen to the song and to consider making a donation to Faith in Action Homelessness Project at <http://bit.ly/3ELVnnH>.

- Nic & Ruth Carlyle

January services

1 11:00 Morning worship for New Year's Day



Composed by the Revd John Newton in the weeks leading up to his New Year's Day service at the church on 1 January 1773, the hymn "Amazing Grace" has gone on to inspire countless people and become famous around the world. We will mark the 250th anniversary.

8* 11:00 Morning worship with Holy Communion
led by Mark Dennis

15* 11:00 Morning worship with Sacrament of Baptism
led by Mark Dennis & Revd Ernest Yu

22* 11:00 Morning worship
led by Mark Dennis

29 11:00 Morning worship
led by Revd Michael Hodgson
(Minister of Walton & Weybridge URCS)

* See "Reflections on the Psalms" below for further details of these services.



Reflections on selected Psalms

Join us in the New Year for a series of sermons reflecting on the message of selected psalms. The psalms express the whole range of human feeling and experience, from dark depression to exuberant joy. They are rooted circumstances, yet they are timeless and among the best-loved, most-read parts of the Bible. In this 21st century, we are stirred by

the same emotions, puzzle over the same fundamental problems of life, cry out in need, or worship, to the same God as the psalmists of old. We find it easy to identify with them. And we find their sheer, dogged faith, the depth of their love for God, both a challenge and a rebuke.

Over six Sundays in January and February, we shall be looking at the following psalms in our Sunday morning worship:

8 Jan	Ps 1 & 2	'We have a choice'
15 Jan	Ps 27	'A confident affirmation - and a prayer for help'
22 Jan	Ps 42 & 43	'Dealing with depression'
12 Feb	Ps 100	'The greatness and goodness of God'
19 Feb	Ps 139	'God knows everything'
26 Feb	Ps 120-134	'The songs of ascents - psalms of pilgrimage'



Election to Elders' Council

In early January it will again be time for us to nominate and elect Elders to serve on Elders' Council. Nomination forms and instructions will be sent out to church members in January.

Under the agreed procedure for the election of Elders, the November 2022 Church Meeting noted that there would be **two** vacancies on the Council from the Church Meeting on Sunday 12 March 2023.

Completed nomination forms should be returned by **Sunday 29 January 2023**.



A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by the Revd Bill Bowman 16 -25 October 2023

My wife, Marion, and I are leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land based in Jerusalem and Galilee from 16 to 25 October 2023. We will be visiting the sacred places associated with the life and ministry of Jesus in and around Jerusalem as well as by the Sea of Galilee including, Bethlehem, Jericho, Nazareth, Capernaum and Cana.

We warmly invite members and friends of your church to join our group. Please contact me either by phone or email for a booking form and brochure or if you have any questions you would like to ask.

"Five gospels record the life of Jesus. Four you will find in the Bible and one in the land called Holy.

Know the fifth and the other four will open up to you." (St Jerome of Bethlehem d.420 AD)

Best wishes

Bill

Phone: 07905 499815

Email: wfbowman@hotmail.com

Sermon preached at Trinity by the Revd Jenny Mills (URC's Secretary for Education & Learning) on Sunday 23 October



God of vision and sound, God of joy and hope, God of all times, may the words I speak, the words we hear and the thoughts they prompt, lead us closer to you, to one another and to living as your people in your world. Amen.

Bible Readings Luke 18:9-14 (The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector) and Joel 2:23-32

Thank God I am not like the Pharisee! Such an easy stance to take - and yet, it is a real risk we can take this stance and lose sight of what this is actually trying to teach us. Because I would say that many of us are more like the Pharisee than we would like to admit! It is often easier to criticise and judge others than to truly look at our own behaviour, attitudes and responses.

What we have heard this morning is that both texts are about living in a way that God calls us. Both texts are about people. About scarcity. About struggle. About following the 'right' ways.

And yet there is a real risk we are like the Pharisee, we become so full of ourselves that we lose sight of the plight and struggle of others. We forget that some people do not have a choice about what work they do.

The tax collector: someone needed to do that job. What if he had a family and this was the only role he could get? If he had a number of children or an ill parent? What if working for the Romans was the only pathway open to him? What if he had no choice? Someone had to do that job! We can forget to look beyond our preconceptions.

There is so much around us that is tough, that is hard. We have found ourselves, as a world, struggling with the effects of Covid - both physically with illness, stretched health services and people suffering

with long Covid, but also mentally as our children have missed out on so much and have been unable to learn some important life skills due to lockdowns and isolation and loneliness have flourished and life for many is challenging in so many and varied ways.

When things get tough, we have a tendency to entrench further, to metaphorically pull up the drawbridge and isolate ourselves, look inwards, concern ourselves with our own worries and pressures and fail to look beyond us. And what does that do?

Creates a society that is individualistic.

Creates a society that ignores the problems around them.

Creates a society that blames the 'other' for the problems they face.

Creates a society that disconnects the natural world from humanity.

And these are all things that distance us from the love of God. When humankind lives faith-fully, following Jesus, listening for the whisper of the Spirit, in tune with the whole of creation- then the world can thrive and there is abundance and blessing.

When we look out for each other and care for our neighbour, when we share what we have and make sure justice prevails, when we ensure that systems and processes protect the weakest and poorest in society, when we look at those who are different to us with interest and compassion instead of suspicion and fear, when we respect each other and the world around us whoever we are, then God is glorified and God's will is done on earth as in heaven.

And our sons and daughters can prophesy, and our old men shall dream dreams and our young men will see visions and those who are enslaved are heard and seen and named.

If this occurs, then we naturally begin to live in harmony. We suspend our judgements on one another, and we begin to understand the needs, struggles and particular circumstances of those who are different from us. We find that we reconnect with the world around us and begin to care for the state of it. We become aware of the need to treasure the earth as well as each other. What a wondrous image, what an aspiration to aim for.

And how do we get closer to this image, how can we, currently living in a world of struggle and strife, a world where war and conflict, lies

and disregard for each other, damage to our world and destruction of creation all thrive?

We can begin with us.

We can begin with thinking about how we live.

We can begin by thinking about how blessed we are to know of God's love, how we are able to be transformed by that love, informed by that love and changed by that love.

And then we can think about how we can do exactly as we have been praying for already today: how can we bring God's kingdom here on earth, as in heaven?

How do we do this? As people of faith, we begin by seeking to deepen that faith. We seek to learn more about what God's way looks like, sounds like, feels like. My role as Secretary for Education and Learning is about supporting people, in a variety of ways, to grow in faith, to develop their discipleship, to learn more and find their way to becoming faithful followers of Jesus.

Discipleship is actually a simple word and means learner or student. Discipleship is learning more about God. That can be done individually but is better done in community. It is learning through Bible Study, discussion groups, watching videos and talking about them, praying together, joining in conversations that help you understand more about how God works in people's lives (in the URC we have Stepwise, the discipleship development group and it includes most of these things, in a group setting, with a facilitator and enriches our faith as we journey and learn together). There are also numerous other discipleship development possibilities.



If we are serious about wanting to live God's way, just attending worship and hoping that is enough to equip us, is not really sufficient as spiritual food. (Accepting that there are times in life when we have extra space to do such things and times when such times are luxuries.)

But learning with others, journeying together, making mistakes and discoveries together, deepening our understanding of the Bible,

learning more about how Jesus' life inspired his followers and still inspires us, how God's Spirit can work through us AND also through others whom we encounter- both friend and stranger. Making space for God to surprise us and challenge us. To listen and respond. To be changed and to be formed in new and exciting ways. Being a disciple is being prepared to think about how we live and making adjustments as needed.

As we examine ourselves, as we stop and think about what we could change, as we sit before God and really ask, 'What could I do differently?' then we are open to being transformed, to change, to altering our views or preconceptions and challenging our prejudices. And we are less likely to rest on our laurels and think - well I do all the right things, my life shows I follow Jesus and I do my best - and I am not as bad as (insert your own words here!). We are more likely to be like the tax collector and be authentic before God and able to find peace and forgiveness. We become more authentic versions of ourselves, and we look outwards. We see the world around us, and we find ourselves moved to respond - and this blesses those we encounter and also brings blessings for us as we are changed by what we see, do, hear and experience.

Jesus told the story to people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt. Here is the warning. God has made us to live, work, belong in community together. God - the Trinity - models the behaviour of relationship, interdependence, mutuality. When we focus on ourselves and consider ourselves better than others, we need people around us to call us out, gently and with compassion; having our behaviour highlighted honestly and being given a chance to change, this is salvation. Being open enough to hear the hard truth, being mature enough to act upon what has been said, this is salvation. Finding the strength, energy, determination and will to make changes, this is salvation. This is what Jesus calls us to and what God's Spirit invites us to join in with.

When more of us focus on being the God-given version of ourselves, in community, with integrity, we are far more able to join in with God's mission as we are looking outwards. As we suspend our judgement, God is able to work in our hearts and lives and in the lives of those around us. Then we can truly dream dreams. As we are kinder, more generous and compassionate, more full of faith, God's kingdom will grow and flourish in new, exciting and unimaginable ways. Praise be!
AMEN.

Anniversaries in 2023

Sir Christopher Wren

2023 marks three hundred years since the death of Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723) – mathematician, astronomer, physicist, anatomist and one of the United Kingdom's greatest architects.

Wren was given responsibility for rebuilding 51 churches in the City of London after the Great Fire in 1666, including what is regarded as his masterpiece, St Paul's Cathedral, where today he is buried under a gravestone with the Latin inscription which in part translates: *'If you seek his memorial, look about you.'* From centres of learning in Greenwich, Oxford and Cambridge, churches and palaces fit for a king, Wren's influence spans the centuries.



His tercentenary will be marked in the Square Mile Churches by a year-long education and conservation programme for children and adults which has been awarded a £241,000 grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Read more about [Wren300 here](#).

'Amazing Grace' 250th anniversary



Composed by the Revd John Newton in the weeks leading up to his New Year's Day service at St Peter & St Paul Church, Olney, on 1 January 1773, the hymn has gone on to inspire countless people and has even become known in America as the nation's 'spiritual anthem'.

From the archives

London, Trinity and the Great Smog of 1952

London had suffered from air pollution since the thirteenth century when it was accepted that the burning of 'sea-coal' was a cause of the prevalent pollution, and in the 1600s, under King James, ineffective legislation was introduced to restrict coal burning. The situation became worse in Victorian times when the increase in domestic fires and factory furnaces meant that polluted emissions surged considerably. The word *smog* was invented, a merging of the words smoke and fog, and Londoners referred to *pea-soupers* to describe the dense, yellow-black appearance.

Smogs and pea-soupers were increasingly common during the first half of the twentieth century and in 1937 Trinity's minister wrote: "Two Sundays of fog - blotting out the faces of our people in the gallery. I admire the courage of those who came out, especially in the thick evening fog, but the sparsely filled pews send a worse fog into the soul of the minister!"

But the smog of December 1952 - seventy years ago this month - was by far the worst pollution event ever. On 4 December the weather was bitterly cold and, as an anticyclone settled over London, thick fog developed. The temperature dropped further and as people lit fires to keep warm, and as industrial chimneys belched out fumes, the city was blanketed the following day. Driving was difficult and, at times, impossible. Public transport ceased and the ambulance service stopped. Concerts and film screenings were cancelled as the fog seeped indoors and sporting fixtures were postponed.



The fog grew worse and, in fact, reached its peak in the evening of Sunday 7 December. Visibility was down to a metre or less. That evening there was a Communion service at Trinity during which a group

of young people was received into membership. Only five of the thirty or so Elders attended the pre-Communion meeting and the sixty-eight communicants at the service was, not surprisingly, far fewer than was normal in those days. The evening Communion services before and after were attended by 122 and 171 communicants respectively. The Session minute book records: "It should be placed on record that exceptionally dense fog persisted all day and particularly in the evening."

The following day continued bad. But, on the 9th, a breeze got up and by mid-morning the fog had gone. Officially 4,000 Londoners died as a result of the extreme pollution, and it is thought that the true figure was nearer 12,000. Probably as many as 100,000 were made ill by the smog's effects on the respiratory tract.



In 1956 the Clean Air Act was passed and, apart from a spell of smog in December 1962, there has been no repeat of that terrible weekend.

Merton Winter Night Shelter 2022/23

I am very pleased to report that, after a 2-winter absence, the Merton Winter Night Shelter (MWNS) will be opening on Monday 5 December. In conjunction with St Mary's Wimbledon and the Wimbledon Mosque, Trinity has played a leading role in bringing this about.

For those unfamiliar, MWNS has provided a communal shelter during the coldest months for homeless people who are able to cope with the shared environment. Faith groups in the borough come together, each providing hot food and a safe shelter on a specific weekday evening/overnight for seven weeks. There are fourteen venues so we can cover two blocks meaning the shelter can run until mid-March, with Trinity covering Sundays in Block 2 starting on 29 January.

There have been a number of challenges to overcome. Since 2012, when the MWNS was launched, the Wimbledon YMCA had coordinated the alliance. Last winter they were unsuccessful in obtaining any public funds for emergency winter accommodation and London Public Health vetoed all communal night shelters because of Covid. MWNS needed a new coordinator and charitable home. Faith in Action Merton Homelessness Project (to give it its full name) the very well-known local charity, required little persuasion to take on the role so we have a solid base of support plus much local intelligence on, and experience, with the local homeless.

Second, we needed to ensure the alliance was still vibrant and its members were able to open their doors again. Four former venues were no longer able to participate; however, replacements have been found and the general commitment from volunteers has been inspiring - 100 people gathered in Trinity's Old Hall to receive volunteer training on Sunday afternoon, 20 November.

Third, in past years, 'Crisis at Christmas' took in MWNS's guests at a tricky time to get volunteers as well as when few facilities are open for daytime shelter, like libraries. We needed to establish whether there was sufficient volunteer support from across the alliance to provide support not just for the usual evening, overnight and breakfast shifts, but for the daytime too. We also agreed that Trinity's facilities would be very suitable for this. As a result, thanks to a magnificent volunteer response, after spending Christmas Eve and Christmas Day morning at our neighbours, St Mark's, MWNS guests will come to Trinity until the afternoon of 27 December when they will move onto the Wimbledon

Mosque's venue – the Salvation Army Hall in Kingston Road, and the normal rota will resume. If this had not been possible, the shelter could not have opened until 3 January.

Fourth, we needed to raise money (which the YMCA had previously organised). Applying for charitable funds is a time-consuming business but thanks to a brilliant local response, not least among participating churches themselves and a 3-year grant from the Wimbledon Foundation (AELTC charity), we have sufficient funds to employ a coordinator + cover other costs, which was a key promise made to the Faith in Action trustees that MWNS would not draw on their general funds. Thanks to this success, a project coordinator, Ashling Flannery, has been recruited and she has already started working.

The final challenge I want to mention has been getting Merton council onside. The Night Shelter world has been impacted significantly during the pandemic and policy is now focused on providing single room accommodation, not communal shelters. Through patience and persistence, we have persuaded the council that there is still a role for communal shelters and we are now working with Merton Public Health to make them as safe as reasonably possible.

I'm very excited that MWNS will operate again this winter and Trinity will be a key participant again. If you are interested in volunteering, and haven't already been in contact with Ralph Goodchild, please contact him at ralphgoodchild@gmail.com or me, Robin Goodchild (robin.goodchild@sky.com).



ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 24
Sixth, Gabriel, Galilee, Nazareth, Joseph, David, Mary
Charles Wesley, Christina Rossetti, Cecil Frances Alexander,
Phillips Brooks
Nativity, angels, Bethlehem, stable
Samuel Smith MP, Barry Gilbert, six
Elizabeth Scharinger (Church Administrator), Allan Todd
(caretaker)

A short Christmas and Trinity quiz



A verse or two from Luke's Gospel. Can you fill in the missing words?

In the month the angel was sent from God to a city of named to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was of the house of and the virgin's name was

Do you know who wrote these Christmas carols?

Hark the herald angels sing
In the bleak midwinter
Once in royal David's city
O little town of Bethlehem



Can you unravel these Christmas anagrams?

IT VANITY
ANGLES
THE HEMBLE
BLEATS

How well do you know Trinity?

- Who laid the Church's foundation stone (on the forecourt)?
- Which former Church Secretary moved to Scotland in 2016?
- How many numbered rooms are there in the Mansel Road Centre?

Who is this?

Two people you'll frequently see around our buildings. Can you identify them?

