

Trinity News



October 2024

No.543



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org

October Reflection

Greetings Friends,

On 31st October, many people in the Western world will celebrate All Hallow's Eve, also known as Halloween. This day is widely recognised for its intricate decorations, creative costumes, and the tradition of trick-or-treating. Halloween serves as a pseudo-harvest festival, often accompanied by gatherings, spooky film marathons, and the consumption of an abundance of sweets. However, long before the modern commercialised version of Halloween with its emphasis on decorations, costumes, and trick-or-treating, a different event marked this day.

On 31st October 1517, a Catholic theology professor and Augustinian friar named Martin Luther posted a document on the doors of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This act, although common at the time, gained attention as the document, known as the Ninety-Five Theses, criticised the clergy's practice of selling indulgences for the souls of the deceased. The main concern was that the clergy claimed that indulgences could provide complete satisfaction for any remaining punishment due to sins, which inspired the popular saying, *'As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs.'*

Unbeknownst to Luther, posting the Ninety-Five Theses had stirred a hornet's nest, sparking a heated debate about the role and sufficiency of God's Grace. Henceforth, 31st October was known as **Reformation Day**.

The news of Luther's writings eventually spread like wildfire from a modest town in Germany to the Vatican City in Rome. The Pope himself took an interest and summoned Luther to defend his position in an



Imperial Diet (a formal deliberative assembly). Luther found himself embroiled in a controversy that had captivated the hearts and minds of people across Europe. By the time Luther attended the Diet of Worms, he was figuratively and literally fighting for his life, armed only with his words. Luther was charged with heresy and repeatedly given opportunities to recant his words. While Luther agreed to apologise for the harshness of his words, he steadfastly refused

to retract his statements. After days of a gruelling trial, Luther concluded:

'Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason... I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen.'

When Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses on the church doors, he had no idea that it would ignite a significant movement that would reform the Western church, reshape Christian theology, and contribute to the end of the Dark Ages. His actions serve as a powerful reminder of the far-reaching impact our choices can have, despite how insignificant they may appear at the time. Luther's writings make it clear that he had no intention of starting a Reformation. However, when faced with a decision, Luther chose to act in accordance with his conscience. His courage in standing up for what he believed to be right, even in the face of severe opposition, inspired others to do the same. This act of courage and the values it represents – such as freedom of conscience, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, and freedom of religion – have become known as core Christian values and fundamental human rights.

When facing a difficult choice, the Bible reminds us:

'Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the LORD in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.'
(Proverbs 3:5-6 Good News Translation)

This October, we will all face moments when we must make various choices, both big and small. May we draw inspiration from Martin Luther's example and respond in harmony with our conscience. For it is in these moments that we can truly demonstrate our freedom and faith.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jacob Bali". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Jacob" and "Bali" being capitalized and prominent.

Revd Jacob Bali

OCTOBER 2024

2	Wed	20:00	Elders' Council
5	Sat	10:00	Elders' Conference
6	SUN	Rededication Sunday	
		10:30	Elders' meeting
		11:00	Morning worship with Holy Communion
8	Tue	20:00	Queens Road housegroup
10	Thu	20:00	"From the Inside Out" Bible Study
		20:00	Finance Team
13	SUN	11:00	Morning worship
15	Tue	20:00	Worship & Faith Development Team
17	Thu	20:00	"From the Inside Out" Bible Study
19	Sat	10:00	Synod Together at Canterbury
20	SUN	11:00	Morning worship
			(led by the Revd Alistair Cumming, minister of the Church of Scotland)
22	Tue	20:00	Outreach & Witness Team
24	Thu	20:00	"From the Inside Out" Bible Study
<i>British Summer Time ends</i>			
27	SUN	11:00	Morning worship
			(led by the Children & Youth Team)
31	Thu	Reformation Day	
		20:00	"From the Inside Out" Bible Study



The Minister's usual day off is Monday



Sunday 6 October

The Rededication Service holds a profound significance, particularly within the Reformed tradition, where it represents the following.

Community and Unity: The service fosters a sense of community and unity within the congregation as we collectively dedicate ourselves to our faith and support one another in our spiritual journey.

Renewal of Commitment: During this service, we have the opportunity to renew our covenant with God, reaffirming our commitment to live in accordance with His will and purposes.

Spiritual Reflection: We are encouraged to reflect on our spiritual journey, examine our lives, confess any wrongs, and seek God's guidance.

Dedication to God: Through prayers, hymns, and declarations, we express our dedication to faithfully serve God, striving to align our lives with Christ's teachings.

Symbol of New Beginnings: The Rededication Service symbolises a fresh start, a new beginning in one's spiritual life, and a renewed focus on living a life centred on Christ.

Overall, the Rededication Service serves as a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness and calls us to recommit ourselves to our faith and to live out our beliefs in our daily lives.

So as we strive to embody our Mission Statement by remaining "*rooted in Christ, growing in faith, sharing and serving in love*", let us also inspire and support one another in reaffirming our commitment to God, the Church and our community.

Church Family News



Baptism

On 15 September - Stella Emily Skye
infant daughter of James & Sara Pearson,
granddaughter of Sandy & Elizabeth McLeish.

In memoriam



Vernon Williams (1933-2024)

Vernon died on 23 August after a long period of illness, which was borne with much courage. He remained positive and cheerful in outlook, and was never ruffled, consistent hallmarks of his character. A service of thanksgiving, attended by his family and numerous longstanding friends, was held at Trinity on 11 September, in celebration of his well-lived life. The service was conducted by the Revd Robert Canham, a friend and minister from Vernon's previous church in Lancaster, with our minister also participating.

Vernon and his wife Maureen came to Trinity in 2017, although they had become known to us from numerous earlier visits to their younger daughters who live in the Wimbledon area. He was a man of strong belief, a regular attender at Trinity services even on days when his state of health was challenging and took a keen interest in the life and work of our congregation. He participated in meetings of the Queens Road housegroup, and together with Maureen, enjoyed meetings of the former Wednesday Social Group.

An only child, born and raised on the island of Anglesey in a farming family, Vernon was educated locally, speaking only in the Welsh language until his late teenage years. His early sporting prowess could have led him to trials with Everton and Spurs football clubs, but his strong academic achievement took him instead to study Chemistry at Cardiff University, whence he graduated in 1955. He joined the newly formed UK Atomic Energy Commission, moving to Blackpool, where he met Maureen at a local Congregational Church. Vernon's professional career developed with roles in other companies. In 1975, he began work in a fourth firm, and with Maureen and their three daughters, moved to the Lancaster area, which was to be home for the next forty

years. He was involved actively at Lancaster URC and in his local community. Eight years later, he participated in a management buyout of part of the firm, where Vernon was to provide strong personal and much-respected leadership in restoring the company's fortunes, until he retired. Having arrived in Wimbledon, and notwithstanding his continuing health issues, he became involved with the local bowling club and the University of the Third Age, re-kindled his interest in bridge-playing, and maintained his passion for the Welsh language, joining a local Welsh group.

Vernon and Maureen had a long and successful marriage, enjoying loving relationships with their daughters, Suzanne, Helen and Ceinwen, and with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We send to each of them our love and deepest sympathy in their loss.

Vernon, a gentle man of faith and integrity, was universally liked and respected. He will be greatly missed.

- AMcL



A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Matilda Henning, Su Lambert, Skye Lau, Catherine Paul, Guy Rostron, Pam Rostron and Elijah Siphika.



Refurbishment of the church wood floor

The newly renovated wooden floor of the church has given a cleaner and brighter feel to the sanctuary. I came across this minute in the church records dated 3 November 1890:

An estimate from the Woodblock Flooring Co. was accepted at 6/6d (32.5p) per square yard, the aisles to be pitch pine with oak bordering.

The contrasting oak bordering can now be seen again, following the renovation.

- AKY



Queens Road House Group

The Housegroup will meet on Tuesday 8 October (8pm) at 217 Queens Road. We'd be delighted to welcome anybody to the group - if you're not sure what to expect come along and give us a try. We start with tea or coffee and then study the Bible passage together - informally but guided by William Barclay's commentary.

We are currently studying Matthew chapter 13 which includes a series of Jesus' parables.



More and more people are turning to Foodbanks for support. Unfortunately, gifts are not keeping pace with the demand.

If everybody brought ONE item for the trolley whenever they came to church we would be able to support local people in a much more meaningful way!

The items most needed at the moment are

Tinned tomatoes
Squash/long-life juice
Sweet/savoury treats
Sweet/savoury biscuits
Jams/honey/marmalade
Sandwich spreads (not chilled)
Peanut butter/chocolate spread
Coffee

(They have plenty of pasta and noodles.)

Thank you for your support!

Trinity Bible Studies 2024



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



- | | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 10 October | – | What is Spiritual Formation? |
| 17 October | – | What is My Picture of God? |
| 24 October | – | What is My Picture of Myself? |
| 31 October | – | What is My Picture of the Gospel? |
| 7 November | – | How Do People Change? |
| 14 November | – | How Do I Follow Jesus? |

Renovaré's "From the Inside Out" is a six-session Bible Study course focused on Christian spiritual formation. It aims to help individuals and groups grow in their relationship with God and become more like Jesus "from the inside out". The studies will be interactive, with videos and handouts designed to be accessible to all.

Come and join us as we explore whole-of-life discipleship.



Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid reported recently that CA week 2024 raised £4,446,337. A thank you video can be found at https://youtu.be/gXbDNZc_AQM

Middle East

Christian Aid recently relaunched their Gaza appeal as an emergency. You can donate online at

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/our-approach>

There are also various events to mark the anniversary of the war in Gaza. On Monday 7 October at 8am there is an online vigil as a time of prayer and silence, as a mark of respect and repentance. Please register for the event here:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/gaza-appeal-vigil>

Christian Aid currently holds a licence to see the film, Tinderbox, 'a rare and thought-provoking examination of injustice and conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory'.

www.caid.org.uk/tinderbox

Christian Aid has said if you wish to be better informed about the situation in the Middle East their 'A Just Peace' document is an excellent place to start:

www.caid.org.uk/justpeace

There is also a video about humanitarian work in Gaza:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmUh4u2iaN4>

Pray for a just peace

God, hear our prayers for peace in the Middle East.

May all people in the region be protected, safe from harm.

We pray that this crisis will end now, with no further loss of life.

God, may the injured and distressed know your healing presence.

May the powerful and the decision-makers follow the paths of justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for recognition of the dignity and value of every life.

May the clamour of violence cease,
Replaced by the beating of swords into ploughshares.

God, in your name,

Amen



Junior Church News

On Sunday 8 September, we marked Education Sunday (who knew there was such a thing!) and as part of that, we had a Backpack Blessing; having emailed parents as usual in advance, we asked the children to bring their school bags (some did, some didn't). We discussed how the return to school had been, that God is always with us at school, and how we thought God would like us to treat our friends, teachers and others at school. We then said the following prayer with our backpacks/school bags.



Lord, bless these bags and those who carry them as they start a new year in education. Give them joy in each new day, good friendships, focus and the ability to learn, peace when they are worried, and courage to live and love like Christ, knowing you are with them. Fill them again with your Holy Spirit, today and every day. Amen.

And finally, we decorated luggage labels and tied them onto our bags.





TRINITY WIMBLEDON URC





Holiday Club






YES! HOLIDAY CLUB IS BACK AT HALF TERM ON
THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER, 10am to 3pm.

OPEN TO TRINITY CHILDREN (4yrs and over) AND
THEIR FRIENDS

Please see Sarah Elliot or Claire Wood to register



GIFT DAY 2024

Every year in November we devote a Sunday to our annual Gift Day when we raise money entirely for causes outside Trinity. This year Gift Day will be on Sunday 3 November.

We conduct a ballot each year to decide which charities will benefit from our Gift Day donations. The 10 charities selected will comprise 4 local, 3 national and 3 international organisations.

Please complete the [Voting Form](#) and return it by email to robin.h.ingram@gmail.com, put a printed copy in the ballot box in the vestibule at Trinity on Sundays, or post it to Robin Ingram at the Trinity office **by 6 October**.

If you need any further information, please contact either Robin Ingram or Robin Goodchild.

Please take the time to vote in this important fundraising event in the Trinity calendar.

Christmas is coming.....



Christmas is a very special time at Trinity, and we are planning to decorate the church to celebrate.

We are looking for people or groups willing to sponsor and decorate a small tree for £30. The trees will be pot grown, 60-80 cm high in a 20cm high pot.

You are asked to decorate a Nordmann fir tree with the theme of a country of your choice. Lights will be provided. Decorating day will be Saturday 14 December.

If you'd like to sponsor and decorate a tree, please sign the list in the vestry corridor as soon as possible (we'll need to order the trees), or email office@trinitywimbledon.org.



Developing our church building

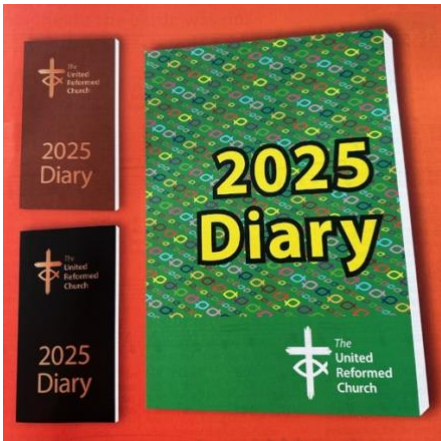
If you missed our September Church Meeting, there will be an opportunity to see the initial exciting plans from Allen Associates Architects for the front of our church, in the Old Hall following morning worship.



Final copy date for the November edition of *Trinity News* is Sunday 27 October. Please send items to catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com

URC publications

The 2025 Brown or Black Pocket Diary or the A5 Green Diary includes calendars to 2027, year planners to 2027, notable dates for the URC and the wider Church, metric measures, lectionary readings, Assembly officers and URC staff, useful addresses, Assembly committee details, and more. £9-£11 +p&p.



New! Immersive Joy – The 2025 URC Prayer Handbook is divided into two sections. The first section follows the calendar year, with a prayer for each Sunday based on one or more of the lectionary readings, and prayers for other special days. For the second section, we invited people to interpret the idea of being ‘immersed in joy’ in whatever way resonated with them. We have subdivided this section into prayers that could be used in public worship and those which seem more suited to personal devotion. £6.49 for A5 and £11.99 for A4 + p&p.

Both diaries and Prayer Handbook can be obtained from publishing@urc.org.uk (020 7916 8629)



Marshall Arena, Milton Keynes
9 - 10 October 2024



An evening with Leif Bersweden

**Author of 'The Orchid Hunter' and
'Where the Wild Flowers Grow'**



Wednesday 23rd October

Mansel Road Centre, SW19 4AA

(behind Trinity United Reformed Church)

7.30pm Refreshments

7.50pm Talk followed by discussion

Free Entry * Donations welcome

Wimbledon Green Churches Group

Step outside and connect with nature

This season is dedicated to God as the creator and sustainer of all life. Here are some ideas to encourage your church family to step outside during the season of creation and connect with nature.

FEAST TOGETHER

Why not get together in the great outdoors and enjoy some good food? Challenge everyone to bring (if they can) a local, sustainably-sourced plate of food that can be shared. Wrap up warm with blankets and rugs if necessary and enjoy feasting together, giving thanks to God for His good gifts.



GO ON A PRAYER WALK

Choose a short route with specific places to stop, pause and pray – an oak tree, a pond or a viewpoint perhaps. At each stopping point pray for the people and nature that are affected by climate change. [Download our Prayer walk guide](#) for more ideas.



BUILD A BUG HOTEL

Create new habitats for invertebrates by building a bug hotel. This could be in a garden, on church land, or, with permission, in a local park perhaps. Your building materials could include logs, branches, twigs, leaves and moss. With time your hotel could provide refuge and a 'family home' for a range of invertebrates.



DO CHURCH OUTDOORS

Move your service outdoors! A powerful opening activity might be collecting sticks, bringing them as an act of worship to make a cross and then gathering around the cross as a church community. Make sure any children present are appropriately supervised and do complete any necessary risk assessments.



PLANT SOME TREES

Do some research – find a site to plant some trees and work out which native trees would be good to plant there. The best time to plant trees is between November and March, but now is the time to get together and plan ahead.



PICK UP RUBBISH

Help keep your local area safe and clean for people and wildlife. Joining an existing litter pick group is a great witness and will forge closer links with the community. If a group doesn't exist already, why not set one up yourself?



EXPLORE OUR RESOURCES FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

A Rocha UK has several downloadable educational plans to engage 3–14 year olds outdoors. You will find ready-made lesson plans that are rooted in God's word here arocha.org.uk/education-plans/



Other ways to get involved with A Rocha UK

Keep in touch

bit.ly/aruksignup

Sustainable Food Provisions in Church

bit.ly/sustainablefoodprovisions

Education Plans

arocha.org.uk/education-plans/

Trees and Hedges

bit.ly/treesandhedges

Follow us on social media:

Instagram: @arocha_uk

Twitter: @ARochaUK

Facebook: @Arochaorguk



arocha.org.uk



Rambling on! - 1935 style

During the 1930s in Trinity there was quite a range of social activities for members and friends to enjoy - the monthly Guild, Men's Fellowship, Tennis club and so on. Another popular activity was the Rambling Club.

Throughout the summer months, from Easter to October, monthly rambles in the Surrey countryside - and occasionally even further afield - were organised. Trinity ramblers were invited to meet at Wimbledon station, there would be a walk from a chosen destination, tea would be taken at some convenient spot, and a train would take the tired participants back home.

One such ramble was on 27 July 1935. This was advertised as a 'half-crown ramble' as the total cost, train fare and tea, came to no more than 2/6d (12½p)!



That Saturday afternoon, a party of twenty-five set out from Wimbledon for Epsom Downs station. The ramblers walked across Walton Downs by a bridle road to Tadworth where a prolonged, two

hour, tea was enjoyed at the Laurel Bush tearooms (apparently adjacent to the present day 'Inn on the Green', formerly the 'Bricklayers Arms').

The route then took them to Walton on the Hill and Headley village (more refreshments!), onto the Roman road and down to Ashted, 'the station being reached in time to see the back end of a Wimbledon train disappearing into the distance'.

The total distance covered was eleven miles - 'a long-distance record and probably too much for an afternoon', reported the church magazine. Wimbledon was not reached until 10.55pm, 'obviously rather late for a Church Rambling club, a point that a number of people made to the Secretary on Sunday morning'. But in spite of its length the ramble 'was unanimously enjoyed.'



Iona Community Lecture
Friday 25th October 2024



iona community

Turning the Tables
Simeon Mitchell and Paul Morrison from
the Joint Public Issues Team.

7.30pm - 9pm
on-site and live streamed,
New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh.

 THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of Divinity

 JOINT PUBLIC
ISSUES TEAM
CHURCHES WORKING
FOR PEACE & JUSTICE

Company No. SC066243 | Charity No. SC000764

Join the Iona Community on 25 October from 7.30–9pm for its annual lecture, this year themed 'Turning the tables'. The theme will explore how we can all play a part in building an economy that enables the flourishing of all life. The event will be both in person in Edinburgh and **livestreamed**, with a donation of £10 for those attending on site and

a suggested donation of £5 for those viewing the lecture online. [**Learn more about the lecture and register**](#)