

Trinity News



May 2025

No.550



The memorial garden behind the Mansel Road Centre

Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org



2	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
4	Sun	10:30 11:00	Elders' Meeting Morning Worship with Holy Communion
6	Tue	20:00	Queens Road housegroup
9	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
10	Sat	09:00	Christian Aid car boot sale in St Mary's field
11	Sun	Start of Christian Aid Week 11:00	Morning Worship
14	Wed	20:00	Green Team meeting
16	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
18	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship followed by Church Meeting
23	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
25	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship



Church Meeting - Sunday 18 May

Church Members are asked to note that there will be a shortened Service on Sunday 18 May, and the Church Meeting will take place in the Old Hall, with coffee. Those who get hungry are welcome to bring sandwiches!

May Reflection

Greetings Friends,

In the summer of 2022, the world awoke to breaking news: 'Scientists Win Physics Nobel Prize For Proving Einstein Wrong' — ScienceAlert.

The reaction was explosive and instantaneous: the world gasped, critics laughed, and the media ran with it. Newspapers emblazoned the headline, while social media posts and YouTube videos went viral. It was a moment of excitement, a time when the world seemed to be turned upside down.

While the scientific breakthrough may not have been as revolutionary as it initially appeared, it did trigger a significant shift in global perspectives. This discovery challenged a long-standing belief, one that had become a cornerstone of our understanding of the universe. It prompted us to question the very fabric of reality. People around the world began to ponder: could Einstein really have been mistaken?

To say Einstein's theories were important would be the understatement of the century. His revolutionary ideas have underpinned entire careers, degrees have been earned, disciplines structured, and curricula designed around them. The notion that Einstein could have been in error is unthinkable.

Yet, many scientists welcomed the news as an opportunity to reexamine long-held assumptions. Some research teams were excited and found fresh impetus to challenge established theories. In contrast, others defended Einstein on the basis that this is the very essence of scientific enquiry: we live, we learn, we evolve. In truth, Einstein interpreted the world according to what he could observe, yet this discovery reminds us that things are not always what they seem.

At the core of science lies mystery and discovery. Curiosity and questioning are not signs of ignorance, but of a vibrant and engaged mind. They are the fuel that drives us to seek answers and understand the world around us. They are the essence of learning and growth, inspiring us to reach new heights in our understanding.

Indeed, the word 'disciple' shares the same root as 'discipline', which signifies learning. A disciple, at heart, is a student, someone who is

constantly learning. Disciples should never lose their sense of wonder and curiosity, for it is through learning and discovery that we can deepen our faith and ourselves.

As a Jewish Rabbi (which means teacher), Jesus was adept at bringing out the best in his students. Jesus did not impose his opinion; rather, he encouraged his disciples to delve deeper and think harder to discover their true potential.

One example of this was captured in an exchange he had with a young teacher of the Law:

'A teacher of the Law came up and tried to trap Jesus. "Teacher", he asked, "what must I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "What do the Scriptures say? How do you interpret them?"' (Luke 10:25-37 Good News Translation)

The saying is true and sure: 'There is no such thing as a bad question'.

Indeed, scripture tells us:

'Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD...' (Isaiah 1:18 English Standard Version)

'Study to show yourself approved by God, a workman who need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.' (2 Timothy 2:15 Modern English Version)

The verses from Luke, Isaiah and Timothy remind us that God invites us to reason and to study, and that our pursuit of knowledge and understanding is not only acceptable but valuable. God cares about our thoughts and interpretations. Whenever you are tempted to doubt God's love, distracted by comparisons, or find yourself adrift in endless negative thinking, the Bible reminds us:

'Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.' (Philippians 4:8 NRSV)

This month, as we journey from the majesty of Easter to the mystery of Ascension, may you feel inspired to explore the wonder around us.

May your heart remain open to asking questions, and may you continue to seek the insights of Christ that turn confusion into clarity and fear into peace.

With every blessing,

Jacob Bali

Revd Dr Jacob Bali
Minister

The Minister's usual day off is Monday



Church Family News

In memoriam

Norman Stewart Angus (15 January 1931—5 April 2025)

Norman was born in Aberdeen into a Christian church-going family, and educated at Robert Gordon's College. In 1947 his family moved down to Tooting, London, where they joined St Peter's Presbyterian Church.

After National Service Norman rejoined the electrical contracting firm where he had served his apprenticeship, first as a site foreman, then as an estimating engineer. In 1960 he joined W H Smith & Partners as a design engineer, later became a director and in 1982 became managing director until his retirement in 1992.

Norman returned to St Peter's and became a deacon and youth leader of a club with over fifty members. It was there that he met Isobel, and they were married in 1959.

After moving to Wimbledon, they joined Trinity in 1961, and children Jacqueline, Gary and Graham were christened, received into membership, and Jacqueline and Gary married at Trinity. Their four grandchildren were also christened at Trinity.

Norman served Trinity as a deacon. From 1965 until the late 1990s he was a member and later leader of the Property Committee until 2007.



He gave unstintingly of his time, talents and experience to the church as our unpaid electrician until he had to give up through age - he used to service the high lights in the church from ladders (before the days of Health & Safety regulations!). Other property involvements included lighting for the Christmas Tree Festivals, and working with the team to renovate the very overgrown manse gardens when in his eighties. For forty years or so he looked after the church clock which came from his previous church at Tooting.

In 1966 Norman was ordained to the Eldership, carrying out his duties, especially as a pastoral elder, with love and good humour.

He served as joint Secretary to the Committee of Management for ten years from 1981 to 1996, first serving with Alan Young, and later with Richard Dunfield-Prayero. Amongst his many duties, Norman was responsible for the smooth running of Sunday worship (supervision of deacons, microphones, heating, lighting...) and this he carried out with great conscientiousness and dedication.

Norman and Isobel moved to Leatherhead not long after he took up this office, and it was an exceptional devotion which brought him from Leatherhead so regularly, sometimes twice on a Sunday, to carry out his duties.

Once again, the list of responsibilities which Norman carried out was long and very often unknown to most Trinity members. His love for and knowledge of the day to day running of the church was remarkable, and his duties were carried out with characteristic humour and common sense.

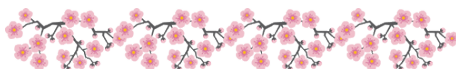
Amongst Norman's interests and hobbies were gardening, DIY, watching sport, playing badminton, and walking - all of which he shared with other Trinity folk over the years, and with our youth organisations.

Norman became our Senior Elder in 2016 and the title of Elder Emeritus was conferred on him in 2019.

There can be few people who have served Trinity so devotedly over so many years.

Our love and sympathy in their loss are extended to Isobel, and to their children Jacqueline, Gary and Graham, and grandchildren Gemma, Gavin, Stephen and Sam.

(The Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Norman Angus will be held on Friday 16 May at 11:00 at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead KT22 0AG.)



**Marie-Françoise Turrell
(20 August 1927—27 March 2025)**



At the service of thanksgiving for the life of Marie-Françoise, her son Tom said that three words summed up his mother's personality: she was social, stoic and grateful. Marie-Françoise joined Trinity in 2019 and endeared herself to a good number of our congregation who came to know and respect her. She attended our Wednesday Social Group before the pandemic and maintained a lively interest in the church even in her later years through reading *Trinity News* each month.

Marie-Françoise enjoyed worshipping with us whenever she was well enough until the end of 2024, while also maintaining her links with the French Protestant church in London. Born and brought up in Nice in the south of France, she spent her teenage years there during WW2 and the German Occupation of France. She was truly international, having family links in many countries and having lived in several.

We extend our sympathies to her sons Tom (living in Mexico) and Jim (living in southern California) and their families at this time.

Confirmation & church membership

On Easter Sunday, 20 April, the minister led our celebration worship and conducted the Service of Confirmation for two of our young people, **Katy Collins** and **Christine Van der Walt**. Together with **Kwame Sarpong Jnr** they were received into membership of Trinity.



Congratulations to Katy, Christine and Kwame who are pictured here with the Minister, Associate Minister and Church Secretaries following the service



May birthdays

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Michael Chau, Siang Wei Chen, Alan Dickman, Robin Goodchild, Max Lau, Jenny Nunn, Kiera Probert and Mariella Sarpong,

Ordination to Eldership

On Sunday 6 April, Eric Chau was ordained to the Eldership.

Together with returning elders Andrew Melrose and Claire Wood, he was inducted to serve on our Elders' Council, along with Grace de Grouchy, Alison Trehearn and Mike Tulloch who were elected for a second 3-year term.


Eric Chau & the Minister following the Service



?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas



Answer: D (See Luke 24:18.)

Wimbledon Foodbank

Unfortunately, because of a shortage of storage accommodation, the Foodbank and its offshoot 'Merton Growbaby' are no longer able to accept gifts of clothing and children's toys and equipment. As a result, we must ask that these gifts are no longer left in the trolley in the Mansel Road Centre.

The Foodbank, however, remains in need of our gifts and these can be left in the trolley - this month they are asking for:

Tinned vegetables
UHT/long-life milk
Noodles

Rice pudding/custard
Shower gel
Toilet rolls



Queens Road House Group

This month we will be meeting on the day after the Early May Bank Holiday - on Tuesday 6 May. As usual this will be at 8pm at 217 Queens Road. All are welcome to join us. As we continue to study St Matthew's Gospel, we have reached chapter 19.

The June meeting will be a week later than usual - on 10 June.



Final copy date for the June edition of
***Trinity News* is Sunday 18 May.**
Please send items to
catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com

11-17 May 2025

Christian Aid Week

Car boot sale

The Christian Aid car boot sale is on the morning of Saturday 10 May in St Mary's field in the Village. We sell donations on the Christian Aid stall - bric-a-brac and 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!

The week - can you help?

This year as last we are only delivering envelopes to houses so there is just one visit and no need to return to collect money. The envelopes will have a sticker which gives anyone who wants to donate a means of paying to Trinity online via a QR code.

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 between 11 and 15 May please get in touch! We will have the envelopes for you on Sunday 4 May or we can drop them in to you.

Please let us know.

- Mike and Margaret Tulloch



"Climate change has been killing our crops, and this is our food."

With your support, Christian Aid can fund vital training, so communities can fight the effects of the climate crisis.

Read more [HERE](#) about the people Christian Aid Week supports.

The Quiet Revival



You may have seen in the Press recently, that the Bible Society has published an encouraging report showing that Church attendance has risen by 50 per cent over the last six years, busting the myth of church decline. The findings come in *The Quiet Revival*, a survey commissioned by Bible Society and conducted by YouGov.

Here, in 30 seconds, you can read a summary:

In churches across society something amazing is happening, challenging long-held predictions about the future of Christianity in the twenty-first century. Where once we saw ageing congregations and a steady decline in attendance, we see dramatic growth, led by the young. Where once we saw apathy or even hostility to Christianity and the Bible we see increased openness, again among the young.

You may have heard the rumblings and rumours emerging over the past few years, you may even have noticed it in your own community, or it might have passed you by entirely – but this data shows that it is real.

This is the Quiet Revival. For the first time, this is not just anecdote but is demonstrated in the latest results of a large, robust and nationally representative population study that has tracked the religious attitudes and behaviours of England and Wales since 2018.

We found that the Church is in a period of rapid growth, driven by young adults and in particular young men. Along with this, the Church demonstrates greater ethnic diversity than ever before. Both within and outside the Church, young adults are more spiritually engaged than any other living generation, with Bible reading and belief in God on the rise.

But we also see that active engagement with a church has a significant impact on the lives of attenders, with a high increase in mental and general life wellbeing – again particularly among young adults, a

generation in the midst of a mental health crisis. It is also changing communities, with churchgoers more likely to feel a connection to their local area and get involved in social engagement activities. Challenges remain for the Church and civic society in responding to this Quiet Revival, but its reality can no longer be denied.

You can read the full Report or Key Findings here:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/research/quiet-revival>



FAITH IN ACTION
helping with homelessness

Our offerings at all our Christmas services (Carols & Readings by Candlelight, Christingle, Communion by Candlelight, and Christmas Day) were donated to the work of Merton Winter Night Shelter.

Robin Goodchild has notified me of your Church's very generous donation of £2,223.51 to our Winter Night Shelter. Thank you - we are immensely grateful for the wonderful support of your community. Trinity URC has been a constant supporter of Faith in Action for a number of years, not only of the Drop-In but also as an integral part of the Merton Winter Night Shelter. Faith in Action could not do the work it does without the support of our army of volunteers and its donors.

As I'm sure you know, we continue to operate the Homeless Drop-In in the Salvation Army Hall two days per week, currently supporting an average of 60 service users per session and sometimes over 70. Regrettably, numbers continue to grow, and because there is now a greater focus on personalised work with individuals for whom we can make a difference, the numbers are challenging for our staff and volunteers to support.

We also operate the Merton Winter Night Shelter, offering emergency shelter for street sleepers during the coldest winter months. During the winter we were able to significantly improve the support we could offer to some of our most vulnerable citizens and we continue to try to build further on this.

Please pass on our profound thanks to all your members for their unfailing support.

Bernie McAlister
Chair of Trustees

thank you



Eighty years on: How Trinity celebrated VE Day



*The Barbican area of the City of London in May 1945
showing the church of St Giles Cripplegate*

As the Second World War approached its end, the news of Germany's surrender had been anticipated for some time and the people of Britain were on standby to start celebrating the end of hostilities in Europe. The announcement finally came late on 7 May 1945 when the BBC interrupted its programmes with a newflash announcing that the next day would be Victory in Europe Day and a public holiday.

Many people didn't wait for the official day of festivities and celebrations began as soon as they heard the news. Colourful bunting and flags lined the streets, bonfires were lit and people danced. The Ministry of Food confirmed that there were enough beer supplies in the capital!

In Trinity special services of thanksgiving were held on VE Day at 11am and 8pm with another service on the 9th.


A particular cause of rejoicing in Trinity was the arrival home of the prisoners of war, after five years in captivity. Jean Chevallier had been released from camp in Pomerania during April, but Lieutenant John Robertson arrived home on VE Day itself and Lieutenant Douglas Young two days later.

On Sunday 13 May there was a special service in Trinity to give thanks for the victory and end of hostilities. The service was 'excellently attended and will remain a fragrant memory through all the years to come'. The returned prisoners of war were present at the special service.

The Revd Douglas McRitchie, Trinity's minister wrote:

'We on the Home Front have borne a fair share of the brunt of war and it is amazing to realise we shall no longer have to hide in 'dens and caves of the earth' while high explosives and missiles rain down upon us' - but he reminded members that the War was not yet over. 'We look forward to the day when we shall be celebrating victory over Japan... and the speedier return of our men and women on service'.

That, of course, happened more quickly than anticipated.

	THE WIMBLETON PRESBYTERIAN.		
	Magazine of Trinity Presbyterian Church		
	MANSEL ROAD, WIMBLETON, S.W.19.		
	Minister	Rev. DOUGLAS McRITCHIE, M.A., B.D. "EWHURST," 56, MOSFYN ROAD, S.W.19. LIBERTY 4052.	
	Church Services: Sunday Services: 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Sunday School: 11 a.m. Mid-Week Service (April to September): Wednesday, 8.0 p.m.		
Session Clerk: Mr. A. HAMILTON, 19, Finsbury Road, S.W.1 BRISCON 8174	Clock of Deacons' Court: G. G. YOUNG, 17, Ravenshoe Road, S.W.19 WIMBLEDON 2975	Treasurer: Mr. T. A. MURDO, 19, Chesham Avenue, S.W.20 LIBERTY 2292	
No. 159		MAY, 1945	

