

# Trinity News



**September 2025**

**No.553**



**Trinity United Reformed Church**

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

[www.trinitywimbledon.org](http://www.trinitywimbledon.org)

# September Reflection

Greetings Friends,

The golden fields stretch across the hills, the evening sky showcases the beautiful hues of late summer, and in the distance, the unmistakable sound of combine harvesters can be heard as farmers skilfully operate their machines. It is clear that the harvest season has arrived.

Did you know that the word 'harvest' comes from the Old English word 'haerfest', which means autumn? In fact, harvest can refer both to the time of gathering crops and to the crops themselves.

There are few times of the year that evoke as much joy and celebration as the harvest season, and for good reason. It represents the fruitful result of one's labour, signals the end of waiting, and assures a secure supply of food for the coming year.

The modern tradition of harvest festivals in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker held a special thanksgiving service in Morwenstow, Cornwall. This service was created to bless the crops and mark the end of the harvest season. The practice quickly spread, and harvest festivals became a common way to celebrate the conclusion of the harvest and to give thanks for the abundance of the land. Typically, harvest festivals involve decorating churches with seasonal produce and organising harvest suppers and celebrations. At Trinity, we also use this occasion to donate food to those in need.

However, what happens when the land is not fruitful, or when it fails to produce the expected yield?

In the Bible, there is a story that takes place during harvest time. Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, both widows, had to undertake a challenging 50-mile journey from Moab to Bethlehem on foot due to a famine in Ruth's homeland. Upon their arrival in Bethlehem, they found themselves in dire

circumstances, forced to rely on collecting leftover grain to survive (Ruth 1-4).

Ruth, a foreigner, worked diligently to gather grain and showed kindness to others during this difficult time. She possessed a growth mindset, which allowed her to see opportunities where others might not. Her hard work and good character caught the attention of Boaz, a wealthy landowner and a relative of Naomi. Eventually, Ruth married Boaz, integrating her into his family lineage, which ultimately led to her being mentioned alongside Boaz in the genealogy of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:5 and Luke 3:32).

In the story of Ruth, we see themes of kindness, hard work, and redemption during the harvest season. Ruth exemplifies the importance of maintaining a growth mindset during challenging times and encourages us to seek opportunities beyond obstacles. Moreover, she reminds us that even in the most tedious and seemingly insignificant moments, God is at work.

Jesus said, *'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest'* (Matthew 9:37-38).

As we welcome the harvest season this September, may we celebrate the Lord of the harvest, cultivate the crop of faith within us, and spread the grains of love to those around us.

With every blessing,

*Jacob Bali*

Revd Dr Jacob Bali



# SEPTEMBER

2	Tue	20:00	Queens Road housegroup
3	Wed	19:30	Elders' Council
5	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
<b>7</b>	<b>Sun</b>	10:30 <b>11:00</b>	Elders' Meeting <b>Morning Worship with Holy Communion</b> <b>Junior Church re-starts</b>
9	Tues	10:30	Lettings Team
11	Thurs	20:00	Finance Team
12	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
13	Sat	11:00- 14:30	Abundance Day (see page 9)
<b>14</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b> <b>followed by Messy Church</b>
16	Tues	20:00	Property Team
19	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
<b>21</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>11:00</b> <b>12:00</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b> <b>Church Meeting (see notice opposite)</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Christian Aid walk at Richmond</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Morning Worship - Harvest Festival</b>



## Church Meeting – Sunday 21 September (after morning worship)

Please plan to stay for our Church Meeting immediately after the service on **Sunday 21 September**. In the URC, Church Meeting is where the congregation pray, discuss and think together, and make key decisions about our worship, mission and stewardship.



We'll share the agenda nearer the time, but this will be an **important** meeting for Trinity's next steps. If you're a member, your presence and voice matter; friends and regulars are also very welcome to attend. We'll start shortly after the service with coffee and aim to conclude by no later than 1.30pm.

If you have questions or know you cannot attend, please let the Church Secretaries know in advance. Thank you for supporting Trinity in this way.



## Sunday 28 September at 11:00

**Please bring a gift for the Foodbank**

**On Harvest Festival Sunday everybody is asked to bring a gift for the Foodbank.**

**We will try to announce nearer the time what items are most urgently needed.**

# Church Family News

## *In memoriam*

### **Gary Stewart Angus (1965-2025)**



Gary Angus grew up attending church every week along with his parents, Norman and Isobel, his sister Jacqueline and brother Graham, and he joined the church on profession of faith in 1982.

Gary's competitive nature gave him a great love of sport - cricket, swimming, football, snooker, and especially golf. In 1981 he was chosen as a ball boy at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships (Vice Captain on No.1 court for John McEnroe's famous outburst 'You cannot be serious'!)

After school Gary was employed by Barclays, where he was highly respected amongst both his peers and junior colleagues. There he met Alison who he married at Trinity in 1989. Their sons, Gavin and Stephen, were both baptised at Trinity. Gary was a Deacon.

Sadly Gary's health began to deteriorate in 2013, but he showed great courage throughout the following years. He continued to work and play golf, until his illness forced him to retire from both. Following a further devastating health diagnosis in 2021 he continued fighting bravely for another four years, giving him and the family precious time together. Gary's death, following just days after his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, was a release for him but great sadness for the family - especially coming as it did so soon after his father's death in April.

Our love, sympathy and prayers go to all the family at this difficult time of loss.



## ***Ronald Wilson Temple (1935-2025)***

Ron Temple died peacefully on 11 August, just eight days after his 90th birthday. For around thirty-five years Ron was a regular attender at worship and an active member, but ill-health had prevented him from being at Trinity in recent years.

Ron, and his first wife Joan, joined Trinity with their children from Epsom URC in 1985. His work as a consulting engineer took him to the USA for some years, but he returned to Trinity in 1992.

Ordained an Elder in 1985, Ron was involved in many aspects of church life. He served, with dedication and for long periods, on both the Property and Communications Teams. He was often a 'go to' person on technical and computing matters, a photographer, and responsible for creating and running an early church website. He was a choir member, and participated in Trinity Trekkers.

After Joan's sad death, Ron found happiness once more with Margaret whom he met and married at Trinity in 2004.

We remember Ron, a proud Scot, with affection and respect, and our sympathy and prayers are with Margaret, his daughter and son Elaine and Ian, and his grandchildren at this time.

## ***Terry Gordon Charles Broad (1935-2025)***

We were sorry to hear of the death of Terry Broad who, although no longer a member of Trinity, was a very committed member of our church for many years until he moved to Chelsea and Holy Trinity Brompton. Ordained to the Eldership in 1966, following in his father's footsteps, Terry was a driving force behind much of Trinity's social life for three decades, especially in the creation of the Young Couples and 6 Group. He was leader of the YP Group and then, for many years, an enthusiastic Sunday School Superintendent.

We extend our sympathy to Terry's wife Lesley, and his children Jane, Simon, Alexander and Marie.



## ***Congratulations***



to **Gayle Derrick** who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in Australia in August. Gayle became a great-grandmother in January to a little boy, and is clearly enjoying the experience! We send her our very best wishes. We miss her and all the many talents she shared with us at Trinity over the years.



Congratulations also to **Frederick Yeung** who has recently been awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree, the result of several years of study in the area of mental health nursing.

And congratulations to all those who have received good GCSE and A-level results during the Summer.

***Our good wishes*** go to Lesley Wilmot on her move to King's Lynn.



She has settled in well to her new home and has been kept busy with all the activities offered, enjoying day trips out, crafting, singing, and lots of visits from her niece, Emma. She was very pleased to have family and friends, including Cathy Dundee, visiting to celebrate her birthday.

Lesley's new address is: Goodwins Hall Care Home, Goodwins Road, King's Lynn, PE30 5PD. Her mobile phone number remains the same, and she will be delighted to hear from Trinity folk, by phone or by letter.

## ***September birthdays***

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Winz Cheung, Lydia Khurshid, Elizabeth McLeish, Deon Nunoo, Kwame Sarpong Jnr and Margaret Tulloch.



**720** children in Merton have been helped with three-day emergency parcels since the start of 2025

**22,000** meals have been provided so far in 2025

**2,485 kg** of food and toiletries were distributed in July

To continue this level of help, our gifts and donations are much needed. This month the most needed items are:

**Table sauces**  
**Squash**  
**Small rice / micro rice**  
**Super noodles / pot noodles**  
**Sweets and treats for children**

These can be left as usual in the Mansel Road Centre trolley.



*Don't forget!*  
**On Harvest Festival Sunday everybody is asked to bring a gift for the Foodbank.**



## Abundance Wimbledon Fruit Day

Abundance Wimbledon will be holding their annual Fruit Day on Saturday, 13 September between 11.00 am and 2.30 pm at St Mark's Church Hall, St Mark's Place, Wimbledon.

Local juices, chutneys, jams and honey will be on sale, and there will be a plant stall, as well as family activities (for example apple pressing, and apple pie making for children) and live music. Entry is free.

Much of the produce comes from volunteers picking fruit and vegetables grown locally that would otherwise go to waste, and most of the proceeds of the Fruit Day go to support local charities such as the Wimbledon Food Bank, St Raphael's Hospice and the Merton Winter Night Shelter.

Do join the Abundance team for an enjoyable and worthwhile time out. There is more information on the Abundance Wimbledon website at <http://www.abundancewimbledon.com/>.



## Queens Road House Group

After a month's break in August, the Group will resume its monthly meetings on Tuesday 2 September - we normally meet on the first Tuesday of each month.

We meet at 8pm at 217 Queens Road, Andrew Sutton's home. There is plenty of room for more people to join us and all would be very welcome. Just come along!

We have been studying St Matthew's Gospel and this month we will be looking at Chapter 22.

## Richmond Riverside Walk for Christian Aid

Looking for a great way to spend a Saturday? Why not take part in the scenic 8 mile (or 3 mile) Richmond Riverside Walk on Saturday 27 September with registration from 10.30am and the walk setting off at 11am. The walk starts at St Matthias church on Richmond Hill, ie a few minutes from the Richmond Park gate. There is a poster with more details on the church noticeboards. Sign up on [Richmond Riverside Walk Eventbrite](#) where you can make a donation or download sponsorship forms, or email [lizkearns7@aol.com](mailto:lizkearns7@aol.com).



We have done the walk a couple of times, it is enjoyable and our grandchildren enjoyed it too! Unfortunately we have a clash this year and won't be able to do it.

*Mike and Margaret Tulloch*

## Merton Community Fridge

Have you ever heard of a Community Fridge? They've been popping up across the UK in recent years, with 32 in London. The idea is a simple one, to save food that would otherwise get binned.

On 11 August, a small group from Trinity went to visit the Merton Community Fridge, based at Morden Baptist church.



### Read on to find out about our visit and what we learnt:

- Merton's Community Fridge is an environmental charity. Food waste is a major contributor to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Every year in the UK, we throw away nearly 15 million tonnes of food and drink – nearly half of this is perfectly good to consume.
- The Fridge gives away approximately 5000kg of food a month and, to date, estimate they have prevented 207 tonnes of food going to waste and being dumped.
- A secondary purpose is to deliver food to the community, and unconditional food support is provided, but the organisers are at pains to stress that they are not a Foodbank.
- The Fridge also acts as a hub, bringing people together to meet, chat and even learn new skills. There is a real mix of people.

- Merton's Fridge opens to users twice a week: Mondays (2pm-3pm) and Wednesdays (4.30pm-5.30pm). Reduced Council funding has meant a reduction from the original three days.
- Food is received from FareShare, the UK's longest running food redistribution charity, local supermarkets and food growers, and local residents too. The Felix Project, London's largest food redistribution charity, is also involved.
- How does it work? Everyone who comes is given a number and called up in turn to take what they need. When we visited, this included bunches of flowers, water, cans of soft drink, ready meals, packets of puff pastry, pastries, bread and bread products, fresh fruit and vegetables. The aim is to distribute everything that won't keep until the next session. Anything left over is sometimes taken to the local bus depot and fire station.
- The Fridge currently has around 65 volunteers, some organising the donations, some manning the sessions on Monday and Wednesday, some who are able to collect food.

During our visit, we did some volunteering, handing out the food. It was such a worthwhile and fulfilling experience and above all else, we had fun, meeting new people and helping a good cause.

Volunteers are always needed, so if you are interested, please speak to Elizabeth Scharinger or email her on [office@trinitywimbledon.org](mailto:office@trinitywimbledon.org) and she will put you in touch with the team.



## Our prayers of intercession

***on Sunday 17 August were led by Kwame Sarpong who has given permission for them to be reprinted there.***

Father, in all the decision-making, problems and challenges of our church we ask your counsel and encouragement; in all our worship and outreach, we invite you to lead us.

Father, in all the clashes of needs and wants, the half-forgotten hurts that drive aggression, the half-remembered grievances, barbed with revenge, in all the world's raging and protesting, sink your Spirit of peace and reconciliation.

Father, in the daily batch of misunderstandings, conflicting loyalties, negotiations and compromise, walk among us in our homes and places of work, whispering sanity and mutual respect.

Father, in those engulfed by pain or enslaved by addiction, bring hope and healing; bless all those whose minds think simply and rely on others for basic care.

Father, gather into your keeping for ever all who have left this life in your friendship; we pray too for those approaching death, that they may know your love surrounding them across time and eternity.

Father in all our wondering and wandering, we thank you for your patience with us and your understanding of our journey.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

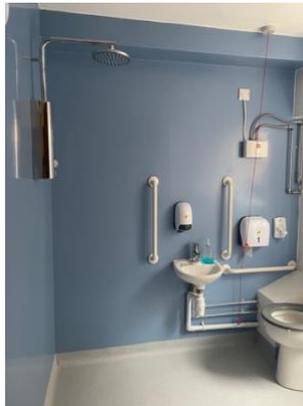


## Property Team bulletin - Church works

We're delighted to say that Trinity's new shower was dedicated by our Minister on 13 July and that the fully refurbished disabled toilet is finally back in use!



*Before & after*

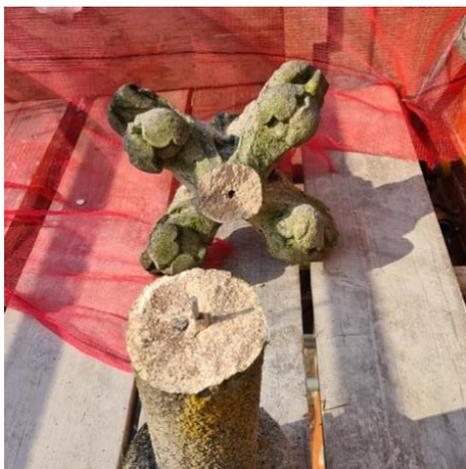


We would like to thank everyone involved with the project for their care and dedication which led to this successful outcome.

August has been a busy month. The long-running plan to care for the Victorian masonry on the church has progressed a stage since its start in the winter. We had work done to the front gable above the main door and on both sides of the church, for some of which scaffolding was required.



Some of this work is not in full view to regular church users, but there is one part which is prominent. The gable stone, which supports the roof ridge, had been showing cracks and a hole visible from the forecourt. This needed urgent attention. Being in such a key position, further deterioration of the stonework could have had implications for the church roof. The hole turned out to be caused by an old scaffolding bolt, made of a material which had swollen and caused cracks. Indeed if left there, more deterioration would have occurred. Decay within this key gable stone was removed, and a complete new stone block has now been inserted and securely fixed.



*Repair of the stonework gable-top structure showing the column and pin that hold it.*



From time to time I expect we've all noticed a stone sculpture atop this gable - it's tacitly been assumed by many of us to be a cross. It turns out that this is not so. When the repairs to the gable stone were complete, it became apparent that the sculpture was no longer secure. It was lifted down, and we took some photos - definitely not a cross! We also discovered that its column needed to be strengthened following a previous repair. Nowadays, pins for stonework are a good deal more sturdy than this one!

Our gable-top sculpture is really rather splendid – but what does it represent? Does anyone reading this have an idea? Let us know. All suggestions will be in next *Trinity News*.

The week after the external repairs, scaffolding was moved into the church to replace two broken lights above the chancel. These had not worked for a long time, and were badly needed when natural light was low in the Church. This project was time-critical and required a concerted effort between the scaffolders already on site for the stonework and our electrician, who had a difficult job in finding replacements for the obsolete fittings, which were 20 years old. I'm pleased to say that all now is 'bright and beautiful'.



*All this scaffolding needed to repair two lights!*

Many thanks to all involved with these endeavours, where individual skills and teamwork were both employed to full advantage in maintaining our lovely Church.

*Grace de Grouchy (Property Team Leader)*

# A Letter of Gratitude and Hope



URC Finance Department

## **To: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you all.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the faithfulness and generosity you have shown to God's work through your local churches. Your contributions—whether through time, talents, or treasure—have been a beautiful expression of discipleship and community.

### **Celebrating Faithful Stewardship**

In these challenging times, when many families have faced difficult decisions about household budgets, rising energy costs, and the ongoing cost of living pressures, your continued commitment to supporting God's work has been truly remarkable. We have witnessed the church at its best: caring for one another, maintaining mission and ministry, and trusting in God's provision.

Your financial contributions through the Ministry & Mission Fund have enabled us to continue our shared calling across England, Scotland, and Wales. Through this Fund, we support ministers' stipends, theological training, Assembly gatherings, and the vital central services that strengthen our witness and ministry in every community we serve.

### **God's Provision in Action**

We rejoice that in 2024, despite significant economic challenges, your collective giving to the M&M Fund reached £16.2 million—slightly behind our budget, but late contributions in early 2025 would

have taken us over the budget, had the auditors allowed us to bring them in. This achievement reflects not just financial commitment, but spiritual resilience and trust in God's faithfulness.

We are particularly grateful for the additional support from our synods, who contributed approx. £2.0 million of the amount noted above, demonstrating the interconnectedness of our church family. Total income for 2024, including investment income and grants etc. was £18.5 million.

While our expenditure of £20.0 million resulted in a deficit of £1.5 million for 2024, we remain committed to balancing our budget over the next 4-6 years through difficult, but necessary reductions in central costs and continued partnership between local churches and synods.

### **Looking Forward with Hope**

As we move through 2025, we recognise that challenges remain. Economic pressures continue to affect both individuals and churches. Yet we face the future with confidence, knowing that God's call to faithful stewardship remains constant, and that together we can continue to serve Christ's mission in our communities.

We have a clear plan: synods have committed to maintaining their enhanced support, and we are implementing careful budget reductions of an average of 3-5% annually in our central costs. This balanced approach ensures we remain good stewards while maintaining our essential ministries.

### **A Call to Continued Faithfulness**

In the spirit of 2 Corinthians 9:7, your giving has been a source of joy and strength to the whole church. As we move forward, we invite you to continue this journey of faithful stewardship, giving "as the Spirit directs and as our means allow."

We understand that every church's situation is unique, and we celebrate with those who have been able to meet their full commitments, while also deeply appreciating those who, facing their

own challenges, have continued to prioritise the M&M Fund within their means.

### **Partnership in Ministry**

As officers of our denomination, we treasure our roots in local URC congregations and LEPS. We understand firsthand the joys and challenges of local church life, including the financial pressures you face. This shared experience strengthens our commitment to wise stewardship of the resources you entrust to us.

Your local church treasurer has received detailed financial information and can answer specific questions about our accounts. If further assistance is needed, our finance team at Church House stands ready to help.

### **Our Deepest Thanks**

To every member who has contributed to their local church, to every congregation that has supported the M&M Fund, and to all who have made this work a priority even in difficult times—thank you. Your faithfulness enables ministry to continue, training to be provided, and the gospel to be proclaimed across our three nations.

May God bless you abundantly as you continue to be faithful stewards of all that He has entrusted to you. Together, we participate in God's wonderful work of transformation, both in our own lives and in the world around us.

In Christ's service,

**Alan Yates**  
Treasurer

**Vaughan Griffiths**  
Deputy Treasurer

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7*

## A holiday visit

*Last month we suggested that anyone visiting a church or place of worship during the Summer might like to tell us about it. Here Alan & Janet Young write .....*

Whilst on holiday on the south coast, Janet and I visited the impressive Roman Catholic Cathedral in Arundel.

The Cathedral was hosting its annual 'Carpet of Flowers', marking the feast of Corpus Christi. This is a tradition dating from 1877 and is created by volunteers, using 10,000 chrysanthemums and other materials. This year the carpet also celebrated the Catholic Church's 'Jubilee Year', the theme of which is 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

On arrival we joined a queue of visitors and found admission to be free. The Cathedral was buzzing with people, and we were impressed that every hour was marked by a welcome, a Bible reading and a short prayer.



# Children's & Youth Work

## Can you help support Trinity's work with children and young people?



As we approach the end of the Summer holidays and the start of term time, our Junior Church and YPs sessions will start on 7 September and Trinity Toddlers will restart on Friday 5 September, and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back. This is your opportunity to get involved in what we do with our children and young people, both on a Sunday morning and during the week.

### **Trinity Toddlers** – Can you help with a couple of hours of your time?

Our parent and toddler group has been very successful since its restart in January of this year. We gathered some feedback at the end of the term in July and here are a few comments from parents, nannies and au pairs which show how valued the group has already become:



- *James and I love Trinity Toddlers. Tons of toys, a big space, a welcoming environment and friendly volunteers.*
- *The people who run it! Nice big open space, feeling of community.*
- *We love it – thank you for running it.*
- *Our thanks for having a safe space for children to play.*
- *Wonderful team.*
- *I think it's very good and we enjoy that it's friendly, inclusive and calm.*

This is all thanks to the hard work and commitment of those who help run and lead the group. However, it is a small group and going into September, our numbers have reduced. My grateful thanks to Sandy and Elizabeth McLeish for their hard work since January – but grandparent duties will now prevent them from continuing to help. So I am reaching out to see if anyone would be able to join our team; the

more people we have, the easier it is to make the rota work well, without too much demand being put on everyone. Any help will be welcome, whatever you would be able to do: whether to be the person who makes the tea and coffee, or engages with the children, or chats with the parents and nannies.... all of it contributes to the welcoming environment mentioned in the comments above. Please do come and chat to me, or to any of the other members of the team (Andrew Sutton, Alison Trehearn, Catherine Paul and Janet Young) to find out more.



### **Junior Church and Young People – Come and Join us!**

As well as help with Trinity Toddlers, we are also looking for – and would like to encourage – people to help with our Sunday morning work with our children and young people. Again, we are a small team, with three regular leaders and others who help on an occasional basis, ensuring we have the right number of people to meet safeguarding ratios. However, though the number of children and young people attending each week is relatively small, we have an age range from babies, two- and three-year olds up to sixteen-year olds to cater for.

We are not a babysitting service; those of us who lead and help are charged with providing teaching and opportunities for all to learn about God, about the life and teachings of Jesus and what it means to be a Christian in today's world. This, of course, looks very different depending on the age group and that is challenging when there are only two leaders. The Children and Youth Work Team would, ideally, like to have three age groups each Sunday; one would be for the youngest of our children, up to age four; the next for those in the primary school age group, and one for those of secondary school age. In this way we hope we can better meet the needs of all.

However, we do not have enough leaders to do that on a regular basis. There is another drawback of having such a small team; those of us who lead Junior Church too often miss out on our own faith development and the opportunity to be spiritually sustained by staying in the service, having time to pray, reflect and sing.

I am particularly grateful to Jacob for making it very clear that all the children are welcome back into church for Holy Communion, whether or not they are of an age to partake. It means that Junior Church leaders do not miss out on this most important sacrament.

In summary, we would love more people to join us, even just on an occasional basis. I must stress that you do not need any teaching experience to join us, simply a willingness to engage with the children and young people. It is a joy and a privilege to be part of their faith journey and something that I certainly feel called to do.

Might you also hear that call? If so, please do come and talk to me.  
Thank you.

- Claire Wood



**Don't miss our next**  
**Messy Church**  
**on Sunday 14 September**  
**after the church service,**  
**12.30-2.30pm**  
**in the Mansel Road Centre**



Lots of arts, crafts, food, singing and worship. Ideal for families but all ages welcome! Please book your space by emailing [office@trinitywimbledon.org](mailto:office@trinitywimbledon.org) or by speaking to one of the Junior Church leaders on a Sunday morning!

We look forward to seeing you there and bring your friends!

## What do you believe?

***A poem by Rev Laura Darrall from the Diocese of Chichester, based on the Nicene Creed, read on BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship, 3 August***

As we stand in our pews or rows of chairs, and recite the Nicene creed,  
I wonder, what do you believe?

As we sit in a meeting about whether we should use pews or rows of chairs,  
I wonder, what do you believe?

As we put out the tables and make the coffee, and put out the rota for making the  
coffee and put out the rota for putting out the tables,  
what do you believe?

As we sit with a stranger who was looking for quiet, as we hand them a candle to  
light and remember, as we clear up the crumbs from a mum's giddy toddler,  
what do you believe?

As we stretch out our hands to share Peace and for bread, as we lift up our voices  
and bow down our heads, as we love one another just like Jesus said -  
what do you believe?

Do you believe in the Father who flung stars into space, whose benevolent image  
can be found in your face, who traced lines of eternity into every embrace,  
do you believe?

Do you believe in the Son, the second person of the Trinity, the three in one, the  
one who would come and renew us all with a promise to be with us until the  
Kingdom will dawn - do you believe?

Do you believe in the Spirit? The giver of life? The teacher of Love and the queller of  
strife, who pours out its gifts at our baptismal start, and makes us one faith, one  
body, one heart. Do you believe?

Do you believe in the Church? The vessel for God's mission, who is called to stay  
humble and accept the commission to be beacons of hope and children of light until that day comes when  
we resurrect and reunite with the one who made us.  
Do you believe?

We stand with the Saints, and join with their praise,  
in our pews and our chairs all our voices we raise,  
to proclaim our faith, our Creed, our Way.

On this 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary we say: **We believe.**





## ***From the Archives....***

### **Fifty years since John Weller came to Trinity**

When Henry Jamieson retired at Easter 1975 Trinity faced the possibility of a lengthy vacancy. Approaches were made to a number of ministers, including Revds John Johansen-Berg, Michael Hubbard, South African Dr Brian Johanson and the American Dr Edward Ramage. None of these ministers felt able to consider Trinity at the time.

Then it was discovered that Revd John Weller, an old friend of Trinity who had preached here monthly during Mr Jamieson's Moderatorial year, had just returned to the UK after a two-year assignment with the Bible Society in New Zealand. Even better, he considered Trinity to be 'just the kind of congregation I'd like to serve as I get back to the ground-level job'.

John Weller was born of missionary parents in China. He was ordained in 1943 and served in local pastorates at Colchester and Purley before joining the staff of the British Council of Churches. He became Overseas General Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, a position that took him to many parts of the world. He was married to Joyce and had four grown-up children.



The Vacancy Team reacted quickly, the Elders discussed a possible 'call' and, on 29 June John Weller 'preached with a view'. A Church Meeting was held the following Wednesday and, although some were concerned that, at 60, Mr Weller was rather older than we would have liked, others spoke of his youthful approach, his friendliness and, of course, his considerable experience. The Meeting voted by a 'very large majority' to issue a call, which was quickly accepted.

John Gooch Weller was inducted as Trinity's sixth minister on 19 September 1975. The Service was led by Synod Moderator Revd Vernon Lewis, the charges to minister and congregation were preached by Revd Arthur Macarthur, the prayers being offered by Revd Kenneth Slack, then Director of Christian Aid.

Mr Weller served Trinity with energy, enthusiasm and dedication for five years before retiring on Easter Sunday 1980.



*John Weller greets the congregation after a Service.*

## **Commitment for Life - an update**

The final excellent sum raised during Lent was £1069.05.



**Final copy date for the October edition of  
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Sunday 21 September.  
Please send items to  
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