

Trinity News



April 2025

No.549



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org

April Reflection

Greetings Friends,

Are you familiar with the old question, 'What happens when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object?'

This is a rhetorical question that refers to a philosophical concept known as the Irresistible Force Paradox. Imagine a tidal wave encountering a sheer rock cliff. This is imagery that is often evoked when two global superpowers have conflict, but it can also refer to when an unreasonable person is friends with an equally stubborn individual; something has to give way.

However, what happens when compromise is off the table, and the cost of concession is too dear? It is to be, as Phil Collins famously put it, 'Against All Odds'.

During the season of Lent, many of us encounter situations that make us question whether there is anything worth hoping for. In fact, many worldviews are based on the principles of duality: yin and yang, good and evil, light and darkness, fire and ice, yet on Easter, we see that there really is no contest.

On that first Easter Sunday, we are told: *Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead..."* (Matthew 28:5-6 NLT)

This is an ageless truth: *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.* (John 1:5 NRSV).

Against all odds, Christ showed us that an immovable object can give way to an unstoppable force. For in Christ, darkness gave way to light, evil gave way to good, the grave gave way to resurrection, mortality gave way to immortality, and death gave way to... love.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Indeed, because of God's love, we can live.

As Lent gives way to Easter, may we hold onto the profound truth that in Christ, the impossible becomes possible. There is a triumphant hope that dispels despair, a radiant dawn that breaks the night, and a resurrection life that springs from God's unyielding love. For Christ is risen, hallelujah!

With every blessing,

Jacob Bali

Revd Dr Jacob Bali
Minister

The Minister's usual day off is Monday



1	Tues	20:00	Queens Road housegroup
2	Wed	20:00	Elders' Council
3	Thurs	20:00	Lent course (4)
4	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
6	Sun	<i>Passion Sunday</i>	
		10:30	Elders Meeting
		11:00	Morning Worship with Holy Communion, the Ordination of Eric Chau, and the Induction of those recently elected to serve on Elders' Council

April continued.....

8	Tues	20:00	Worship & Faith Development Team
10	Thurs	20:00	Lent course (5)
11	Fri		No Trinity Toddlers

13 Sun *Palm Sunday*

10:00	United Act of Witness (outside Tesco Express, Wimbledon town centre)
11:00	Morning Worship

14 Mon 19:30 Holy Week Service

15 Tues 19:30 Holy Week Service

16 Wed 19:30 Holy Week Service

17 Thurs *Maundy Thursday*

19:30	Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion
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18 Fri *Good Friday*

10:30	Good Friday service
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20 Sun *Easter Day*

05:30	Dawn service at St Mark's
10:30	Elders' Meeting
11:00	Easter Sunday service with Holy Communion, and with Confirmation & reception into membership

21 Mon *Easter Monday*

*(For further details of our Easter services
see following pages)*

Easter Services



Palm Sunday - 13 April

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week. We remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, where the crowd laid down palm branches for him to walk on.

In Wimbledon, the churches join in a short 10-minute act of witness (Bible reading, prayer and hymn) outside Tesco Express (Wimbledon Old Town Hall) at 10:00, with palm branches and a donkey. All welcome.

Our service at Trinity will follow at 11:00 as usual.



Holy Week & Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, the washing of the disciples' feet, and Jesus' betrayal and arrest.

Short reflective services will be held each evening at 7.30pm, including Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday.



Good Friday

Good Friday is the day we remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

At our service at 10:30 we meet, pray and reflect on the cost of the great sacrifice of love: Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God and redeemer of the world.



Easter Sunday

Easter marks Jesus' resurrection and the triumph of life over death.

We are invited to share in the Mass of the Dawn at St Mark's church beginning at 05:30.

We celebrate at 11:00 with a joyful service with Holy Communion, and including confirmation of two of our young people, and welcoming them and another into membership of Trinity.



Trinity's Easter card



We have printed a number of Easter cards for members and friends, Mansel Road Centre users, and neighbours, giving an Easter message and details of our services. If you would like to help deliver any locally please sign the list in the vestry corridor. Extra cards will be available for you to take for your personal neighbours and friends.

Holy Week



Palm Sunday

Triumphant Entry

- Reading: Matthew 21:1-11
- Activity: Make palm crosses or a palm-themed craft.



Monday

Cleansing the Temple

- Reading: Mark 11:15-18
- Activity: Take a reflective walk, silently praying about what you wish to eliminate from your life or discussing obstacles that hinder your time with God.



Tuesday

Speaking in Parables

- Reading: Matthew 22:1-14
- Activity: Choose a Gospel and count how many parables Jesus uses. For a challenge, identify which parables are in each Gospel book.

Wednesday

Silent Wednesday

- Reading: Psalm 46
- Activity: Engage in a quiet challenge, focusing on prayer, Scripture or silent activities with minimal speaking.



Thursday

The Last Supper

- Reading: John 13:1-20
- Activity: Re-create a foot washing ceremony by washing each other's feet.



Good Friday

The Crucifixion

- Reading: Isaiah 53
- Activity: Draw, paint or write about the theme of sacrifice or caring.



Holy Saturday

Day of Preparation

- Reading: Luke 23:50-56
- Activity: Prepare for Easter by decorating or cooking traditional foods like bread.



Easter Sunday

Jesus Is Risen!

- Reading: John 20:1-18
- Activity: Celebrate the Resurrection with joy and fellowship by singing worship songs or sharing a meal.



Church Family News

During the service on Sunday 2 March we acknowledged with thanks Sandy McLeish's 50th year since being ordained as an Elder, and presented him with a certificate of loyal and devoted service.



*Sandy & Revd Jacob Bali
with Revd Ernest Yu (left) and Sam Elliot, Church Secretary (right)*



April birthdays

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Anne Broadbridge, Gemma Canham, Ayden Chan, Eric Chau, Jane Fairbrother, Jean Humphreys, Ella Mansfield, Ian McGilchrist, Kwame Sarpong and Alison Trehearn.

Elders' Council election

At the Church Meeting on Sunday 23 March, three members of Elders' Council, Sarah Elliot, Robin Goodchild and Sandy McLeish, stood down and were warmly thanked for their very considerable contributions to the work of the Council - Robin and Sandy having served the full six years (two 3-year terms), and Sarah one 3-year term.

At the meeting Eric Chau, Andrew Melrose and Claire Wood were elected to serve. Eric will be ordained to the eldership in April when all three new members will be inducted to serve at Trinity.

Grace de Grouchy, Alison Trehearn and Mike Tulloch were elected for a second 3-year term. Pam Rostron and May Nicol continue.

Members of Elders Council for 2025/26 are therefore:

Eric Chau, Grace de Grouchy, Andrew Melrose, May Nicol, Alison Trehearn, Mike Tulloch, Claire Wood and Pam Rostron, with Sam Elliot and Dodie Khurshid (Church Secretaries, ex officio).



Lent Group



The final two sessions of our course will be in April. Whether you are a church member or a curious seeker, this Lent course offers a rich and accessible exploration of the Trinity and its significance for your spiritual formation. All are very welcome.

3 April - Week 4: Wrong and Right Thinking on the Trinity

Focus: Correct misconceptions and embrace accurate theological perspectives.

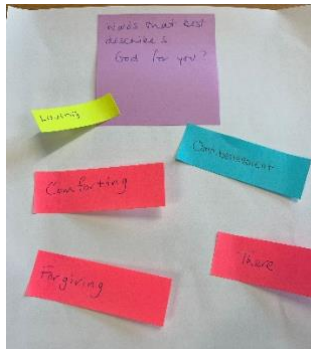
10 April - Week 5: An Eternal Community of Loving Persons & Implications for Spiritual Formation



Confirmation Classes – Spring 2025

On 9 February Jacob and I started our next Confirmation Course for young people. We were delighted to have Katy Collins and Christine van der Walt express their wish to take part, and have so enjoyed our sessions together and thank them for the way in which they have participated.

When you read this, we will have completed five out of our six sessions which have covered topics including: Knowing God; Jesus' Life, Ministry, Death and Resurrection; Prayer and the Bible; the Holy Spirit and What is the Church?



Each session includes discussions, reading of the Bible, videos, prayer, sharing of experiences and feelings - all aimed at giving the young people the opportunity to come to a decision about their faith and taking the next step of confirmation and church membership.

It is not just the young people who are exploring and learning; I am finding that I am reflecting on aspects of my own faith and, certainly, learning new things.

For instance, while talking about the Holy Spirit, Jacob shared these four images with us. The dove is very recognisable, but did you know that the wildgoose pictured in the other images is an ancient representation of the Holy Spirit?

We have one more session on 6 April, when we will be exploring the sacrament of Holy Communion, with Confirmation taking place on Easter Sunday.



The final step will be for the girls to decide if, having completed the course, they do want to be confirmed and, of course, to be received into membership at Trinity. We hope that as many of you as possible will be in Trinity on Easter Sunday to support them in this significant step in their faith journey.

*Claire Wood
Team Leader, Children & Youth Work*



Would you like to make a donation towards flowers in church on a particular Sunday? Maybe an anniversary, special birthday or remembering someone on a date in 2025. Andrew Sutton would be glad to hear from you, or you can contact him via the Church Office (office@trinitywimbledon.org).



How about giving an Easter treat - an Easter egg - to children of the local families supported by the Foodbank? If you would like to do this, please leave your gift in the trolley in the Mansel Road Centre on, or by, Sunday 6 April to give time for distribution.

Other items needed this month are:

**tinned fish
tinned vegetables
UHT milk**

**squash
noodles
toothpaste/toothbrushes
shampoo**

thank you

On Friday 14 March, we hosted a Big Brew Coffee Morning to raise funds for Transform Trade. The coffee morning, with Traidcraft and Eco Living stalls, was held alongside Trinity Toddlers.

Through the sale of homemade cakes and coffee we raised £180, which is enough for farmers to invest in seedlings and equipment to help them diversify their crops, protect their livelihood and land from the impacts of climate change.

Thank you very much to all who joined us and to those who baked cakes and helped on the day.



Transform Trade



Thank you so much for raising an amazing £180.00 at your Big Brew 2025! The money you raised will fund vital work with inspirational producer businesses around the world over the coming year, and we can't thank you – or those who attended your event – enough.

Amongst those your generous support will help are tea growers like Rosina Begum. Rosina who is from Rangpur, in northern Bangladesh, struggled to earn a living from her small plot of land, which was unsuitable for most crops. Now, thanks to support from a project run by Transform Trade, she grows tea, which has transformed her family's future.

Merton Winter Night Shelter

– Celebrating another successful winter



The eleventh Merton Winter Night Shelter project finished at Trinity on 10 March. For the last two winters, funds were secured which enabled the organisers to book budget hotel space so that guests were in safe accommodation until April. Unfortunately, the Mayor of London did not provide any similar grants this winter, so a number of our guests are back on the streets. However, the good news is that six (half the cohort) are now in more permanent accommodation.

Once again, the success of the Merton Winter Night Shelter is the result of the commitment of its volunteers, from Trinity and all the other venues. Without all of you, it simply would not function.

We would, therefore, like to hold a get together with all who volunteered for Trinity this winter to celebrate your contribution. It would also be an opportunity to share ideas for next year's Shelter. We would aim for this to happen during the summer after a Sunday service. So we will be in touch!

Robin Goodchild (robinnapiergodchild@gmail.com /07714-095007)



Queens Road House Group

The Group will meet on Tuesday 1 April (8pm) at 217 Queens Road and, as always, we would be delighted to welcome anybody who would like to share in our study of St Matthew's Gospel. Andrew Sutton would be pleased to provide further information.

This month we will be studying Matthew chapter 18 which includes the parable of the unmerciful servant.



Commitment
for **Life**

A reminder that that this year our Lent **Commitment for Life** envelopes will be in the pews on Sundays 6 and 13 April.

Commitment for Life is the URC's Social Justice programme. It enables local congregations to pray, advocate and take action for the most vulnerable people.

Donations to Commitment for Life go to all the projects Christian Aid supports in Israel and the Occupied Territory, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh. You can also donate online on the Trinity website (www.trintywimbledon.org).



Volunteering with the Leprosy Mission

This is a strategic and exciting time to join The Leprosy Mission; we have a strong and committed group of Trustees who bring a wealth of experience and expertise to support the governance and future direction of the organisation.

Following a recent review, we are seeking to appoint three Trustees, particularly in the areas of fundraising, finance or digital marketing/communications. [Further details can be found here.](#)

Joining our Board provides an excellent opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of people affected by leprosy and to gain valuable experience in being part of a forward-thinking team.

If you are interested, please contact Alistair Wilson, Administrator South London Synod Area (slsaadm1n@gmail.com)

Visit to Wimbledon Synagogue

Arising from discussions at our Advent course at the end of last year, a group of eight from Trinity received a very warm welcome in March at the Wimbledon Synagogue, a member of the Reform Judaism tradition. Over the course of two hours, we were given an excellent and wide-ranging introduction to their faith, customs and building.



We explored the importance and significance of parts of their synagogue (Shul), where their motto, "Serve the Lord with Joy" from Psalm 100 is placed centrally above the Ark, the most holy area of the synagogue where five sets of scrolls (shown above) are kept behind two heavy Ark Doors of wood from Mozambique. On either side of this area are Hebrew writings of the Ten Commandments. One of the scrolls was brought out for us to see more closely - the Torah (first five books of the Bible), beautifully handwritten in Hebrew on parchment.

The room is very light and, on the day of our visit, sunny. Built in 1997, it incorporates a panel of six stained glass windows representing the six days of creation, originally housed in the old synagogue in Worple Road. On the opposite side of the building are glass panels representing the seven biblical fruits.



Sandy wearing a prayer shawl and holding the scrolls

Below: Studying one of the Hebrew scrolls



Our open discussion ranged over what it means to be Jewish, the history of their faith, relationship with Israel, how they work to make Judaism relevant in a modern multi-facet world. We ended with a demonstration of the blessings over bread and wine that are central to the traditional meal marking the beginning of Shabbat, Jewish Sabbath, on Friday night.



Our thanks go to our guide, Caroline, for a most enjoyable and instructive morning, and to May Nicol for organising the visit.



The
United
Reformed
Church

What is a synod?

The URC has produced a new video explaining what the 13 synods are in Wales, Scotland and England (Trinity is in Southern Synod), and the role they play in the life of the Church: <https://bit.ly/4iBHOJk>

Trinity's Green Team

Would you like to join Trinity's newly formed Green Team?



We are a new team of members from the different Teams at Trinity (Outreach & Witness, Property, Worship and Children & Youth) who will meet occasionally to discuss and implement how we can achieve a Gold A Rocha Eco Church award.

If you've always shown an interest in how we can make a difference, this will be the perfect opportunity for you.

Please contact Elizabeth Scharinger if you're interested or if you have any questions: office@trintywimbledon.org



11-17 May 2025

Christian Aid Week

As usual we would be really grateful for volunteers to deliver envelopes.

The Christian Aid car boot sale will be in St Mary's field on the morning of Saturday 10 May. If you have bric-a-brac we can sell for Christian Aid do let us know.

- Mike and Margaret Tulloch

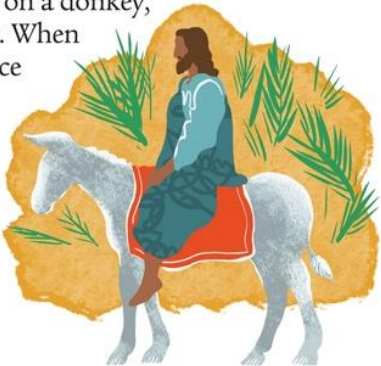
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Bible Quiz

? ??

As Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, crowds praised him loudly. When Pharisees told him to silence the people, what did Jesus say would shout if his followers didn't?

- A. Stones
- B. Palm branches
- C. Trees
- D. Hillsides



Answer: A (See Luke 19:40.)

Merton's community wildflower project

Spring sees leaves returning and flowers blooming, and this year, we are turning the borough purple – one of our heritage colours which remember the Mitcham lavender fields of the past.

We're calling on the community to join in our borough-wide planting programme as part of We Are Merton at 60 birthday celebrations and to help in our mission to green the grey and improve the biodiversity of our borough.



We will be providing free purple wildflower seed packs across Merton libraries, Better leisure centres, at our town centre events and at [We Are Merton Festival](#) so you can create your own mini wildflower meadow at home.

All you need to do is pop along to one of these locations and the staff will show you how to build your very own seed-pack so you can join in turning Merton purple.

See more at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/60/wildflowering>

Tree planting for the environment

Another round of tree planting has taken place at Morden Park – helping to create more habitats and greenery for future years at the much-loved open space. This was the fourth such event in the park since Merton Friends of the Earth started the project of boosting the park's biodiversity in 2020 during the Covid pandemic.

Each time volunteers plant 420 trees, consisting of hawthorn, hazel, silver birch, rowan, English oak and blackthorn saplings.

The trees are supplied for free to community groups like Merton Friends of the Earth by the Woodland Trust, the UK's largest woodland conservation charity.

The saplings are selected with the aim of promoting woodland wildlife by providing food sources and habitats for a range of birds, insects and small mammals, like dormice and squirrels.

Acknowledgements to The Wible, Wimbledon's online newspaper



**Final copy date for the May edition of
Trinity News is
Wednesday 23 April
Please send items to
catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com**



The Revd Henry Burns Jamieson

As this *Trinity News* is published it is exactly fifty years since Revd Henry Burns Jamieson retired as Trinity's minister. His farewell service was on Easter Sunday 1975, attended by a record 345 communicants.

Henry Jamieson had served as minister of a new church at Monkseaton, as a chaplain to the Green Howards during the War, during which he was taken prisoner of war, and, upon returning home, he was called to minister at St Andrews, Ealing for fourteen years. He accepted a call from Trinity and was inducted in April 1959, moving into the Parkside Avenue manse with his wife Margaret, David and Elizabeth.

Henry was a fine preacher and a caring pastoral minister - a friend described him as the best parish minister he knew, always there and available in times of joy or sorrow. A keen sense of humour and a liking for people enabled him to know his congregation, and Trinity quickly took him, and Margaret, to their hearts. These were to be exciting years in Trinity and the Church maintained its strength at a time when many churches were declining. There was a continual movement of membership with people arriving from all parts of the world and taking a full part in the church's life.

In 1965 Mr Jamieson was chosen to be Moderator of General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of England and the following May many Trinity people were at City Temple when he was installed as 'The Right Reverend H Burns Jamieson'. The year took him to all parts of the country and beyond. A year later he was invited by the South African Government to visit their country.

Following retirement, Henry and Margaret moved to Peebles. Alas Margaret fell ill and died two years later. He undertook work as Associate Minister in the Parish Church and married again - to Margaret Sargent, the widow of Trinity's Senior Elder. They had seven happy years together before she died, leaving him alone once more.



From left to right: Patricia Jamieson, Sandy McLeish, Elizabeth McLeish (née Jamieson), Henry and Margaret Jamieson and David Jamieson, with grandchildren Gavin and Fiona

Henry Jamieson died in St Raphael's Home in Edinburgh on 4 May 1996. At his funeral service the Minister of the Old Parish Church, Peebles said: 'In Henry's character there was not a trace of pomposity or boastfulness. He was a bigger man than the office he had held. All who came to know him were marked by his light and telling touch, by his deep and experienced humanity, by his practical and wise counsel and by that splendid humour and his glorious grasp and sense of the ridiculous. All those gifts held the key to so much of his rapport and understanding of others. What a delight that we knew him.'


In memory of Henry and Margaret, friends contributed to the purchase of three stained glass windows in Trinity depicting a landscape of the Scottish border country, including the River Tweed and a shepherd in traditional costume, with his dog.

We remember Henry Jamieson with respect and affection.

There are seventeen members now on the Trinity membership roll who were members when Henry Jamieson retired. Can you work out who they might be? Answers at the foot of this page.



Merton Homelessness Project presents



The London Welsh Male Voice Choir

For a Fundraising Concert

Saturday, 10th May 2025. 6:45 pm
At St Matthew's Church, West Wimbledon
London SW20 0DE

For more information or to book tickets,
please email chair@mertonfaithinaction.org



Answer
Norman and Isobel Angus, Ann Bremner, Richard and Edelweiss
Dunfield-Prayero, Hilary Harland, Ian McGilchrist, Sandy and
Elizabeth Mcleish, Andrew Melrose, Hugh Nowell, Catherine Paul,
Andrew Sutton, Mike and Margaret Tulloch, Alan and Janet Young