

Trinity News



October 2025

No.554



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org

OCTOBER

1	Wed	19:30	Elders' Council
3	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
5	Sun	Rededication Sunday	
		10:30	Elders' Meeting
		11:00	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
7	Tue	20:00	Queens Road housegroup
9	Thur	20:00	Finance Team
10	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
12	Sun	Homelessness Sunday	
		11:00	Morning Worship led by Elders
17	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
19	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship led by the Revd Alistair Cumming (minister of the Church of Scotland)
23	Thur	19:30	Elders' Conference lead up session
24	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
26	Sun	Bible Sunday	
		11:00	Morning worship



October Reflection

Greetings Friends,

Note to readers: This reflection refers to the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza, including mention of war and human suffering. Some readers may find this upsetting. Please approach it prayerfully and at your own pace.

On 7 October 2023, the world awoke to scenes of horror and unspeakable tragedy. Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups launched a surprise attack on Israel, resulting in the deaths of 1,195 Israelis and foreign nationals, including 815 civilians. Additionally, 251 individuals were taken hostage, with the attackers stating their goal was to force Israel to release Palestinian prisoners. Men, women, and children were tortured and murdered indiscriminately. The nation of Israel was in collective shock, while the world expressed outrage. In response to this crisis, the Israeli military prepared to rescue those who had been taken hostage.

What followed was a full-scale war. Innocent people were caught in the crossfire, and even hostages were mistakenly killed by Israeli troops. As days turned into months, several peace talks and ceasefires fell through. It appeared that there was no end in sight.

However, the conflict was not only political but also theological. Christians around the world found themselves in opposition to fellow church members, family, and friends. Some supported the actions of the state of Israel in its efforts to legitimately eliminate terrorism from the region, while others argued that the civilian cost was too high and that the ends do not justify the means. Both sides used the Bible to support their arguments. Once again, the Church found itself asking, *'What Would Jesus Do?'*

We need not speculate the answer. On one occasion, a teacher of the law asked Jesus how to inherit eternal life. In response, Jesus told a story (Luke 10:25-37).

Allow me to paraphrase: Once upon a time, a Jewish man was travelling along the main road between Jerusalem and Jericho, which is about seventeen miles long. Suddenly, a group of bandits

attacked him, beating him, robbing him, and leaving him for dead. This was a busy road, so it was only a matter of time before someone would come along. Soon, a priest passed by. As a man of God, one would expect him to stop and help the injured man, but, alas, he chose to ignore him and continue on his way. Next, a Levite approached, but he too walked by without even offering assistance to the poor man. Finally, a Samaritan came along. Despite being from a group that was traditionally hostile to Jews, the Samaritan stopped to help the wounded fellow. Not only did he assist him, but he also paid out of his own pocket to ensure that the man received the care he needed to recover. Jesus concluded his story by instructing the teacher of the law to *'Go and do likewise'* (Luke 10:37).

In his work, *Life Together*, the theologian and anti-Nazi dissonant, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, wrote: *'Jesus Christ lived in the midst of his enemies. At the end, all his disciples deserted him. On the Cross, he was utterly alone, surrounded by evildoers and mockers. For this cause he had come, to bring peace to the enemies of God.'*

Indeed, although Christ knew the twelve disciples would abandon him in his time of need, he declared, *'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.'* (John 15:13-15)

The Apostle Paul also expressed this sentiment in his letter to the church in Rome, writing, *'For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.'* (Romans 5:10)

Truly, Christ not only talked the talk but also walked the walk, laying down his life for those who once considered him their enemy.

So, back to the question, *'What Would Jesus Do?'*

I propose that Christ would look past the rhetoric and pierce through the lies. He would see the person beyond the politics, the human

behind the headlines, and recognise people who are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26).

This October, as the warmth of summer gives way to the chill of autumn, may we learn from Christ's example to listen attentively, care deeply, and strive to be Good Samaritans to those who are our neighbours.

With every blessing,



Revd Dr Jacob Bali

(The Minister's usual day off is Monday)



Church Family News

Marriage

On Saturday 13 September - Sarah McGowran to Fadi Hayek

Congratulations & good wishes

.....to Martha Khurshid as she begins a three-year degree course in Acting (Musical Theatre) at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

.....and to Andrew Sutton who has become our new Senior Elder. Andrew was ordained to Trinity's eldership in 1972.

October birthdays

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Matilda Henning, Su Lambert, Skye Lau, Catherine Paul, Guy Rostron, Pam Rostron and Elijah Siphika.



Trinity Rededication Service

Sunday 5 October - 11am

You're warmly invited to join us as we rededicate ourselves to our shared calling.

In the Reformed tradition, rededication is a collective renewal of covenant, a moment to examine where we've been and recommit to where we're going. In this Service, we will all together affirm our mission to remain "rooted in Christ, growing in faith, sharing and serving in love."

This Service marks both continuity and new beginnings. As we face challenges and uncertainty, it is a chance to acknowledge God's faithfulness whilst renewing our own dedication to living with and through Christ, alive and active in the world.

Looking forward to seeing you on Rededication Sunday.



Queens Road House Group

The Housegroup will be meeting on Tuesday 7 October at 8pm at 217 Queens Road. We will be studying Jesus' relationship with the Scribes and Pharisees, as described in Matthew 23.

If you would like to know more about the Group please speak to Andrew Sutton. All are welcome to join us!

Do you enjoy singing?



If so, why not join Trinity Choir? We are a small and friendly group of people who sing because we enjoy it! We are always looking for people to join us, and particularly at this time of year when we are planning the annual Carols by Candlelight Service which is to be held on Sunday 14 December.

We sing on most Sunday mornings in the Service, with a practice on the preceding Friday evening and on Sunday morning. We have a lot of laughs and sing various styles of music. You are welcome to join us whenever you like, but if you just want to try us out for size, come and sing with us for the Carol Service. We will be practising that music on two Friday evenings, 5 and 12 December, at 8.15pm in the church, and then a run through on the afternoon of 14 December.

Do think about it. Any voice and age is very welcome, no audition required. For further information speak with Andrew Davies, Director of Music (Andrew.davies888@btinternet.com) or Alison Trehearn, Choir Secretary (atrehearn@hotmail.com), and we can tell you more.



Gift Day 'For Others' 2025

Our Gift Day 'For Others' will take place on Sunday 2 November and in the weeks ahead all Trinity members and friends will have the opportunity to choose which 10 charities will benefit from this annual collection.



Shortly the ballot will be made available, both online and at Trinity Services, to enable you to make your choices. Following this, the charities chosen in the ballot will be circulated with an invitation to donate.

We hope this important annual fundraising event continues to have as much support as possible.

Please contact Robin Ingram, the 'For Others' Secretary, should you require any further information.



The most pressing needs of the Foodbank are:

- Tinned fish
- 500g bags of rice
- Tinned tomatoes
- Teabags
- Small bottles of squash
- Noodles
- Toothpaste
- Shower gel
- Shampoo
- Dog food



Gifts will be welcome in the Mansel Road Centre trolley at any time.

You may be interested to hear....

Not many replies came in last month with ideas about what Trinity's gable finial might represent. Possibly the best option, in fact, is that it may be a fleur-de-lys.

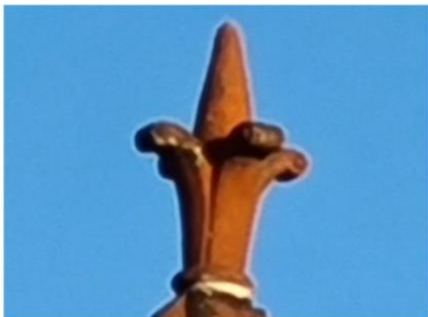


During the High Gothic period (12th-15th centuries) the fleur-de-lys was often used in ecclesiastical contexts to convey purity, particularly the purity of the Virgin Mary (whose symbol is the lily). Later, during the Gothic Revival in the UK (18th-19th centuries) it was repurposed for the Reformed tradition to represent the Holy Trinity, while also conveying **purity of faith**, the **light of the gospel**, and the aspiration toward holiness.

What could be more suitable for our finial?

While our fleur-de-lys is unusually luxuriant, the web sources that go into this also insist that there is a functional purpose for such items. This should not surprise us in the context of everything we know about how well Trinity was originally designed. Like many other inconspicuous touches on the building, they carry out the very useful job of deflecting rainwater from the masonry below.

If you keep your eyes open, you can spot stylistically simpler fleurs-de-lys locally on some church pinnacles – Christ Church, West Wimbledon has a couple. They are on domestic properties too. Here is a terracotta example on an Edwardian house in New Malden.



If anyone has more information on this, please do let us know.

*Grace de Grouchy
(Property Team Leader)*



The Bible has a lot to say about trade. Why? Because trade isn't just a transaction - land or services or products we pick up from a shelf or a website.

When we buy a cup of tea, a chocolate bar, or a new shirt, we're entering into a relationship with our neighbours - the people who grew, processed or crafted what we see when we shop. Each of these people is made in God's image. And God doesn't just call us not to wrong them. God calls us to love them as we love ourselves.

That means we have to care about their lives: Were they paid enough for their work? Do their families have access to schooling and food? Are they free to ask for good working conditions? Protected from environmental harm?

As followers of Jesus, we want to ensure that the answer to these questions is 'yes'. But in a world of power imbalances where, all too often, workers are exploited and farmers and artisans experience injustice, how do we do this?

Fairtrade offers a way to 'do it fair' and to show love. It helps producers get better prices, access services, secure rights, and protect the planet.

Here at Trinity, we buy our tea and coffee from Indigo Valley who supply us with Fairtrade products.

We also sell a small amount of Fairtrade products on the Eco Living Stall in the Old Hall which will be available on Sunday 5 October after the Service.

(Taken from www.fairtrade.net)



Dear Lord, who prayed “give us today our daily bread”, we give thanks for those who work to produce our food and pray they may be given fair reward for their labours.

We pray for those who grow the things we love that can’t be grown in the UK, including our favourite cup of tea, coffee and bananas. We pray for communities where a fair price sends children to school and supports basic health care.

We pray that you will guide the Fair Trade movement in its efforts to secure a fair deal for those whose bargaining power is weakest.

We pray for supermarkets, brands and other retailers that they will recognise that everyone involved in the produce they buy, and sell is important, and that sustainable communities and a sustainable planet depend on fairness for everyone in our food supply chains.

We pray for shoppers here in the UK facing cost-of-living challenges that they will recognise that fairness is for everyone.



When we come together socially and share a cuppa, in church, at parties or organised events, help us to remember to BREW IT FAIR.

Amen

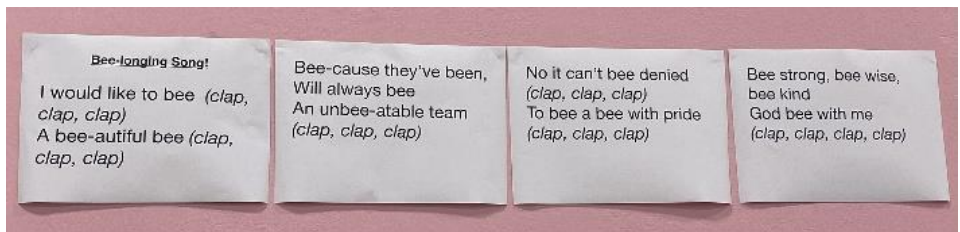




All About Bees



Messy Church returned to Trinity on Sunday 14 September and, among the seven children and young people and twelve adults, there was a real 'buzz' about it! Apologies for the pun, but our theme was 'Bees in the Bible' so our afternoon was all about bees. This was not a random choice, but a link to Trinity's support of A Rocha's Target 25 project to protect bees – but more about that at another time.



Our session started off with some singing, led by our ever-imaginative Andrew Davies, who wrote one entirely new song with plenty of wordplay based on Scripture (Bee Strong, Bee Kind, Bee Wise, God Bee with me) and got us all singing with two more familiar ones. As always, an inspiring start to the afternoon, thank you Andrew.

Jacob then used the example of bees being so busy making honey and pollinating to remind us that, in the midst of all our busyness, we should take time to stop and value everything that is around us and make sure that all we are doing is for the right reason. In his Letter to the Ephesians (6:7) Paul says, "Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people". He is teaching us that in everything we do in school, at home, at church, at work, we are to do it to glorify God. Thank you, Jacob, for telling a story with that important reminder.

As we know well at Trinity, fellowship is often about sharing food and this was no exception; pizza was much enjoyed by everyone.

And, of course, there were the craft activities and as you can see from the photographs, everyone, young, and not so young joined in and created some beautiful bee-related pots, hives, wooden bees and much more.



The opportunity for everyone to sit together, chat, and be creative was very special.

Huge thanks to Susan Collins and Elizabeth Scharinger for organising and setting up all the craft activities, ably supported by Katy and Olivia - and of course for ordering the pizza!

We will be organising another similar event before Christmas and would love to see many, many more of you there!

The name 'Messy Church' is perhaps a little misleading – it is probably better to think of these sessions in terms of 'informal church', though there is an opportunity to use some, potentially, messy materials!

Do read some of the quotes below to see how much those who came along enjoyed the afternoon.



"What a fantastic opportunity for both adults and children to participate and share in the same activities together. It's not about adults joining in with the children or vice versa but all about learning and having fun together. It's just a shame that more of the congregation didn't come along to join in with what was a wonderful fun experience." *Cathy*

"Doing crafts, sharing food and singing together is just being church in a different way. It was informal and fun and I loved the time *just to do some crafts with others.*" *Katrina*

"I had so much fun making the plant pots and planting wildflowers for the bees." *Olivia*

"I loved all of the beetastic songs and activities!" *Katy*



Christmas is coming.....

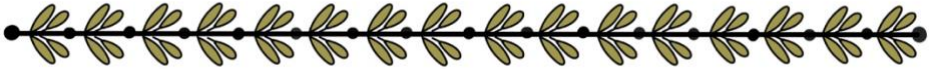
All enjoy celebrating the birth of Jesus at our Christmas Services at Trinity. Will you help to ensure that the church looks its best at this time when we also welcome many visitors to our church? We are once again planning to decorate the church. If you've never helped before, why not do so this year? It's quite easy, and won't take much of your time.



We are looking for people or groups willing to sponsor and decorate a small tree for £30. The trees will be pot grown, 60-80 cm high in a 20cm high pot.

You are asked to decorate a Nordmann fir tree (no theme this year - decorate any way you like to enhance the church!). Lights will be provided. Decorating day will be Saturday 13 December.

If you'd like to sponsor and decorate a tree, please sign the list in the vestry corridor as soon as possible (we'll need to order the trees), or email office@trinitywimbledon.org.



Explore Greenbelt Festival talks

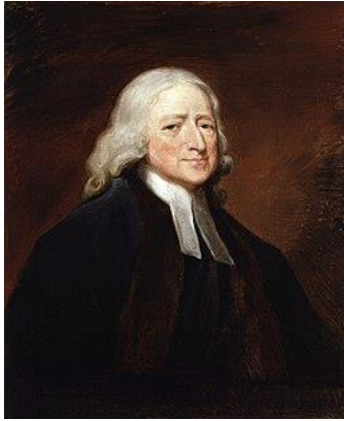
This year's Festival, reported by former Trinity member, Annie Muir, was a packed three-day programme including John Bell of the Iona Community, Quiet Communion led by Wild Goose, a Trussell Trust led talk, interview with Patrick Grant from Sewing Bee, Celtic daily prayer led by the Northumberland community, and much more.

Next year Greenbelt Festival runs from 27 to 30 August at Boughton House, Kettering.

You can access nearly 20 years of insight, inspiration, and provocation - recorded live at the annual festival and all available to listen to online, download, and share. With over 1,000 sessions covering topics from climate change to sitcoms, social enterprise to civil disobedience, there's something for everyone.

<https://www.greenbelt.org.uk/talks-archive/#featured>

Come with us on another London visit



Following the successful visit earlier this year to The Charterhouse, we are now planning to visit the home of Methodism in London - Wesley's Chapel, the Museum of Methodism and John Wesley's house - all in City Road.

Wesley's Chapel was built in 1778 by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. It was designed by the architect George Dance the Younger, the surveyor of the City of London. Wesley described his Chapel as "perfectly neat but not fine" and it is a fine example of

Georgian architecture. It was the first Methodist preaching house to allow for the celebration of Holy Communion.

In 1891 the Chapel was transformed to commemorate the centenary of Wesley's death. On 1 November 1978, after a five-year closure due to a serious structural problem, and exactly 200 years after Wesley opened the Chapel, the buildings were reopened in grand style in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh.



The Museum of Methodism tells the history of Methodism from John Wesley to the present day and its contribution to shaping Britain's political and social history.

John Wesley's House stands next to the Chapel. It was his home for over a decade and is one of the finest surviving small Georgian townhouses in London.

We plan to visit at the end of October or during November, date to be agreed. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Catherine Paul (catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com) as soon as possible).



From the Archives....

Who remembers the Warren House Fair?

A unique event in Trinity's history was the Summer Fair (in aid of the new kitchen) in the grounds of Warren House, just off Kingston Hill in 1983. Gayle Derrick, who lived next door, contacted ICI who owned the house at that time, and they kindly allowed us use of much of the house with its ballroom, Persian room and Italian loggia, as well as the twelve acres of beautiful gardens, without charge.



Saturday 2 July was a lovely warm, sunny day and members past and present and many other friends gathered for a relaxed and happy time together - 502 admission tickets (50p) were sold. The Fair opened at 11:00, lunches were served, followed by strawberry teas, and the day closed with a barbecue arranged by the Church's 'Six Group'.

There were many stalls, displays of flower arranging and spinning and, for the children, a "Mad Hatter's Tea Party" with a fancy dress competition for costumes from "Alice in Wonderland". Many people took the opportunity to explore the gardens, including the Japanese garden.

The Fair raised a splendid £2,147 and was considered a huge success.



Scenes from the Warren House Fair



A holiday visit

Another in the series of places of worship visited by members of the congregation during their Summer travels. Can you tell us about a special place you visited?

During the Summer I was in Northumberland - close to Hadrian's wall - and visited the tiny St Oswald's church at Heavenfield, sitting in the midst of a peaceful field, with views of the beautiful North Tyne valley.



King Oswald of Bernicia (roughly covering modern day Northumberland and Durham) was greatly influenced by the monastic life on Iona and was baptised. His wish was that every one of his subjects should be filled with God's grace.

However, in AD633, an attack was launched on his kingdom by Cadwallon of Gwynedd. On the night before the battle of Heavenfield, Oswald raised a large wooden cross on high ground and, according to the Venerable Bede, calling to his army, Oswald 'prayed God to send his heavenly aid to those who trusted in him in their dire need.' Advancing against the enemy as dawn was breaking, 'they won the victory that their faith deserved.'



'At this spot, where the king prayed, innumerable miracles of healing are known to have occurred, and the place became known as the 'Heavenly field'.

The significance of the Battle of Heavenfield lies in the re-establishment of Celtic Christianity which led to the Golden Age of the Kingdom of Northumbria. This place of battle is now a tranquil hilltop church, probably the third on the site, a spiritual place which has been a place of prayer, inspiration and pilgrimage for centuries.

- CFP



Final copy date for the November edition of *Trinity News* is Sunday 20 October. Please send items to catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com