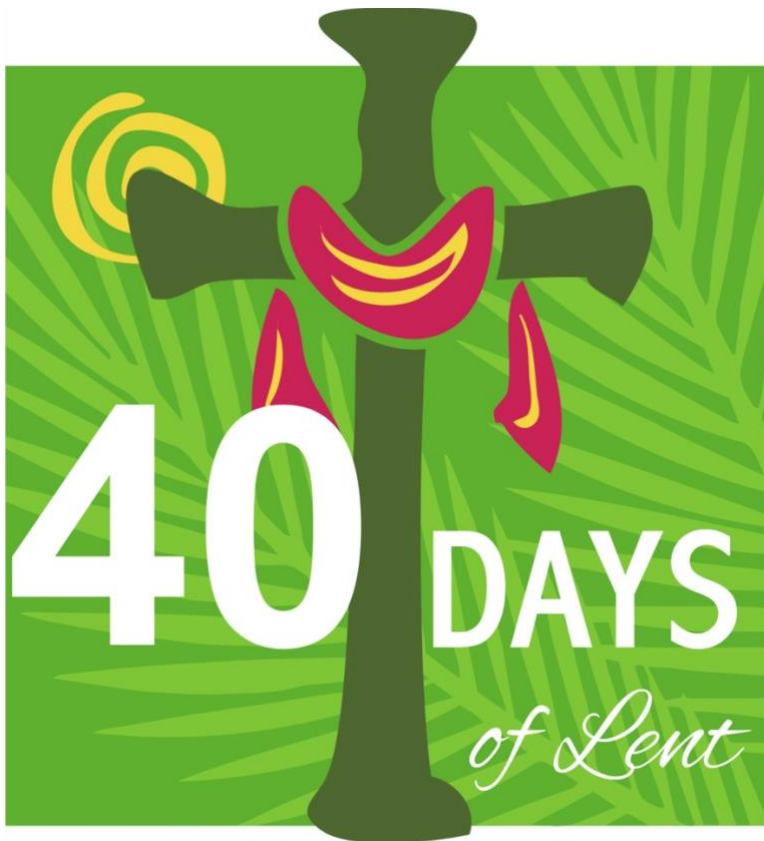


# Trinity News



February 2026

No.558



**Trinity United Reformed Church**

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

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

# February

<b>1</b>	<b>Sun</b>	10:30 <b>11:00</b>	Elders' Meeting <b>Morning Worship with Holy Communion</b> <b>Closing date for nominations to Elders' Council</b>
3	Tue	20:00	Queens Road House Group
4	Wed	19:30	Elders' Council
6	Fri	09:45 20:15	Trinity Toddlers Choir practice
<b>8</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>
13	Fri	09:45 20:15	Trinity Toddlers Choir practice
<b>15</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> <b>Morning Worship</b>
17	Tue	Shrove Tuesday	
<b>18</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>19:30</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)</b> <b>Ash Wednesday service</b>
20	Fri	09:45 20:15	Trinity Toddlers Choir practice
<b>22</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>1st Sunday in Lent</b> <b>Morning Worship</b> Copy deadline for March "Trinity News"
26	Thur	tbc	Lent Bible study (See page 9)
27	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers



# February Reflection



Greetings Friends,

**POWER:** What thoughts or images arise in your mind when you hear this word?

Power is a word that elicits different reactions depending on who is hearing it, the context in which it is mentioned, and the person invoking it.

For some, power signifies security; for others, it symbolises oppression; and for a few, it represents freedom. For Christians, the concept of power can be uncomfortable because it often highlights the contradiction between our self-perception as individuals following the crucified Christ and the reality of what we embody as an institution.

It is easy for us to look at the world and point our fingers at the countless examples of power being abused, from political figures to celebrities to whole nation-states. Yet this word forces us to confront the reality that we, the church, often occupy the seat of power.

In recent years, the concept of power has been referenced in the context of safeguarding. In our January issue of Trinity News, our Safeguarding Officers poignantly wrote,

*'For far too long, there was, in the opinion of many, a feeling that safeguarding in churches could be different, maybe even less rigorous, because surely people wouldn't come to harm or experience abuse in churches – we are Christians after all. But we know far too well that abuse can and does happen in churches. Horrific cases result not just from the actions of those who assault or abuse but the inaction of many in our churches, locally and nationally.'*

Indeed, power is not only represented by the option to do what we want but also by the privilege to look the other way. However, the Bible has surprisingly much to say on this topic. For example:

*'Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.'* (Proverbs 31:8–9)

*'He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?'* (Micah 6:8)

*'You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger;'* (James 1:19)

*'If one gives answer before hearing, it is folly and shame.'* (Proverbs 18:13)

*'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.'* (Galatians 3:28)

We are to strive for justice, kindness, and humility; we are to listen well and avoid assumptions; we are to be advocates who exemplify equity and dignity. This is certainly a challenging task; who is capable of meeting such a high standard?

God can, and Christ did, and it is the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to empower others. We affirm this every time we welcome someone into church membership:

*'...do you promise your friendship in Christ, and will you give them your support in prayer and service, so that they, with us, may continue to grow in the knowledge and love of God and witness to the Gospel?'*

***We do, and with God's help, we will'***. (Worship from the URC, p.13)

As February unfolds and Valentine's Day passes, let us remember to love our neighbours. As Shrove Tuesday transitions to Ash Wednesday, may we strive for justice, mercy, and humility. Indeed, every day, may we be guided by the power of Christ to empower those who are powerless.

With every blessing,

*Jacob Bali*

Revd Dr Jacob Bali

*(The Minister's usual day off is Monday)*



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**Final copy date for March edition of *Trinity News* is Sunday 22 February. Please send items to [catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com](mailto:catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com)**

# Church Family News

## ***Baptisms***

30 November - The Cliffords' daughter was baptised

7 December - Owen Taku, son of Fabio and Georgina Ferrante

## ***In memoriam***

15 January - Lesley Ann Wilmot

## ***February birthdays***

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Graham Angus, Esther Bali, Jenny Chan, Edelweiss Dunfield-Prayero, Martha Khurshid, Enzo Lau and Tara Yu.

## ***Change of email address***

Claire Wood's new address is [clairew672@gmail.com](mailto:clairew672@gmail.com)

## ***Sign up for Trinity updates!***

If you'd like to receive occasional emails about news and activities at Trinity, click the button to subscribe to our email list "Trinity Webbers".

+ SUBSCRIBE

As we move to communicate more regularly by email rather than sending letters, please ensure that you let us know of any changes to your contact details via [office@trinitywimbledon.org](mailto:office@trinitywimbledon.org).



## A wonderful Christmas present!

Trinity received, on Christmas Eve, the second tranche of a legacy from the Estate of David Muir Young – the enormous sum of £117,523.50. This followed an initial payment of £150,000 on 22 November 2023, so the total bequest is a staggering £267,523.50. Moreover, it is 'unrestricted' so can be used however the church decides.



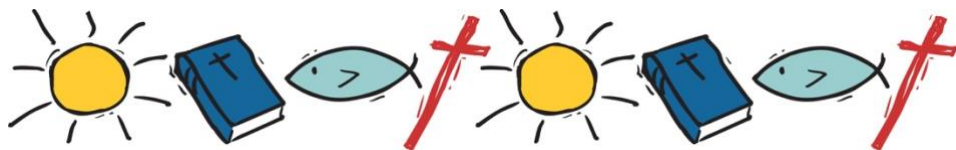
David Young was a former Church Secretary back in the 1980s and left 25% of his estate to Trinity. His family operate Wimbledon Offices Ltd, the company that owns Tuition House in St George's Road. (David was not related to our 'Youngs' – Alan and Catherine's family.)

All legacies are immediately transferred to Trinity's Legacy Fund. This now stands at £229,533. We have a Capital Reserves Group that has the task of advising Elders' Council how to allocate its reserves, and it will meet shortly to advise. Without wishing to pre-empt that Group, one candidate will be the proposed Vestibule Project that involved remodelling the entrance to the worship area and the area immediately inside.

- Robin Goodchild, Congregational Treasurer  
([robinnapiergoodchild@gmail.com](mailto:robinnapiergoodchild@gmail.com))



# Election to Elders' Council



In our tradition, being an Elder is a significant ministry. Elders are at the heart of a congregation, providing impetus and positive influence on the mission, witness and service of the church, helping us all to live fruitful lives as God's people. In this manner, the Elders' Council serves as our church's leadership team, responding to the changing needs and circumstances of our congregation and our community.

It is time once again for us to nominate and elect Elders to serve in this way. All members should have received a letter from the Minister (by email if you have registered to receive Trinity's emails) outlining the process and calling for nominations. Church members who are not online will receive a paper letter and form in the usual way.

This year, members are being asked to make their nominations online. This will save the church money on printing and postage and make the whole process greener, simpler and more secure.

Members will now also have received an email with a link to make their nominations. The link is unique to you and can only be used once. The process is entirely confidential and anonymous. Nobody will be able to see who you have nominated.

## **Nominations will close on Sunday 1 February.**

If you are a church member and have not received your voting papers, or have any queries or concerns about the process, please contact the Church Secretaries ([churchsecretaries@trinitywimbledon.org](mailto:churchsecretaries@trinitywimbledon.org)).



# Lent Bible Study 2026

## The Final Week: Accompanying Jesus to the Cross and Beyond



Join us as we travel through the very busy final days of Christ's earthly life, from his journey towards Jerusalem through the Cross to the Resurrection, drawing mainly on the accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Along the way, we will explore the people, places and decisions that shaped the events of that first Easter.

This is a story marked by injustice, doubt, fear, pain, and degrading death. It tells how God experienced these things in the same way as ordinary human beings. Yet the final theme is not defeat but victory, the victory of life over death, and so the story cannot end at the Cross or be separated from the hope of the Resurrection.

Each participant will receive a booklet containing thoughtful notes, plenty of discussion questions to help us reflect more deeply, and suggestions for prayer in the lead-up to Easter.

### Dates and Themes

All sessions take place on Thursdays:

#### **26 February – Week 1: The Journey to Jerusalem**

*Following Jesus as he takes deliberate, courageous steps towards the city where his destiny awaits.*

## **5 March – Week 2: Into the Temple**

*Jesus challenges corruption, complacency and misplaced confidence.*

## **12 March – Week 3: Preparations**

*The Passover setting, the anointing at Bethany, and the Last Supper as signs of what is to come.*

## **19 March – Week 4: Arrest and Trial**

*The drama of betrayal, fear and injustice – and the choices made in the shadows.*

## **26 March – Week 5: Crucified and Risen**

*Holding together the suffering of the Cross and the joy of the Resurrection, the heart of Christian hope.*

Whether you are a long-standing member or simply curious, this Lent course offers a thoughtful and accessible way to journey through the final days of Jesus' life, and to rediscover the hope that rises from even the darkest places. Look out for times and joining instructions.

The course will be led by the Minister.



## **Give something to those who have nothing**

This month's special needs are listed below. Please leave a gift, large or small, on a Sunday or during the week, in the Foodbank trolley in the Mansel Road Centre.

- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetables
- Noodles
- UHT milk
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste - for adults and for children aged 0-2
- Baby wipes



# Merton Winter Night Shelter 2025/26



The Merton Winter Night Shelter (MWNS) arrived at Trinity on 25 January and will be here for the next seven Sundays until closing on Monday morning 16 March. We will be hosting up to twelve guests providing them with a supper and breakfast as well as a safe place to stay overnight. We started hosting the Shelter back in 2013 and have played a leading role ever since.

The Shelter has been running for nine weeks already, including over Christmas and New Year, having started back on 24 November. There has already been a significant turnover of guests which is unusual; the management team has been highly successful at getting guests to 'move on'. This means that they have found a safe place to transfer to, either because they can return to family/ friends, or have found rental accommodation in the private sector (normally a room in a house in multiple occupation).

This emphasises that the Night Shelter's purpose is not just to provide a safe, warm space for the homeless across the coldest months of the year, but also to find 'move-on' opportunities, so individuals can leave homelessness for good. This winter, thanks to great work between the Faith in Action Drop-In and the MWNS Project Coordinator, guests are finding those opportunities quicker than previously. A large reason for this is the stability of the staff team with Project Coordinator, Ashling Flannery, now into her fourth winter.

There will be another special element to Trinity's Shelter this winter: it will be the first where we can offer our guests a shower. Our guests can arrive from 2.30pm and we hope they will take a shower before supper is served at 8pm. Showers won't be available in the morning because there's insufficient time before we need to make the Old Hall ready for Monday's hirers. Notwithstanding, the facilities we can offer are so much better than in any previous year.

Our rota has twenty-eight people volunteering, the vast majority from Trinity's membership. However, we do have some empty slots particularly for the breakfast shift which runs from 06.30-9.00, so if you think you can get yourself to Trinity on some Monday mornings in the second half of February or in March, please do let us know.

And do drop in to see what goes on. The best time is from 6pm to 7.30pm before supper is served. You would be especially welcome if you play chess. You don't need to be a talented player, just know the basic moves and be prepared to lose gracefully if confronted by a superior player! Just one 'no/no' – don't press guests to tell you their background (the Project Coordinator knows everyone's story), just be with them and let them start any conversations. Volunteers are expected to have attended a training session and, if not, to have read the Volunteer Handbook + viewed a recording of the training session.

Don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like more information on anything here and please pray for all the guests and volunteers who will be involved.

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



## Queens Road House Group

Our February meeting will be on Tuesday 3 February (8pm). We will continue our study of Matthew 26.

We hear 'on the grapevine' of Trinity people who are keen to study their Bibles and to learn more. At the House Group we would be always be more than happy to welcome such people - we meet at 217 Queens Road and enjoy a pleasant evening's chat and discussion. If you would like to know more, please have a word with Andrew Sutton.

## Familiar faces in Trinity

### This month we hear from Winnie Kwok



**Hello, I'm Winnie.** I was born in Hong Kong and I'm the eldest of four children, with one sister and two younger brothers. My sister now lives in the UK, while my parents and brothers are still in Hong Kong.

My father worked as a truck driver, and it wasn't easy for him to support a family of six. Even though life was difficult, he always found ways to bring us joy. He loved taking us to the cinema, and before the movie he would buy us grilled dried squid or popcorn. Those simple treats made our outings feel special. He especially enjoyed Indiana Jones and James Bond films, and perhaps that's why I still love watching movies today.

My mother was a housewife. She wasn't a strict parent; instead, she gave us a lot of freedom and trusted us to make our own choices. I'm grateful for that relaxed upbringing. I think it helped shape my personality and allowed me to grow into an independent person.

Like many families, we had our share of childhood quarrels. I often fought with my elder brother, and my mother would pull me away so I wouldn't hurt him — which usually meant I ended up being the one who got hit. I also felt at times that my mother favoured my sister, and as a child that upset me. But as I grew older, my perspective changed. I realised how fortunate I am to have siblings. Whenever my parents face difficulties, the four of us can talk, support one another, and share the burden together. That closeness is something I treasure deeply.

Being the eldest meant I learned responsibility early. Even as a child, I made my own decisions. Choosing my secondary school by myself was probably one of the most important decisions of my life, and it was also where I first learned about God, which changed my life.

I love the countryside, so hiking has always been one of my favourite activities. My very first hike was through the Duke of Edinburgh Award

programme. It was physically demanding — I had to carry a huge backpack with everything we needed for hiking and camping on the mountains for two nights and three days for the bronze award. It was tough, but it gave me a sense of achievement that stayed with me.

I also enjoy running because it's something I can do on my own. Another funny reason I like it is that I was often lucky enough to win medals. Sometimes it was simply because there weren't many people competing. Other times, I was in fourth place, but the person in front of me either fell or took the wrong route, and I ended up taking their place. Those little moments of luck always made me laugh. Both hiking and running have helped me develop endurance and perseverance.

Other than outdoor activities and watching movies, I also enjoy playing card and board games. They're a great way to bring people together. When I was in Hong Kong, I often played games with my siblings and cousins, and we always had so much fun. Those moments helped us build very close relationships, and even now I treasure the bond we share.

My background is in information technology. I've worked in several IT roles, including programming, security, auditing and project management. After moving to the UK, I felt it was a good opportunity to return to the part of IT I enjoy most — programming. In April 2025, I completed programming training in a real working environment. I'm now working on building my portfolio to increase my employability. At the same time, I'm also learning more about artificial intelligence, as it is clearly an important part of the future. To keep moving forward, I know I need persistence and endurance, and I'm committed to both. Please pray for me.

I first came to know God when I studied at a Christian secondary school. I began to believe when I learned about the evidence of Jesus' resurrection — I felt that only the true God could rise from the dead. When I moved to the UK, my husband, Patrick, brought me to Trinity, where I was baptised and met many lovely people. Through them, I learned the importance of gratitude. I've discovered that the more we count our blessings and thank God, the more He gives us. And I truly feel that He is always with me, caring for me and providing what I need. This awareness has deepened my faith, strengthened my trust in Him, and helped me overcome difficult times. ....continued

Trinity is a welcoming church, and I appreciate the sermons delivered by our ministers. My hope is that we will continue to grow, welcome more members, and become an even stronger community. Let's pray for it. : )



## Commitment for **Life** - Lent Appeal

This year, as in previous years, there will be a collection for Commitment for Life during Lent. Envelopes will be in the pews on Sundays 15, 22 and 29 March.

On Sunday 22 March, Ian Fletcher, a lay preacher from Horsham URC, will come to speak about Commitment for Life. Ian is a URC Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher and a listed speaker for Commitment for Life. He also speaks for The Bible Society.

Commitment for Life is the aid organisation arm of the United Reformed Church (URC). Its role is to raise funds and promote awareness of development issues in three regions - Bangladesh, Israel and the Occupied Territories, and Zimbabwe. 75% goes to support Christian Aid partners in the three regions, 5% to Global Justice Now to support its work against poverty, and 20% is retained to cover education, grants, administration and advocacy. Some years ago, Trinity decided to focus on Israel and the Occupied Territories. As part of this initiative, the congregation receives regular updates and information about the situation in this region. The newsletter is displayed on the notice board.

The enduring inability to achieve a lasting resolution to the conflict between the Israeli state and the Palestinian people continues to exacerbate inequality and poverty throughout the region. This unresolved situation has resulted in ongoing violence and a prevailing sense of hopelessness among those most affected.

Christian Aid has been working with the poorest people in the region since the early 1950s. Today it works with more than twenty Israeli and Palestinian organisations to protect human rights, access services, and build peace based on justice for all. Its development and humanitarian relief reach Palestinians and Israelis: Jewish, Muslim, Christian and secular.



<https://christiancaremerton.org.uk/>

## Thank you from Christian Care

I would like to thank the Trinity URC Church, on behalf of Christian Care and our volunteers, for the very generous donations of hampers that we have received.

The families that have received them are so grateful for this help and we know they will brighten their lives on Christmas Day.

Please do pass on this message of thanks so that all are aware of this appreciation of your generosity.

With best wishes  
Chairman of Trustees, Christian CARE  
Association



Dear Trinity Members

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated a Christmas hamper, or items for a hamper, to Christian Care's annual appeal.

I was absolutely delighted by your kindness and generosity. We were able to donate an amazing 19 Hampers this year. They filled the whole of my car boot, the whole of the back seat and footwell, and even the footwell and front passenger seat, and I received a letter of thanks from the Chair of Trustees.

It was wonderful to be see the looks of delight on the faces of those I deliver to when they received not only their usual food parcels and vouchers, but also the Christmas Hampers and extra vouchers.

- Pam Rostron

## Gift Day 2025

The final total for our Gift Day collection on 2 November was £9,430. Our 10 chosen charities have received our donations of £500 each and have acknowledged through either email or letter their deepest appreciation of our support.

Faith in Action received 2/3rds and Water Aid 1/3rd of the remainder, after an allocation of £2,000 retained by us to donate to chosen Disaster Appeals during the year ahead.

While the total fell slightly short of our target of £10,000 it still represents a very significant amount in this major annual effort at Trinity to help the charities chosen by us in our ballot and 'thank you' to all who supported.

<https://www.straphaels.org.uk/>



I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for your kind donation of £500.00 to St Raphael's Hospice.

We believe in the power of compassionate care, by treating the person, not just the illness.

As a local charity, we care for 1 in 4 people in our community with life-limiting illnesses, while also providing essential support to those close to them.

Each year, we support over 1,000 patients in their own homes or on our Hospice ward, as well as through our wellbeing programmes and our bereavement services, providing comfort and dignity to the very end.

Our expert hospice care costs us nearly £6.5 million to provide every year. However, we only receive around 25% of our funding from the NHS, so sustaining our services continues to be incredibly challenging.

Kind donations like yours are essential to ensure we can continue providing our vital services, free of charge, to our community.

Thank you, we simply couldn't do it without you.  
*Head of Supporter Care*

The logo for Macmillan Cancer Support, featuring the words "MACMILLAN" and "CANCER SUPPORT" in white, bold, uppercase letters on a green rectangular background.

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk>

Thank you so much for, once again, choosing to support the work that we do at Macmillan Cancer Support, and for your very kind donation of £500.00. Thank you for such longstanding commitment to supporting people living with cancer in the UK. Your generosity and support will allow us to help people with cancer receive essential physical, financial, and emotional support. At Macmillan, we won't rest, and we won't settle for anything other than the best possible support for people living with cancer.

£500, for example, could support the Cancer Information and Support Team on the Macmillan Support Line for one hour. In this time, they could support eight people affected by cancer who have questions about cancer or who need practical or financial support.

Thank you again.

*Donations & Recognition Team*

The logo for Alzheimer's Research UK, featuring the words "ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH UK" in black, bold, uppercase letters, and "FOR A CURE" in white, bold, uppercase letters inside an orange square.

<http://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/>

Thank you so much for your donation of £500 to Alzheimer's Research UK.

Thanks to you, we will be able change the lives of people affected by dementia. With your support, we are revolutionising the way we treat, diagnose, and prevent dementia, and this will bring us closer to a cure. That's something you can be really proud of!

Research has already helped millions of people recover from cancer and heart disease, and through research, we can make the same progress for people with dementia too.

We hope you will continue to stand with us as we strive for a cure.

Thank you again.

*Director of Supporter-led Fundraising*



<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org>

On behalf of everyone here at Cancer Research UK, thank you so much for your generous donation of £500.

We're the world's leading cancer charity, dedicated to saving and improving lives with our research. In the last 50 years, our pioneering work has helped double cancer survival in the UK. And today it's continuing to save lives, here and around the world.

The more money we raise, the more progress we can drive for people affected by cancer - and that's why we're so grateful for your support. By investing in our scientists and their vital research, we can realise our vision of a world where everybody leads longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer.

Together we are beating cancer.

*Associate Director, Supporter Relationship Management*

<https://www.wateraid.org/uk/>



Thank you so much to everyone at Trinity United Reformed Church - Wimbledon for your generous donation of £817.00. With your group's support, we can continue ensuring everyone, everywhere has a sustainable source of clean water and access to proper hygiene and sanitation.



Your support will bring clean water to more girls like Rova in Madagascar. In Manjakandriana, where Rova lives, it is very hot and the rivers have dried up. There used to be just one tap in the village and the water is dispensed wasn't clean. However, thanks to supporters like you, children like Rova now have access to clean water. A new water source was built which provides clean drinking water, meaning children can now focus better on their studies and not worry about having to drink dirty water.

With you, we will continue to support communities like Rova's to build water points in villages, schools and health clinics, providing a life-changing and lasting difference.

No one person can fix the water crisis alone. But with your group's support, we are one step closer. Together, we can help even more communities like Rova's thrive.

We couldn't do it without you. Thank you so much again.

*Community Team - WaterAid*

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

Thank you so much for your kind donation - it will help us to be there for our callers when they need us.

*Director of Inner South West London (Putney) Samaritans*



<https://msf.org.uk>



**FAITH IN ACTION**  
helping with homelessness

<https://www.mertonfaithinaction.org>

I am writing to acknowledge safe receipt of the cheque for £1,634.00. I also wanted to say a huge thank you to you and your congregation. Your unfailing support and commitment to our charity is greatly appreciated and it allows us to continue to work with some of the most vulnerable members of society.

Thank you.  
*Project Manager*



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

### **The Story of Trinity's Mission Church**

#### ***Part three: Years of growth at St Cuthbert's***

In researching the story of St Cuthbert's I have been amazed at the scale of the work, and the progress made in the first fifteen years of the twentieth century. In the years before the Great War the 'mission' was truly flourishing.

On Sundays there were services morning and evening, Sunday School, Infant school, Lads' Bible Class, Young women's Bible class, Men's own meeting and Prayer meeting. During the week there were Mothers' meeting, Mandolin Band, Girls' club, Lads' gymnastic class, Men's prayer meeting, Women's work party, Band of Hope, Boot club, Cricket club, Coal club, Slate club, Savings Bank, Choir practice, Orchestral practice, Saturday night concert, and several more.



*Effra Road - before WWI*

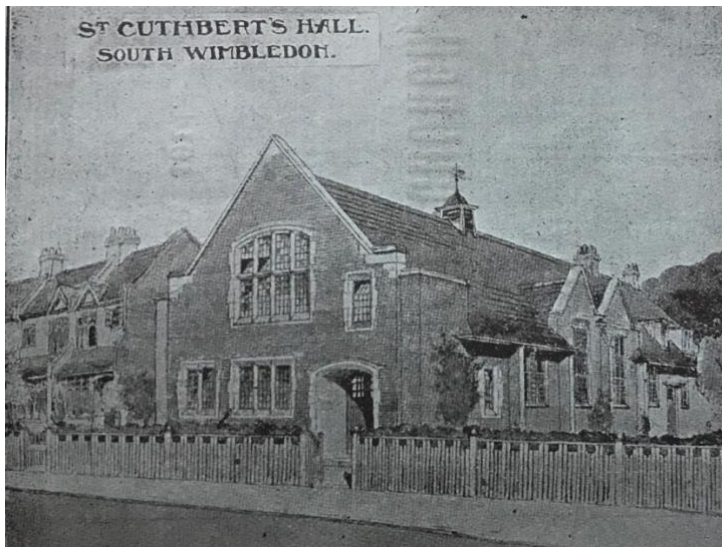
Trinity's Session (Elders) retained overall control of St Cuthbert's, and its minister, Revd Duncan Macgregor, was also minister of the mission church which was run, day to day, by the St Cuthbert's committee. In

1907 an 'Assistant minister, with responsibility for St Cuthbert's', Revd Alexander Somerville Andrew, a young minister straight out of college, was appointed and he was succeeded in 1909 by Revd Mervyn Henderson. Then, for three years, a retired minister and Trinity Elder, Revd Thos Boyd, acted as 'Honorary minister in charge'.

Trinity members supported the 'mission' with enthusiasm. Prominent among these were the Luffman, Shave and Moore families, Messrs Comer, McIvor, Sligh, Herbert Love and John Wilson.

The Sunday morning service was originally principally for children though from about 1912 the service welcomed adults too. The main service, for adults, met in the evening. Numbers attending the evening service grew rapidly, and a separate St Cuthbert's roll of members was opened - from just 12 members in 1908 this grew to 95 in 1914.

Reviewing progress, Mr Henderson wrote: "On recent Sunday evenings our congregation has numbered 150 but we hope before many years to see this increased to 1,500, and why not?"

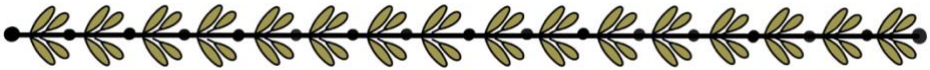


*A drawing of St Cuthbert's, 1910*

The Sunday School grew and grew. We will look at this in more detail next month. But on Sunday afternoons the Hall was full to capacity. The gallery was closed off to make an extra room. The decision was taken, with regret, that no more children could be accepted.

In 1914 the status of St Cuthbert's Hall was raised to 'District Church' by Presbytery. The object was to 'build up a self-supporting, self-governing Presbyterian church of working people in the densely populated district where the Church is situated'. They were well on their way to this objective and, importantly, now free of debt on the buildings and (almost) financially self-supporting.

Then came the Great War. By the end of 1914 over thirty names were on the St Cuthbert's Roll of Honour - those serving who had a connection with the church. Over the following years the work continued, hampered by the absence of men.



In the Bible, caring for creation is God's first instruction to humans. This Lent, a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God, we encourage you to take up our Lent challenge – living more simply and finding new ways to cut your carbon footprint.

Sign up at [climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/](https://climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/) and you will receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for ways to reduce your carbon footprint, and a prayer to lead you through Lent.