

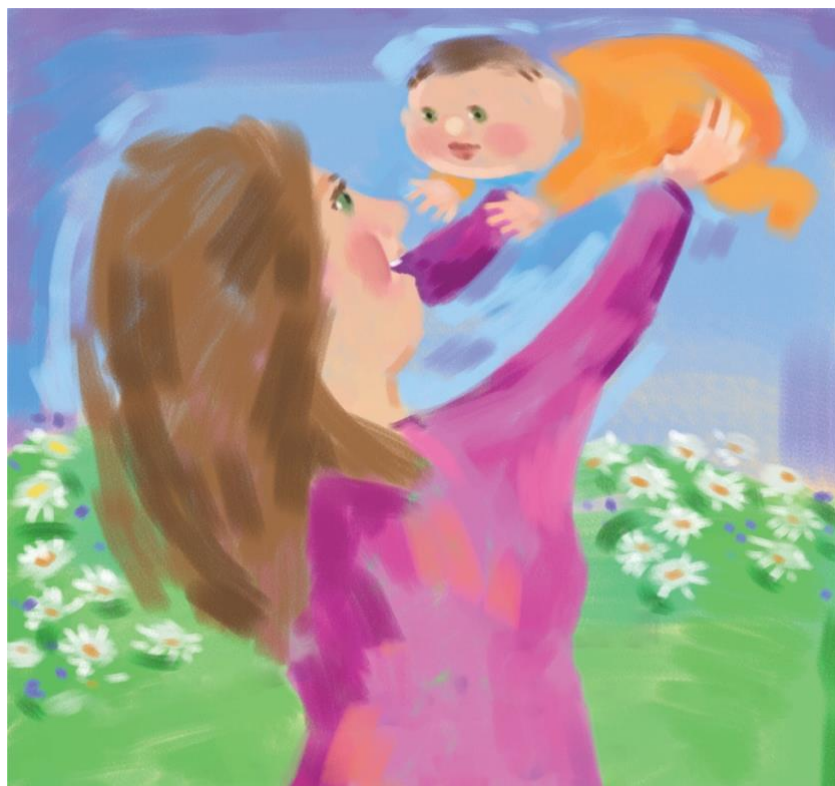
Trinity News

50

Faith - Hope - Love -
Since 1972

March 2023

No.527



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org

Church Family News



Changes of address

Mr & Mrs A McLeish - 79 Egmont Road, Sutton SM2 5JS

Mrs Sheila Mowbray - Southwell Court Care Home, Racecourse Rd,
Southwell NG25 0TX (0163 681 5599)



March birthdays

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Gareth Clifford, Katrina Clifford, Penuel Downey, Cathy Dundee, Alex Woo, Claire Wood and Daniel Wut.

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



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)

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).

Subscribe





1	Wed	20:00	Elders' Council
3	Fri	<i>World Day of Prayer</i>	
		10:30	Service for everyone from the women of Taiwan. At Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Ave, SW20 9JZ
		20:00	Film Club
5	SUN	<i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>	
		10:30	Elders' meeting
		11:00	Morning worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Philip Brooks (URC Deputy General Secretary – Mission)
8	Wed	20:00	Queens Road housegroup
		20:00	Children & Youth Work Team
11	Sat	10:00	Synod Together at Brighton
12	SUN	<i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>	
		11:00	Morning worship led by Revd Andrew Prasad (Interim Moderator) <i>The Samaritan woman at the well</i>
16	Thu	20:00	Vacancy Team (tbc)
17	Fri	20:00	Film Club
19	SUN	<i>Fourth Sunday in Lent - Mothering Sunday</i>	
		11:00	Worship for everyone (all ages) led by Sarah Elliot & Junior Church <i>Jesus heals the man blind from birth</i>
23	Thu	20:00	Finance Team

March

26 SUN



Fifth Sunday in Lent - Passion Sunday

11:00

Morning worship led by

Revd Fiona Bennett

(URC General Assembly Moderator)

*Don't forget to change your clocks on
25/26 March!*



Mothering Sunday 19 March at 11:00

**Come & join us - all ages welcome
especially mothers & grandmothers!**

On 19 March, we shall be celebrating Mothering Sunday, thinking of all those who give the love and care of a mother to the children, young people and adults in our community. It will be a child-friendly service with songs, a quiz, crafts and Bible study with Junior Church leading the prayers and readings. We will be thinking about Jesus healing the blind. It would be an excellent service to bring a friend to. Daffodils will be handed out and it will be a great opportunity to worship together.



Visiting preachers in March



We look forward to welcoming two visiting ministers to Trinity during this month:

The Revd Fiona Bennett, Moderator of General Assembly 2022/23

and

The Revd Philip Brooks, Deputy General Secretary (Mission)

Revd Fiona Bennett - will lead our service on Sunday 26 March

Fiona grew up in Aberdeen and studied at New College, Edinburgh University, followed by postgraduate study in Community Education from Northern College, Dundee. During that time Fiona studied and volunteered in Austria, Jerusalem and Seattle, US.



Ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament of the Scottish Congregational Church (SCC) in 1996, the same year as she married Pete, Fiona first served in the Lanarkshire Circuit of the Methodist Church with responsibility for two local churches in Wishaw.

There followed a new post with the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh as an associate minister and director of a project exploring spirituality and creativity, which became "Creative Space".

In 2009, Fiona was called to serve as a minister in Augustine United URC, Edinburgh, an exciting and growing ministry and community that celebrates and strives to be 'transformed through God's inclusive love'.

Fiona has served on committees at both Synod and national levels as well as on ecumenical and Interfaith bodies.

A qualified mediator, serving with both Place for Hope and the listening and Reconciliation Service of the five Northerly Synods, Fiona is one of the alternate chairs for the National Synod of Scotland, and has contributed as a writer for Stepwise Worship Stream.

Some of Fiona's core values, grown from her experience, faith and theology as a disciple of Jesus, are:

- The transformative power of inclusion towards abundant life for all.
- An undying trust in the Spirit's creativity to craft God's life-giving Realm.
- A conviction to choose love over fear.

The website of her church in Edinburgh says, "As well as being a minister, Fiona is a mum and partner – with the added responsibilities as a family referee and taxi driver. She has a great love of music, singing and laughing."

Revd Philip Brooks - will lead our worship on Sunday 5 March

In 2022, the Revd Philip Brooks, the URC's Secretary for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations, was appointed to serve as its Deputy General Secretary (Mission) for two years.

Philip grew up at Radcliffe URC, a lively and big-hearted church in north Manchester. He benefited from the active youth work in his local church and later went on to be a Youth Leader and Elder, as well as enjoying the amateur dramatics which was a big part of the church. These skills worked out well when he was involved in two large Passion Plays in Bolton town centre.



Philip's ministerial formation training was at Northern College, where he was awarded an MA in Contextual Theology. He was then ordained in 2007 at Christ Church, Little Lever, a URC/Methodist LEP.

Alongside Christ Church, Little Lever, his first pastorate included a Methodist Chapel, as well as a 1662 former Presbyterian Church in Little Hulton, one of the poorest parts of Salford.

The two Salford churches came together to form Wharton and Cleggs Lane, a URC/Methodist LEP, during Philip's ten-year ministry. Serving in the Farnworth and Worsley Methodist Circuit meant that he was also a Methodist Authorised Presbyter.

Prior to being ordained into the URC, Philip served in and helped to establish the Bolton Town Centre Chaplaincy, which gave him valuable insights into how the church still has a welcome place in what many people view as an entirely secular world.

It also grounded him in ecumenical and interfaith work in the multi-cultural setting of Bolton. He went on to chair and manage the chaplaincy and the associated Community Cohesion Project. He was also a trustee of Greater Manchester Industrial Mission.

Philip's interest in chaplaincy began with a first-year student placement in the Vulnerable Prisoners' Wing of Strangeways Prison. He also served as chaplain for local community radio station, Bolton FM, where he and his wife Debs had their own regular Sunday evening faith show. In the URC North Western Synod, Philip was the ecumenical officer for Central Area and served on the its Area Pastoral Committee.

In 2017, Philip took on the role of Secretary for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relation for the denomination. His work has included helping to steward the URC's 65-year Covenant with the Reformed/Lutheran Churches in the Palatinate region of Germany.

Because of the global Covid pandemic, he was part of the team that created yo**UR**Church, an online worshipping community.

As Deputy General Secretary for Mission, Philip says: "I hope to draw on my local church and Synod roots, linked to my passion for opening the church outwards to a world which still seeks God, but often fails to see the relevance of church. This two-year post will see an exciting period of transition for the URC and the work of the URC's talented mission team will be central to that transformation."

Philip is married to Debs, a primary school teacher, and they have two children and a grandchild.

The service on 12 March will be led by our Interim Moderator, the Revd Dr Andrew Prasad. This will be the first occasion when Andrew will lead our worship.

From 2008 until his retirement in 2021 Andrew served as Moderator of Thames North Synod. He had previously served the Church of North India from 1978 to 1989 and the Council for World Mission (CWM) from 1989 to 1999. After this he had served at Streatham Asian Christian Fellowship before transferring



to the URC, where he served at Dulwich Grove, Camberwell Green (2002-2008) and was then appointed Moderator of Thames North.

Andrew has now crossed the Thames and lives with his wife in Norbury. We are very grateful indeed to him for guiding us through the Vacancy process, and for sharing his advice and wide experience.



Lord, when we fail to recognise you
call our name.
When we fail to acknowledge you,
call us yours,
And when we fail to follow you,
call us back.
AMEN



Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 is taking place 27 February – 12 March 2023

Support Trinity's Fairtrade Stall on Sunday mornings during coffee time

Traidcraft was set up in 1979 to prove that trading fairly with small-scale producers and artisans around the world could work commercially, by buying and selling ethical and fair trade foods, drinks, household cleaning products, crafts and clothes. Traidcraft imported goods directly from developing countries and sold them to UK consumers through church stalls, markets and, later, shops and the Traidcraft website.

After Cynthia Betts stepped down, I opened a church account and started running the Trinity stall.

Sadly, in January, Traidcraft announced that they were going into administration. Their website, where I bought all the goods, closed immediately.

It is still possible to buy products from other places such as Divine Chocolate, the Ethical Supermarket and Meaningful Chocolate. I have set up trade accounts with these companies in the hope that we can still sell ethically-sourced products at our stall.

For Fairtrade Fortnight, I will buy stock from the individual websites and hope you will continue to support the stall.

- Elizabeth Scharinger

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

FRIDAY 3 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!



I have heard
about your faith



**WORLDWIDE DAY OF PRAYER
From the Women of Taiwan**

at

Martin Way Methodist Church

Buckleigh Avenue, SW19 2JY

Service starts at 10:30

Nearby bus stops 164 & 413

The service will be recorded
and available later on YouTube

Light refreshments available after the service

ALL ARE WELCOME



New Drop-in Video

The Faith in Action (FiA) Drop-in is currently running at a loss. However, ways are being actively explored to raise the additional funds needed to continue to help and support local homeless and vulnerably-housed people. To help promote the important work and raise more funds, a new video has been made which tells FiA's story in two minutes. Have a look - you may spot someone from Trinity!

<https://youtu.be/0R-bOYQzJ-U>

Share the Christian message of Easter. Give Real Easter Eggs this year

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one that has an Easter storybook in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects. All the eggs are Palm Oil free.

Visit the Fairtrade stall in the Old Hall on Sunday mornings, or email Elizabeth in the church office to order your egg(s).



Queens Road housegroup

This month's meeting of the housegroup will be on Wednesday 8 March at 217 Queens Road Wimbledon.

We will be continuing our study of the book of Ruth.

As always, we would be pleased to welcome anybody who is interested in reading and getting to know their Bible, as well as meeting with fellow members in an informal way. Andrew Sutton or Alan Young would be happy to provide more details.



**Final copy date for the April edition of
Trinity News is 20 March.
Please send items to
catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com**



Trinity News



The Foodbank is in urgent need of carrier bags so would be very grateful for any we are able to provide. These can be left in the trolley in the MRC entrance.

This month's urgently needed items are

- UHT/long life milk
- long life fruit juice and squash
- rice
- tinned meat and tinned tomatoes
- noodles and
- jam/sandwich spreads

They ask that no food items containing alcohol should be donated.



Commitment for Life

As in previous years our annual collection for [Commitment for Life](#) will be during Lent. On two Sundays during Lent, 26 February and 5 March, there will be envelopes in the pews for donations in cash or cheques. Cheques should be payable to 'Trinity URC Wimbledon'. Or it's easy to donate on the Trinity website using this 'Donate' button.

[Donate](#)

If you make an online donation for Commitment for Life (CfL) please let Robin Ingram (robin.h.ingram@gmail.com) know that the donation is for CfL.





Merton Growbaby, an offshoot of the Wimbledon Foodbank, provides quality clothing and equipment for babies and children – and other support based on local needs – for free, regardless of income, faith or background.

Any of the items listed below would be appreciated, and can be left in the Foodbank trolley in the Mansel Road Centre. Please only donate items that you would be happy to pass on to a family member or friends - no stained, worn or broken items. Please could clothes be washed and organised into sizes before donating.

Wimbledon foodbank

MERTON GROWBABY

This weeks most needed

- Nappies size 5-8
- Boys 9-18 m clothes
- Girls 3-5 yrs clothes
- Single & Double buggies
- Sterilisers
- Breast Pumps
- Baby Toiletries
- Cots and mattresses
- 5 and 5+ nappies
- Baby Bouncer
- High Chairs

2nd hand, good conditioned items greatly appreciated

Merton GROWBABY



From the archives

Saturday 17 March 1934 was notable for a number of important sporting events - the Boat Race, international rugby at Twickenham and Chelsea v Sheffield Wednesday at Stamford Bridge. But the *Wimbledon Presbyterian* suggested that all these 'pale into insignificance when it is remembered that on the same afternoon there took place a struggle for supremacy between St Cuthbert's (Presbyterian Church, Effra Road) Girls Hockey Club and a mixed team representing Trinity, Mansel Road. This local derby took place at Garfield Road Recreation Ground and was witnessed 'by a good crowd which, though not as large as those at Putney, Chelsea and Twickenham, made up in enthusiasm what they lacked in numbers.'



Above: The Trinity and St Cuthbert's teams meet together before the match. Presumably the young man on the left was the referee.

For the record, St Cuthbert's led 1-0 at half-time. They then made it four before Trinity pulled one back, causing 'ecstatic joy amongst the supporters whose hats, sticks and umbrellas went up into the air'. Unfortunately, St Cuthbert's scored twice more to finally win 6-1.



Left: The badge of the St Cuthbert's Girls Hockey Club

The church magazine hoped that the fixture might become an annual event and Mr McRitchie, the minister, was rumoured to be planning to lead the

next Mansel team! The fixture was played again in 1935 when St Cuthbert's won 3-1, Miss Mason scoring a hat-trick and Stella Penn replying for the challengers. Sadly there is no record of the fixture being played again.



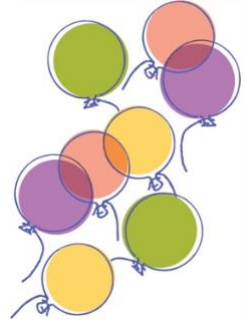
Work at the manse

During the ministerial vacancy the manse, 142 Copse Hill, has been let to tenants. The letting income received has enabled us to have the front garden area re-designed.

The work, which was carried out in January and February, includes a new front wall and fence and a brick paved area which will enable up to four cars to park on the frontage. This will be particularly useful as there are now double yellow lines down Copse Hill.

The Property Team hopes to carry out improvements inside the house before a new minister arrives.





URC's 50th anniversary service

We're delighted to announce that the new date is **Saturday 15 April 2023**. In an ideal world, we would have opted for a longer gap after Easter, but we hope that as many members and friends of the URC will be able to join us for our delayed anniversary celebrations.

The Service of Thanksgiving & Celebration will be at 3pm-5pm at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, SW1H 9NH, where the Uniting Assembly took place in 1972.

The Open Church House event at 86 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RT, will also take place on 15 April from 10am-12 noon.

Tickets

If you have a ticket and are able to come to the event on 15 April, please do nothing – your ticket is still valid. Please bring it/them on the day.

If you would like more tickets, please visit <https://bit.ly/urc50> and amend your order.

If you are no longer able to attend, please visit <https://bit.ly/urc50> and select Cancel Order. This will free up your tickets for others. Or email 50@urc.org.uk and we can cancel the order for you.

Anniversary Choir

If you would like to sing in the Anniversary Choir, you can find out more details and the dates of the rehearsals and [register online for it here](#), or at <https://tinyurl.com/yxfxbk2b>.

Stewards and enquiries

If you are able to volunteer as a Steward at the service, please email 50@urc.org.uk which is also the email address for any enquiries relating to the new date.