

# Trinity News

**50**  
Faith – Hope – Love –  
Since 1972

**June 2023**

**No.530**



**Trinity United Reformed Church**

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

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

# IMPORTANT NOTICE!

## The minister vacancy - an update

This is an important update and invitation, and one with significance for the future of our church community.

You may be aware already from an announcement during a service or in last month's *Trinity News*, that a potential candidate has been invited to 'preach with a view' to becoming Trinity's next minister.

**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.**

The weekend will be very important for Trinity, and your presence and participation as a church member are really crucial. The candidate will be meeting church members, answering questions and leading worship, after which we will gather to discern whether they could be the 'right fit' for our congregation.

At the Church Meeting held on 25 May, the Vacancy Team explained the procedure, and the next steps involved were discussed so that all present would understand the process and might contribute to it.

I do hope that you will make every effort to attend the events on **Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 June**, more details of which will be provided closer to those dates.

The calling of a new minister is a major event in the life of our church. It is not just about finding a new leader, but rather about seeking God's will for our community. Your voice and input as a church member are vital in helping us discern the path that God has prepared for us.

If you have any questions, please do speak with or email me.

Sandy McLeish, Vacancy Team Leader  
[alexander.mcleish@btinternet.com](mailto:alexander.mcleish@btinternet.com)



<b>4</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> 10:30 Elders' Meeting <b>11:00 Morning worship with Holy Communion</b> led by Revd Bill Bowman (retired URC minister)
<b>7</b>	<b>Wed</b>	20:00 Elders' Council
<b>9</b>	<b>Fri</b>	20:00 Film Club
<b>11</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>11:00 Morning worship</b> led by Katrina Clifford (Synod-accredited Lay Preacher & Trinity Elder)
<b>18</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>11:00 Morning worship</b> led by Revd David Marshall-Jones (retired URC minister)
<b>23</b>	<b>Fri</b>	20:00 Film Club

### **'Preaching with a View' weekend**

<b>24</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>15:00</b>	<b>Afternoon with the ministerial candidate</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Morning worship</b> <b>led by ministerial candidate</b> <b>'preaching with a view' followed</b> <b>by light lunch and Church Meeting</b>

# Church Family News

## ***Baptisms***

30 April - Skye, Enzo and Max Lau, children of Jason & Tracy Lau



## ***Change of email address***

Robin Goodchild's address is now [robinnapiergoodchild@gmail.com](mailto:robinnapiergoodchild@gmail.com).

## ***June birthdays***

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including: Toby Collins, Grace de Grouchy, Mark Dennis, Jean Jerram, Olivia Li, Sarah Li, Amelia Lowe, Nathan Mansfield, Oliver Mansfield, Raychel Matika, Alex Rostron, Joyce Sarpong, Olivia Scharinger, Edna Sloan and Andrew Sutton.

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

Subscribe





## **Outturn & Prospects**

Elders' Council, in their role as Trustees of Trinity URC Wimbledon Charity, approved its annual Report and Accounts for 2022 on 3 May. After two years of deficits, I am pleased to report these accounts show a surplus. However, the prospects for the current year are going to be challenging, principally because of the increase in energy costs.

Trinity's overall income in 2022 was £347,999 and its total expenditure £306,918, producing a surplus of £41,081. Inevitably, these totals disguise a lot of detail, particularly one-off items on both sides of the ledger. Moreover, 'Restricted Funds' have been growing in importance during the Vacancy because significant rental income has been received from letting the manse. As the manse is owned by the URC Southern Synod, this income can be used for expenditure on that property only and not on general church expenditure. Thus, it is more meaningful to exclude 'Restricted Funds' income and expenditure from the analysis; on this basis Trinity still made a surplus in 2022 of £22,590.

The key one-off items in the year were, on the income side, £43,371 of insurance proceeds for Loss of Income in 2021 during the pandemic, and expenditure of £20,387 on new thermostats and energy-efficient lights in the Mansel Road Centre (for which the URC contributed £2,000 through a repair grant) + donations totalling of £13,749 from the 'For Others' Fund to three charities equally – the Wimbledon Foodbank, Faith in Action and the Disasters Emergency Committee. The insurance receipt for Loss of Income during the Covid pandemic made a total of £98,371 over two years, so a very material help to our cash flow.

I should also mention that, for a second year, no legacies were received, but one has already been received in 2023 – from Margaret Noble's estate in loving memory of her husband, Dr Andrew Noble.

Excluding all the one-off items, there was a surplus on recurring income and expenditure of £11,355. Lettings Income continued its recovery from the 2020 low, increasing 66% in the year (after rising 23% in 2021) but is still at 90% of pre-pandemic levels. Planned Giving exceeded Budget but under-performed on 2021 by 9%, because there were fewer one-off contributions. In total recurring income was up by an excellent 23%. Recurring expenditure was up 15% in the year, principally due to Utilities & Insurance increasing by an eye-watering 61%, thanks to energy costs in the last quarter. Other cost items were at or close to Budget and our largest cost on the URC's Ministry & Mission Fund was static.

The key metric for Trinity's financial health is the extent of its capital reserves. These comprise two categories – restricted and unrestricted monies. As mentioned above, restricted capital is money given/received for a specific purpose, e.g., rent from the manse. Thus, we should focus on the extent of Trinity's unrestricted capital.

At the year end, Trinity's unrestricted funds totalled £348,933, an increase of 7% in the year. These reserves are designated as follows:

General Reserve	£100,000
Roof Fund	£125,000
Major Repair Fund	£27,000
Technology	£3,860
Music	£9,244
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>£265,104</b>
Unallocated	£83,829
<b>Total Capital ex Restricted</b>	<b>£348,933</b>

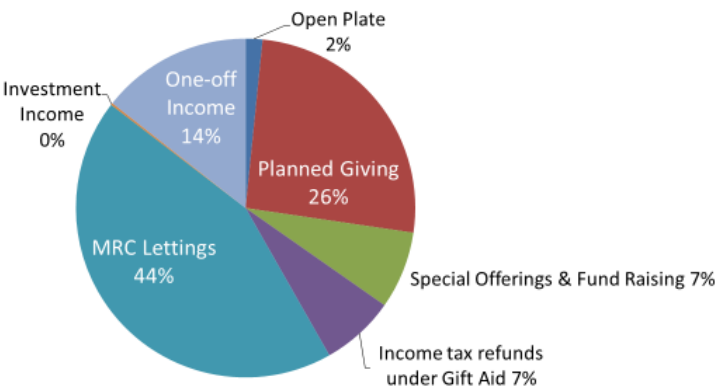
Overall, unrestricted reserves are only 9% down on the highest level reached in 2018. Given that we have negotiated a pandemic and spent £185,000 repairing the fleches in the interim, we can be encouraged, but not complacent, about the position.

2023 is providing new challenges. Lettings Income continues its recovery towards pre-pandemic levels despite the uncertain economy. Energy costs appear to have peaked at very high levels but the outlook remains uncertain. We therefore need to be highly vigilant. The Planned Giving Secretary and I will be extremely grateful if anyone is in a position to increase their support to Trinity.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for a set of the 2022 Accounts or on any other financial matter.

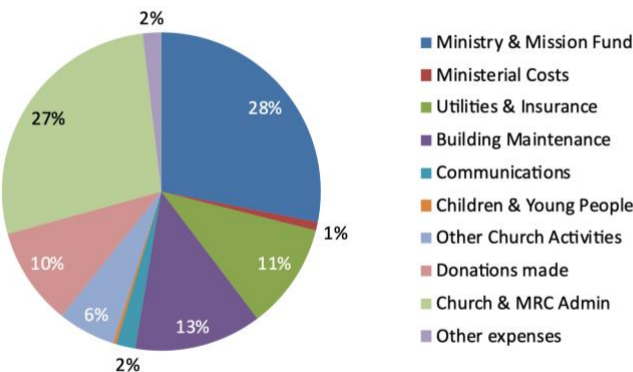
Planned Giving enquiries should be directed to Andrew Melrose (tel: 020 7371 4073, email: [andrew.melrose@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrew.melrose@hotmail.co.uk)).

## Unrestricted Income in 2022



**Total Income £315,499**

## Unrestricted Expenditure in 2022



**Total Expenditure £292,909**

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*Robin Goodchild, Congregational Treasurer*  
Tel: 0771-4095007, email: [robinnapiergoodchild@gmail.com](mailto:robinnapiergoodchild@gmail.com)

## Commitment for Life & Christian Aid update



The Lent appeal in the Church for Commitment for Life raised an excellent total of £768.50, a big increase on last year. Thank you to everyone who donated.



The Christian Aid car boot sale, even though on an unexpectedly chilly May morning with the clouds fighting off the sun, raised a really good total of £1,181.62. This was the first year the sale was organised by Allen Snowball from St Mary's who took over from Juliet Boyd who has been doing it for many years, so especially rewarding to get such a good result.

This year as last year our door-to-door collection for Christian Aid week was mostly not a collection but a delivery of envelopes with instructions and a QR code to donate online to a special website for Trinity Christian Aid week donations. We do not have the final figure yet, but it looks as though donations are more than £600 which is a better than last year. Doing delivery-only means that we have covered all our roads. Amazingly this year it was a dry week!

Thank you to everyone at Trinity for your support.

- Mike and Margaret Tulloch







trade



Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June

9.30am-11.30am

Mansel Road Centre

Selling a wide variety of Eco Living and  
Traidcraft products at wholesale prices



Tea & Coffee in exchange for a Foodbank donation



**Final copy date for the July/August edition of  
*Trinity News* is 26 June. Please send items to  
[catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com](mailto:catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com)**



## Queens Road House Group

From the earliest studies of Matthew's gospel people have found the baptism of Jesus difficult to understand. If Jesus was who we believe him to be, he did not need repentance and did not need forgiveness from God. We will be discussing this puzzle at the next meeting of the Housegroup when we will take up our study of the Gospel from Matthew 3:7. This will be on Tuesday 4 July (8pm) at 217 Queens Road. All will be very welcome to join us.



## Church Membership in the URC



Becoming a church member means becoming a recognised part of the world-wide family of Christians.

This is the community of all those who believe in God. Being part of this family encourages us in our faith as we work together to show God's love and mercy to the world.

The United Reformed Church (URC) welcomes all to attend its worship and other activities, and all who attend are part of the community and life of church. Becoming a member of the URC enables you to take part in the life of the Church including its decision-making bodies.

**If you are thinking about church membership, or would like to know more about it, please speak with the Church Secretaries.**

## From the archive

### Sunday School Summer Fun!

Midsummer! Traditionally, in Trinity and other churches, the time for Sunday School and Junior Church outings, or 'treats' as they were known in the early days. This was the time when, hopefully in fine summer weather (although this didn't always work out!), the children were given a happy day out together in the open air, sometimes with an exciting journey to and from the chosen site.



*1892 outing in the meadow at Crooked Billet*

Trinity's Sunday School was founded in May 1884 but the first 'treat' on record was five years later when the children were entertained in the grounds of 'Belvedere', a large house near St Mary's Church, and in 1891 a 'meadow at Crooked Billet' was made available for the afternoon. That meadow was visited several times in those late Victorian days, as were the gardens of Cannizaro House, then in private ownership, and the fields of Ravensbury Park Farm, down by the Wandle, owned by Trinity members Mr and Mrs Templeton.

Gradually outings went further afield. Epsom Downs were visited in 1906, Oxshott Common in 1907, and Chessington was the country village visited in 1913:



*1901 at Ravensbury Park Farm*

"The children left Wimbledon in brakes and arrived at Chessington soon after midday. The drive through the pretty country lanes, to say nothing of the excitement of crossing two fords, proved no small part of the day's enjoyment.

"In a newly mown hayfield, games were played until teatime. Several friends arrived in time for tea in the village schools.

"About 7.30 three brakes began the journey homeward. A fourth vehicle, which proved to be a 'wagon lit' left later with those who wished to prolong their visit to the country village."



*1932 at Bushy Park - Revd Douglas McRitchie is on the far right*

Oxshott Common and Bookham were popular between the Wars. In July 1937 the church magazine advised that:

"The picnic is to be at Oxshott and a special bus will leave the church at 10.15am, returning about 8 o'clock. The cost is 1/6 for children, 2/- for teachers and 3/- for parents and friends. This includes tea but not lunch. A light meal can be obtained at the tea-room, close to the station."

Bushy Park was visited several times. In the after-War years, Polesden Lacey, the National Trust property near Bookham, was visited eight times. Races were run and other sports and games were organised. Friends came in time for tea together - in those days the Trust didn't charge for admission. The weather only occasionally remembered that it was midsummer, but these were great Trinity occasions. During the 1950s, Virginia Water was twice the chosen place.



*1952 a big tea party during an outing to Ranmore Common*

In the 1960s Ranmore Common and then Nonsuch Park (a dozen times) were frequently visited, and the outings became church family afternoons. Two outings ventured as far as Wittering and Dymchurch and the centenary of the Junior Church was celebrated in 1984 with a visit to Thorpe Park. For a while outings became adventurous with 50-seater coaches hired and visits paid to Paultons Park, Fairthorne Manor and Beaulieu in Hampshire, and to the coast at Hastings, Folkestone and Eastbourne, where sometimes local churches provided accommodation and teas.





*1984 A special outing to Thorpe Park  
to celebrate the Sunday School's centenary.*

In later years Godstone Farm became the annual scene of our Junior Church outings. At first a coach was hired but, later, families and others came by car, giving greater freedom to come and go. But everybody met together for lunch, and the open fields and the farm animals and other livestock were a popular attraction for young and old.

Sadly, children and families are involved in so many other attractions nowadays that outings such as these no longer seem to be needed or an attraction. I wonder whether another year something attractive to Trinity people of all ages might be welcomed?

-AKY



## **A vital, holy chuckle**

God, we need to laugh  
because the world has grown  
too serious and worthy,  
too-finger pointing angry,  
too ready to wear a scowl of suspicion  
rather than smile a smile of welcome.

'You need to laugh?' says God,  
'then start off with a mirror  
observe yours sags and wrinkles  
and remember that you are flawed  
and take yourself too seriously.  
Then, laugh, beginning with yourself,  
and chuckle a generous acceptance  
of all the flawed and floundering people  
whose paths I'll cross with yours today.'

*- Ian Fosten (retired URC minister looks after historic Wrentham Chapel near Lowestoft), from URC Prayer Handbook 2003*



## Congregationalists in Wimbledon

During his sermon on 21 May, Revd Martin Camroux mentioned that, as a result of family history research, his wife Margaret had discovered that one of her ancestors was minister of Worple Road Congregational Church.



*Worple Rd with the Congregational church spire  
- looking towards Elys corner*

The church, which stood close to where Sainsbury's now stands, had been formed in 1872. During the ministry of Margaret's relation, Revd D Bloomfield James, there arose a 'disagreement' within the church which led to Mr James leaving in 1893 to form a new church, Christ Church, Alwyne Road, and taking a number of his congregation with him! At this stage we have been unable to ascertain the nature of the 'disagreement'! Worple Road church closed after sustaining damage in the Second World War and most of the members joined Christ Church.

