

# Trinity News



May 2024

No.539



**Trinity United Reformed Church**  
Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA  
[www.trinitywimbledon.org](http://www.trinitywimbledon.org)

**Thank you from the Bali family**



Dear Members and Friends of  
Trinity Wimbledon,

We would like to express our  
sincere gratitude and thanks  
for your very warm welcome to  
the manse. Your card, hamper  
and flowers were such a kind  
and unexpected gesture.

We are also very grateful for  
all of the hard work that  
went into preparing the manse.  
We are slowly but surely  
settling in to our lovely new home.

With love and blessings,  
Bali family

## May Reflection

Greetings Friends,

Have you ever heard the term: a wild goose chase?

The phrase is attributed to William Shakespeare, who originally used it in the play *Romeo and Juliet* when Romeo accused Mercutio of arguing like a wild goose chase.

Later, the term "wild goose chase" was popularised through hunting as a way to describe when the leader of a hunting party seemed to be taking the group around in circles. In fact, geese could seriously ruin a hunt for a number of reasons. Firstly, they were noisy and would alert the prey to the hunters' approach. Secondly, they were aggressive and known to attack the hunting dogs or even the hunters themselves. Thirdly, they were challenging to catch, evading the hunters' traps with ease and earning a reputation for being as sly as a fox. Worst of all, they were unpredictable, making them even more challenging. Therefore, a wild goose chase was no laughing matter.

However, early Christians revered wild geese as majestic. Even the original Christmas bird was a wild goose, not a turkey. Indeed, for those familiar with Celtic Christianity, the wild goose had another meaning. It represented the Holy Spirit, which may be surprising as we know that a gentle dove normally symbolises the Holy Spirit.

Yet, the early church perceived geese as being vigilant rather than noisy, protective rather than aggressive, intelligent rather than sly like a fox and as for being unpredictable; this is precisely why the wild goose was an appropriate symbol for representing the Holy Spirit. As we read:

*"The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."* (John 3:8)

Following the events of the first Easter and after witnessing the resurrected Jesus, some would accuse the disciples of being led on a wild goose chase, but on one fateful and unpredictable day, the Holy Spirit arrived in spectacular fashion and turned the world upside down (Acts 2). Pentecost marks the 50<sup>th</sup> day of Easter and the birth of the

Christian Church. Pentecost reminds us that despite appearances, despite the uncertainty and chaos that abounds, God is with us. Indeed, God may appear as gently as a dove or as unpredictably as a wild goose, but one thing is sure: God is with you.

With every blessing,

*Jacob Bali*

Revd Jacob Bali

*The Minister's usual day off is Monday*

## **Trinity visit to Warsaw**

A group of eleven from Trinity visited Warsaw over the weekend of 19-22 April at the invitation of the clergy of the Church of St Michael the Archangel, Mokotow - a district of Warsaw. In 2019 we donated our old pipe organ to this church, and we were invited to a concert to see and hear how wonderfully it had been renovated. A fuller report on the inspirational and emotion-packed weekend will be available in the June edition of *Trinity News*.





1	Wed	20:00	Elders' Council & Finance Team
5	<b>SUN</b>	10:30 <b>11:00</b>	Elders' meeting <b>Morning worship with Holy Communion</b>
6	Mon	<i>Early May Bank Holiday</i>	
7	Tue	19:00	Outreach & Witness Team
8	Wed	20:00	Children & Youth Work Team
11	Sat	09:00	Christian Aid car boot sale at St Mary's field
12	<b>SUN</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Morning worship</b>
<i>14-20 Christian Aid Week</i>			
18	<b>Sat</b>	<b>10:00-14:00</b>	<b>"Thy Kingdom Come" - Prayer stations in the church</b>
19	<b>SUN</b>	<i>Pentecost</i> <b>11:00</b>	<b>Morning worship</b>
21	Tue	20:00	Queens Road housegroup
23	Thu	<b>20:00</b>	<b>Church Meeting</b>
26	<b>SUN</b>	<i>Trinity Sunday</i> <b>11:00</b>	<b>Morning worship</b>
27	Mon	<i>Spring Bank Holiday</i>	
28	Tue	10:00	Holiday Club

# Church Family News

## *May birthdays*

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

## *A message from Gayle Derrick in Australia*

I am well and find it hard to believe I have been living with John in Australia for over five years now. I attend the local Anglican Church and help with flowers on occasion as well as welcoming people on the door every now and again. It is a very busy church that holds about four services a week (eight over Easter!).



About once a month John and I also travel into central Sydney for services at St Andrews (Anglican) Cathedral with its superb gothic architecture and a marvellous pipe organ. They also have a wonderful boys Choir (from the Anglican school next door). After the service we stop off for a morning tea at the Queen Victoria building nearby.

Please pass on all my love to everyone at Trinity I still think of you often and miss you all.

## **Have you lost your specs?**

These pairs have been sitting at the back of the church for several weeks now. If they are yours please collect them!





## **Christian Aid Week Sunday 12 to Saturday 18 May**



The Christian Aid **car boot sale** will be on the morning of Saturday 11 May on St Mary's field in Wimbledon Village.

We sell donations on the Christian Aid stall, bric-a-brac, books usually sell well and sometimes clothes and toys. If you have anything you think might sell do let us know. It is usually a good morning, so do come along!

### **Christian Aid Week - your help is needed**

This year, as last, we are only delivering envelopes to houses. There is no need to return to collect them. The envelopes have a sticker which provides a means of paying to Trinity online.

About 25 volunteers are needed to deliver CA envelopes to the roads around Trinity which we need to reach.

If you can spare the time, please get in touch!



*- Mike and Margaret Tulloch*



Every morning the URC sends out a Daily Devotion to about 4000 people. There is a short Bible reading, reflection and prayer which helps us to focus on our journeys of Christian discipleship.

The devotions are written by a team of over one hundred writers from different places and perspectives from around the URC, and beyond. You may recognise some of the contributors!

There are lots of different ways of accessing the devotions. There is a link on the Trinity website, you can access them via [devotions.urc.org.uk](http://devotions.urc.org.uk) or you can subscribe to many different platforms, such as Spotify, Facebook, Google, Amazon, Geezer etc. You can also sign up and receive the devotions by email each morning, around 6am.

If you haven't tried this URC venture you might like to do so.



The Housegroup will meet on Tuesday 21 May at 8pm at 217 Queens Road. All are very welcome to join us.

## **CHURCH MEETING**

**For all Church members & friends  
Thursday 23 May at 8pm in the Mansel Road Centre**



# THY KINGDOM COME

**Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.**

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions- so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Every person, household and church is encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way.

**Between 10am and 2pm on Saturday 18 May our church will be open to all from Trinity and other local churches** and there will be prayer stations around our church building to help people to pray in a variety of ways – with a different focus and artwork at each station.

Further information will be available before 18 May.



## Holiday Club - Tuesday 28 May



We are proposing to run a one day Holiday Club for Trinity children and their friends at Trinity during the May half term holiday, from 10am to 3pm.

This will be open to children between the ages of 4 and 11 and the day will include activities and games around a Bible theme or story - on this occasion we will be focusing on the events of the Ascension and Pentecost, using a new resource called Brick Church, which uses lots of Lego, so we very much hope that will appeal to all! It won't just be building, there will also be the chance to have run around games, craft activities and, of course, some worship.

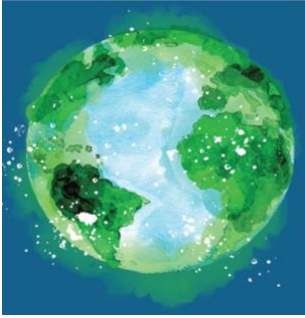
We will provide juice and snacks but the children will need to bring a packed lunch.

The day will be run by Sarah Elliot and Claire Wood, along with support from other Junior Church helpers, all of whom are already known to the children.

Please could you let Sarah or Claire know as soon as possible if you would like your child(ren), as well as any of their friends, to attend (our email addresses are below). We will then make sure you have all the necessary information, registration forms and a fuller timetable.

We are very excited about the return of our Holiday Club and we hope it will be of interest to you too.

[sarahelliot278@gmail.com](mailto:sarahelliot278@gmail.com) & [claire1592@aol.com](mailto:claire1592@aol.com)



## For Lent this year I decided to do a Carbon Fast

Every day of the week (except Sunday), I had a different task to complete:

**Week 1** was a week of prep. I was away skiing with the school this week, so I used the journey to research the climate emergency, listen to podcasts and to watch 'Climate Change: The Facts' by David Attenborough. I was also interested to note that the ski resort didn't appear to have recycling bins for general use but there were a lot of solar panels.

**Week 2** was Waste Week and I had to make a real effort to be responsible when it comes to my waste. I wasn't allowed to buy anything unnecessary, and I had to try not to waste any food. I also sorted out my wardrobe and mum has sold items that I no longer wear on Vinted.

**Week 3** was Food Week where I had to try veggie sausages (I didn't like them!), try soya milk and yoghurt (I didn't like them either!) and visit the Refill Shop in Molesey High Street. I found this very interesting



and the shop owner was very knowledgeable and taught me about natural skincare. He also gave me a vegan chocolate drink to try and it was delicious.

This week I also cooked an organic chocolate cake in the air fryer which was a lot quicker than heating up the oven, so I saved electricity.

**Week 4** was Energy Week so I made sure to walk around the house turning off lights. My brother was so bad at leaving his on! My mum made me walk to my tennis lesson and my friend's house to save on the car use, I wore more layers rather than turn the heating on and I researched whether there are solar powered phone chargers – there are!



**Week 5** was Water Week and I had to try to save water where possible. It rained a lot so I managed to save rain water to water the seeds I planted in Week 6. It was a hard week because I had to take shorter showers, turn the tap off while brushing my teeth and wear clothes more than once before washing them – all habits that I have got into and found hard to break.



**Week 6** was Nature Week and this was my favourite. I visited Garson Farm to buy seeds to plant and to plan when I could start picking my own fruit and vegetables.



I was able to use my GCSE photography skills to photograph nature on dog walks and I went on a litter pick. I was shocked at how much litter I picked up in half an hour.

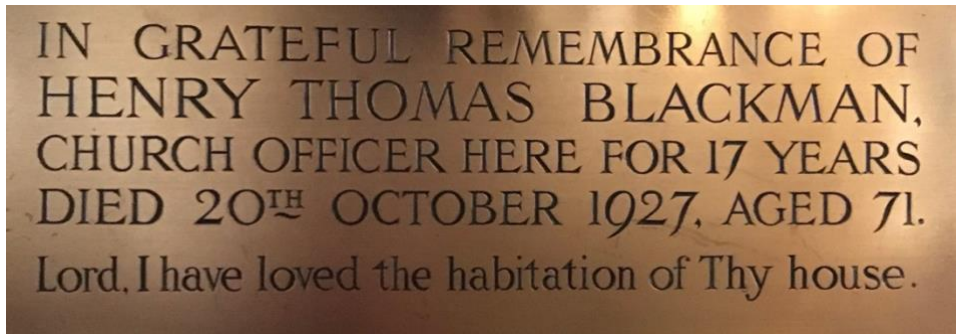
This Carbon Fast has taught me a lot about the climate emergency and what I can do as an individual to help.

*Olivia Scharinger*



## The sad death of our Mr Blackman

At the back of the Church there is a simple brass plaque (shown below). Recently somebody asked me about Mr Blackman, and I have investigated.



From the building of the Church in 1886 right up until 1972, Trinity employed a succession of 'Church Officers' - or 'beadles' as they are known in the Church of Scotland. The Church Officers worked long hours, at least six days a week including Sundays, were responsible for opening and closing the buildings for all services and meetings, looking after the boilers, preparing the church for Communion services, keeping the premises, including the grounds, clean, tidy and in good order. They were required to attend upon the Minister at his home every Saturday afternoon at 4pm 'for instructions'. All for £4 a month!

Henry Thomas Blackman began his employment with Trinity in 1910. He and his wife Minnie lived in Pendarves Road, Raynes Park, with their daughters Fanny and Isabella, and became members of the Church. Henry was well-liked and he worked tirelessly for the Church he came to love. Sadly Minnie died in 1916.

On the afternoon of 20 October 1927 Henry Blackman, now aged 71, locked up the church premises after a women's work party at about 6pm. There were no further meetings that day and he made his way

down Raymond Road, probably to catch a bus. As he crossed Worple Road he was knocked down by a car. He was taken to Wimbledon Hospital (then in Thurstan Road) but died on the way there.

The funeral service was held in Trinity and conducted by Revd Dr Macgregor. The procession of the coffin up the aisle was headed by the Joint Session clerks. Dr Macgregor said that Henry Blackman, whose 'efficiency and assiduity in every detail of his work were beyond praise, had left us a good example of faithful service to God and man'. Another of the hundreds of men and women who have served this Church down the years.

## **Get me to the church on time!**



**Our Sunday worship begins promptly at 11:00.**

**We only meet all in one place once a week. Let's make the most of this precious time and begin our worship together.**



**Final copy date for the June edition of *Trinity News* is Monday 20 May.**