

Trinity News

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Faith - Hope - Love -
Since 1972

March 2024

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Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org

March Reflection

Greetings Friends,

Spring is upon us... the lambs are bounding and exploring the fields, flowers are blooming in technicolour fashion, bumble bees are (well) bumbling along, and people are making the most of the sun when it shines. Whether you are one of the many people who are preparing an elaborate bag of tricks for April Fool's Day or you are stocking up on antihistamines in anticipation of the rising pollen count, it goes without saying that this is an interesting time of year indeed!

Spring also offers us an opportunity.

It marks the end and new beginning of the financial year when many people reckon their taxes and get their finances in order. Similarly, it is the season many people choose to do their annual spring clean, when people declutter their homes and get their gardens in order. For those observing Lent, Spring also represents a time of searching, discovery and a deepening awareness of the Messianic God who went to the cross for us. More specifically, it is the season we celebrate Easter and the new life offered through the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

It seems that in many forms, Spring presents us with a chance to reorient ourselves, assess where we are now and decide whether to keep going the same way or to choose a different path. In other words, Spring is an opportunity for a spring clean of our inner garden. But what do we do when we reach a fork in the road, and the direction is not so clear?

During the events of the Passion of Jesus, the disciples would have been met with several forks in the road and various directions they could go as they were forced to take a good look at their lives and make a choice. It was a hopeless time, and they would have felt overwhelmed and dejected. Yet, in the midst of their time of trial and change, they met God, or it may be more appropriate to say that God met them.

Early on that first Easter morning, the bereaved women made their way to the tomb, with no idea what the future may hold and still under threat by the Roman officials, they were met with the glorious

news that He had risen (Mark 6:1-8; Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 24:1-8). Following this, the male disciples hid themselves out of fear and, bereft with no conceivable way of moving forward, the risen Lord appeared before them (John 20:19-29). Similarly, on the road to Emmaus, the risen Lord walked with two other disciples and expounded the scriptures before their eager ears, offering words of comfort, rebuke and clarification of God's plan of salvation (Luke 24:13-35). Soon after this, when some of the disciples felt that the only way forward was to go back to their normal lives as fishermen, the risen Lord met them once again, this time with a new proposition (John 21:1-25).

In all of these moments, God met His people and gave them a chance to spring clean their lives. It was not an easy time by any means, and the direction they were being asked to go would have been terrifying. Yet, they were being offered a chance, a choice, to walk a different path by faith. To walk a path that would lead to the refining of self.

In his book 'Mid-Course Correction', Gordon MacDonald writes that it is in these moments of spring cleaning that we realise that life is *"not just to acquire more things, or do more things, or know more things, but to be a genuinely noble person, to be a better companion and friend, to serve with greater humility and effectiveness, to love God more fully"*.

This Spring, as many spring clean their homes, may you be willing to let God spring clean your life.

With every blessing,

Jacob Bali

Rev'd Jacob Bali



The Minister's day off is Monday

Church Family News

New members

Konstanze & Alastair Graham

Congratulations

- to Hilary Harland and Alan Young who, this month, celebrate 60 years as members of Trinity.

- and to Andrew Melrose and Hugh Nowell who, this month, celebrate 50 years as members of Trinity.

March birthdays

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

In memoriam

We were sorry to learn of the death on 3 February of Fred Parkin who was an Elder at Trinity from 1972 until 1990 when he and Vera moved to Devon, returning to Fred's West Country roots. They joined Trinity in 1967, with their children Judith and Philip. Fred served Trinity as a Deacon, Chairman of the 6 Group, and transport officer. Sadly Vera died in 2005. Some years later Fred found happiness once again when he married Jane. We send our love and sympathy to Judith and Philip and their families, and to Jane in their loss.



As we go to press, news has reached us of the death on 19 February of the Revd David Marshall-Jones after a short illness. David was our Interim Minister during the vacancy in 2009/12, a good friend to Trinity during those years and also during the recent vacancy when he preached on several occasions. Our love and sympathy are extended to Pam, to their two sons Huw and Gareth, and grandchildren at this sad time.



1	Fri	<i>World Day of Prayer</i> 10:30	Service at St Mark's church
3	SUN	<i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> 10:30 11:00	Elders' meeting Morning worship with Holy Communion
6	Wed	20:00	Elders' Council
7	Thu	20:00	Lent Group (3)
9	Sat	10:00	Synod Together at St Andrew's URC, Cheam
10	SUN	<i>4th Sunday in Lent/Mothering Sunday</i> 11:00	Morning worship
13	Wed	20:00	Finance Team
14	Thu	20:00	Lent Group (4)
17	SUN	<i>5th Sunday in Lent/Passion Sunday</i> 11:00	Morning worship followed by Church Meeting & Elders' Council election
20	Wed	20:00	Queens Road housegroup
21	Thu	20:00	Lent Group (5)



Palm Sunday

24	SUN	10:00	United Act of Witness Service outside Tesco's
		11:00	Morning worship



Holy Week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 19:30
Short reflective services - Jesus 'Walking the Way' to the cross



Maundy Thursday

28	THU	19:30	A reflective service of readings and hymns, with Holy Communion and Tenebrae
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Good Friday

29	FRI	10:30	Service of Reflection After the Service, hot cross buns will be available on the forecourt (weather permitting)
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Easter Sunday

31	SUN	10:30	Elders' meeting
		11:00	Easter morning celebration with Holy Communion

Lenten Bible Studies 2024

“FELLOWSHIP”

Join us on Thursday evenings at 8pm
in the Mansel Road Centre



- | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 22 February | – | The Disciples in Formation |
| 29 February | – | The Disciples in Jerusalem |
| 7 March | – | The Disciples in Consternation |
| 14 March | – | The Disciples in Reorientation |
| 21 March | – | The Disciples in Re-Formation |

Lent is a season of the Christian Year where everyone is invited to focus on simple living, prayer, fasting and giving in order to grow closer to God and each other.

You are more than welcome to join our group where we will be reflecting on the journey of Christ's disciples.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

FRIDAY 1 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!

I beg you, bear with
one another in love



Prepared by the Christian
Women of Palestine

A WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

ST MARK'S CHURCH WIMBLEDON
ST MARK'S PLACE
LONDON
SW19 7ND

SERVICE STARTS 10.30am

Nearby bus stops 131, 57, 93, 200, 219
163 and 164

Light refreshments available after the service
All Are Welcome

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wwdp.org.uk

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**Don't forget to change
your clocks on Easter
weekend 30/31 March!**

Palm Crosses



Our palm crosses are made from dried branches of the dwarf palm *Hyphaene Coriacea*. These grow wild in the Masasi area of Tanzania, so are not cultivated or chemically treated, and no trees are cut down in the work of collecting the palm leaves for plaiting the palm crosses.

In 1965 the African Palms project was started by Revd Alan Talbot, an Anglican Priest who served for six years as a missionary in Tanzania. The main aim of the project was to give local villagers a chance to earn some extra money to supplement their meagre income, whilst retaining dignity and the ability to carry on their farming work.

Over the years the number of palm crosses sold increased and in 1986 the company African Palms Ltd was formed, owned by the charity The African Palms Association. All profits are covenanted to the Trust for use in Educational and Healthcare projects.

For the last eight years the Trust has worked closely with the diocese of Masasi on many projects, including clean water supplies for the Palm Cross villages, the building of hostels, safehouses, dispensaries and a maternity unit as well as help with Covid and Covid training.

Palm Crosses are now sold all around the world from the UK to Hong Kong.





Christian Aid and Commitment for Life update

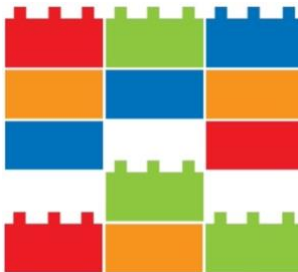
Those of you who came to church on the 18 February will have heard from Joseph Vambe about the work of Christian Aid we support through Commitment for Life.

Envelopes to give to the Lent Commitment for Life appeal are still available from us if anyone who would like to give has not done so. Donations to Commitment for Life go to all the projects Christian Aid supports in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh. Our link up with Israel and Palestine is because Commitment for Life asks churches to take a particular interest in one area. As a result, we get briefings from projects in that area.

The Christian Aid car boot sale is on the morning of Saturday 11 May in St Mary's field in the Village, and Christian Aid week starts on 12 May. All offers of help are very welcome.

Mike and Margaret Tulloch

Brick church



In the Autumn Term, Sarah Elliot attended an inspiring webinar on 'Brick' Church which involves exploring the Bible and our faith through the medium of bricks - Lego, Duplo, and other available brick-based supplies. You can read more in the book 'Building Faith, Brick by Brick' which Sarah can lend out. We'd like to run our first session in the coming months and

would love to receive donations of Lego/Duplo/etc bricks to form the basis of our resources. If you have any you no longer need, please give them to Sarah Elliot. We will keep you posted - the session will be for everyone, not just children!



Queens Road House Group

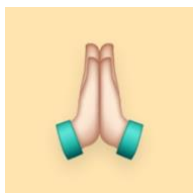
The Group, with spouses and families, met for a happy and successful Sunday lunch in January.



It was good to have the Minister with us at our February meeting and we were grateful for his help as we discussed the many miracles of Jesus in Matthew 9.

The Group's February meeting will be on Wednesday 20 March (8pm) at 217 Queens Road. We will continue our study of St Matthew's Gospel. Everybody is welcome to join us. Please speak to Andrew Sutton for further information.

Trinity Prayer Group on WhatsApp



Intended for private prayer, as a response to specific requests where it will help someone to know that people are praying for them. All Trinity members and friends are invited to join. Sign up on WhatsApp by giving your mobile number to Pam Rostron [here](#) who will add you to the list.



Please continue to put contributions in the Mansel Road Centre trolley. Just one item whenever you come to the church would be gratefully received! Suggested items are....

Food

- UHT milk
- Tinned fish, fruit & soup
- Sponge/rice puddings
- Coffee (small jars)
- Pasta sauce
- Jam and spreads

Non-food items

- Shower gel
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Deodorant
- Toilet rolls
- Washing up liquid
- Laundry detergent pods



Merton Growbaby is connected to the Foodbank and provides good quality baby clothes and equipment for the under fives, to anybody in need. Trinity friends have been generous in their giving and further gifts can be left in the Foodbank trolley. Items (no adult clothes please!) should be clean and clothes washed please.

Can you help the Foodbank this Easter?



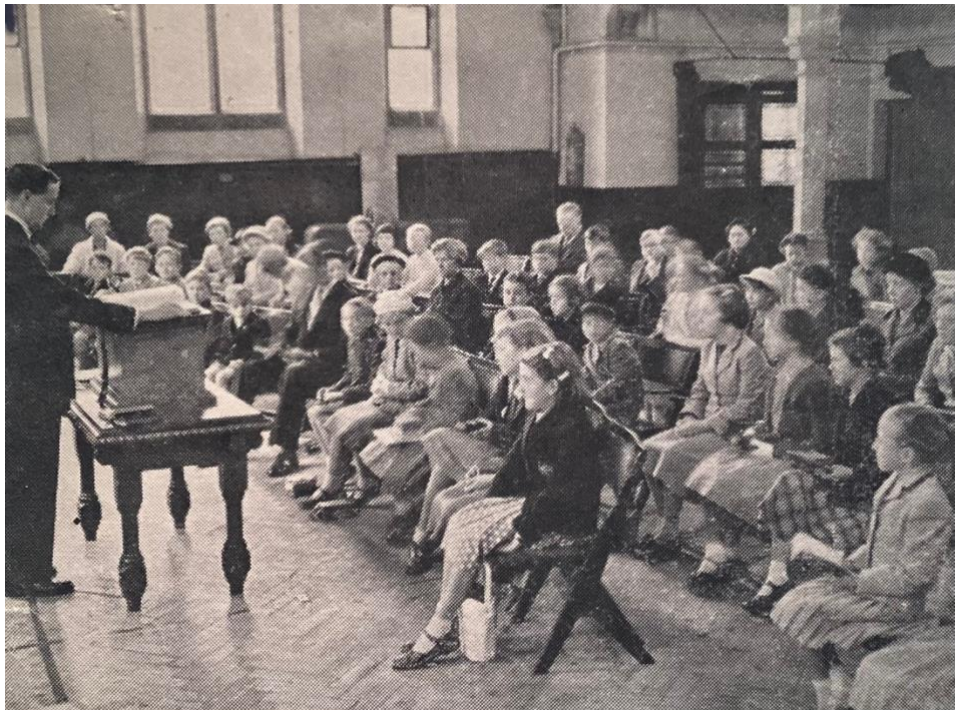
£4.30 for a single egg or £26 for a sharing box

If you would like to donate, please give the money to Elizabeth Scharinger on the Traidcraft Stall, or you can pay by credit/debit card. Elizabeth will then buy the eggs which will be donated straight to the Foodbank.

From the archives

Trinity in the 1950s: Part 2

In the early 1950s the Trinity Sunday School was growing rapidly, partly as a result of the 'post War bulge'. In 1952 there were 158 children on the roll (an astonishing increase from as recently as 1946 when there were fewer than 50), 58 of them in the Beginners and Primary departments - these groups met separately from the main School which met in the Old Hall for opening worship before dividing into ten classes. The weekly average attendance was about 90. How exciting those times must have been for the Sunday School Superintendents Jim Shave and, later, Ian Young but the number of children caused two major problems - a constant need for new teachers and a serious shortage of accommodation, a problem that wasn't solved until some years later. Meantime classes met wherever there was space, including the kitchen and ladies' cloakroom!



Sunday School in the Old Hall with Superintendent Ian Young - 1955

Apart from Sunday meetings some of the children sat each year for exams organised by the CSSM (Children's Special Service Mission, later Scripture Union) there was an annual party in January, and an outing each June to places such as Ranmore Common or Polesden Lacey.



Races during outing to Ranmore Common - 1952

Another problem that was addressed was what should happen to the children when they reached teenage years. A 'Bible class' was formed, to meet at the same time as Sunday School, under the leadership of Ray Bruce, the minister's wife. They met first in the vestry and then in Miss Ker-Ramsey's nursery school up the road. This group later became 'Young Presbyterians' or 'YPs'.

On reaching mid teenage years young people could join the Fellowship of Youth (FOY). This group, 34 strong in 1955, met on Sunday evenings and had a varied programme of Bible studies, visiting speakers, lighter evenings and, once a month, they met with the minister, Mr Bruce, at the manse for 'Quest'.

Other youth organisations in the Trinity of the 1950s, were the Boys' Brigade (Mr Bruce accompanied them to summer camp most years and acted as their chaplain), Life Boys and Girl Guides. A Brownie pack started in 1959. All these groups, plus a Badminton Club, met in the Old Hall on different evenings of the week.

Easter colouring

Enjoy a time of calm reflection while colouring this picture

Happy Easter to everyone



Final copy date for the April edition of *Trinity News* is 22 March. Please send items to catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com