

Trinity News



June 2026

No.562



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org



| | | | |
|-------|------------|------------------------------|--|
| 5 | Fri | 09:45 | Trinity Toddlers |
| 7 | Sun | 10:30 11:00 | Elders' Meeting Morning worship with Holy Communion Followed by Messy Church |
| 9 | Tues | 10:30 20:00 | Lettings Team Queens Road house group |
| 12 | Fri | 09:45 10:00- 12:00 | Trinity Toddlers Churches Count on Nature coffee morning at Trinity |
| 12/13 | | | Elders' Council retreat |
| 14 | Sun | 11:00 | Morning Worship |
| 19 | Fri | 09:45 | Trinity Toddlers |
| 20 | Sat | | Southern Synod Big Day Out |
| 21 | Sun | 11:00 | Morning Worship |
| 23 | Tues | 20:00 | Children & Youth Work Team |
| 24 | Wed | 19:30 | Elders' Council |
| 26 | Fri | 09:45 | Trinity Toddlers |
| 28 | Sun | 11:00 | Morning Worship |
| 30 | Tues | 20:00 | Property Team |

June Reflection

Greetings Friends,

'It is just too good to be true!', we exclaim when something seems so perfect that our common sense balks. We warn one another, *'if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is'*.

But is that always *true*? Must goodness and truth be mutually exclusive?

We hear stories that sound like tall tales: a lost person guided to safety by a wild animal; someone who finds a treasure only to be told that they can keep it as a reward; a chance encounter in a random place that becomes a lifelong friendship and changes many lives. Each time we shrug and ask, *'Really?'* and yet each story carries the same stubborn possibility: the world sometimes surprises us with goodness we did not earn and cannot fully explain.

Two thousand years ago, the air was abuzz with the news that a Jewish carpenter and rabbi had risen from the dead, and not only that, several people claimed to have seen him.

Luke tells us that *'After his suffering, he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God' (Acts 1:3)*.

Christ told them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father, and ten days later, in a moment that still astonishes the world, the Holy Spirit arrived in tongues of fire, and the Church was born (Acts 1-2). What began as a scandal, a crucified teacher, became the centre of a movement that turned enemies into witnesses and despair into mission.

The early Church is full of moments that sound implausible. Saul of Tarsus, once the fiercest opponent of the Way, met the risen Christ on the road to Damascus and was transformed into Paul, apostle to the Gentiles. Lives were turned around; communities were remade. To the sceptic, it reads like fiction. To those who lived it, it was the most real thing they had ever known.

And the same pattern continues today. Every week, we hear of ordinary people whose lives are altered by an encounter they cannot fully explain. Reconciliation where there was bitterness, courage where there was fear, a new vocation where there was only drift. These are not always dramatic conversions; often they are small, steady changes, a kindness offered, a habit broken, a forgiveness given. Still, they bear the same fingerprint: mystery, mercy, and the work of God in the ordinary.

Yet, we mustn't forget that healthy scepticism exists for a reason. We must not be gullible. But neither should we harden our hearts against the possibility that God sometimes acts in ways that exceed our expectations. The Christian life holds both a call to discernment and an invitation to be surprised.

This month, as we move from the mystery of Trinity Sunday into the season that follows, may we practise two things: openness and patience. Openness to being surprised by God's goodness; patience to wait when the promise is not yet fulfilled. The disciples waited in Jerusalem without a clear timetable, and then, in God's time, the Spirit came.

There is a liberty in holy curiosity. There is a freedom when we tell the stories we have been given, not as proof texts to browbeat the doubtful, but as honest testimony to what God has done among us. There is hope when we are open to being baffled, to be delighted, and to be changed.

Indeed, as we face the uncertainty of the unknown, may we be willing to be surprised, may we be willing to be bamboozled, and may we be willing to embrace the fact that some things are just too good *not* to be true.

With every blessing,



Revd Dr Jacob Bali

(The Minister's usual day off is Monday)



Have you signed up to

 **ChurchSuite**

Trinity members should have received an email invitation to sign up to our new way of keeping in touch. The ChurchSuite address book helps the Church to communicate efficiently and well, and allows you to update your contact details at any time.

At present, the address book (Search for Others) and church calendar (My Events) are live. In due course further facilities will be added, so look out for these.

The Minister, writing to all following the April Church Meeting when ChurchSuite was presented, said, "At its heart, this is about supporting one another by ensuring that information reaches the right people, enabling good pastoral contact, and allowing each of us to choose how we wish to be kept informed." You can read the full letter [here](#).

Church Family News

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including

Toby Collins, Grace de Grouchy, Mark Dennis, Jean Jerram, Olivia Li, Sarah Li, Oliver Mansfield, Raychel Matika, Joyce Sarpong, Olivia Scharinger, Andrew Sutton and Michael Young.



Messy Church - Sunday 7 June



Messy Church is back for another session at Trinity. Please do join us after our morning service on Sunday 7 June for our next opportunity for informal worship, fellowship, food and crafts.

Our theme this year is linked to World Environment Day, which is celebrated on 5 June, so our worship and activities will take their inspiration from God's call to look after our beautiful planet.

Remember, Messy Church is not only for children and young people, and it would be lovely to have **all ages**, Trinity members, non-members and friends with us.

Maybe you usually join friends or family for lunch after the service on Sunday, but why not do something a little different and come to our Messy Church session and enjoy an afternoon of fun, creativity and time to spend with each other.

The Children and Youth Work Team



Diary date for *all* Elders
This year's conference will be held
on Saturday 3 October



Queens Road House Group

At our May meeting we began a study of the Book of Revelation - we read William Barclay's introduction and then studied the first few verses.

We will meet next on Tuesday 9 June (8pm) at 217 Queens Road. Anybody who would like to study this strange but challenging book will be very welcome to join us.

Are you going on holiday?



Wherever you may be, when browsing one of the many gift shops, could you add a linen or cotton tea towel for Trinity to your shopping? We are very short of them in our kitchen and would appreciate donations.

And it would make washing up so much more interesting to see the various parts of the world our congregation have visited!

Trussell, formerly known as the 'Trussell Trust', the anti-poverty charity and operator of the Foodbank network write:

When we say people have no food in their cupboards, we mean it. People like Mandy need your help. No matter how hard she saved, Mandy's money didn't cover the essentials.

"It would come to the third week of the month and we literally didn't have anything to eat", said Mandy.



Mandy was forced to turn to a Foodbank. There, she received a warm welcome, a hot cup of tea - and emergency food.

Foodbanks can only support people like Mandy with our help. Please continue to leave your gifts in the trolley in the Mansel Road Centre - the most urgently needed items are tinned meat, long-life milk, custard and rice pudding.

Trussell's Together Garden wins Gold at RHS Chelsea

'This garden is inspired by the way food banks, and the communities that support them, come together to help those on the lowest incomes. It's a powerful reminder that when each of us plays our part, we can end hunger together. The theme of togetherness is woven throughout the garden's design.'



You can read more about the garden [HERE](#).

The garden will be relocated to Strabane Foodbank, part of the Trussell community in Northern Ireland.

Churches Count on Nature Coffee Morning



Friday 12th June
10am-12



Join us for a cup of coffee
and a piece of cake and
help us count the nature we can
see in the garden



Recycle your empty medicine blister packs in-store at Superdrug in Wimbledon Quarter. The metal is recycled, and the plastic is processed into a material used for construction or furniture.

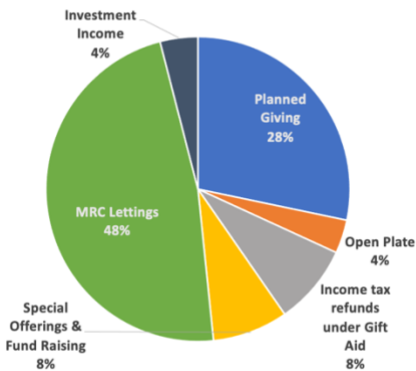
Trinity's Finances and 2025 Accounts

Trinity's current finances have a distinct Ying and Yang. Our capital reserves are strong and got stronger in 2025; in contrast our annual income and expenditure were out of line for the second year with an even higher deficit of £36,900.

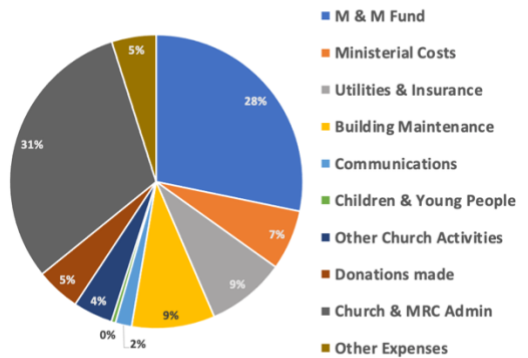
Our income declined by 2%. Our income comes from two sources - donations by the congregation through Planned Giving and Open Plate, and Lettings Income from the Mansel Road Centre (MRC). The former, including Gift Aid tax relief, was up by 4.5% but MRC Lettings declined by 5%. As it forms a larger part of the total (see the pie chart), the maths produce the overall decline.

Expenditure in 2025 increased by 4%. Our costs are driven by two key items - Trinity's contribution to the URC's Ministry & Mission Fund and Church & MRC Administration (see the pie chart below). The former was stable, but Church & MRC Administration increased by 6%; we have three employees as well as a regular contract cleaner so are vulnerable to rising inflation. Building Maintenance costs were also up significantly after a number of years below budget; significant sums were incurred on the church's AV system, church lighting and fuse box upgrades.

Income and Costs 2025



Total Income £283,444



Total costs £320,344

Overall, Trinity had a deficit of £36,900 on recurring income and costs, even worse than in 2024 when the deficit was £18,000. To rectify this, we need an increase in regular income because the scope for significant cost reductions is limited. Lettings Income has been negatively affected by a number of external factors, notably new competition, as well as the general cost of living crisis on our hirers. 2026 has started a little better than last year, but is not likely to return to pre-Covid levels. Planned Giving has to be the main means through which the gap can be closed, not least because it is the most efficient way to donate. This is for two reasons: first, all donations are eligible for a 25% uplift through the Government's Tax Gift Aid reclaim scheme, unlike donations that are made into the open plate; and bank transfers do not incur transaction fees unlike all online donations. Please do contact our Planned Giving Secretary to see if your donations can be more efficient.

Trinity's Capital Reserves

| Fund Types | | 31 Dec 2024 | 31 Dec 2025 |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| General Reserve | | £100,000 | £100,000 |
| Designated Funds: | Roof Fund | £204,015 | £218,674 |
| | Legacy Fund | £62,009 | £60,581 |
| | Major Repairs | £19,942 | £80,000 |
| | Music | £17,900 | £20,740 |
| | Vestibule Project | | £100,000 |
| | <i>Designated Fund Total</i> | <i>£303,866</i> | <i>£479,995</i> |
| Working Capital | | £97,507 | £52,531 |
| Unrestricted Funds | Total | £501,373 | £632,526 |
| Restricted Funds | | £15,682 | £11,761 |
| Total Reserves | | £517,055 | £644,287 |

Notwithstanding that the recurring income & expenditure side is challenging, Trinity's capital reserves grew stronger in 2025 and are set out in the table above. The reserves are allocated into three categories: the general fund of £100,000 - the minimum amount the church needs to maintain its operations; designated funds comprising monies set aside for specific purposes by the church; and restricted funds where monies have been given to Trinity for a specific purpose so can only be used in that way. Any excess is described as working capital and, together with the general reserve and designated funds, they make up Trinity's unrestricted capital over which the church has full control. They increased by £131,153 to £632,526.

This increase is due to the receipt of two very generous legacies - £50,000 from the late Jane Middleton and £117,524 as the final tranche from David M Young's estate. These funds were initially posted to the Legacy Fund, but have now been allocated by Elders' Council in part to the Major Repairs Fund and to the Vestibule Project. For avoidance of doubt, monies allocated to a designated fund can be reallocated and used for another purpose. The allocation to the Vestibule Project provides the resources to enable the best preparatory work to be carried out so that the membership has the optimal information to decide whether it wants the project to proceed. The increase for the Major Repairs fund reflects that more repair work, particularly to the external brickwork, is necessary.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Robin Goodchild, Congregational Treasurer
(robinnapiergoodchild@gmail.com)

How much time do you give to develop your faith?
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In print or online.

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The Green Group update

As you know, the Green Group was established last year to help Trinity work towards Gold in the A Rocha Eco Church scheme. It was formed to bring together a dedicated team who meet regularly to review and discuss Trinity's action plan.

Some of the actions taken by the group in the last six months include:

- **Church energy use.** The group completed a carbon footprint review of the church's energy use, which showed that gas accounts for most of our consumption. The group is now considering practical ways to reduce our gas use and improve overall energy efficiency.
- **Carbon footprints.** Individual carbon footprints are an important part of the Lifestyle section of the A Rocha survey, which is why we ask the congregation to complete a questionnaire each year. The group is exploring a new way to help the congregation offset personal carbon use, and we will share details soon. If you would like to calculate your own carbon footprint, you can use the quick calculator at <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk>.
- **Worship.** Worship remains one of our strongest areas and has made a significant contribution to Trinity's progress towards a Gold award. Thanks to those who include prayers for the environment in the Prayers of Intercession; who leave prayers for the climate crisis on the prayer boards; and who reduce paper use by using the screens instead of taking a printed Order of Service.
- **Junior Church.** Claire has been actively involving the Junior Church in the Eco Church scheme and has some great plans for the

roof terrace outside Room 5 this summer. Please do take a look when you can, and if you have green fingers, Claire would welcome support with the planting scheme.

- **Community and global outreach.** The Big Brew coffee morning was a success, and both this event and the upcoming Churches Count on Nature coffee morning support Trinity's progress towards Gold in the Community and Global Outreach section. The coffee mornings also provide a lovely time of fellowship and a good excuse to eat some cake, so please do come along and bring your friends on Friday 12 June.
- **Carbon Literacy.** During Lent, Elizabeth attended a Carbon Literacy course run by the URC's Southern Synod. Carbon Literacy courses are available nationwide through a range of organizations and help participants become accredited while building their understanding of the climate crisis in workplaces and communities.




Group members: The Minister, Marco Chan, Robin Goodchild, Catherine Paul, Kwame Sarpong and Elizabeth Scharinger

Bible Quiz

How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground?

- A. once
- B. twice
- C. three times
- D. four times



Answer: C (See Exodus 14; Joshua 3; 2 Kings 2.)

Wimbledon

Fixing things. Building community.

REPAIR CAFE

Don't trash it, repair it.

Many everyday small items from household goods, appliances (electrical or mechanical), clothing and textiles can be repaired instead of being replaced, saving money and reducing environmental impact and waste.

Where: St Mark's Church Hall, Compton Road, SW19 7QD

When: Last Saturday of Every Month

Time: 10:30am-12:30pm

Bring your small broken items and see if they can be given a new life.

♥ A community collaboration brought to you by: ♥

Friends of the Earth Merton

ST MARK'S
The Church at the heart of Wimbledon

Scan the QR code or visit our website for more information:
<https://www.mertonfoe.org/wimbledon-repair-cafe>

REPAIRED & READY TO GO!

Small fix Big impact.

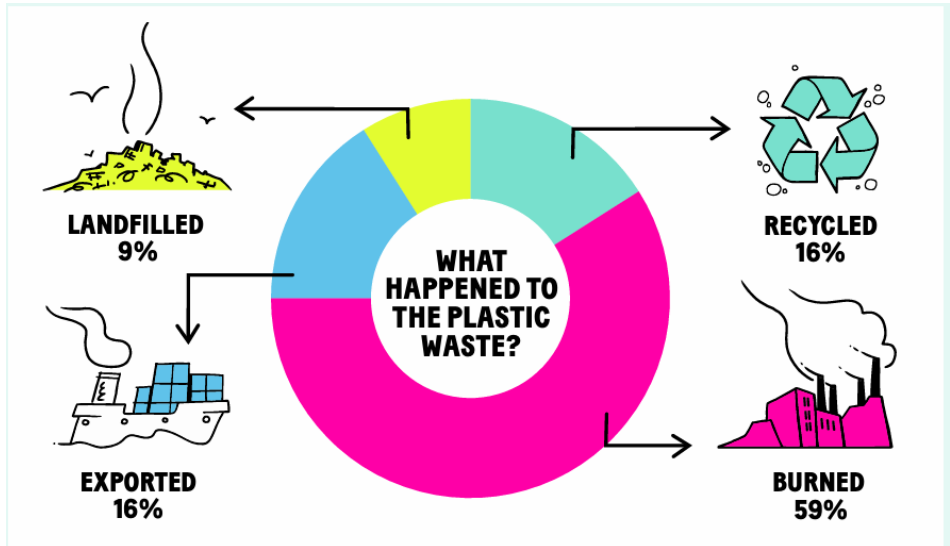
FIXED WITH CARE

In the name of Jesus Christ, who was never in a hurry, we pray, O God, that thou wilt slow us down, for we know that we live too fast. If we are to burn ourselves out, may it be in causes worth dying for. With all eternity before us, make us take time to live - time to get acquainted with thee, time to enjoy thy blessings, and time to know each other. Deliver us from wasting time and teach us how to use it wisely and well. We ask these things in the lovely name of Jesus.

*Peter Marshall, Chaplain to the US Senate,
Prayer to the Senate, 26 May 1947*

The Big Plastic Count

Thank you to all those who submitted their results to Elizabeth who, in turn, submitted them to the national count. The results of the Big Plastic Count across the country can be seen below.



The Big Plastic Count has revealed that only 16% of our plastic waste is actually recycled. The majority (59%) is burned in the UK, and the rest is sent overseas (16%) or to landfill (9%).

Recycling cannot keep pace with production. Incineration is expanding and communities are paying the price. We can't burn our way out of the plastics crisis.

"IF WE MAKE LESS PLASTIC, WE BURN LESS PLASTIC. IT'S THAT SIMPLE."

With Plastic Free July just around the corner, let's all make a real effort to reduce our single use plastic. You can visit the Eco Living stall in the Old Hall after morning service for some simple replacements.

Familiar faces in Trinity

This month we hear from Pirada Teraphatakul



People know me as Pink. Maybe not too many know me as Pirada Teraphatanakul. Typical Thai surnames are very long. 😊 I am always asked to pronounce my surname. 😊 Yes, I am from Thailand. I was born in Bangkok.

I came from a Christian family. I am the eldest among three siblings. I've got one younger brother and one younger sister. I went to Wattana Wittaya Academy which is a Christian school, and graduated from Thammasat University where I studied Political Science. Every Sunday we all went to Wattana Church just next to my school.

I first came to England to study English in Harrogate, then I got a Master's degree a year later in Business Administration. My sister joined me in London for an English course in Wimbledon. One day she told me that she had found a church which was nearby her English school, and the service was very similar to Wattana Church where we went when we were in Bangkok. So, I came with her to Trinity in 2000.

Originally, my mother was a Buddhist. Later, she attended a Christian school, where she eventually met my father, who was a Christian. After they got married, my mother decided to convert from Buddhism to Christianity. She went on to serve God in several roles within the church, such as treasurer and deacon.

For myself, I also had the opportunity to serve in the church youth ministry until I eventually moved to the United Kingdom.

After my younger sister returned to Thailand, she began working as a piano teacher at Wattana Wittaya Academy, the school from which we both graduated.

As for me, I was offered a position at the Royal Thai Embassy in London, which gave me the opportunity to continue living in the United

Kingdom. From that time until today, it has been almost twenty-five years. Throughout these years, I have worked in the Consular Section, assisting Thai nationals living in the United Kingdom and Ireland with various consular services, including birth registration, death registration, passport applications, and national ID card services. In addition, I have had the opportunity to travel to different cities almost every month in order to provide assistance and consular services to Thai people living in these countries.

Being abroad on my own and working from Monday to Friday can sometimes feel lonely. But coming to church on Sundays and worshipping God together with the church members reminds me that I am not alone. The love and warmth here make me feel like I am part of a family. And having the opportunity to serve God in different areas (I am a Welcomer) makes me truly feel that this church is my second home.

When I face problems, I do not want to tell my family because I do not want to worry them, and also, we are living so far from each other. My Dad is 87 and my Mum is 83. Both of my siblings have their own families.

I am what I am today, I am proud of myself and all things in my life. I happened beautifully because of God. I can pass through all matters which bother me because God is with me. I trust in him. One song I always sing in my mind that because he lives, I can face tomorrow. Because he lives all fear is gone and I know that he leads my ways always.



Giving in church

If you are giving cash we would please ask that you use the envelopes in church so that we can claim Gift Aid on any donation that you make, this gives Trinity an extra 25%. Yes, it really is that much!

Christian Aid & Commitment for Life update

Our Lent collection for Commitment for Life produced an excellent result of £1,164. Thank you very much to everyone who contributed.

Also thanks to Trinity people who donated items for sale for Christian Aid at the Christian Aid car boot sale. Again, we had lovely weather. The event has only been cancelled once because of bad weather since it started in 1990! The sale raised the magnificent sum of £2,164.61, which is even more than last year.



Thank you also to everyone who delivered envelopes during the week. Money is coming in via the QR code and we will have a total soon.

Richmond Christian Aid will be organising a walk by the Thames as last year in September. We hope to have details soon.

Mike and Margaret Tulloch

Trinity in numbers



142

Years since the first services were held

1,566

Baptisms held in Trinity since 1884

9

Ministers since our foundation

10

Elected members of Elders' Council



23

Premises hirers in an average week using our rooms for

82.5 hours

26

Number of members serving on Teams

Trinity's Terrace Garden

Did you know that, as well as the beautiful garden leading off the courtyard at the rear of the Mansel Road Centre, there is another garden? If you have never had occasion or reason to venture upstairs in the Mansel Road Centre, you may not have realised.

It is perhaps over-stating it a little to say we have a garden; in reality we have the small beginnings of a garden. It is very much a project led by the Children & Youth Work Team, designed to involve the children and young people and instil in them an awareness of the environment and nature.

Last October, during the half term holiday, a group of five children and four adults took the first steps to create a bee-friendly habitat on the terrace that leads off Rooms 3, 4 and 5. We planted bulbs, winter pansies and violas, some shrubs and perennials. And they looked good!



It was a good start, but we need to do more; we need to attract as many pollinators as possible, so more bee and butterfly friendly plants, ones which will survive the summer months up on the terrace. We need to provide a water source for those pollinators to drink from. We would like to give the children and young people more opportunities to grow plants or even vegetables and sow them from seed. So we are looking at putting some cold frames in.

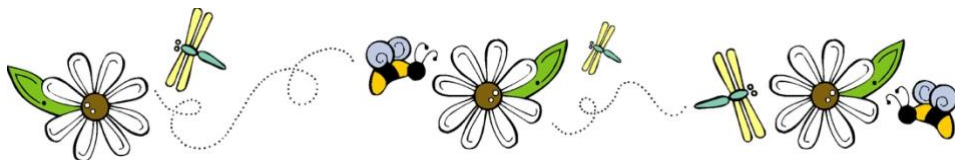
We need an efficient irrigation system. Our plants did well over the winter and early spring, but ensuring our plants are regularly watered in warm and dry weather is difficult. The terrace garden is not easily accessible during the working day and evening, as the rooms are in use by hirers. There is no external access.



We are in the process of sourcing and buying these items and are exploring possible grant funding from the Southern Synod. But most of all, we need some help and would like to give everyone a chance to get involved in this important part of Trinity's environment.

Anyone who is interested is invited to join us at Messy Church on Sunday 7 June from 1pm to 3pm approximately. Work on the garden will run alongside the children's activities, which include building a Bug Hotel for the terrace. So, if you can, put the date in your diary, get out your gardening gloves and come and join us! Thank you in anticipation.

- Claire Wood (Leader of Children & Youth Work Team)



JOIN US FOR THE
SOUTHERN SYNOD BIG DAY OUT!

**SATURDAY
20TH JUNE
10.00AM TO 4.00PM**

**TICKETS
£5**

**SHIRES OAST AT
THE HOP FARM
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
TN12 6PY**

WORSHIP TOGETHER

INFLATABLES FOR ALL THE FAMILY

PRAYER & REFLECTION

POP UP CHOIR

CREATION STATIONS

TICKET INCLUDES A BURGER & SOFT DRINK, WITH
ADDITIONAL FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE TO BUY AT THE BAR

Our prayers of intercession

on Sunday 3 May were led by Andrew Davies who has given permission for his rhyming prayers to be reprinted here.



Our Prayers of Intercession for our troubled and needy world....

We pray for our world, full of conflict and pride
Help us all to remember how you lived and died
Joy cannot be found in land, money and greed
Your kindness and love only are what our hearts need

Where faiths separate or opinions divide
Please help us all find what we share deep inside
Our lives are so short, may all argument cease
Please help our world find resolution and peace

We pray for the victims of violent crime
For healing of body, of heart and of mind
We pray for their families, and for their friends
Please help them to know Your love to them extends

We pray for Brixton, and for Golders Green
The victims and emergency services at the scene
Please be with them all in their lives and their thoughts
Help us see them as humans, not just news reports

We pray for the bereaved and deceased, now and past
Separation is temporary, and forever won't last
Please be with us all in our grief and our loss,
And know we'll meet again, through Your death on the cross

We pray for those anxious, depressed or alone
Please help them know with you, they always have a home
Bring them calm, bring them hope and bring comfort of mind
And please bring them friendship, so they're not left behind

We pray for those facing exams that define
Their future, university, job or design
Help them do their best in the faith that you will
Find a role for them always, for their talent and skill

In a moment of silence we pray for those who
Are known only to us, well and also to you
We pray for your blessing on all that they need
From all of their troubles, may they yet be freed

Dear Lord you know everything our hearts contain
You know what we need, before we even explain
Please guide us, and lead us through good and through ill
To follow your calling and live out your will

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

Merton Citizens Election Assembly

On 27 April, Merton Citizens held an Election Assembly at Wimbledon College, in Edge Hill, when representatives of the leading political parties represented on Merton Council were challenged to meet Citizens' priorities, and give their responses.

Ninety-seven people from all 14 members of Merton Citizens (including 18 Trinity people) were present at the Assembly. The three political representatives were Ross Garrod, Labour and Leader of the Council, Anthony Fairclough, Liberal Democrat and Leader of the Council Opposition, and Daniel Holden, Conservative Deputy Leader. Each of them was challenged with five specific 'asks', each one agreed by Merton Citizens after an extensive community listening campaign conducted by member institutions.



There were powerful testimonies in support from Revd Mark Eminson from the Merton Priory group of Churches, Fatima from MCIL, and Sade from the YMCA.

Merton Citizens achieved a clean sweep of agreement by all three representatives to all of the asks, which were:

- to work with Merton Citizens to tackle low pay, poor housing and digital exclusion
- to raise the number of Living Wage employers in LBM by 10 per cent year on year
- to make a Living Hours plan for the borough, to prevent Living Wage employers from reducing the number of hours worked to compensate for pay increases
- to work with the Merton Centre for Independent Living (MCIL) and others to make an action plan to overcome digital exclusion
- a tentative agreement to address the asks on five basic needs for those occupying temporary accommodation: 1. access to WiFi signal; 2. laundry facilities; 3. adequate storage; 4. food preparation facilities; 5. a named contact officer and phone number for support with repairs and case updates.

In the elections on 7 May, on a turnout of 45.1% and with 57 seats being voted for in 20 wards, Labour retained control of the council, and all three representatives who came to the Assembly were re-elected. Overall the results were: Labour 32 seats (a gain of 1); Liberal Democrats 19 seats (a gain of 2), Conservatives 4 seats (a loss of 3), and Independents 2 (no change).

Many thanks to all the Trinity people who came to the Assembly and contributed to such a good turnout.

Mike Tulloch and Robin Goodchild



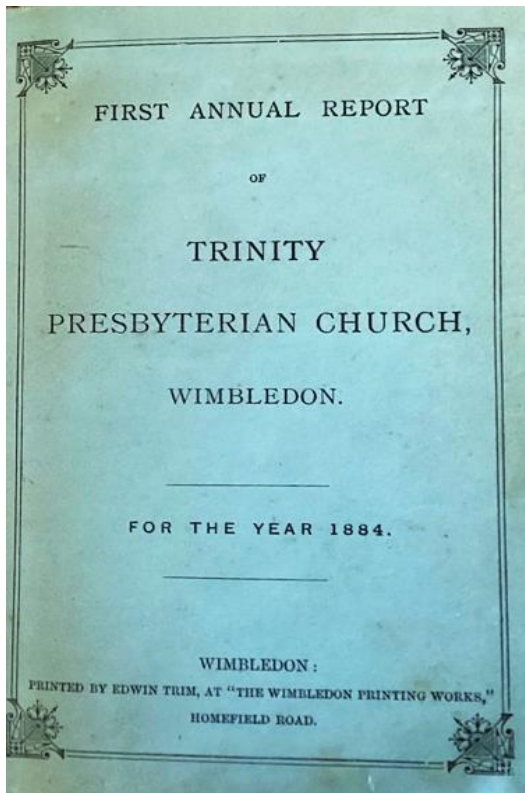
**Final copy date for July/August edition of
Trinity News is Wednesday 17 June.
Please send items to
catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com**



From the Archives....

A glimpse of Trinity's earliest days - our first Annual Report

The picture shows one of the oldest pieces of ephemera in Trinity's archive.



It is the very first Trinity Yearbook, published in early 1885, just a year after the first service was held in the St George's Road Drill Hall. It has a cover and eleven printed pages.

These contain a note from the Interim Moderator, a Session statement, a report of the Committee of Management, a brief note about the Sunday School, a list of office bearers and a financial statement.

The financial statement is shown below. I'm sure our present Treasurers would admire the simplicity of this document!

| TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WIMBLETON, | | | |
|---|------|-------|--|
| IN ACCOUNT WITH J. MAC FARLAN, TREASURER. | | | |
| Dr. | | | Cr. |
| 1884. | £ | s. d. | 1884. |
| To Collections | 131 | 12 7 | By Pulpit Supply |
| „ Seat Rents | 61 | 13 6 | „ Rent of Hall, &c..... |
| „ Donations | 141 | 3 0 | „ Advertizing, Printing, &c. ... |
| „ Sale of Hymn Books | 15 | 0 0 | „ Pulpit Furniture, Hymn Books, &c. |
| | | | 38 14 10½ |
| | | | „ Balance in hand on 31st Dec. 1884 |
| | | | 1 13 0 |
| | £335 | 4 1 | £335 4 1 |

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Audited and found correct, 12th February, 1885.

(Signed,) CHARLES H. SHORTT.
G. A. BARRETT.

Trinity's financial accounts for the year 1884

Interim Moderator, Revd Robert Taylor of Norwood wrote:

"I have been able to render you little personal service but I rejoice that your local Committee have made you (largely) independent of advice or aid from me. I hope and pray that the Head of the Church will soon send you a Pastor after His heart and yours, whose ministry, by the Holy Spirit's blessing, will build you up in numbers and resources, and at the same time in faith, and love, and every grace, unto life eternal."

It was not for another two years - in May 1887 - that Trinity welcomed its first minister.

Annual reports were published every year until the paper shortages of the Second World War prevented publication, and intermittently since.