Trinity News

November 2024 **No.544**

Trinity United Reformed Church
Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA
www.trinitywimbledon.org

November Reflection

Greetings Friends,

In 1913, Britain was basking in the cultural and scientific legacy of the Victorian era. Despite occasional reports of unrest in the news, most dismissed these reports as sensationalism. Then, in the summer of 1914, a seismic interruption shook the nation – we were at war. Emerging from the relatively peaceful Victorian era, some found the concept of war hard to believe.

However, history proves that this was not just any war; this was the Great War (WWI), a monumental interruption that altered the course of history and brought about global changes across various aspects of society, technology, and geopolitics. But the most profound change was the unfathomable loss of life. As the War concluded and people began to rebuild their shattered livelihoods, many had forgotten what they were doing before their worlds were interrupted. Many had forgotten what it was like "*The year before the sky fell in*" (The Economist).

Every year, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we are faced with the stark reality that there was a moment in history when an unspeakable event disrupted countless lives. Every year, wherever we are and whatever we are doing, we pause and observe a moment of silence to remember all those affected by the horrors of war and conflict. Every year, in a profound act of solidarity, we, who are at peace, halt for those who mourn, forging a connection that transcends time and space. Every year, we promise to remember them, but when the time comes, many do not want to remember. For remembering seems like an inconvenient interruption.

Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday are not mere interruptions to our daily routine; they are deliberate choices. We pause, not because it is convenient, but because we choose to. We remember, not because it is tradition, but because we feel the

weight of responsibility to. We willingly welcome this interruption to our lives, knowing that so many do not have a choice.

We often hear that patience is a virtue, but I would argue that being interruptible is equally virtuous. The ability to pause, to remember, and to empathise with those who have suffered is a virtue we see in Christ. It is a virtue that we should also strive to embody in our lives, inspiring us to be more empathetic and understanding in our interactions.

In his book (Life Together), the German Lutheran minister and theologian Revd Dr Dietrich Bonhoeffer emphasises the importance of being interruptible in our lives. He writes,

"We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. God will be constantly crossing our paths and cancelling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions. We may pass them by, preoccupied with our more important tasks… It is a strange fact that Christians and even ministers frequently consider their work so important and urgent that they will allow nothing to disturb them. They think they are doing God a service in this, but actually they are disdaining God's crooked yet straight path."

This quote from Bonhoeffer underscores the idea that interruptions, especially those that come from helping others, are not inconveniences but opportunities to serve and grow.

Indeed, Jesus was often surrounded by crowds of people yearning for his attention, all with urgent needs and requests, all interruptions on his time. Yet, Jesus did not get angry or complain at them. He discerned what was the greatest need and went about meeting that need. Midway through what is regarded as Christ's most powerful teaching, The Beatitudes, Jesus says,

"*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God*."
(Matthew 5:6-9 NRSV)

This November, as we encounter both welcome and challenging interruptions to our time, may we take a moment to pause, to remember, to bless, to be blessed, and to be interruptible. For what may seem like an interruption may prove to be an invitation to give and receive the love of Christ.

With every blessing,

Jacob Bali

Revd Dr Jacob Bali
Minister

Church Family News

Our warmest congratulations go to our Minister who recently received the news that the University has awarded him a doctorate (PhD) in recognition of his thesis, "*The Impact of COVID-19 on the Practice of Pastoral Care Practitioners in a Religious Setting in the UK*."

As Jacob says, "Balancing the responsibilities of ministry, family, and studies would have been impossible without God's guidance and the continuous support of many people, for which I am immensely grateful."

We are delighted for Jacob on his success and are already benefitting from all his hard work and the experience gained from his studies.

Very well done from everyone at Trinity!

New member

On Sunday 13 October we welcomed Ms Joey Tse as a new member of Trinity.

November birthdays

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Sam Elliot, Sheila Ingram, Brian Lewis-Lavender, Sandy McLeish, Andrea Seun, Aston Seun, Allan Todd, Betty Wong, Alan Young and Ernest Yu.

Thanks to those who spent a Saturday morning giving the church a good clean after the recent floor restoration. (The Minister was also present but missed the photo!)

NOVEMBER 2024

1	Fri	All Saints Day	
3	**SUN**	***Gift Day 'For Others'***	
		10:30	Elders' meeting
		11:00	**Morning worship with Holy Communion**
5	Tue	20:00	Queens Road housegroup
6	Wed	20:00	Elders' Council
7	Thu	20:00	"From the Inside Out" Bible Study
10	**SUN**	***Remembrance Sunday***	
		10:45	**Morning worship**
12	Tue	19:30	Licensing of Revd Jane Andrews as Team Vicar of St Mark's church by the Bishop of Kingston
		20:00	Children & Youth Work Team
14	Thu	20:00	"From the Inside Out" Bible Study
		20:00	Finance Team
17	**SUN**	**11:00**	**Morning worship**
			Copy deadline for December's *Trinity News*
21	Thu	20:00	"From the Inside Out" Bible Study
24	**SUN**	**11:00**	**Morning worship**
28	Thu	20:00	Church Meeting
30	Sat	St Andrew's Day	

The Minister's usual day off is Monday

Remembering
Lieutenant J H S Dimmer VC MC MID

In this month of Remembrance, we have come across a Trinity connection - albeit rather distant - with one who, in the early weeks of the Great War, was awarded the Victoria Cross. He survived his wounds and returned to the Front, sadly dying in action in France in 1918.

Lt John Henry Stephen Dimmer grew up at 55a Griffiths Road, Wimbledon. He was a member of the Boys' Brigade at Trinity's mission in Southey Road (which became St Cuthbert's Church). He attended Rutlish School.

As the War began, he was 31 years of age and had joined the King's Royal Rifle Corp in 1904. On 12 November 1914 at the village of Klein Zillebeke, Belgium, he continued working his machine gun, despite receiving five shrapnel and bullet wounds, until his gun was disabled. His action is said to have 'saved the whole battalion, if not the whole line, on at least three occasions'.

The Victoria Cross was conferred for conspicuous gallantry. He was also awarded the Military Cross. He had married just two months before his death.

'FOR KING AND COUNTRY HE GAVE GLADLY'

Final copy date for the December edition of *Trinity News* is
Sunday 17 November.
Please send items to
catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com

This month's cover photo by Darren Richardson on Unsplash

Sunday 3 November

Our annual Gift Day 'for Others' will take place on Sunday 3 November. Once more, Trinity appeals for your support of Gift Day. We are hoping to raise at least £10,000 this year which, with the benefit of Gift Aid, will increase the total figure to over £12,000.

The funds raised this year will again be allocated in accordance with the vote taken recently by Trinity members and friends from a list of charities. The following charities have been chosen and will receive £500 each:-

Local Charities

Merton Winter Night Shelter
St Raphael's Hospice
South West London Samaritans
Wimbledon Foodbank

National Charities

Alzheimer's Research
Mind
Cancer Research UK

International Charities

Médecins sans Frontières
Medical Aid for Palestinians
British Red Cross

Following provision of £2,000 for Disaster Relief, the remaining funds will be split 2/3rds to Faith-In-Action and 1/3rd to Water Aid.

Gift Aid envelopes are available at the church, but electronic payment to the Trinity bank account may be preferred by donors. Our bank details are provided below or alternatively you may prefer to pay by debit/credit card. In this case if you go to the Trinity website and click on the Donate button or QR code this will allow you to make your donation to Gift Day at Trinity via the CAF Bank giving website.

So - will you please help us raise sufficient money in order that we may meet the challenge of our mission to serve our local community and the needs of the wider world? Should you be attending the service at Trinity on November 3rd or in the following weeks in November there will be Gift Day donation envelopes available to donate on the day.

Alternatively, you may post your cheque payable to Trinity URC to our 'For Others' Secretary, Robin Ingram c/o Trinity Church .

Bank: CAF Bank
Sort Code: 40-52-40
Account: Trinity United Reformed Church
Account Number: 00009610

Church Meeting

Thursday 28 November at 8pm

in the Mansel Road Centre

For all church members

Please come along
to share in the life and witness of Trinity.

Queens Road House Group

Jacob and Esther Bali kindly invited us to the manse for our October meeting and we were able to admire their newly decorated and furnished home. Jacob then helped us with some difficult verses in Matthew 13.

For our November meeting we will be back at 217 Queens Road on (Firework Night!) Tuesday 5 November (8pm). We will finish our study of Matthew 13 and, hopefully, move on to chapter 14. As always all would be very welcome to join us.

Prayer trees

Some years ago, we installed 'Prayer trees' at two places in the Mansel Road Centre upon which members of the congregation and visitors to the Centre could post prayer requests. Although these continue to be used spasmodically, the Worship Team feel that the time is right to give them fresh impetus/life.

New 'leaves', on which prayers may be written, have been provided. Watch out for new ideas too!

We will continue to link the prayer requests with our Sunday 'Prayers of Concern' and will now include them in the Trinity WhatsApp prayer group.

Please visit the board when you are in the Centre and include the requests in your prayers.

Merton Winter Night Shelter 2024/25

The Merton Winter Night Shelter (MWNS) will be opening on Monday 2 December. This will be the third season where MWNS is coordinated by Faith-in-Action Merton Homelessness Project (to give FIA its full name) rather than the YMCA, as happened before the Covid pandemic.

As many of you are aware, MWNS provides a communal shelter during the coldest months for homeless people who can cope with the shared environment, which is not that easy. Faith groups in the Borough come together, each providing hot food and a safe shelter on a specific weekday evening/overnight for seven weeks. There are fourteen venues so we can cover two blocks, meaning the Shelter can run until mid-March, with Trinity covering Sundays in Block 2 starting on 26 January. As a result, the collective effort will provide over 1200 bed space nights in a safe, warm and welcoming environment from 2 December to 10 March.

Two years ago, Trinity provided accommodation over Christmas. This year we are going to cover New Year from the evening of Tuesday, 31 December to the morning of Thursday 2 January. Volunteers will be drawn from all the MWNS faith groups, but Trinity personnel will be most welcome too.

Raising money for the project is a perpetual challenge. The project costs around £50,000 pa. MWNS was awarded a generous grant of £20,000 pa for three years (this will be year 3) but the remainder needs to come from local sources. The collections at all of Trinity's Christmas services will go to MWNS, so please give generously then. MWNS will also receive £500 from our Gift Day collection starting on 3 November. Last year we contributed a total of £1,962 so I hope we can provide over £2,000 for this winter's Shelter.

Please do let me know if you are interested in getting involved. Volunteering at the Shelter is extremely rewarding and everyone can

make a difference, both individually and as part of the collective effort to provide over 1200 bedspaces during the coming winter.

There will be training sessions for new volunteers at Trinity on 17 November and 12 January, both Sundays, starting at 14:00, so please note those dates in your diaries (the January date is primarily for Block 2 venues like Trinity, but if you cannot make its date, the November session is very similar). I'd be delighted to respond to any queries.

Robin Goodchild
robinnapiergoodchild@gmail.com
and/or 07714 095007

Trinity Bible Studies 2024

Renovaré

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

FROM THE inside OUT

Session 1	–	*What is Spiritual Formation?*
Session 2	–	*What is My Picture of God?*
31 October	–	What is My Picture of Myself?
7 November	–	What is My Picture of the Gospel?
14 November	–	How Do People Change?
21 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.

Foodbank at Harvest

On behalf of everyone at Wimbledon Foodbank I'd like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone for their very generous harvest donations, both of items brought for the table and money.

I'm pleased to tell you that the donations weighed 117 kg which equates to 132 meals. Alan and Janet Young brought everything to the warehouse where it was promptly sorted and is going straight into parcels to be distributed to clients.

The open plate and card donations totalled a whopping £437 which will enable us to bulk buy items that we are short of.

Thank you also to those of you who have offered help in other ways, I look forward to getting more people involved in various ways.

You can see our most up to date information on the website at https://wimbledon.foodbank.org.uk/

Cathy Dundee

Staying safe online: cyber security tips for Trinity members

As we rely increasingly on computers and mobile devices in our daily lives, it's important that we all take steps to protect ourselves and our church community from cyber threats like hacking or email scams. Here are some practical tips drawn from Trinity's new Cyber Security Policy:

Protect Your Devices

- Keep your computers, phones and tablets physically secure to prevent theft
- Use strong passwords (at least 8 characters with a mix of upper/lowercase, numbers and symbols)
- Enable multi-factor authentication when available
- Install updates and security patches promptly
- Use antivirus software on computers and keep it updated

Be Email Savvy

- Be wary of suspicious emails - don't click links or open attachments if unsure
- Check the full email address of senders, not just the display name
- If you suspect your email has been hacked, change your password immediately

Browse Safely

- Ensure your computer's firewall is active
- Check website addresses carefully before entering sensitive information
- Be cautious about clicking embedded links in websites

Nobody from Trinity will ever ask you for sensitive information or to spend money. If you receive an email that is unexpected, unusual or suspicious, trust your instincts and err on the side of caution.

To report any suspicious activity, to ask any questions, or to obtain a copy of the full Policy, please contact the Church Secretaries at churchsecretaries@trinitywimbledon.org.

Children & Young People's participation in Holy Communion

Those of us who take part in our monthly services of Holy Communion will know that Trinity has always professed to have an open table for the Lord's Supper, in that all who wish to share in Holy Communion are welcome to do so.

As holders of the Child Friendly Church Award, and believing that the full range of worship should be open to children, we took the decision, some twelve years ago, that children too should be welcome to receive and share in the sacrament of Communion should they and their parents wish them to do so.

When we originally took that decision, we made sure that the children were prepared and given an understanding of the significance of what they would be doing, a biblical context and an introduction to the elements.

The practice has continued but we were conscious that time has gone by without creating another opportunity to introduce children to Holy Communion.

So on the morning of 20 October our Minister, Jacob, came to Junior Church, along with Alison Trehearn, who is the Elders' Secretary and organises all the practical arrangements for Communion, to lead a session for the older children. It was lovely to have them with us for our time together.

Jacob based his talk around three R's: Remembrance, Reflection and Respect. Firstly, he explained that the celebration of Holy Communion gives us the chance to *remember* that Christ gave his body and blood for us. It is also a chance to think or *reflect* about that sacrifice and what Jesus had said to his disciples at the Last Supper.

And finally, that this most special of sacraments must be approached with *respect*. We talked of how taking of Holy Communion is done together, with our families, friends and the wider congregation, and this is why we wait until everyone is served before eating or drinking.

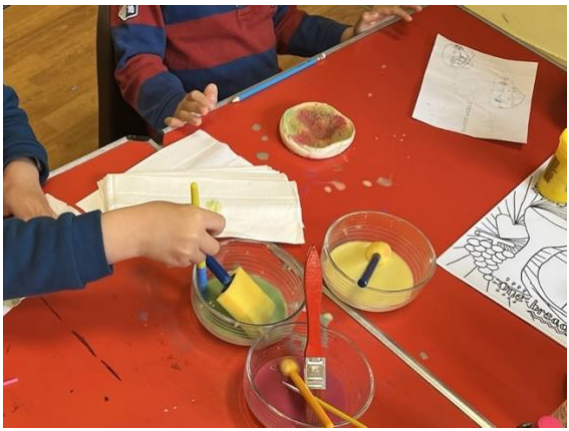
Then Alison brought in the pieces used in Communion. Jacob explained that the plate, the jug and the chalice were made of silver and dated back to the 1880s. Silver was considered very special, and did you know that silver has special anti-microbial properties, so it is very safe to use?

The children then were served with the bread and wine – it's fair to say they were probably most interested in trying the 'wine'!

The children listened and participated with respect and it is clear that some already have an understanding of Holy Communion. We have asked them and their parents to have a conversation about whether they would like to start taking Communion, beginning on Sunday 3 November. I certainly feel they have the maturity to understand the significance and special nature of this sacrament and we look forward to welcoming them.

Finally, my thanks to Jacob and Alison for joining us this morning.

Meanwhile our younger children were painting bread! Using food colouring mixed with milk, they certainly had fun.



Claire Wood, Children & Youth Work Team Leader

Save the date! This year's Eco Day will be held in Wimbledon Quarter

CHRISTMAS is coming…

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

We are looking for individuals or groups who would be willing to sponsor and decorate a small tree for £30. The trees provided will be pot grown, 60-80cm high, in a 20cm 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 would like to sponsor and decorate a tree, please sign the list in the vestry corridor as soon as possible, or email office@trinitywimbledon.org.

Come & join the choir for the Candlelight Service

It may seem early to be discussing Christmas, but it is amazing how quickly it comes round. The Carols & Readings by Candlelight Service is one of our most popular services of the year, and it is, for me, a privilege to have been in the choir at this service for many years.

We hope you will come to the service at 6.30 pm on 15 December, but it would be even better, if you enjoy singing wonderful Christmas music, if you joined the choir. All voices are welcome, and the choir pieces this year are relatively well known.

We will be practising every Friday evening from 29 November until 13 December at 8.15 pm in the church, with a final run through on the afternoon of the 15 December, so please join us. And if you have friends who are not Trinity folk who would like to join us, please invite them. This is a wonderful way to start the Christmas period. For more information please speak with Andrew Davies, Director of Music, or me.

Alison Trehearn (07542 711357)

Fifty years on: November 1974 at Trinity

To some of us it seems amazing that 1974 is fifty years ago! This month we look back at this month - November 1974 - in the life of Trinity.

The minister of Trinity was Revd H Burns Jamieson, who was to retire the following Easter. The senior office bearers included:

Church Secretary: Jimmy Grimstone
Secretary to the Management Committee: Kenneth Young
Treasurer: Derry Bremner
Freewill offerings and Covenants Treasurer: David M Young
Organist and choirmaster: Roger Warland
Sunday School Superintendent: Terry Broad

The Minister led all the services that month. They followed a pattern still familiar to us today, but were led throughout from the pulpit. Readings were from the Authorised version of the Bible, though the New English Bible was in occasional use, and hymns were chosen from the 1928 'Revised Church Hymnary'.

The monthly Communion service took place at the evening service on the 3rd when there were 95 communicants. The 10th was Remembrance Day. On the 24th, the Sunday before St Andrew's Day, members of the local St Andrew's Society joined us for their annual visit.

On 17 November 1974 eight new Elders were ordained and inducted. One of them, Sandy McLeish, is still very much in office. The others were the Misses Baulk, Bowden, and Cairns, and Messrs Elder, Gunn, McPhee and Turnbull.

Saturday 2 November was the annual Gift Day 'For Others'. Mr Jamieson wrote, in *Trinity News*: 'At a time when we hear so much about the higher cost of living and inflation the wonderful response to

my appeal for £1700 is remarkable and encouraging'. The target was passed with a 'record total.'

Other events that month included a meeting of the '6 Group' (a group for young adults that met on the 6th of each month), at the home of Charles and Jane Giles, a Bible study group met every Thursday at the home of David and Diana Tod, there was a visit to the Needlework Guild Exhibition at Whitefields Church in London, a Congregational Supper when the guest speaker was Revd Charles Meachin ('Impressions of India') and a performance of 'Samson', in Trinity, by the United Choirs under their conductor Robert Anderson.

Sunday morning on the church forecourt

Much of the monthly Elders meeting was given over to a discussion about children's and youth work, particularly about the Saturday evening club for teenagers which was led by John Mason. It was proving very successful but concern was expressed about behaviour, and it was agreed that smoking should not be allowed on church premises!

Elsewhere Harold Wilson was the Prime Minister. Lord Lucan disappeared after apparently murdering his nanny, and 21 people died when bombs exploded in two Birmingham pubs. *AKY*

Church of Scotland in Israel and Palestine

As we have watched the news coming from Israel and Palestine over recent months, we have been devastated by the impact that the events have had on Israelis and Palestinians alike.

The events of 7 October last year, and the subsequent crisis in Gaza, are clearly major news, but we have also become increasingly concerned about the situation in the West Bank where violence is also spreading rapidly.

The Church of Scotland has a connection spanning more than 150-years with Israel and Palestine, both through a physical presence with the Scots Hotel, the St Andrew's House Hotel, St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias and Tabeetha school, and through our partnerships with churches and development organisations who are working in political and religious arenas for justice with peace in the region. Around 160 local staff are employed by the Church in Jerusalem, Tiberias, and Jaffa.

(from www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

St Andrew's Church, Tiberias with a view of the Sea of Galilee

Please pray for all those affected by the conflict.

O God of all
Of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, and Ishmael:
Our hearts are broken in pieces at the suffering and murder of your people.
Our voices cry for peace and for justice.

Comfort those who grieve,
Console and heal the injured,
Be close to those in fear,
Restrain with your mighty hand those who perpetrate violence.

Send us your wisdom in all that we say and do,
That our voice may always seek justice, peace and security for all.
Amen.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal

The conflict in the Middle East is taking a devastating toll on the lives of innocent people.

As the conflict in Gaza continues, a new disaster is unfolding in Lebanon. Air strikes are heaping misery on a country already enduring multiple crises. In excess of a thousand people have been killed in Lebanon. Homes, hospitals and schools have been destroyed. More than a million people have fled their homes in search of safety. It's a painful reality that echoes the suffering we've witnessed in Gaza.

While the death, destruction, and displacement in the region are overwhelming, there is still hope. The combined efforts of supporters of DEC charities can help to provide lifesaving supplies to civilians caught up in this conflict.