

Trinity News



March 2026

No.559



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org

March Reflection

Greetings Friends,

'If you're going to lose, you might as well do it good and proper and try to sneak a win!' - Ted Dexter.

Since the pandemic, there has been a rise in what has been called quiet quitting, where people, rather than resigning or challenging a toxic environment, simply check in physically but check out mentally.

Of course, this is not a new phenomenon. We all know what it feels like to daydream our way through a dull classroom, lecture hall, or meeting. But have you noticed how normalised it has become?

It seems we no longer work to live, but live to work. People spend more time with colleagues than with loved ones. Holiday leave is now optional. Days off have become hours off. And as for retirement, many are choosing to postpone it, even when there is no financial or vocational incentive to do so.

Perhaps we are becoming a race of human doings rather than human beings.

Recently, on the URC Ministers' Forum, a colleague shared an article titled:

'There's no gold medal in the stress Olympics – here's how to start resting.'

Out of 378 ministers, only three *'liked'* the post. It seems rest is not en vogue.

And yet, Scripture has a great deal to say about rest:

From the very beginning, we are told, *'And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.'* (Genesis 2:2).

Later, God told the people to, *'Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.'* (Exodus 20:8).

Furthermore, Jesus Himself said, *'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest'* (Matthew 11:28).

Rest is not about ignoring responsibilities, nor is it simply the cessation of activity. True biblical rest involves stepping away from what drains us so we can focus on what restores us. For some, this means lounging on a beach; for others, it might be curling up on the sofa with a favourite book and a beverage. Some people find rest in hiking a trail or skiing down a mountain, while others seek it in the company of loved ones or in the silence of retreat.

What re-energises us may differ wildly, but the principle remains the same:

We all need rest, and we need to be intentional about it.

During the first Lent, after the temptations in the wilderness, we are told, *'Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him'* (Matthew 4:11).

Interestingly, Jesus did not immediately rush out to heal, teach, or perform miracles. Instead, he took a moment to pause and allow himself to be strengthened. Jesus knew when to step away to pray, and this is a pattern we see throughout Christ's earthly ministry, as he would also encourage his disciples, *'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while'* (Mark 6:31).

However, if the Son of God needed rest, what makes us think we do not?

The Northumbria Community offers this contemplative prayer:

*'Teach us, dear Lord, to number our days;
that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.
Oh, satisfy us early with Thy mercy,
that we may rejoice and be glad all of our days.
And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us;
and establish Thou the work of our hands.
And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us;
and establish Thou the work of our hands, dear Lord.'*
Amen.

As we journey through this season of Lent, perhaps we need to take a leaf out of Christ's book and learn to live what the Good Book teaches. Whatever storms may be swirling outside us, may we have peace within us, may our stress become serenity, and our tests become tranquillity as we find rest in the beauty of our Lord.

With every blessing,

Jacob Bali

Revd Dr Jacob Bali

(The Minister's usual day off is Monday)

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 either at 12:30 for soup and bread, followed by each session from 13:00 to 14:30 in the Mansel Road Centre or at 20:00 via Microsoft Teams in the comfort of your own home.

Please sign up on the notice in the vestry corridor if you plan to join.

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.

The course will be led by the Minister.



March

1	Sun	<i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 11:00	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
4	Wed	19:30	Elders' Council
5	Thurs	12:30 & 20:00	Lent group: "Into the temple"
6	Fri	09:45 20:15	Trinity Toddlers Choir practice
8	Sun	<i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 11:00	Morning Worship
10	Tues	10:30 14:00	Lettings Team Pastoral Team
12	Thurs	12:30 & 20:00	Lent group: "Preparations"
13	Fri	09:45 10:00- 12:00 20:15	Trinity Toddlers Big Brew Coffee morning Choir practice
15	Sun	<i>4th Sunday in Lent - Mothering Sunday</i> 11:00	Morning Worship
16	Mon	20:00	Queens Road house group
17	Tues	20:00	Property Team
18	Wed	20:00	Finance Team
19	Thurs	12:30 & 20:00	Lent group: "Arrest & trial"

March (continued)

20	Fri	09:45 20:15	Trinity Toddlers Choir practice
22	Sun	<i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> 11:00	Morning Worship led by Ian Fletcher Theme: Commitment for Life
		12:30	Church Meeting
25	Wed	19:30	Children & Youth Work Team
26	Thurs	12:30 & 20:00	Lent group: "Crucified & risen"
27	Fri	09:45 20:15	Trinity Toddlers Choir practice
29	Sun	<i>Palm Sunday</i> 10:00	United churches Act of Witness for Palm Sunday (outside Tesco Express, Wimbledon town centre)
		11:00	Morning worship



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 in West Sussex, will come to lead the Service and 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 Bible Society.

Church Secretary update

Claire Wood will take up her role as Joint Church Secretary alongside Dodie Khurshid from April 2026, following her election by Church Meeting last November.

Claire brings a wealth of experience as a long-standing Elder and through her leadership of Trinity's work with children and young people over many years.

Sam Elliot stands down at the end of March, and Claire, Sam and Dodie will work together to ensure a smooth handover during the coming weeks.

*Thank
You!*

Trinity has received a very generous donation from Isobel Angus and her family. This gift has been made in memory of Norman, our Senior Elder, who died last April.



Norman, an Electrical Engineer, was a longstanding key member of the Property Team; his service spanned decades rather than years. The donation is intended for the Property Team to use towards an appropriate project. The timing of this donation is particularly significant, as one of the Team's current priorities is a comprehensive review of the lighting in the worship area.

The contribution from Isobel and the Angus family is deeply appreciated and stands as a heartfelt tribute to Norman's memory. This act of generosity will have a lasting impact on the Trinity community.

Holy Week & Easter Services

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week. We remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, where the crowd laid down palm branches for him to walk on.

In Wimbledon, the churches join in a short 10-minute act of witness (Bible reading, prayer and hymn) outside Tesco Express (Wimbledon Old Town Hall) at 10:00, with palm branches and a donkey. All welcome.

Our service at Trinity will follow at 11:00 as usual.



Holy Week & Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, the washing of the disciples' feet, and Jesus' betrayal and arrest.

Short reflective services will be held each evening at 7.30pm, including Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday.



Good Friday

Good Friday is the day we remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

At our service at 10:30 we meet, pray and reflect on the cost of the great sacrifice of love: Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God and Redeemer of the world.

Coffee & hot cross buns will be available on the forecourt (weather permitting) after the service.



Easter Sunday

Easter celebrates Jesus' resurrection and the triumph of life over death.

We are invited to share in the Mass of the Dawn at St Mark's church beginning at 05:30

At Trinity we celebrate at 11:00 with a joyful service with Holy Communion, and the Blossoming of the Cross. All are invited to bring a flower to decorate the Cross during the service.



Church Family News

In memoriam

Lesley Ann Wilmot - 1953-2026

Lesley was born on 25 August 1953 in Calcutta, India where she lived with her parents, Joyce and Leslie Wilmot, her two older brothers, Peter and John, and her maternal grandparents. When Lesley was about three years old her father got a job with Brown & Root in Merton, so she and her parents moved to England and were later followed by her brothers and grandparents. They bought a house on Worple Road, which remained Lesley's home for the rest of her life.



Lesley went to Tudor Road Primary school, where her mother was a teacher, and then attended secondary school at Ricards Lodge. She decided to become a Primary School teacher, like her mother, and studied at Philippa Fawcett Training College for Teachers in Streatham.

Once qualified, Lesley taught in Balham for several years, before moving to Joseph Hood Primary School. Lesley was very musical and could play the piano and flute and was the music specialist in both schools, responsible for putting on many musical productions and Nativity plays. For the last twenty years of her teaching career she taught at the Hospital School at St George's Hospital in Tooting, which she found very rewarding, and she was able to support many very sick children.

In 2003 Lesley was received into membership at Trinity, and a year later she was ordained as an Elder. Trinity remained an important part of her life for the remainder of her years at Wimbledon, whether singing in the choir, or attending the Sunday services.

Lesley retired in July 2013, and only weeks after this, was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. She didn't let the diagnosis restrict her active social life, and indeed she made good use of the opportunities offered by the local Parkinson's group, including attending dance classes with English National Ballet. However, Covid hit Lesley very hard, and she found the isolation necessitated by lockdowns extremely difficult. It gave her great joy when she was finally able to return to worship at Trinity, even with social distancing still in place.

As her Parkinson's developed, it finally became too much for Lesley to stay in her beloved family home, and she agreed to move to a nursing home in Kings Lynn, near her family. The final few months of her life were filled with activities at the home, and plenty of outings and adventures with her niece, Emma. Sadly, her health deteriorated suddenly at the start of January, and she died peacefully in her sleep on 17 January.

*Pam Rostron –
with thanks to Sally Wilmot, Lesley's sister-in-law*



March birthdays

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Brenden Chung, Gareth Clifford, Katrina Clifford, Penuel Downey, Cathy Dundee, Isaac Or, Kwadwo Sarpong, Peter Smith, Alex Woo and Claire Wood.



Join the Outreach & Witness Team

Trinity's Outreach and Witness Team is responsible for encouraging and supporting outreach and witness initiatives in the Merton community and assisting in the development of ecumenical links in Merton. It is a small team at present, consisting of Ian Henning, Mike Tulloch and our Minister Jacob, with two other members on leave of absence while they lead Trinity's Green Group.



The Team normally meets four times a year, and most of its varied and interesting work consists of keeping in touch with projects in the community which Trinity supports, such as the Winter Night Shelter, Faith in Action, the Wimbledon Foodbank and Merton Citizens. The team also organises speaker meetings, as well as liaising with faith community groups such as the Wimbledon Green Churches Group, and considers possible new outreach initiatives.

We would like to enlarge the team. Anyone at Trinity is welcome, and you don't need to be an Elder! If you are interested, please speak to any of Jacob, Ian or Mike.

- Mike Tulloch (michaeltulloch@phoncoop.coop)

Green Group questionnaire

Thank you to all who completed a questionnaire for The Green Group a few months ago. We had an encouraging 34 responses. The purpose of the questionnaire was for us to understand the congregation's environmental practices and opinions, and to see what changes there had been since 2023 when we had 27 responses.



The main questions focused on transport, recycling, consumption, community engagement and climate concern.

Here is a very brief summary of the results:

In 2023, 8 out of 27 people never used a car to come to church and travelled by public transport, walked or cycled.

In 2025, this improved, with 23 out of 34 travelling to church by means other than car. Some people also told us that they have an electric car.



However, in 2023 more people who drove to church had considered using a different form of transport. In 2025, a higher proportion of people told us that it isn't practical to come any other way, citing unreliable public transport, time taken, and giving lifts to others.



In 2023, 100% told us that they made an effort to reduce their energy consumption. In 2025, this was 94% but there was some uncertainty over changes made in energy consumption since the last survey.

It would seem that everyone recycled plastic, paper, tin and glass in 2023 and continued to do so in 2025. However, more people now also recycle soft plastic.

Food waste recycling remained similar, with a comment from some that 'there is no provision for this in our flats'.

When asked in 2023 about clothes recycling, 70% did so in one form or another: charity shops, selling on Vinted, using recycling banks. In 2025, this was 86% which is fantastic.



In 2023, 59% made an effort to buy Fairtrade or other ethically sourced goods.



In 2025, this was 83%. Among those who didn't then and don't now, the reasons remain the same: 'too expensive', 'not always better quality', and 'supermarket stock is limited'.

Interestingly, the number of people who buy organic or locally grown produce has dropped substantially with the reasons given in 2025 being: 'usually more expensive', 'pressure of time', 'convenience of supermarket deliveries', 'not necessarily good quality and expensive'.



The popularity of the Eco Stall at Trinity hasn't grown, with only a handful of people answering the question about whether they use the stall, and those who do said that they only use it occasionally.



In 2023, 46% said that they invested ethically, while in 2025 this was 48%, so a small increase. Some people don't know how or where to do this, and some said they will investigate this.

It is clear that the majority have never undertaken a carbon footprint or a personal lifestyle audit.

Finally, last year we asked, **'What do you think Trinity should be doing about climate change and the effect that it has on the environment and nature'**.

Here are some of the comments, and the Green Group's responses:
Continue to look at ways to reduce energy consumption, renewable energy.

Trinity has just switched energy provider from Ecotricity to Octopus Energy. This will allow us to use our solar panels more efficiently and give surplus energy back to the Grid.

We have a Nest heating system in the Church and Hive in the Old Hall which means we can turn the heat on and off as required rather than have it on all the time.

Make more use of electronic messaging, reduce paper copies, without excluding older people and those who cannot use it.

We have recently used an online voting system for the Elders' Council election, and more information about a programme called ChurchSuite will be coming out soon.

We already have a number of initiatives and should keep assessing ways to introduce more sustainability measures to how we use our premises.

We are currently looking into sending all hirers our Environmental Policy, and asking them to help us where they can to reduce waste by not using disposables.

Doing what is practicable to reduce carbon footprint and to educate us about our personal lifestyle.

The Green Group has nearly completed the Carbon Footprint for the church which will help us to know more about the areas we need to prioritise.

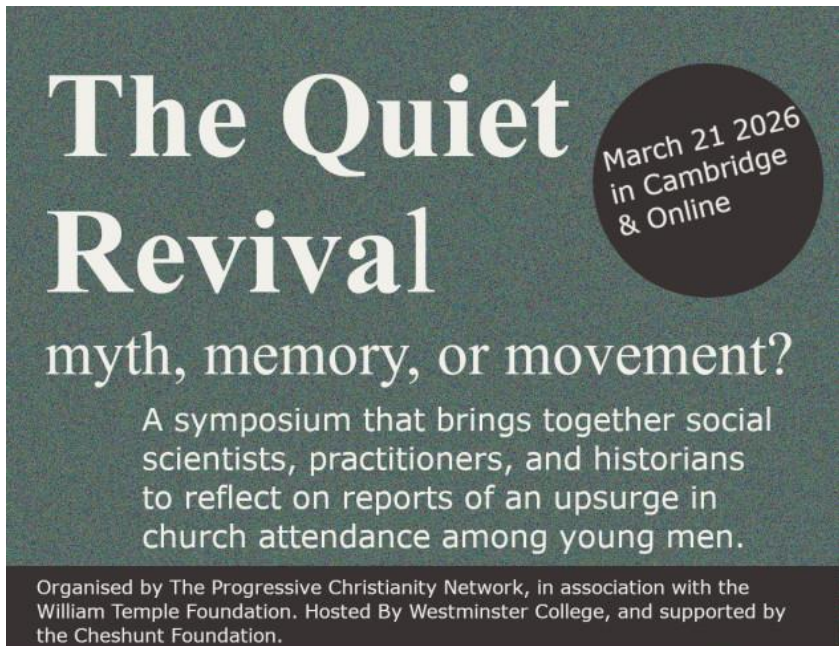
If you haven't already seen it, there is an Eco Notice Board in the Vestry corridor with a lot of information about how to make small changes to your personal lifestyle.

Perhaps publicise local activities by Sustainable Merton, Friends of the Earth more?

A meeting has been held with Friends of the Earth Wimbledon. We are now on their mailing list, so each time an event is published it will be placed on the Eco Notice Board. The same applies for Sustainable Merton events.

Church Meeting - Sunday 22 March (after morning worship)

After a shorter service, please stay for our Church Meeting and Election to Elders' Council. We'll finish by 1.30pm. Tea and coffee will be served.

A poster for 'The Quiet Revival' symposium. The title 'The Quiet Revival' is in large white serif font. Below it, the subtitle 'myth, memory, or movement?' is in a smaller white sans-serif font. A dark circular badge on the right contains the text 'March 21 2026 in Cambridge & Online'. Below the subtitle, a paragraph describes the symposium as one that brings together social scientists, practitioners, and historians to reflect on reports of an upsurge in church attendance among young men. At the bottom, it lists the organizers: The Progressive Christianity Network, William Temple Foundation, Westminster College, and the Cheshunt Foundation.

The Quiet Revival

March 21 2026
in Cambridge
& Online

myth, memory, or movement?

A symposium that brings together social scientists, practitioners, and historians to reflect on reports of an upsurge in church attendance among young men.

Organised by The Progressive Christianity Network, in association with the William Temple Foundation. Hosted By Westminster College, and supported by the Cheshunt Foundation.



Hosted by Westminster College Cambridge.
For further details and to book click [HERE](#)

**Come and enjoy a cuppa,
cake and a chat**

**on Friday 13 March
from 10:00 to 12:00**

Room 2, Mansel Road Centre



**There will be a cake sale and
Traidcraft stall to raise funds for Transform Trade and their
work.**

**(Contact: Elizabeth Scharinger at office@trinitywimbledon.org for
further information)**

Transform Trade, organiser of the Big Brew nationwide, is a charity working in three sectors - tea, fashion, and farming. They support small-scale tea growers, cotton farmers, jute growers, craftspeople and others to come together, develop a collective voice, build their confidence and get the relevant training to meet the challenges of rapidly changing markets and make trade fair for everyone. This year is Transform Trade's 40th birthday.

A visit to Southwark Cathedral

Following two successful visits in 2025 (to the Charterhouse and Wesley's Chapel & Museum) we are planning to visit Southwark Cathedral, on the South Bank of the River Thames, on Wednesday 15 April.

With its long history reaching back to a 'minster' in the Domesday Book of 1086, as a priory, parish church, and as a cathedral since 1905, Southwark is once again (as in monastic days) a centre for a pattern of daily worship within the English Cathedral music tradition. It continues to serve the people of its parish and the diocese, to be a centre of teaching, of worship, prayer and pilgrimage and offers an open and inclusive welcome to all.

If you are interested in joining a group visit and would like to know more, please contact catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com.



Our Church is taking part in The Big Plastic Count Will you?



The Big Plastic Count is the UK's biggest investigation into household plastic waste.

From **9 to 15 March**, thousands of people, schools, churches and communities will be counting the plastic packaging they throw away – our church included! In previous years, some of our congregation have taken part individually, but this year we have signed up to count as a Church. Our results will be used to call on the government and companies to reduce plastic waste and create a better future.

Will you join us? Over 120,000 people have previously taken part!

You'll discover how much plastic you throw away – some of us have been so shocked in previous years that it's been the incentive we needed to make some small changes.

To take part, please contact Elizabeth Scharinger at office@trinitywimbledon.org. You will then receive a form to track your waste and some information about the count. You might even get a certificate at the end!!



Queens Road House Group

We will be meeting (a little later in the month than usual) on **Monday 16 March** (8pm) at 217 Queens Road. All are welcome to join us.

Rather fittingly for the time of year, we will be looking at the events in the Garden of Gethsemane followed by Jesus' trial, as contained in Matthew chapters 26 and 27.

Familiar faces in Trinity

This month we hear from Janet Young



I was born Janet Redgrave in December 1948 in Southampton. Because of my father's job we made three moves in my Primary school years, first to Bournemouth then to Gloucester. Then his final promotion, as manager of the Midland Bank, took him to Tonbridge, Kent in 1960, although we actually lived in Tunbridge Wells. I was able to complete my entire secondary education at Tonbridge Grammar School.

My parents (my mother a lifelong Methodist) joined St John's Methodist Church in Southborough where they soon became hard working office bearers in different areas of church life. I attended Sunday School and Youth Fellowship and later taught in the Primary department of the Sunday School. I was confirmed into church membership in my mid teens.

In autumn 1967 I was coming up to Southlands Teacher Training College in Wimbledon, but before I started college my parents met another family on the train to Scotland and again at various locations in Scotland. The two Mums got talking (as Mums do!) and discovered that we were all 'church people' and that the Young family lived in Wimbledon. Names and addresses were exchanged! Once at college I attended the (then) Trinity Presbyterian Church, where, of course, I met Alan and the Young family and the rest as they say is history!!

We were married at my Southborough church in July 1972, with Catherine as our bridesmaid, and set up home in Wimbledon Park. In October I joined Trinity, and became a Presbyterian only to become a URC member a week later when the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches joined together as the United Reformed Church!

Over the years I've had several jobs in the church. Among them I served on the (then) Women's Committee, I organised the Sunday creche, I taught in the Junior Church and for a while (until the pandemic) ran the Toddler Group with Miriam Grant. I have also 'supervised' the Nativity Play costumes for about 30 years!

My teaching career in Primary schools has been diverse – sometimes full time, sometimes part time or supply teaching and finally, before retirement, ten very happy years teaching Reception children at Danes Hill in Oxshott.

Our daughters Elizabeth and Susan were born in 1977 and 1980 respectively and were baptised in Trinity. Both were confirmed and later were married here. And now, of course, Elizabeth is the Church Administrator, and Susan is the fourth generation of my family to be a teacher.

Both daughters have a girl and a boy - Elizabeth has Olivia and Joshua and Susan has Katy and Toby and all were baptised here and as small children regularly attended Junior Church.

The grandsons, in their teens, are very heavily involved in weekend sport – both cricket and football, but the granddaughters, having grown up through the Junior Church and YPs, now help with the small children.

We were very proud grandparents when both the girls were confirmed in Trinity, Olivia in 2023 and Katy in 2025.

My parents moved to Wimbledon in 1995 to be closer to us and, naturally, joined Trinity. It was good to have them so near in their final years. Sadly, they never knew their great grandchildren.

Alan and I celebrated our Golden Wedding in 2022, and I have been so fortunate to grow up in and marry into a Christian family. It is our church background and faith which has enabled us to live such a fulfilled and happy family life for so many years.



Final copy date for April (Easter) edition of *Trinity News* is Sunday 22 March. Please send items to catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com

"Morning Has Broken": The Story Behind the Hymn

Eleanor Farjeon spent her life writing poems, plays, and children's stories, yet much of her work went unnoticed. Born in 1881 to a literary family in London, Eleanor was a small, timid child, who had poor eyesight and suffered from ill-health throughout her childhood. She often felt undervalued—especially as a woman writer in the early twentieth century.



After her novelist father's death, she lived with her brother Herbert, supporting his career while neglecting her own. Despite these challenges, she continued writing and, in 1931, composed "Morning Has Broken" (a hymn sung regularly at Trinity to the old Gaelic tune "Bunessan") for a children's hymnal, earning only a modest payment for lyrics that quietly resonated in British schools and churches.

Eleanor received some literary recognition—including the Carnegie Medal in 1955—but lived humbly in Sussex, surrounded by books and cats, and converted to Catholicism late in life. She died in 1965, nearly blind and relatively unknown.

Six years later, Cat Stevens discovered "Morning Has Broken," recording a version that became an international hit and brought widespread attention to Eleanor's words, though she never lived to see their impact.

Eleanor's legacy is bittersweet: her most famous work gained prominence posthumously, and her quiet dedication as a writer was overshadowed during her lifetime.

Today, "Morning Has Broken" is sung worldwide, but few know its author. Eleanor Farjeon's story is a reminder of the quiet power of creativity and the unseen influence of those who come before their time.



Give something to those who have nothing

Whilst all gifts are welcome, the Foodbank tell us that their most urgent needs are for:

Tinned meat • Long life milk • Squash

They have plenty of pasta, baked beans, pulses, lentils and chickpeas. And please avoid items containing alcohol. Gifts can be left in the trolley in the Mansel Road Centre.

Christian Aid Week

This is very advance notice for the Week which starts on Sunday 10 May. Volunteers are needed to deliver envelopes to houses in our area. As in previous years this will be delivery only. Please let us know if you can do it. Any help will be very much appreciated.



On Saturday morning 9 May there will be the annual Christian Aid Car Boot sale in St Mary's field in the village. This is usually a big fund-raiser for Christian Aid. There are lots of ways to support. Please let us know if

- you have something we might sell on the Christian Aid stall
- you can take a poster to display at home
- you can bake something for the refreshment stall
- you can help on the day

Entry for cars is from 7am; there is no booking. Cars are charged £10, vans £15.

Do come along. Entry is £1, or £2 before 9am. It is usually, weather permitting, a nice morning out!

- Mike & Margaret Tulloch



From the Archives....

The Story of Trinity's Mission Church

Part four: The Sunday School

We have seen how the Mission was originally started as a Sunday School and that the School grew and thrived both in Southey Road and later at St Cuthbert's in Effra Road.

The Effra Road Sunday School was a huge organisation, involving many Trinity people as leaders and teachers - an enormous commitment in many cases. For example, Mr Herbert Shave, Superintendent for many years, was also Trinity's Organist and Choirmaster - so week after week he played the organ and led the choir at two Sunday services and spent the afternoon at St Cuthbert's!



*Mr Herbert Shave,
St Cuthbert's Sunday School
Superintendent, and Trinity's
Organist & Choirmaster*

The 1936 Yearbook listed the 37 teachers. Of these 19 were Trinity members (where, of course they had their own Sunday School) and 11 were members of St Cuthbert's, mostly former pupils. Apart from Mr Shave, other Superintendents included Mr John Wilson and Mr H W Baker (father of Wendy, who some will remember). Mr Fred Luffman served as Secretary for 25 years (as well as being an early Secretary of Wimbledon Football Club).

Year followed year and the pattern rarely changed. Each January there was a 'Winter treat', or party; in May a visit was paid to the Mansel Road Sunday School for their anniversary; there was Harvest Thanksgiving in September and, each November, the Mansel Road children made the 'return journey' to Effra Road for the St Cuthbert's Sunday School anniversary. In the early years the children were encouraged to learn the Shorter Catechism, but this was replaced later by Scripture Union exams.

There were also the summer 'treats'. These were big events. In 1912, for example, a special train left Haydons Road station for Riddlesdown, near Caterham at 9am carrying 306 children and 76 adults. The children enjoyed their day in the countryside, ran races, had tea and returned by train from Purley at 8.30pm. A long day! Later outings went to Bognor or Littlehampton.



In November 1937, St Cuthberts Sunday School celebrated its Jubilee - fifty years since the launch in the little hall in Southey Road. There was a celebratory issue of the 'Trinity Presbyterian', three special services on the Sunday and a public gathering on the Monday which ended with a colourful Pageant of scholars dressed in period and National costumes.

The 'record' year was 1912 when 350 children were on the Roll. That figure was never reached again but numbers remained large, and shortage of accommodation led to the building of a new hall in 1935. As the Second World War approached the Sunday School was almost as strong as ever - over two hundred children on the Roll with an average weekly attendance of 150 (though this could be affected by outbreaks of measles or other illnesses).