

Trinity News



November 2025

No.555



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org



1	Sat	10:00	Elders' Quiet Day at Hampton Hill URC
2	Sun	<i>Gift Day 'For Others'</i>	
		10:30	Elders' Meeting
		11:00	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
4	Tues	20:00	Outreach & Witness Team
5	Wed	20:00	Elders' Council
7	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
9	Sun	<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	
		10:45	Morning Worship
11	Tues	14:00	Pastoral Team
		20:00	Queens Road housegroup
14	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
15	Sat	10:00-17:00	Greener Giving pop-up market at Wimbledon Quarter (see pages 8 & 9)
16	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship
			led by the Worship & Faith Development Team
20	Thur	20:00	Finance Team
21	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
22	Sat	10:00	Smarten up Trinity Christmas work party
23	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship
		12:00	Church Meeting
28	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
30	Sun	<i>Advent Sunday</i>	
		11:00	Morning Worship with baptism

November Reflection

Greetings Friends,

Have you ever had that nagging feeling that you have forgotten something, yet, rather ironically, you cannot recall what it is? Have you ever felt as if you are not in the right place, like you have walked into the wrong classroom or meeting, but you are unsure where you should be?

During this season of remembrance, there is a feeling we cannot quite place, a tension we cannot pinpoint, and an awareness that something is missing.

We march to the beat of the drum, sing beautiful hymns, pause for a moment of silence, and then wait.

We wait with anticipation, though we lack a clear understanding of what we are truly expecting. We hope for something, even if we do not fully understand what it is we are hoping for. We believe, wholeheartedly, even when we do not fully understand our thoughts.

The Benedictine monk, Anselm of Canterbury, coined the famous phrase *'faith seeking understanding'*. This means that our journey of faith and belief is not stagnant; rather, it leads us to explore and seek deeper understanding.

In his work, *The Weight of Glory*, C.S. Lewis put it this way, *'The books or the music in which we thought the beauty was located will betray us if we trust to them; it was not in them, it only came through them, and what came through them was longing. These things — the beauty, the memory of our own past — are good images of what we really desire; but if they are mistaken for the thing itself they turn into dumb idols, breaking the hearts of their worshippers. For they are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited.'*

In this context, Jesus reassured his followers, *'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place*

for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.' (John 14:1-3)

Indeed, we exist in the tension of the promise that the Kingdom of God is both now and not yet. And yet, it is Christ's promise that gives us the confidence to sing with hope:

*'And there's another country I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.'*

This November, as we march, sing, and remember, may we hold fast to our longing for something greater. May we yearn for something more substantial than our present circumstances, and hope for something more significant than what we currently know. Indeed, may we long to be with Jesus Christ, in whom all our longings will find a home.

With every blessing,

Jacob Bali

Revd Dr Jacob Bali

(The Minister's usual day off is Monday)



**Final copy date for December edition of
Trinity News is Saturday 22 November.**

**Please send items to
catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com**

Church Family News

In memoriam

Michael Anthony Kyle (20 July 1948 - 24 September 2025)

Michael, together with his wife Wendy, joined Trinity in 1976. He was a Diplomat serving with Foreign & Commonwealth Office all around the world - in Vietnam (where he first met Wendy in the Embassy in Saigon), Washington, Tanzania, Berlin and many other places.

Michael's funeral service at Trinity on 13 October was attended by a large congregation of family, work colleagues and friends. He was remembered as being welcoming, adventurous, generous and respected - a 'larger than life' character - and the tributes paid to him during the Service demonstrated all these qualities in abundance.

Sadly, Wendy died in 2014, but our sympathies are extended to Michael's daughter Rosaleen and his son Oliver, and his five much-loved grandchildren.



Senior Elder

On Rededication Sunday, 5 October, Andrew Sutton was formally recognised as Trinity's new Senior Elder. Andrew was ordained to the Eldership in 1972 and has served Trinity in a number of capacities, including Assistant Church Secretary (1985-94) and Elders' Secretary.



Andrew with the Minister after the Service

November birthdays

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Sam Elliot, Owen Ferrante, Sheila Ingram, Brian Lewis-Lavender, Sandy McLeish, Allan Todd, Betty Wong, Graham Wynn, Alan Young and Revd Ernest Yu.



Sunday 2 November

Our annual Gift Day 'For Others' will take place on Sunday 2 November. Once more, Trinity appeals for your support of Gift Day. We are hoping to raise at least £10,000 this year which, with the benefit of Gift Aid, will increase the total figure to over £12,000.

The funds raised this year will again be allocated in accordance with the vote taken recently by Trinity members and friends from a list of charities. Our thanks to all those who voted in the ballot. The following charities have been chosen and will receive £500 each:-

Local Charities

Merton Winter Night Shelter
St Raphael's Hospice

South West London Samaritans
Wimbledon Foodbank

National Charities

Alzheimer's Research
Macmillan Cancer Support

Cancer Research UK

International Charities

Médecins sans Frontières
Save the Children

British Red Cross

Following provision of £2,000 for Disaster Relief, the remaining funds will be split 2/3rds to Faith-In-Action and 1/3rd to Water Aid.

Gift Aid envelopes are available at the church, but electronic payment to the Trinity bank account may be preferred by donors. Our bank details are provided below or alternatively you may prefer to pay by debit/credit card. In this case, if you go to the Trinity website and click on the Donate button, this will allow you make your donation to Gift Day at Trinity via the CAF Bank giving website.



So - will you please help us raise sufficient money in order that we may meet the challenge of our mission to serve our local community and the needs of the wider world? Should you be attending the service at Trinity on 2 November, or in the following weeks in November, there will be Gift Day donation envelopes available to donate on the day.

Alternatively, you may post your cheque payable to Trinity URC to our 'For Others' Secretary, Robin Ingram c/o Trinity Church.

Bank: CAF Bank
Sort Code: 40-52-40
Account: Trinity United Reformed Church
Account Number: 00009610

Trinity thanks you in advance for your support.





Queens Road House Group

In November we will be meeting a week later than usual - on **Tuesday 11 November**. As usual we will meet at 217 Queens Road at 8pm. All are welcome to join us, even on a trial basis!

We have been studying St Matthew's Gospel and this month will look at Chapter 24.

Incidentally, the URC Daily Devotions are now also following St Matthew's Gospel and will be doing so until Easter. You can find them each day at <https://devotions.urc.org.uk/todays-daily-devotion/>



Greener Giving Pop-Up Market - Saturday 15 November

Following last year's successful event, Sustainable Merton (with Trinity) are holding a second Pop-Up Market in the Wimbledon Quarter - see the flyer opposite for further details.

Please come to support the event. Pop along at any time between 10:00 and 17:00 on **Saturday 15 November** to see what's on offer. This year we'll be along the main mall area.

Volunteers are needed to cover the Eco Living/Fairtrade stall run by Trinity at intervals throughout the day. Offers of help would be much appreciated by Elizabeth Scharinger (office@trinitywimbledon.org).

A strong Trinity presence would be great.



sustainable merton's

Greener Giving POP-UP MARKET



**Wimbledon
Quarter**
SW19

SATURDAY
15 NOV

10 - 5
AM PM



★ **Get ready for the the holiday season and discover unique, eco-friendly gifts from local, sustainable businesses!**

Supported by Trinity United Reformed Church Wimbledon and Wimbledon Quarter, Sustainable Merton's family-friendly pop-up will bring together a vibrant mix of sustainable treasures — from creatively upcycled accessories and soothing candles to colourful ceramics, tasty treats, and so much more!

Join us to discover thoughtful gifts that celebrate sustainability without compromising on style or quality ♥

Sustainable Gifts

Kids Activities

Local Sellers

Preloved Presents



Find out more at

sustainablemerton.org/events

Thank you to our Business Supporters



**Wimbledon
Quarter**
SW19

Church Meeting – Sunday 23 November (after morning worship)

After a shorter service, please stay for our Church Meeting. We'll finish by 1.30pm. Tea and coffee will be served, and feel free to bring a packed lunch if you wish.



On the agenda is our annual budget for 2026, which will explain how we intend to resource our worship, mission, and service for the year ahead. We will also be talking about the important issue of safeguarding, and how Trinity can continue to be a place that is safe and welcoming for all.

In the URC, Church Meeting is our primary council. It is the place where members listen, discern, and decide together. Your questions and ideas genuinely shape our church life. Everyone is welcome.



Smartening up the church for Christmas



To ensure that the church looks its best for our Christmas Services we will be holding a work party on **Saturday morning 22 November** from 10:00 to clean, tidy up and ensure everything is sparkling and bright. If you are able to help on this day, please come along. We do need your help!

Trinity is now officially a Friend of Sustainable Merton

At the beginning of October we were pleased to receive this encouraging message from Diana Sterk, Chief Executive Officer of Sustainable Merton:

"On behalf of the entire team, I'd like to thank you for the support Trinity Church has given Sustainable Merton. Your commitment strengthens our community's efforts to tackle climate change and protect our environment for future generations.

"We are therefore recognising you as a supporter of Sustainable Merton and you are now officially a Friend of Sustainable Merton!

"Once again, thank you to Trinity Church for joining us on this mission. Together we can create a greener, healthier and more sustainable future for Merton."





Living Wage Foundation

Trinity URC finally became an accredited Living Wage Employer on 15 October. This means we have publicly committed to paying all our employees and casual workers at a minimum of the UK Citizens London Living Wage rate. This is currently £13.85/hour and is reviewed annually.

We have, in fact, been paying our employees and contract cleaners at this rate for the last ten years but have only recently applied for formal accreditation. The London Borough of Merton became an accredited 'Living Wage Employer' quite recently and it is possible they will publicise Trinity's addition to the Borough's list.

See <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/accredited-living-wage-employers> for further details.

- Robin Goodchild (robinnapiergoodchild@gmail.com tel: 07714-095007)

MacMillan Cancer Support Cake Sale result



The total amount raised by the event on Sunday 28 September was £342.50, with a little more yet to be added from Gift Aid.

This is a splendid achievement, and thanks are due to all those who baked such an array of goods; to those who helped to organise the event in advance and on the day; and most of all those who made donations, some very generously. It was a great team effort.

- Elizabeth McLeish



Welcoming - everyone's responsibility

We recently had someone turn up at church who had never been before. His first question to our welcomer was, "Am I allowed in?"

Imagine if there had been no one there. Would he have dared enter? Thankfully he was assured that he was most welcome, guided to a seat and settled in.

Hints for welcomers:-

- Read the person: Everyone is different. Those who look at you probably want some form of engagement, those who don't might prefer to slip by unnoticed.
- Stick around: Newcomers may not arrive on time. Our visitor arrived 15 minutes late. Thankfully the welcomers were still on the door.
- Finish the job: Check someone has engaged the newcomer after the service, and if not, do so yourself.

Hints for the congregation: -

- Welcoming people is everyone's responsibility, not just a team's.
- Don't sit in the back few rows of pews - leave these accessible for newcomers to slip in.
- Be friendly - smile at anyone you don't know.
- After the service, speak to someone new rather than those you already know.

- Premier Christianity, September 2025



We're helping wildlife

Thank you to those who donated towards the cost of our six new nest boxes. These have now been put up around the church and Mansel Road Centre buildings, and we look forward to seeing who moves in!

Thank you to everybody who contributed to the magnificent quantity of gifts donated at our Harvest service. A car full of food and other items was taken to the Foodbank depot on the Monday morning and was gratefully received.



The need, of course, continues and gifts can be left in the Mansel Road Centre trolley. This month the most needed items are:

Jam
Long life milk
Ketchup
Noodles
Baby shampoo
Nappies size 6,7 and 8



Merton Winter Night Shelter 2025/26



The Merton Winter Night Shelter (MWNS) will be opening on Monday 24 November, a week earlier than last year. Fourteen faith groups will each be hosting one day per week for eight weeks. The Shelter thus will run for sixteen weeks closing at Trinity on Monday morning 16 March.

As many of you are aware, MWNS provides a communal shelter during the coldest months for homeless people who can cope with the shared environment, which is not that easy. Faith groups in the Borough come together, each providing hot food and a safe shelter on a specific weekday evening/overnight. The same fourteen venues as last year will be hosting, covering two blocks of seven, with Trinity covering Sundays in Block 2 starting on 25 January. As a result, the collective effort will provide almost 1350 bed space nights in a safe, warm and welcoming environment from 24 November to 16 March.

Trinity will again cover New Year from the evening of Wednesday 31 December to the morning of Friday 2 January. Volunteers will be drawn from all the MWNS faith groups, but Trinity personnel will be most welcome too.

Please do let me know if you are interested in getting involved. I'm planning on holding a session after the morning service on 7 December to bring together potential volunteers. Volunteering at the Shelter is extremely rewarding and everyone can make a difference, both individually and as part of the collective effort to provide almost 1350 bedspaces during the coming winter.

There will be training sessions for volunteers at Trinity on 16 November and 11 January, both Sundays, starting at 14:00, so please note those dates in your diaries (the January date is primarily for Block 2 venues like Trinity, but if you cannot make its date, the November session is very similar). Volunteers should attend this training every three years as well as for their first time. I'd be delighted to respond to any queries.

Robin Goodchild (robinnapiergoodchild@gmail.com
[and/or 07714-095007](tel:07714095007))



Faith in Action (Merton Homelessness Project) - Christmas gifts

This year, to ensure that everyone is given similar gifts, we are asked to donate **unwrapped** gifts, in a gift bag. The following items would be appreciated:

- Stretchy belts
- Bumbags
- Small wallets, possibly on a chain to clip to jeans or belt
- Power banks (helps keep phones charged until they come to the Drop in)
- Pre-loaded Oyster cards (useful for service users to get to appointments, e.g. housing, medical etc)
- Socks
- Pants

Please bring your gifts to church on **Sunday 7 December**.



Children & Youth Work

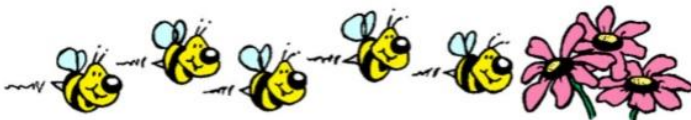


In their recent sessions, Junior Church and YPs have been using a worship resource called 'Planet Protectors'. Over a series of five lessons, we have been looking at God's Creation, not just in terms of the Biblical story but also about what message God gives us concerning our responsibility towards our planet.

As well as hearing again the readings from Genesis, we have read Gospel verses which contain a message from Jesus that encourages us to be 'Planet Protectors'.

The lessons are linked by the theme of taking time to be grateful for all that our planet gives us: 'Time to shine!'; 'Time to breathe!'; 'Time to grow!'; and 'Time to care!'.

Craft activities have been linked. We made tealight holders, windmills and, just this week, birdfeeders made of Cheerios! We have also planted wildflower seeds and painted bees, which we hope will help decorate the garden we are hoping to create on the terrace outside Rooms 3, 4 and 5 of the Mansel Road Centre.



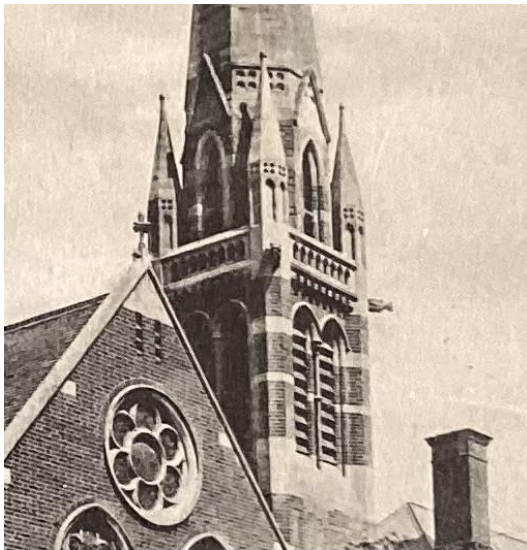


From the Archives....

Has anyone seen our grotesque?

In last month's *Trinity News*, Grace de Grouchy wrote about the stone finial above Trinity's front gable. Today we look at another set of stone features that was part of Trinity's original buildings.

As you can see from the 1904 photograph there were originally four stone decorative 'grotesques', one on each corner of the tower. Grotesques are fantastical, ornamental stone figures that often depict mythical creatures, demons or distorted human forms and, unlike 'gargoyles', which are projecting waterspouts that carry rainwater away, they serve an aesthetic role. One might wonder why such grotesques were considered suitable for a Presbyterian church!



Trinity's tower and spire showing two of the grotesques

Over the years the grotesques weathered badly and, about fifty years ago, it was decided that they should be taken down, and they were not replaced.

Two of the grotesques, in poor condition, now reside in the wildflower garden above the courtyard at the back of the church.



The two grotesques that now live in the Church garden

Another, in rather better condition, is in the garden of Trinity members. But what happened to the fourth one? Does anybody know?



A third grotesque who is now a garden ornament!