

Trinity News

50

Faith - Hope - Love -
Since 1972

July/August 2023

No.531



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org

Minister Vacancy: The Good News

I write on 26 June, the day following the 'preaching with a view' weekend, when the congregation had the pleasure of meeting the Revd Jacob Bali, his wife Esther and their young son, Iwan, to ask Jacob questions, and then to hear him preach and lead a service of worship.



The presence of so many Trinity members alongside friends, young people and children, made the experience especially valuable. It was with feelings of real joy and thankfulness that the result of the ballot of church members was announced, and to know that an overwhelming majority of members present and voting had decided to invite Jacob to be Trinity's next minister. It was gratifying to learn quickly on the day that he had accepted the invitation. Many of us present over the weekend became convinced that God had brought Jacob to us, and that he had been calling us and Jacob to ensure a right and happy outcome.

The next step is to achieve concurrence of Southern Synod with our Church Meeting's call and Jacob's acceptance, which is expected to be a formality. Discussions will begin soon with Jacob and the Revd Dr Andrew Prasad, our Interim Moderator, about the terms of Jacob's appointment, and to agree the date and format of a Service of Induction. Details will follow over the coming weeks but this is expected to take place in mid-October.

Trinity began the journey of seeking its next minister more than three years ago. Almost immediately, we found ourselves navigating our way through the pandemic, with all of the uncertainty and change that was

required of us, individually and collectively. We emerged with a clearer idea of what should be our future direction and purpose as a congregation of Christ’s disciples, and we have gained some greater resilience and confidence, valuing the contribution that each of us does or could make. And now we have the actual prospect of a talented and inspiring person to lead us spiritually and collaboratively into the future, as we are challenged to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Good News indeed.

We are indebted not only to the Vacancy Team, but also to Andrew Prasad for his wise counsel and guidance, and not least to Catherine and Sam, our Joint Church Secretaries, for the sustained contribution they have made in leading us through a challenging but nevertheless rewarding period of Trinity’s history.

With all good wishes for the rest of the summer!

Sandy McLeish, Vacancy Team Leader



July services & events

30 June- 3 July		URC General Assembly at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick	
2	SUN	10:30 11:00	Elders' Meeting Morning worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Alistair Cumming (Church of Scotland minister)
4	Tue	20:00	Queens Road housegroup
5	Wed	20:00	Elders’ Council
6	Thu	20:00	Property Team
9	SUN	11:00	Morning worship led by Major Kerry Coke (Salvation Army)

July (contd)

11	Tue	20:00	Outreach & Witness Team
16	SUN	11:00	Morning worship led by Trinity's choir
18	Tue	20:00	Worship & Faith Development Team
20	Thu	20:00	Church Meeting
23	SUN	11:00	Morning worship led by Revd Clive Gardner (Team Vicar of St Mark's CoE)
30	SUN	11:00	Morning worship led by Revd Stephen Lewis (Minister of Twickenham, Hampton Hill & Rayleigh Road URCs)



August services

6	SUN	10:30 11:00	Elders' Meeting Morning worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Barbara Pearson (retired URC minister)
13	SUN	11:00	Morning worship led by Sam Elliot (Trinity Elder)
20	SUN	11:00	Morning worship led by Revd Ernest Yu (retired Associate Minister)

Aug (contd)

27 SUN 11:00 Morning worship
led by Mark Dennis
(Trinity Elder & Assembly accredited lay
preacher)



Church Family News

July birthdays

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including:

Gary Angus, Cynthia Betts, Richard Dunfield-Prayero, Ian Henning, Hannah Jones, Dodie Khurshid, Charlton Kwok, Liam Matika, Joshua Scharinger, Ellie Chau, Gordon Tam

and in August

Isobel Angus, Sarah Elliot, Robin Ingram, Gilli Lewis-Lavender, Cameron Lowe, Maddie Lowe, Andrew Melrose, Barbara Nunoo, Elizabeth Scharinger, Gavin Tam, Marie-Françoise Turrell, Christine van der Walt and Lesley Wilmot.



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





Collect used stamps for RNIB

Did you know that we collect used postage stamps for the RNIB?

Everybody is invited to donate their stamps which can be left in one of the special boxes that are located in the side lobby at the main entrance to the church and on the reception desk at the Mansel Road Centre entrance.

We are asked to trim stamps with approximately one centimetre of paper around the edge. British and overseas stamps are welcome, including Channel Islands and Isle of Man, which count as foreign, but not large gold Post Office printed labels or pre-printed postage marks.



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.



I'd rather see a sermon

*(The Revd Jacob Bali used this poem
in his sermon on 25 June)*

I would rather see a sermon than to hear one any day
I would rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way
The best of all the preachers are the ones who live their creeds.
For to see good put to action, is what everybody needs.
I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done.
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue, too fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do.
For I might misunderstand you, and the high advice you give.
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.
When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.
When a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind.
And all travellers can witness, that the best of guides today
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way.
Who stands with men of honour, learns to hold his honour dear,
For right living speaks a language which to everyone is clear.
Though an able speaker charms with his eloquence I say...
"I would rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day."

Adapted poem from 'Sermons We See' by Edgar A. Guest



The latest MRC Newsletter is now available. Pick up a copy at church
or read it here: bit.ly/440Tk9G.

Update on Traidcraft



Elizabeth Scharinger attended a webinar about the future of Traidcraft on 24 May.....

Traidcraft went into administration at the beginning of 2023 which, for the producers who relied on income from Traidcraft selling their products, was life changing.

Transform Trade have taken over the Traidcraft brand and, while they are not going to replicate the online selling page for products, Traidcraft goods will still be available to purchase on some of their partner websites and therefore the producers will still earn an income.

Transform Trade

Thanks to Traidcraft, companies such as Meru Herbs (organic herbs and jams) and Kazi Yetu (Tea producer), to name only two, have been able to:

- Create employment – especially to women who would otherwise not have work
- Invest in solar energy
- Help in the fight to end hunger
- Gain Food Safety Certification
- Plant trees
- Install new irrigation systems

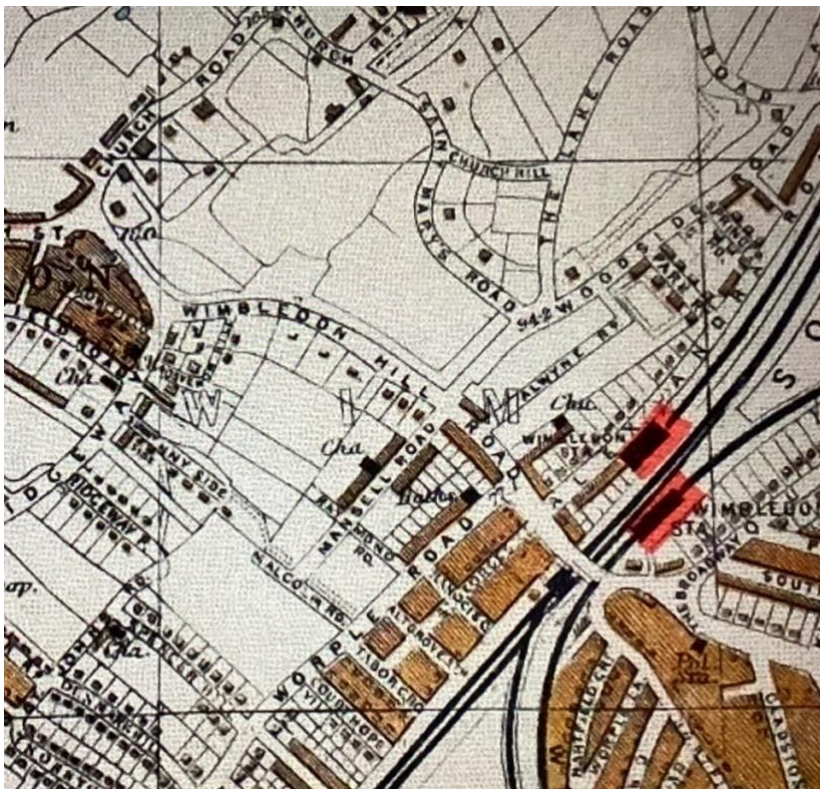
From the archives

This map of Wimbledon is dated 1890 so it shows the town in which Trinity was founded and in which it made its early growth.

Trinity itself is marked as a 'chapel' in the incorrectly spelt Mansel Road which, interestingly, is shown as crossing Raymond Road to join Malcolm Road.

There are no buildings on the right hand side going up Wimbledon Hill, Compton Road and Murray Road do not yet exist, 'Georges Road' has not yet been canonised and both Ridgway and Ridgway Place, which does not yet extend beyond the brow of the hill, are also spelt incorrectly.

This was now a growing London suburb rather than a village, growing close to the station.





The cost of living continues to rise and so does the demand for emergency food. The hard times are not over yet, and the Foodbank is in need of your help.

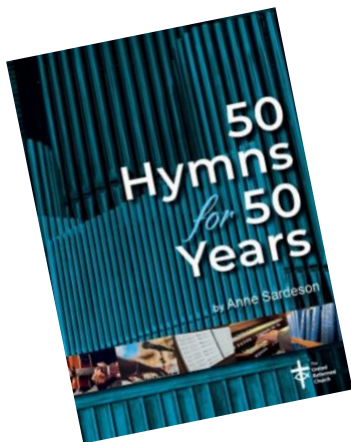
Donations can be left in the trolley in the Mansel Road Centre entrance. The most needed items at present are breakfast cereal, long-life and UHT milk, cup-a-soup, big chunky soup, tinned vegetables, tinned tomatoes and baby shampoo.



**The 2023
United Reformed Church
(URC) General Assembly is
taking place from 30 June to
3 July at The Hayes
Conference Centre in
Swanwick**

Items on the agenda include Legacies of Slavery and proposals for repairing justice such as mandatory anti-racism training; ways to support the Transcarpathian Reformed Church in Ukraine; opposition to the Illegal Migration Bill; the nature of the relationship between the URC and the United Reformed Church Trust; the appointments of Synod Moderators; proposals for a formal ministry of URC Children's, Youth and/or Family Minister; North Western and Mersey Synod changes, and the Church Life Review.

All papers and livestreaming are available at urc.org.uk/general-assembly. *Reform* will feature full reports in 'Digest' in the September issue.



50 Hymns for 50 Years is a wonderfully readable collection of reflections looking at 50 hymns that tell something of what's happened since 1972, and the journey of The United Reformed Church in its first 50 years.

The book, by noted hymn writer and URC Minister Anne Sardeson, is meant to get you thinking about the hymns that you have come across, however long you've been singing them, and the place that music and hymns play in your life and that of the Church and the world.

Coming out of the The United Reformed Church's 50th anniversary, the book looks back and asks how hymnody reacted to the events that have taken place, and how hymns will be shaped, and shape us, in the years to come.

Price £7.99, from URC Bookshop (020) 7916 8629, publishing@urc.org.uk or at <https://urcshop.co.uk/50-hymns-for-50-years/>



Available on the notice board in the vestry corridor.


Our free bi-monthly *Barnabas Aid* magazine includes news and features on the persecuted Church, along with updates on projects that we support. It also contains *Barnabas Prayer* - a daily prayer diary that you can use to guide you in your prayers for our suffering brothers and sisters.

If you don't receive the magazine and prayer diary by post and would like to, please [contact](#) your national Barnabas Aid office at info@barnabasfund.org.

A familiar face

Since the start of our ministerial vacancy, the Revd Alistair Cumming (minister of the Church of Scotland) has been a great friend to Trinity. He has led our worship on 18 occasions, and will be conducting our service with Holy Communion on Sunday 2 July.

But here are some things you may not know about him!



Alistair Cumming
Vice Convener of Resource and Presence

Where do you live? Epsom in Surrey. Epsom Racecourse is my next door neighbour

Home church? I'm a member at London St Columba's

Where are you from? I was born and brought up in Kilbirnie

A past job? I spent 30 years in the British Transport Police

Present role/job? Head of Learning and Development of Talent Management for Lidl, UK

Roles in Church of Scotland? I'm an Auxiliary Minister, Interim Moderator in Jersey and Presbytery Clerk to the Presbytery of England and the Channel Islands

Why join the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team?

I felt that given my background, both in learning and talent development and the wider commercial aspects this was an opportunity to utilise my skills and experience for the church at this exciting time

What change would you like to see in the Church of Scotland? I'm not sure it's a change. I think it's a focus. That focus has got to become more outward. We've got to change from being keepers of the aquarium to being fishermen

Favourite pudding? Sticky toffee pudding

Unusual hobbies? I used to be a rugby referee in the Scottish Rugby Union

Ketchup or brown sauce? Ketchup

Least favourite vegetable? Brussel sprouts

Cats or dogs? Dogs

A favourite TV programme? Yellowstone

I used to dish out yellow cards

From July 2023 edition of 'Life & Work', the magazine of the Church of Scotland

Happy travels!



Wherever you travel to this summer - down the road or down a transatlantic superhighway - may we take time to take it all in, not take it for granted. It's God's world; we're only staying in it.

Extract from 'Do stay for tea & coffee' by Paul Kerensa in July/August edition of 'Reform'



Final copy date for the September edition of *Trinity News* is Tuesday 15 August. Please send items to catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com