

Trinity News



June 2025

No.551



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org

June Reflection

Greetings Friends,

'A strong wind sang sadly as it bent the trees in front of the Hall. A half moon shone through the dark, flying clouds on to the wild and empty moor... It came with the wind through the silence of the night, a long, deep mutter, then a rising howl, and then the sad moan in which it died away. Again and again it sounded, the whole air throbbing with it, strident, wild and menacing... That which is clearly known hath less terror than that which is but hinted at and guessed'.

– Arthur Conan Doyle, The Hound of the Baskervilles (Sherlock Holmes)

I don't know about you, but I love a good detective story. It begins with mystery, intrigue and uncertainty. As the narrative unfolds, the pieces start to connect until you have an 'aha' moment when everything clicks. Suddenly, you realise that all the evidence points to the fact that it was the janitor's girlfriend's cousin's doctor's pet hamster that committed the crime! All the signs are there, and the most inconspicuous suspect had the most obvious motive. Detective stories, whether featuring Sherlock Holmes, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, or a more modern tale, possess an intriguing quality.

Two thousand years ago, a remarkable mystery occurred that continues to perplex people today. Thousands of individuals gathered in an open space and had the same inexplicable experience. Allow me to set the scene: following His resurrection, Christ appeared to over 500 people and continued to share the Good News. After giving the disciples the Great Commission, Christ ascended to the right hand of the Father (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:14-20). The disciples were now tasked with fulfilling this mission, but they were not left to do it alone; a helper was coming (John 14:15-31).

On an unsuspecting day, as people gathered to celebrate the Jewish Feast of Shavuot, everything seemed routine and familiar. Tradition and culture blended seamlessly with the festivities. However, on this particular day, something extraordinary occurred: a rush of wind, a gasp of air, whoosh! The Holy Spirit entered the scene. To make it unmistakably clear what was happening, everyone witnessed tongues of fire resting on the heads of the disciples. In an astonishing display, everybody heard the same person speaking in multiple languages at once. It was a miracle, a mystery, and clearly the work of God (Acts 2).

In recent months, the Christian community has been buzzing about what some have called 'The Quiet Revival'. There is a growing realisation that churches across the nation are experiencing significant growth, particularly among those often referred to as the 'missing generation'. This trend spans a wide range of church styles: from evangelical to progressive and from traditional to modern, including evensong. Many have found it surprising that this shift did not occur suddenly; rather, it has been a steady and gradual change happening behind the scenes over the past few years.

Before this news, some people believed that the decline of the Church was inevitable, which led them to make manipulative and questionable decisions based on that assumption. However, while many could only foresee decline, God is bringing about growth. Indeed, where humans saw pessimism and cynicism, God is offering us hope and renewal.

This June, as we celebrate the Church's birthday, Pentecost, may we embrace the journey through moments of stagnation and fatigue, may we confront our own mysteries and uncertainties with hope, and may we hold close the words of Christ, *'And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age'* (Matthew 28:20).

With every blessing,

Jacob Bali

Revd Dr Jacob Bali
Minister

The Minister's usual day off is Monday





1	Sun	10.30 11:00	Elders Meeting Morning Worship with Holy Communion
3	Tue	20:00	Queens Road Housegroup
4	Wed	19:30	Elders Council
5	Thur	20:00	Property Team
6	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
8	Sun	<i>Pentecost</i> 11:00	Morning Worship
13	Fri	09:45 10:30	Trinity Toddlers Coffee Morning in the church garden
15	Sun	<i>Trinity Sunday</i> 11:00	Morning Worship followed by barbecue
17	Tue	10:30	Lettings Team
20	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
22	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship
27	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
27/28			Elders Council Retreat
29	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship led by the Outreach & Witness Team



Church Family News

Commemorating the 25-year ministry of the Revd Ernest Yu

Ernest came to England from Hong Kong in 1970 as a qualified nurse and pursued further studies to qualify here as a Nurse Educationalist. With the arrival in the 1990s of the Revd David Foo, a Methodist missionary from Malaysia, Ernest and his late wife Revd Hazel Yu, were able to join with him in ministry.

In the late 1990s, Ernest and Hazel, together with David Foo, started fellowship worship services at their home in Leatherhead, but, when membership of the group grew to over fifty, they moved to Leatherhead Methodist church, and eventually to Epsom Methodist church.

Ernest and Hazel were both members of Christ Church URC in Leatherhead, and in 2000 Ernest took early retirement from his Senior Lectureship in Healthcare Sciences at Kingston University, and trained for the ministry at Westminster College, Cambridge.

He was ordained and inducted at Trinity on 24 September 2004 and was called to become Associate Minister, with the primary commitment to wider work within the Chinese community.

Ernest was able to use Trinity as a base to bring the gospel to the local people and Chinese people, mainly in the south of England, and built a lively Chinese congregation meeting separately during the second half of our Sunday morning service.

His ministry has involved teaching, preaching and pastoral visits in homes and hospitals, and visits to detainees in the Immigration Removal Centre at Gatwick Airport. He helped non-English speaking Chinese with translations for medical, financial and legal matters, and on occasion accompanied them to hospital or clinic appointments.



Ernest has also been invited regularly to preach in other Chinese churches.

After sixteen years serving the Chinese group at Trinity, Revd Ernest Yu retired as Trinity's Associate Minister on his 75th birthday in 2020, and he was awarded the status of Emeritus Associate Minister.

Since 'retirement' Ernest has continued to preach and lead the Chinese group's service, so that Chinese-language worship continues to be offered each Sunday. He also continues to help other Chinese churches of different denominations in and around London (until recently even as far as Oxford, Woking, Gillingham and Brighton)

It was Ernest who first brought Trinity's Chinese group together, and he has continued to care for its members faithfully. Our Chinese group is recognised as an important and special part of the life of our church, both by the Elders' Council at Trinity and by the URC Southern Synod. Ernest's ministry to the group and to the whole Church has brought great blessing to all of us.

We give thanks to God for Ernest's ministry, and assure him of our prayers and good wishes in his continuing leadership and retirement.



June birthdays

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including: Toby Collins, Grace de Grouchy, Mark Dennis, Jean Jerram, Olivia Li, Sarah Li, Amelia Lowe, Oliver Mansfield, Raychel Matika, Joyce Sarpong, Olivia Scharinger, Andrew Sutton, and Michael Young.

Thy Kingdom Come: 29 May– 8 June

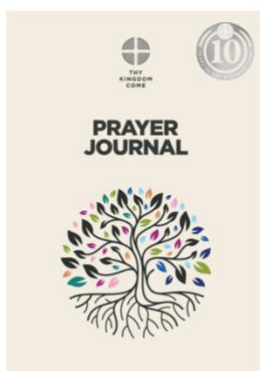


Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

Last year, Trinity was open for reflection and prayer stations on a Saturday morning during the initiative, and this year all Trinity members and friends are invited to join in by reading two booklets, one following ten lessons based on the Lord's Prayer, and one with ten reflections from a range of contributors, including Cardinal Vincent Nichols and The Most Reverend Andrew Chan, Archbishop of Hong Kong.

The booklets will be available from Trinity on the Sunday before Thy Kingdom Come begins, so that we can all join Christians around the world praying for others to come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour.



- Pam Rostron

Wimbledon Foodbank

A reminder that there is still a desperate need for our gifts to the Foodbank and that the trolley is always there, by the lift in the Mansel Road Centre.

This month the needs are for:



Table sauces
(ketchup, brown sauce, mustard & salad cream)
squash / long-life juice
small rice and micro rice
noodles
sweets and treats (not pudding)
laundry detergent & fabric softener
washing up liquid

Please remember the Foodbank when you are shopping and please help if you can!



Queens Road House Group

The Housegroup will meet this month, at 217 Queens Road, on Tuesday 3 June (8pm).

We will be studying Matthew chapter 20. This begins with the parable of the workers in the vineyard and ends with the healing of a blind man outside Jericho.

As always, everybody is welcome to join us!

Christian Aid & Commitment for Life



Thank you to everyone who volunteered to deliver envelopes for Christian Aid Week. We covered all our roads. It's too early to report on the amount raised but hope to do that for the next *Trinity News*.

The car boot sale (photo above) raised a magnificent £1,530.80. Thank you to everyone who came and donated items to sell for Christian Aid. Some of it had sold by 9.30!

The Commitment for Life Lent appeal raised £585.30. Again thank you to everyone who donated.

- Mike and Margaret Tulloch

Christian Aid 80th anniversary service

A Service of Thanksgiving & Reflection to mark the 80th Anniversary of Christian Aid will take place at Westminster Abbey on **12 June**. The Service will last one hour: doors open at 10:45, guests to be seated by 11:30.

Reserve your place at the Christian Aid website: bit.ly/CA80ann.



Friday 13 June at 10:30

Join us for coffee in the church garden

Sit down, look around you, and record what **wildlife** you see.

The data will be recorded and sent to A Rocha for their 'Churches Count on Nature'. It will contribute to a broader understanding of the ecological value of churchyards and gardens and help with conservation efforts.



Buying food that is in season means that it is grown here and the 'food miles' and associated carbon emissions are lower:

Seasonal fruit

Strawberries
Cherries
Raspberries
Plums

Seasonal vegetables

Peas
Green beans
Watercress
Asparagus

Trinity Sunday & Father's Day

Sunday 15 June

Church Family BBQ

after morning worship in the **church garden** (*weather permitting*)

To help us with planning and catering, please sign up on the sheet located on the **rota board in the vestry corridor** (our usual board is currently blocked by Trinity Toddlers toys while building work is going on).



BBQ Cost:

- £7 per adult
- £5 per child under 10

Water, tea, and coffee will be provided, and you're warmly welcome to bring your own drinks if you'd prefer.

Salad donations will also be very welcome!

Elizabeth Scharinger will be in touch to receive your payment!

**We hope you can join us
for some great food and fellowship together.**



Did you know that you can now watch our Services live on our YouTube channel?

Whether illness keeps you at home, distance separates you from us, or unexpected circumstances arise, you can still join us each Sunday. Services will be archived for a few weeks, and sermons kept indefinitely, so that you can catch up with any you have missed.

Only those participating in the service (worship leaders, readers, musicians, etc.) will appear on camera. The congregation will not be filmed.

Why this matters

In an age where technology often fractures community, we believe this initiative will help ours to come together and grow. The early Church used the Roman roads to spread the gospel; perhaps our digital highways might serve a similar purpose.

At the same time, we know that nothing replaces the experience of gathering together - handshakes at the door, singing hymns together, serving and receiving Holy Communion. Live streaming complements but does not [replace our communal worship](#).

Technical support

If you are not familiar with YouTube, accessing the stream is straightforward:

1. Search "[Trinity Wimbledon](#)" on YouTube. Look out for our logo.
2. Subscribe to the channel by clicking the "Subscribe" button (optional but helpful)
3. Click on the 'Live' tab to see our archived services.
4. Services will be scheduled to appear at 11.00am each Sunday. [Click on this link](#)

Should you encounter any technical difficulties or have questions please email the Church Secretaries at churchsecretaries@trinitywimbledon.org.





Please save your used stamps for RNIB

Every day, 250 people in the UK start to lose their sight. Many people won't get any practical or emotional support when they need it most. RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind people) want to change that.

£20 would allow someone with sight loss to get helpful, personalised and friendly advice about a key aspect of daily living from a Sight Loss Adviser.

This is where we can help without any cost to ourselves!

RNIB receive about £20 for every kg of used stamps donated to them.

We recently sent off a bundle of used stamps to the RNIB and we have boxes for your stamps in the church vestibule and on Mansel Road Centre reception desk.


It would be helpful if a margin of about 1cm could be cut around each stamp, and foreign (including Channel Island) stamps included separately.



?? ? Bible Quiz ? ??

Acts 1:1 (NIV) reads: "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach." What "former book" did the author write to Theophilus?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John



Answer: C (See Luke 1:1-4.)

Children and Young People's News

It has been a busy time for the Children & Youth Work Team and we have more exciting plans ahead. You will have read the report in May's issue of *Trinity News* of the confirmation and reception into membership of three of our young people, which was a real joy to share.

During the Easter Holidays, we also ran a one-day Holiday Club which eleven children attended, five from Junior Church and six of their friends. It was lovely to welcome back friends and meet new ones.

Once again, we used our Brick Church resource to tell the story of Easter, from Holy Week to the Resurrection and enjoyed card-making and other craft activities. There was also, of course, plenty of opportunity to play football and expend some energy.



Brick Church encourages children and young people to think and talk about faith, using Lego to create representations of aspects of the Bible stories we explore. We were impressed with the thoughts and comments that all the children came up with and by their knowledge of the story of Holy Week and Easter.



It has also been great to involve our children and young people in helping to lead worship over the past couple of months. First there was our Mothering Sunday service and, most recently, our Earth Day service. We are always impressed with how well our children and young people participate, from leading the Call to Worship, reading Bible passages and leading prayers. For their part, we hope that it makes them feel valued members of the congregation.

Future Dates

Church Family Picnic, 13 July:

As in previous years, Junior Church families will head to South Park Gardens after the service for a picnic lunch and games. As

always, we would love it if other members of the congregation would like to join us. If you are a keen tennis fan, do note that the Men's Final has been moved to later in the day, so you can come to picnic and still get home in time to watch the match!



Summer Junior Church:

Junior Church and YPs will continue to take place as usual until the end of school term; our last session will be Sunday 20 July. For the weeks of the school holidays, there will be activity tables set up in the church. Junior Church will resume on the 7 September.

Messy Church: 14 September after the service:

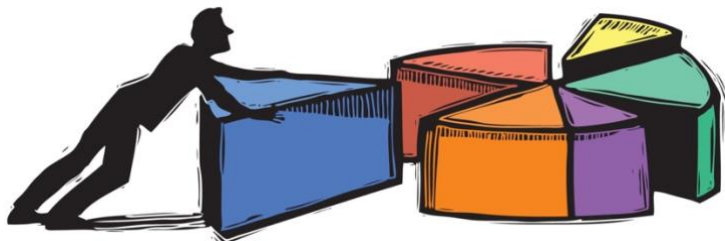
This is advance notice of our next Messy Church session. Please put the date in your diaries now, more details to follow.



- Claire Wood and the Children & Youth Work Team

Trinity's Finances and 2024 Accounts

After a spectacular year for Trinity's finances in 2023, last year was rather different. We incurred a deficit on regular activity for the first time (except during the pandemic) since I became Congregational Treasurer in 2012. Moreover, we received no legacies, which are always much appreciated, so had no boost to our capital reserves.



Our income increased by 2%. Planned Giving and Open Plate donations both increased, but Lettings Income from the Mansel Road Centre was 3% down on 2023. As this item contributes half our income, its performance is critical to the overall result. Outside of Covid, this was the first time we have experienced an annual decline in Lettings Income since the Mansel Road Centre opened in 2008. However, it was not for lack of effort by the Lettings team – the market was very difficult.

The 2024 expenditure increased by 12%. A key element for this was a 10% increase in Trinity's contribution to the URC's Ministry & Mission (M&M) Fund,¹ our second largest item of expenditure (see the pie chart below).

In addition, there was an increase in spending on building maintenance and capital projects. The Manse was refurbished so that it was ready for occupation by Jacob, Esther and Iwan, and there was a review of appropriate projects following the windfall legacies received in 2023. A professional feasibility study for the vestibule was commissioned, solar panels were installed on the Mansel Road Centre (MRC) roof and at the Manse, repairs to the brick and stonework on the church's exterior were

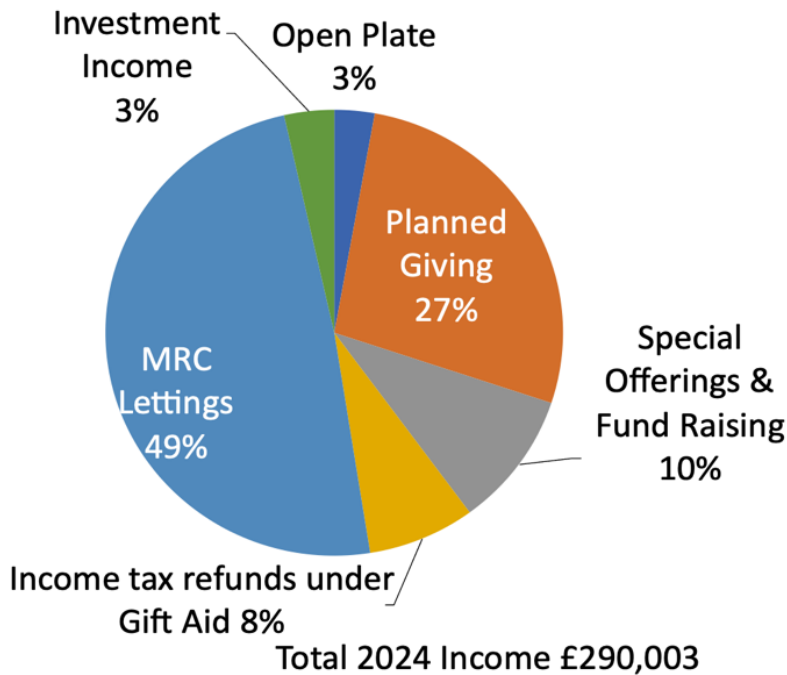
¹ The M&M Fund of the URC pays for ministers' stipends, training, Assembly costs and all the central support functions for ministry in the URC across three nations. The M&M Fund's main income is contributions from the churches with some top-up from synods, together with investment income and grants etc.

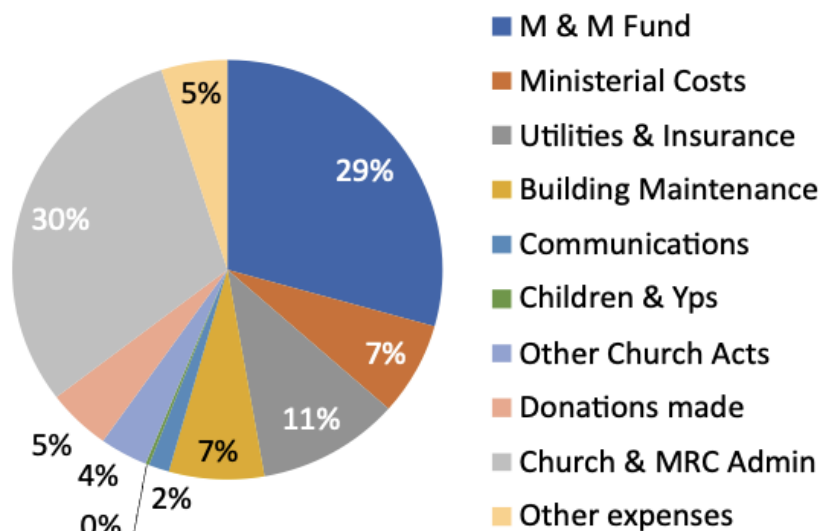
started, and the woodblock floor in the worship area refurbished. In addition, the sound system in the MRC was renewed.

Overall, Trinity had a deficit of over £80,000 but nearly 60% of that sum came from Restricted Funds. At the start of the year, we had £76,688 in Restricted Funds; these are monies given for specific purposes and so need to be regarded as outside our main capital reserves. At the year end, these had reduced to £15,682. Thus, the refurbishment of the Manse was borne wholly through Restricted Funds and grants from the Southern Synod.

The pie charts show how our income and expenditure is broken down.

Income & costs 2024





Total 2024 Costs £308,177

Fund Types		31 Dec 2023	31 Dec 2024
General Reserve		£100,000	£100,000
Designated Funds:	Roof Fund	£125,000	£204,015
	Legacy Fund	£165,000	£62,009
	Major Repairs	£27,000	£19,942
	Music	£12,900	£17,900
	Technology	£2,548	
	Designated Fund Total	£332,448	£303,866
Working Capital		£89,592	£97,507
Unrestricted Funds	Total	£522,041	£501,373
Restricted Funds		£76,688	£15,682
Total Reserves		£598,729	£517,055

While the recurring income & expenditure side remains challenging, Trinity's capital assets are strong. The table shows how they changed in 2024 (including Restricted Funds). Despite all the investment on projects and the annual deficit, unrestricted funds reduced by only £20,688.

We need to make sure we maximise Planned Giving especially where that can be boosted by a Gift Aid tax reclaim (which can increase all gifts from taxpayers by 25%). However, we can still plan to improve and maintain our facilities through our capital reserves.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Robin Goodchild, Congregational Treasurer
(robinnapiergoodchild@gmail.com)

**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**



**Wimbledon Community Chorus presents
"Songs & Stories"
Saturday 14 June at 4pm
at St Matthew's Church, Durham Rd, SW20 0DE**

A summer concert with special guests Colliers Wood Chorus
showcasing the power of music and song
to explore life's universal stories

Tickets £15 (U16 £10)
www.wimbledoncommunitychorus.org.uk

Profits to The Jack Lonergan Foundation - promoting musical
education for young people who may not have access to such
opportunities.



From the Archives....

There were other local connections with Trinity's architects...

In 1885 architects were invited to submit plans for a proposed new 'Free Library' which was to be built in Wimbledon. The architects that won the competition were the firm of Potts Sulman Hennings. The Library, of course, became a well-known Wimbledon feature, originally surrounded by bushes and an iron fence.

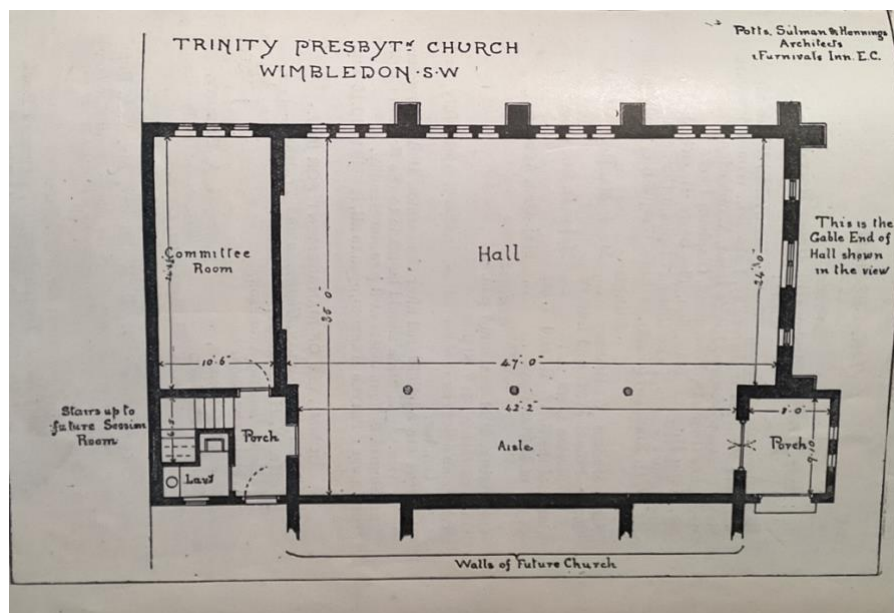
Incidentally in those early days borrowers did not 'browse'. If they wanted to borrow a book, they would tell the librarian the book they wanted and he would fetch it for them.



That same year the recently formed Trinity Presbyterian Church needed an architect to design a proposed hall and church in Mansel Road. The Church Extension Committee recommended Potts Sulman Hennings who were well known to them having recently designed both the Presbyterian church at Highgate and Caterham Congregational Church. Trinity knew them too as

they had worked for David Thomson of nursery fame (see September 2024 *Trinity News*). Although based in Manchester, where they had designed many cotton mills, they had opened a London office at Furnivals Inn, Holborn (where the Prudential building was erected later).

The partnership was made up of Edward Potts, who is credited with the design of over 200 cotton mills, John (later Sir John) Sulman, who in 1885 emigrated to Australia, and Edward William Hennings. It was Hennings who probably worked on the plans for Trinity, and it was he who worked with the Elders and Deacons as, first the (Old) Hall and then the church were built.



Plan of the church (now the Old Hall)

The Library opened in 1887 on part of the former nursery land. When an extension to the Library was required in 1901, they turned to Thomson's architect son, Robert, who had been articled to Sulman at Potts Sulman Hennings but who had now set up in business a little further up Hill Road on the corner of Alwyne Road.

The construction of the church was the last connection Trinity had with Potts Sulman Hennings. The firm disbanded in 1891, the architects going their separate ways. Edward Hennings entered into a partnership with Potts' son William in Manchester and died in 1937.



Plan for the new church in Mansel Road



**Final copy date for the July/August
edition of *Trinity News* is
Sunday 22 June.
Please send items to
catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com**



July

2	Wed	19:30	Elders' Council
		20:00	Finance Team
4	Fri	10:30	Trinity Toddlers
6	Sun	10:30	Elders' Meeting
		11:00	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
8	Tues	20:00	Worship Team
11	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
13	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship
16	Wed	19:30	Outreach & Witness Team
18	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
20	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship
27	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship

August

3	Sun	10:30	Elders' Meeting
		11:00	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
10	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship
17	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship led by Mark Dennis
24	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship led by Church Secretaries
31	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship

September

3	Wed	19:30	Elders' Council
5	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
7	Sun	10:30	Elders' Meeting
		11:00	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
9	Tues	10:30	Lettings Team
11	Thurs	20:00	Finance Team
12	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
14	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship
16	Tues	20:00	Property Team
19	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
21	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship
		12:00	Church Meeting
27	Sat		Harvest Supper
28	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship - Harvest Festival