

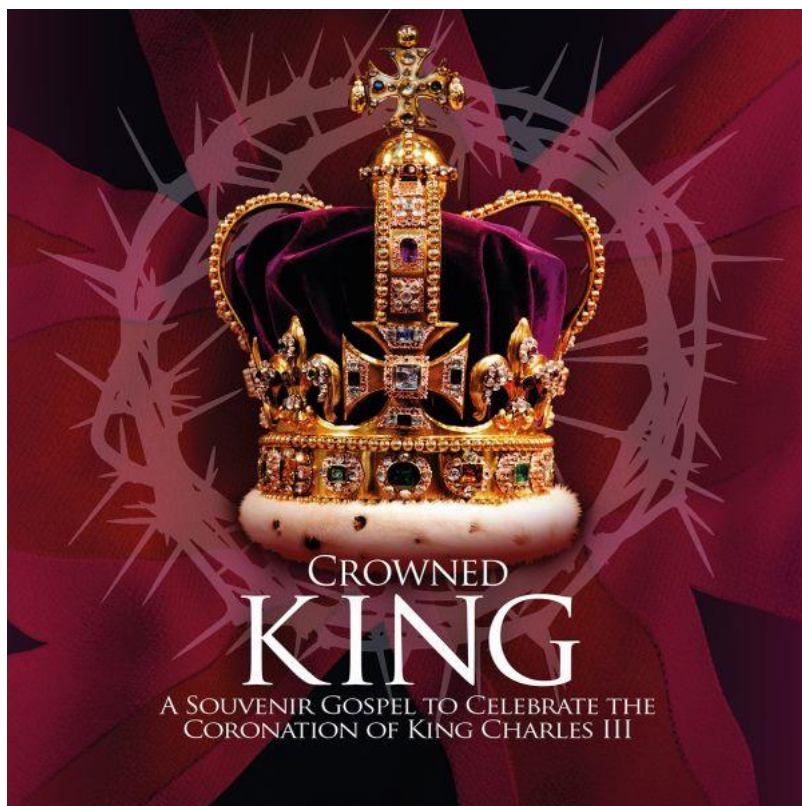
Trinity News

50 

Faith – Hope – Love –
Since 1972

May 2023

No.529



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org

Crowned King – A Souvenir Gospel to Celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III



£5.00 + p&p from CPO at

<https://www.cpo.org.uk/crowned-king-book.html>

Point to the King of Kings with a special Coronation Souvenir of Matthew's gospel with an illustrated introduction on the coronation. Produced in partnership with Biblica, Crowned King includes beautiful images and an eloquent introduction by Catherine Butcher that unpacks the inherent Christian symbolism in the coronation.



Following the Service on Sunday 7 May we will celebrate the Coronation of King Charles with cake and a glass of bubbly in the Old Hall. Please do join us!



May Worship

7	SUN	10:30	Elders' Meeting
		11:00	Morning worship with a Coronation theme and Holy Communion Followed by a Celebratory drink & cake in the Old Hall
14	SUN	11:00	Morning worship led by the Revd Alistair Cumming (Minister of the Church of Scotland)
21	SUN	11:00	Morning worship led by the Revd Martin Camroux (retired URC minister)
28	SUN	<i>Pentecost</i>	
		11:00	Morning worship led by Katrina Clifford (Synod Lay Preacher & Trinity Elder)

UPCOMING EVENTS



1	Mon	<i>Early May Bank Holiday</i>	
3	Wed	20:00	Elders' Council & Finance Team
5	Fri	20:00	Film Club
6	Sat	<i>Coronation Day</i>	
7	Sun	10:30	Elders' meeting
8	Mon	<i>Bank holiday for coronation of King Charles III</i>	
13	Sat	08:00	Christian Aid car boot sale at St Mary's field
14-20		<i>Christian Aid Week</i>	
17	Wed	20:00	Children & Youth Work Team
19	Fri	20:00	Film Club
23	Tue	20:00	Queens Road house group
25	Thu	20:00	Church Meeting
29	Mon	<i>Spring Bank Holiday</i>	



Christmas collections

'Thank you' to all who gave generously to the collections at Christmas services on behalf of the Merton Winter Night Shelter. The total amount raised was £818.

Important Church Meeting

Thursday 25 May at 8pm

in the Mansel Road Centre

.....

The Vacancy Team will be reporting on the procedure and next steps in calling a minister to Trinity.

The weekend of 24/25 June has been reserved for a candidate to 'Preach with a View' so please put the dates in your diary.

Also at the meeting

- **Review of 2022**
- **Report of Trustees & financial statements 2022**

Please come along.

The meeting is for ALL church members to share in the life and work of Trinity.



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

Church Family News

Confirmation & membership

On Easter Day, 9 April, Revd David Skitt led our celebration worship and conducted the Service of Confirmation for two of our young people,

**Dena-Jo Nunoo and
Olivia Scharinger**



Ordination to Eldership & Induction to serve on Elders' Council

On Sunday 23 April, Revd Dr Andrew Prasad (Interim Moderator) led worship and ordained Mrs May Nicol to the Eldership and inducted her to serve at Trinity.

**Congratulations to May,
and to Dena-Jo and Olivia**

May birthdays

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Alan Dickman, Michael Chau, Siang Wei Chau, Robin Goodchild, Eddie Henning, Jenny Nunn, Kiera Probert, Tim Rostron and Mariella Sarpong.

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



Christian Aid week 14–20 May

As last year we are going to distribute delivery-only envelopes with a sticker on how to make donations directly to Christian Aid. We need lots of help. If you can deliver to the streets we are responsible for, please do get in touch.



On **Saturday 13 May**, the Car Boot sale will be held from 8am to 1pm in St Mary's Church Field SW19 7BP. If you would like to bring a car and sell unwanted stuff please come from 7am. Cars are charged £10 and vans £15. Booking is not required.



If you can help for part of the day, please let us know. In any case please do come and buy, entrance is £1, or £2 before 9am – children free.

If you have bric-a-brac or books to sell, please get in touch. As usual there will be a table selling items to raise money for Christian Aid.

- Mike & Margaret Tulloch



As you may know, we occasionally receive requests to pray for someone who is going through a particularly difficult time and who has asked specifically to be prayed for.

Thus far there has not been a reliable way for these messages to be passed on quickly and efficiently.

The Worship and Faith Development Team agreed that one way to ensure that we could respond to any appeals for prayer would be to start a Trinity WhatsApp Prayer Group. This would enable members of the group to instantly see any requests, and to pray wherever and whenever it suited them.

The WhatsApp Prayer Group is entirely separate from the Sunday morning prayers of concern, and is intended only for those who join it. It's intended for private prayer, as a response to specific requests, where it will help someone to know that a number of people are praying for them. We would like to invite all Trinity members and friends to join, as part of Trinity's commitment to care for our neighbours.

If you would like to join, please let me have your mobile number and I will add you to the group. I'm also happy to answer any questions you might have about how such groups work.

- Pam Rostron

Church flowers



The flowers in church are often donated in memory of a loved one, an anniversary or an occasion of joy.

If there is something that you would like to commemorate, please speak to Andrew Sutton, who coordinates the list of flower arrangers.

If you would like to arrange the flowers yourself, but feel you would like help, we would be very pleased to assist.



Queens Road House Group

How well do you know the Gospel of Matthew? We began our study of the Gospel at our April meeting and next time will resume at chapter 2 v16. We will be looking at Mary, Joseph and Jesus' return from Egypt, and the emergence of John the Baptist.

We would be delighted to welcome anybody who would like to join us - on Tuesday 23 May (8pm) at 217 Queens Road.



What's going on in the Mansel Road Centre?

The Mansel Road Centre is a very busy place during the week from 8am-10pm.

In the mornings, most of the rooms are hired by groups for young pre-school children, such as Monkey Music and Mini Mozart which are music classes, and Busy Lizzy who offer a variety of classes for mums and babies. We also hire rooms on Mondays and Fridays to a nursery run by and for Ukrainians and Russians who are working and living together in Merton. They have been coming to us since before the war began. Over the last year, some of them have helped to introduce Ukrainian refugees to their host families within Trinity.

However, it's not just pre-school children that we see in the mornings. A Pilates class runs every morning from Monday to Thursday for adults and we also see some U3A classes (University of the 3rd Age) such as Qigong and Family History. Merton U3A also hold their general meetings with us.



In the afternoons, from 3pm, we are full of after school classes ranging from drama/singing lessons to Maths and English tuition classes.

It's not just our biggest rooms that we see occupied. Room 6, which is our smallest room, is used throughout the week for counselling, singing lessons and violin lessons.

In the evenings, a Scottish Dancing class runs on a Tuesday which fills the MRC with Scottish music (a live band once a month). We also host Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and choir rehearsals on a regular basis, National Childbirth Trust meetings, the Wimbledon Philosophical Society, and many more on an ad hoc basis.

The MRC really is a very different place during the week so why not pop in and see what goes on... we'll put the kettle on!

-EFS



As the cost of living continues to rise, many local people and families need our urgent support. But as the cost of living continues to rise the generosity of givers is also tested. Our own Foodbank trolley has seen a reduction in the quantity of items donated since Easter, so please remember to buy one or two extra items when you are shopping and bring them along when you're next at the Church.

Urgently needed items currently include

Cup-a-soups
Chunky soups
Sweets & chocolate treats

Crisps for packed lunches
Micro meals
Rice & microwaveable rice

as well as the usual requests (not pasta, thanks) and carrier bags.

We've received a couple of donations for *Merton Growbaby* and any others would be gratefully received - please leave them in the trolley and we'll get them to the depot.



South London Synod Area News

30 minutes of prayer time

You are invited to join with others in the South London Synod Area each **Thursday for 30 minutes of prayer at 5.00pm**
Zoom ID: 896 3882 1888

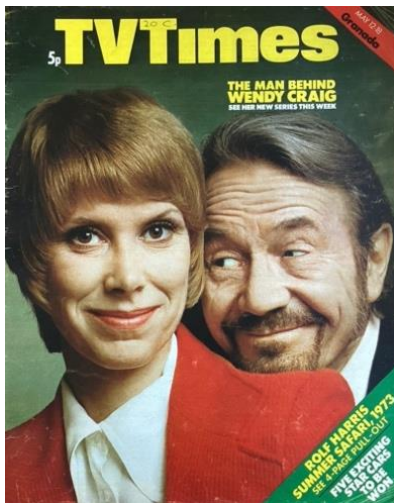
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Everyone is welcome

From the archive

When Trinity appeared on television

Fifty years ago this month - on 13 May - Trinity's morning service was broadcast live by London Weekend Television and was transmitted throughout the country. The producer, Mr Howard Ross of LWT had several meetings and conversations with the Minister, and the service was planned as an introduction to Christian Aid Week.



9.30 Christian Aid Service ☆

from Trinity United Reform Church, Wimbledon.

Today sees the start of Christian Aid Week 1973, when collections will be made throughout the United Kingdom for funds to continue the extensive work of this organisation, which operates in 80 countries.

This special service to mark the beginning of Christian Aid Week is conducted by the Rev. H. Burns Jamieson and the address comes from the Deputy Aide Administrator for Christian Aid, David Smithers

His theme is Christian Aid, with special reference to the work being done to fight the effects of drought in India.

The service culminates in the commissioning of the collectors for the Greater London area.

DIRECTOR HOWARD ROSS

London Weekend Television Production

There was some concern beforehand that people would stay at home to watch the service on television, especially as we had to be in our places at 9am for a 9.30 start, but in fact the congregation responded to the challenge and the church was very full. On arrival we were struck by how bright the place was, extra lighting having been installed along the sides of the nave.

The service was introduced from the forecourt by Revd H. Burns Jamieson, Trinity's minister, who led the service. Eryl Williams was the organist. The lessons were read by David Dixon, a Trinity Elder, and by Miss Sheila Hawdon.



After the service - Revd H Burns Jamieson with Linda McCrorie, Sheila Hawdon, David Smithers and David Dixon

Linda McCrorie, a Trinity member known professionally as Linda Esther Gray, sang 'Biblical songs No.4 and 5' by Dvorak. She had recently been awarded the Kathleen Ferrier award and had sung at Glyndebourne.



*The congregation leaving the Church after the service.
On the right is an LWT van*

The congregational hymns were 'Praise the Lord, his glories show', 'Behold the amazing gift of love', 'O God our Father throned on high'

and 'Lord of light whose name outshineth'. The sermon was preached by Mr David Smithers, then Communications Director of Christian Aid. The service ended with the commissioning of Christian Aid volunteer collectors who were seen leaving the church and knocking on doors in Mansel Road, seeking donations. The minister bade the viewers goodbye, and the titles went up, followed by the LWT caption.



*Revd H B Jamieson, Linda McCrorie and David Smithers
watch as LWT personnel dismantle a camera*

Inside the church everybody relaxed - and the normal Sunday offertory was taken up before we headed home.

The service was a success and LWT suggested that they'd like to use it as an example for training and future planning. Mr Jamieson received letters from all over the country, some from former members and friends who were delighted to have the opportunity to share in a Trinity service, many commenting how good it was to see a full church and the atmosphere of a genuinely worshipping congregation. Mr Smithers reported that he'd received many letters and donations, one of £8000, a considerable sum in those days.

A few days after the service the congregation was given the opportunity to watch a privately made video recording of the service. We still have the tape, but this was in the days before VHS and DVD recordings and we have no way, at present, of playing it. We are trying to find a way

of playing or converting the old tape and this would, I think, be fascinating. So watch this space!

Incidentally, a few weeks after the televised service, Trinity also featured on the BBC radio programme 'Sunday Half Hour'. The hymns were sung by combined local choirs and the programme was part of the Merton Festival. The BBC producer commented that the church was ideal for the purpose.



Disaster Relief

The distributions from Gift Day to Disaster Appeals since November 2022 are:-



Ukraine	£500
Turkey/Syria earthquake	£250
Afghanistan	£250
Pakistan floods	<u>£250</u>
Total:	<u>£1,250</u>

The allocation for each year is £2,000, so £750 is carried forward.



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)



Joint Public Issues newsletter

The URC, Methodist Church and Baptists together issue a monthly newsletter free to everyone from the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT). The purpose of JPIT is to help the Churches to work together for peace and justice through listening, learning, praying, speaking and acting on public policy issues. The newsletter covers items of interest for everyone interested in the role of the church in the world. For example, the March issue has articles about migration, the Budget, war in Ukraine, net zero and many more. To subscribe contact enquiries@jointpublicissues.org.uk.



- Margaret Tulloch

A year of hymn singing



During 2022 we sang 167 hymns during services, along with a selection of Christmas carols.

The four hymns sung most often from "Rejoice & Sing" were

Brother, sister, let me serve you (5 times)
Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart (4 times)
Give to me Lord a thankful heart (3 times)
Great God, you have called us here (3 times)
Jesu, Jesu fill us with your love (3 times)

We also sang 22 hymns which were not in our hymnbook

Be still for the presence of the Lord (3 times)
I, the Lord of sea and sky (3 times)

Thanksgiving & Celebration for the URC's 50th Anniversary

Members, ministers and friends of the United Reformed Church gathered in London on 15 April to mark the denomination's 50th anniversary.

Around 1,200 people attended the rail strike-postponed celebrations at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, the same place that English Congregationalists and Presbyterians gathered on 5 October 1972 to vote the URC into being.



Decorations created by members of the URC hung around the hall, a sounding trumpet heralded the beginning of the service, as in 1972, and artwork from across the denomination was displayed in colourful presentation.

During the singing of "*Blessed City, Heavenly Salem*", sung at the first service of URC in 1972, candles representing each of the URC's 13 Synods in England, Wales and Scotland were placed on the map by the Synod Moderators or Synod representatives.

Led by the Revd John Bradbury, General Secretary of the URC, and the Moderator and Moderator-Elect of the URC General Assembly, the Revds Fiona Bennett and Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, the service reflected the denomination's past, present and future, as well as its place in the world Church.

The Revd Richard Church, former Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship) who four years ago helped to start conversations about how to celebrate the URC's 50th anniversary said: "It's great to be here and it's great to see that it's actually happened and I'm massively admiring of the people who have gone through two false starts to get us to this point, but then the URC is a church that's used to false starts. We thought we were being set up for the unity of the wider Christian body in the country and it hasn't quite worked out that way. So, this is a good 50th birthday party."

Former General Secretary the Revd Dr David Cornick, URC and Council for World Mission (CWM) scholar Victoria Turner, and the Revd Professor Jooseop Keum, CWM's General Secretary, each delivered a sermon, and a specially formed Jubilee Choir sang 'Always trust the star that guides us on the way', Neil Thorogood's winning poem in the 50th Anniversary Worship Resources Competition, in a setting by Scott Stroman.

*Right: Revd Professor Jooseop Keum,
CWM's General Secretary,*

Other music in the service also included Colin Thompson's competition-winning hymn, 'God of the Pilgrim Way'.

The range of those leading worship reflected all generations within the URC, both lay and ordained, including Church Related Community Workers and leaders of the URC Youth Assembly.



Lundie Memorial Award winner Poppy Thorpe and trainee minister Joe Amoah read from scripture, while Karen Campbell, URC Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries, performed her own poetic cry of welcome – 'A table for all'.

Holy Communion was shared, during which short films of the work of the URC's partners around the world in Zimbabwe, Palestine and Israel were screened, together with prayers for the church and the world.

"At this milestone of 50 years", said Dr Bradbury, "we celebrate the faithfulness of those who went before us, but also must ask profound questions about who we are called to be, what we are called to do, here and now in the place where God has put us. What does the faithful response to God's call look like for us here today? The Jubilee year is a moment of deep prayerful discernment about who God is calling us to be today, such that in 50 years' time, those who come after us might look back and give thanks for our radical faithfulness."

Those present were called upon for the Act of Re-commitment, to be signs and servants of God's new creation, walking in the way of Jesus Christ, forged by their quest for unity, and steered by the vision of abundant life for all.

The service concluded as the General Assembly Bible was carried out, followed by the General Secretary, Moderator and Moderator-Elect of the General Assembly, and the Synod Moderators.



Two hundred and forty people also toured Church House, the URC's London office and Lumen URC to experience the wide-ranging life of the URC, represented by different ministries, exhibitions, and creative and learning opportunities for all ages.

No mow May

No Mow May is an annual campaign run by [Plantlife](#) calling all garden owners and green space managers not to mow during May, allowing grass, and crucially wildflowers to grow. The UK has lost over 90% of its wildflower meadows since the 1970s, so allowing even a small patch to revert to such a meadow can make a real difference.



Photo CFP

A couple of tips:

1. Signposting your patch with 'No Mow May' can spread the word and foster support, should your patch look a little straggly.

2. Repeating 'No Mow May' in the same patch in successive years may increase the number of flowers that appear, especially if you allow seeds to set by extending the no mow period through to July.

- Article by David Pickering (Southern Synod's Green Apostle)



Why after church fellowship is important

Hint: It's not about the food

Every Sunday we gather together for worship and fellowship with God and one another. We sing praises to God together, we pray together, we hear the Word of God together, and together we have fellowship around the table of Holy Communion. This, however, is not where our Sunday fellowship ends.



Coffee Fellowship

After our regular Sunday worship service, we also gather together and drink coffee or tea in the Old Hall and continue our time of fellowship. While no-one would debate the importance of fellowship within the context of our worship service, we ought not in any way see our after-church fellowship as less important or even an optional extra. I realise that Sundays can be busy times for families and there are times when people have to dash away straight after worship for various reasons, or at times, miss worship altogether.



There are, however, a number of reasons why after-church fellowship is an important part of our church life, providing the congregation with a number of benefits. Here are some that come to mind. There may be many more:

1. After-church fellowship provides members and adherents of the congregation and those who are visiting, an opportunity to get to know one another better—to become friends rather than just acquaintances who only have time for a nod of greeting on Sunday mornings.
2. After-church fellowship provides the opportunity for connections to be made along, not just spiritual lines, but also along lines of common interests. There may be mothers with small children who enjoy sharing notes with other mums with small children—or people who are in similar lines of work. The possibilities are endless.
3. As a result of these first two reasons, in particular, after-church fellowship is where relationships are built and maintained—especially if we don't get to see one another during the week. The Christian church is primarily about us, together and individually, building a relationship with God. Next to that, however, is building relationships with others of like spiritual mind—to share with others our journey of faith—our struggles and victories.

4. The Sunday worship service, combined with after-church fellowship, provides the best opportunity for pastoral care to happen within the life of the congregation. I reckon that about 85% of general pastoral care happens on Sunday mornings. There will be opportunities to share one another's joys and to help carry one another's burdens. Remember, the church is a family and family members are meant to love and care for one another.

So, in conclusion, after-church fellowship around a cup of tea or coffee and maybe food — whether it be cake or just a biscuit, is a vital part of the life and ministry of the worshipping congregation. It is where members of the wider and particular church family get to know and love each other and where Christian life is not only encouraged but also supported and cared for.

See you after worship.

*- Adapted from an article by a minister of
the United Church in Australia*



Deputy CARE Coordinator

This is a new post and the successful candidate will share the work of our CARE Coordinator in leading the organisation once they have a thorough understanding of the charity's operations. This will be gained by shadowing the CARE Coordinator in the first instance. The CARE Coordinator is responsible for identifying and implementing the decision making of the Board of Trustees and overseeing the work carried out within the charity under the umbrella of 6 projects:

- Baby, Children's & Household
- Befrienders
- Children's and Families' Activities

- Family Support
- Furniture
- Office

The Coordinators of these projects meet six times a year to review work done and plan future work. These meetings are chaired by the CARE Coordinator who attends the bi-monthly meetings of the Trustees, giving them a written report each time. Although run by Christians, CCA is working to assist people in need in the London Borough of Merton, regardless of race or religion. The CARE Coordinator assesses requests that come to the charity from the social services, other charities, schools or individuals and decides what might be the most appropriate response. Much work is done in cooperation with other local voluntary bodies such as Wimbledon Guild and networking is important. At present apart from individual visits to families and regular provision of food and/or furniture or children's clothes, CCA arranges for at least one family to spend a week at Butlin's in Bognor Regis each year, sends about 20 youngsters to activity camps in the summer, arranges an outing to the seaside or other attraction plus some smaller outings and gives Christmas hampers to many of the families it supports.

Christian CARE is entirely run by volunteers - at any one time there are about 60 volunteers, some working each week, others only occasionally and supervision of their recruitment and training is another responsibility of the CARE Coordinator. Sometimes the CARE Coordinator goes to a church or school or other organisation to promote the work and appeal for funds, goods or volunteers, so the ability to undertake some of these engagements would be useful. CCA is always open to new ideas about services offered or which could be offered by the charity, and this could be an area the Deputy would research.

It is anticipated that the role should take up to the equivalent of 2 days a week. Outside training would be provided as necessary for the successful candidate.

If you are interested in finding out more about the role please contact:
 Jane Savill (Chair) jane.savill@christiancaremerton.org.uk
 or Gillian Thick (CARE Coordinator)
gillian.thick@christiancaremerton.org.uk; phone: 07932 628840.





Looking for something to do on the evening of the Coronation?
Look no further...

The Coronation Prom Livestream

Saturday 6 May, 7pm
FREE

Invite your friends, family, communities and congregations to join this joyful expression of music and worship, honouring our new King's reign and celebrating the King of kings.

The historic occasion of The Coronation Prom on Saturday 6 May 2023 will be streamed and available for free, across the world.

Broadcast live from the Royal Albert Hall on the evening of this memorable day, the Coronation Prom will draw on the rich historical tradition of Coronation music. The massed choir and All Souls Orchestra will perform royal anthems and overtures by **Elgar, Holst, Handel** and **John Williams**.

Following on from the Coronation Service earlier in the day, the free Livestream of this majestic Prom will be available from the All Souls Music homepage and is the perfect way to round off day to remember, together with friends and family.