

Trinity News



November 2026

No.566



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org



NOVEMBER

1	Sun	09:30	Choir practice
		10:30	Elders' Meeting
		11:00	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
3	Tue	20:00	Outreach & Witness Team
6	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
8	Sun		Remembrance Sunday
		09:15	Choir practice
		10:45	Morning Worship
10	Tue	14:00	Pastoral Team
12	Thu	20:00	Finance Team
13	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
15	Sun	09:30	Choir practice
		11:00	Morning Worship
			followed by Church Meeting (tbc)
20	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
22	Sun	09:30	Choir practice
		11:00	Morning Worship
		13:00	First Aid training
25	Wed	19:30	Elders' Council
26	Thu	12:30	Advent course (1) - at the church
		20:00	Advent course (1) - online
27	Fri	09:45	Trinity Toddlers
29	Sun	09:30	Choir practice
		11:00	Morning Worship

November Reflection

Greetings Friends,

'Here be dragons.'

These three little words once marked the edges of ancient maps, the places where knowledge ran thin and imagination ran wild. It is curious, isn't it, that so many cultures across the world have their own depictions of dragons. From Chinese imperial banners to Norse sagas, from medieval manuscripts to Mesoamerican carvings, humanity seems to have harboured a shared instinct that, somewhere out there, lurked something vast, powerful, and beyond our control.

Is this simply a case of convergent imagination, *'great minds think alike'*? Or is there more to the story?

The truth is that the creatures we now call dragons were not always the fire-breathing, winged beasts of fantasy. The word *draco* was once used to refer to any sufficiently large or fearsome reptile. Even today, we still have *'dragons'* walking the earth in the form of the Komodo dragon, a creature that needs no embellishment to inspire awe.

The same is true of the unicorn. Today, we picture a graceful white mare with a spiralled horn. But historically, a *'unicorn'* was simply any creature with a single horn. Many scholars believe the legend arose from travellers' encounters with the Indian rhinoceros, hence its Latin name, *Rhinoceros unicornis*.

Older Bible translations reflect this older vocabulary. The King James Version, for example, mentions *'dragons'* in the wilderness (Isaiah 34:13) and *'unicorns'* lifting up their horns (Psalm 92:10). These were not mythical beasts, but the language of the time, an attempt to describe the unfamiliar with the words available.

But before we dismiss these ancient references as the naïve ramblings of a pre-scientific age, perhaps we should pause. For sometimes, truth is stranger than fiction.

In the early twentieth century, a dragon did rise, not from a cave, but from a political movement. It did not breathe fire, but it breathed legislation. It did not have a forked tongue, but it spoke truth and lies with equal fluency. It did not wear scales, but it clothed itself in propaganda. And as this beast swept across nations, a cry went out: Who will stand against the dragon?

Many tried. Many fell. It was only through the combined courage of countless ordinary men and women, soldiers, nurses, engineers, codebreakers, farmers, factory workers, that the dragon was finally defeated. Peace returned, but at a cost so great that the world still trembles to remember it.



And so, every year, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we pause. We remember those who stood between the world and the dragon of tyranny. We honour those who gave their lives, and those who still give their lives, to protect the vulnerable from the forces that threaten truth, freedom, and peace.

My friends, dragons are not only creatures of legend. They roam wherever truth is threatened by lies, wherever freedom is threatened by bondage, and wherever life is threatened by death. They appear in the form of injustice, hatred, oppression, and fear. They rise whenever humanity forgets its calling to love its neighbour.

But thanks be to God, that in Christ the dragon has been slain.

The Book of Revelation speaks of a great red dragon defeated not by human might, but by the Lamb who was slain, the One whose love is stronger than death, whose truth outshines every

lie, and whose peace endures when empires crumble (Revelation 12).

This November, as we march, sing, reflect, and remember, may we hold fast to this hope: that the dragons of our age are not invincible, that courage still matters, that sacrifice still means something, and that Christ, our Prince of Peace, still reigns.

With every blessing,



Revd Dr Jacob Bali

(The Minister's usual day off is Monday)



Church Family News

In memoriam

Mrs Amaa Amarquaye (1943-2026)



Amaa Amarquaye, a lifelong Presbyterian (latterly URC), had been a member of Trinity since October 1995. We extend our sympathies at this time to her family - children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Those who remember **Jennifer Singer** (latterly Jennifer Low), a former member of Trinity, will be sad to hear of her death on 27 October at the age of 86. Jennifer has been living in Ayr and for five years suffered from Parkinson's disease. Jennifer was an active member of the 6 Group, and a regular flower arranger for the church.



Happy birthday to those celebrating in November, including....

Sam Elliot, Owen Ferrante, Sheila Ingram, Brian Lewis-Lavender, Sandy McLeish, Yvonne Morrissey, Allan Todd, Betty Wong, Graham Wynn, Alan Young and Revd Ernest Yu.



There was a tremendous response to the appeal for gifts at our Harvest service. The gifts were weighed at the depot and a total of 181kg was recorded! Grateful thanks to all who contributed so generously.

The need continues. Please continue to place gifts in the trolley in the Mansel Road Centre. The most immediate needs are for:

Long life milk
Litre bottles of squash
Tinned or packet soup

Tinned tomatoes
Tinned vegetables



Sunday 1 November

The first stage of our planned Gift Day collection has been completed with our ballot to decide which charities we will support. Thank you to all who took the time to make their selections where there were so many difficult choices to make. The number of completed ballots exceeded 50 and this represents such a meaningful indication of the positive involvement of so many at Trinity.

The charities that were chosen in the ballot are:-

Local charities

Merton Winter Night Shelter
South West London Samaritans

St Raphael's Hospice
Wimbledon Foodbank

National/International charities

Macmillan Cancer Support

If our ambitious target of £10,000 is reached then these charities will receive £1,000 each, with £2,000 of the remaining sum reserved for disaster appeals in the year ahead. The remainder will be divided between Faith in Action 2/3 and Water Aid 1/3.

Donation envelopes will be available at Trinity on Sundays and donations can also be made through the Trinity website or by direct bank transfer.

Donate

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

If you need any further information, please contact Robin Ingram, our 'For Others' Secretary.

Thank you in anticipation of any support you can provide in this important annual fundraising to serve our local community and the needs of the wider world.

SAMARITANS

"Life can be wonderful. Life can be tough. One in four of us have had suicidal thoughts. Samaritans is the charity that prevents suicide through the power of human connection. Connecting people in crisis with trained volunteers who will always listen. People calling for change with those who need to listen. People who've been there before, with those struggling now."

'Based just off the High Street in Putney, South West London Samaritans is a busy branch covering areas that include Balham, Barnes, Clapham, Mitcham, Morden, Tooting, Putney, Southfields, Wandsworth and Wimbledon.

'We're also active in our local community through our programme with Network Rail, our outreach activities and our presence at local events - do come and say hello if you see us.

'We rely entirely on donations from the public, businesses, other organisations and the generosity of our volunteers time.'



'For nearly 40 years, St Raphael's has been providing expert hospice care for people in Merton and Sutton, completely free of charge. We strive to improve the lives of everyone affected by terminal or life-limiting illnesses, so they and their carers can enjoy the best possible quality of life.

'We get roughly 25% of our running costs from the NHS and depend on the generosity of our local community for the rest. Thanks to your kindness, we can continue to care for more than 1,000 patients every year.'

Visit by URC Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)



On Sunday 18 October we were delighted to welcome the Revd Jenny Mills, URC Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action) to lead our worship. Her challenging sermon was greatly appreciated by the congregation.

The Prayers of Intercession were led by Pam Rostron who has given permission to reproduce her words:-

Eternal God, creator of all, we bring before you our troubled world and ask that you hear our prayers for all who need your comfort and care.

Too often it feels that we too must rage against the injustices we see, when we cannot offer a way out or heal the traumas suffered, but we can still ask for Jesus' healing, and trust in the power of your Holy Spirit to change hearts and minds.

We pray for countries at war with each other, and those at war within their countries. For those traumatised by constant fear of attack, and those whose homes and livelihoods are destroyed. We pray for those forced to fight and for the families left behind.

Wherever there is war, there are displaced people and refugees, and we ask you to bless all those who have fled their homes and the agencies and organisations working to feed and shelter them.

We place before you the people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Gaza, Yemen, Sudan, Mozambique, the Central African Republic, and all where there is internal or external conflict.

Father, you gave us a world that is rich in natural resources, yet our stewardship of your creation is leading to a climate disaster. There are floods

destroying entire communities and droughts leading to starvation, poverty, and the destruction of established ways of life.

We place before you the people of Nepal, Niger, Afghanistan, Thailand, Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan, and all who are experiencing the effect of severe weather and climate change.

This week will see the 60th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster, and we pray for the community, as they remember the lives lost and the effect on the whole town. We pray too for all those who have lost loved ones in tragic circumstances, and for all affected by the aftermath.

Almighty God, you care for all of us, and we pray now for all those who are known to us, and the concerns left on our prayer trees.

Loving Father, it's so hard to pray when we know that there is so much to pray for, but you know all of us, and you know what is in the hearts of all your people. Fill our hearts with love and compassion and desire for justice. Let us show the world the love of Jesus and the power of your Spirit, in what we say and do, so that your light can break through the darkness that threatens to overwhelm us.

We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen



At our October meeting we completed our study of the introductory chapters of the Book of Revelation and are now ready to progress to Chapter 4.

We will meet on Tuesday 3 November (8pm) at 217 Queens Road and, as always, everybody is welcome to join us.

Preparing for Advent

Songs of Advent from Luke's Gospel



Join us as we explore the four songs that open Luke's Gospel: Zechariah's *Benedictus*, Mary's *Magnificat*, the angels' *Gloria*, and Simeon's *Nunc Dimittis*. These songs arise from ordinary people whose lives are unexpectedly drawn into God's purposes. They speak of longing, courage, joy, peace, and the first glimmers of salvation.

Each participant will receive a booklet containing thoughtful notes, background to each passage, discussion questions to help us reflect more deeply, and suggestions for prayer as we journey towards Christmas.

Dates and Themes

All sessions take place on Thursdays. There will be a lunchtime session at 12:30 at the church where we will share bread and soup beforehand; and an online session at 20:00 for those who wish to join from their own homes.

26 November — Week 1: Zechariah's Song

Zechariah's long silence ends in a Spirit-filled hymn of praise.

3 December — Week 2: Mary's Song

Mary's meeting with Elizabeth becomes the setting for one of Scripture's most striking songs.

10 December — Week 3: The Angels' Song

The birth of Jesus is proclaimed not to rulers in palaces but to shepherds in the fields.

17 December — Week 4: Simeon's Song

Simeon's lifelong hope is fulfilled when he takes the infant Jesus in his arms.

Whether you are a long-standing member or simply curious, this Advent course offers a thoughtful and accessible way to prepare for Christmas, to listen again to the first songs of the Gospel, and to rediscover the hope that rises in the hearts of God's people.

The course will be led by the Minister. A sign-up sheet will be available in the vestry corridor.

Familiar faces in Trinity

This month we hear from James & Tiwwy Lapien

Question: Name a four-letter country in Southeast Asia.

Answer: Bali.

That is the first of three Balis in this short story. It is also the wrong answer. Bali is only one of Indonesia's 38 provinces. Yet neither I nor my wife, Tiwwy, was born on that so-called paradise island.

Instead, we grew up in Jakarta, the capital of a country of more than 300 million people, in a multi-faith environment that shaped our lives. My sister and one of my aunts are Muslim. Among Tiwwy's relatives are a Catholic priest and a Muslim cleric. Both of us received our early education at different Catholic schools.



As a result, our calendar was crowded with celebrations. We observed Easter and Christmas, but also *Eid al-Fitr* at the end of Ramadan, *Eid al-Adha*, Chinese New Year, the Balinese Hindu New Year of *Nyepi*, and Vesak Day, which commemorates the birth of the Buddha.

As a child, *Eid al-Fitr* meant two things: eating until I could eat no more and returning home with bulging pockets. Across Indonesia, it is customary during religious festivals for adults to give children small cash gifts, often tucked inside colourful envelopes. To me, it felt like winning the lottery.

Tiwwy and I married in 1987 at a church located on an Indonesian Air Force base in Jakarta. The church belonged to an ecumenical denomination and was served by a soft-spoken military chaplain. Most of his congregation consisted of officers who outranked him. During the week, the priest saluted them. On Sundays, they stood to receive his blessing. It was a neat reversal of rank and ritual.

In the summer of 1991, I left Jakarta to begin a new life in London. I joined the Indonesian Section of the BBC World Service as a radio

producer. By the end of the year, we had settled in Wimbledon. For reasons I can no longer explain, we found ourselves worshipping at Trinity United Reformed Church. What I remember most warmly is its minister, the late Ceri Lewis.

We may well have been the first Indonesians to become registered members of the congregation. Most Indonesians in Britain lived, and still largely live, in north-west London, an area affectionately known as "*Hendonesia*", stretching from Hendon through Golders Green and Edgware to Watford.

There we were introduced to another church member, Chan Yik Yuen, better known to us as Bond Chan, or simply Pak Chan. He had been born in Jakarta and, despite everything, still spoke Bahasa Indonesia. Following the failed coup of 1965, his family, along with many other Indonesians of Chinese descent, moved to China. Later he relocated to Hong Kong and eventually to London. But that is a story for another day.

Because I worked in the media, first in Jakarta and later in London, Sundays were often working days. I also needed to be ready to travel at short notice, frequently back to Indonesia, sometimes four times a year. On one such trip, a small BBC team and I flew to another Indonesian province, about three hours from Jakarta. After we landed, local colleagues recommended a well-known restaurant outside the city, celebrated for its regional cuisine and culinary inventiveness.

The menu was unforgettable. Translated loosely, it featured dishes such as sautéed Batman, Scooby-Doo casserole, roasted Miss Piggy, grilled Mickey Mouse, and a great many Nemos. All cooked fresh on the premises. After some lively deliberation, and encouraged by generous quantities of local beer, we ordered a tasting selection. Oh. Ah.

Have I forgotten the third Bali? Of course not. The third Bali is Jacob Bali, our minister.

Should Reverend Bali ever decide to holiday in Bali, a perfectly roasted suckling Miss Piggy awaits him.

Ah, Miss Piggy. For me, Christmas comes early.

P.S. The correct answer to the question at the beginning of this story is, of course, **Laos**.

Margaret's Guide to Serving After-Church Refreshments in a Civilised Manner

*Issued by Margaret Basington-Smythe,
for the avoidance of further incidents.*

Refreshments are an extension of our Christian hospitality. They should leave people feeling welcomed, restored and reasonably confident that their cup has been washed.

A few gentle reminders:

1. Tea requires boiling water.

Water which was hot when the sermon began will no longer suffice. We are making tea, not encouraging a leaf to reminisce.

2. Allow the tea to brew.

Briefly introducing a teabag to a large pot of water produces a beverage best described as a rumour.

3. Please ask before adding milk or sugar.

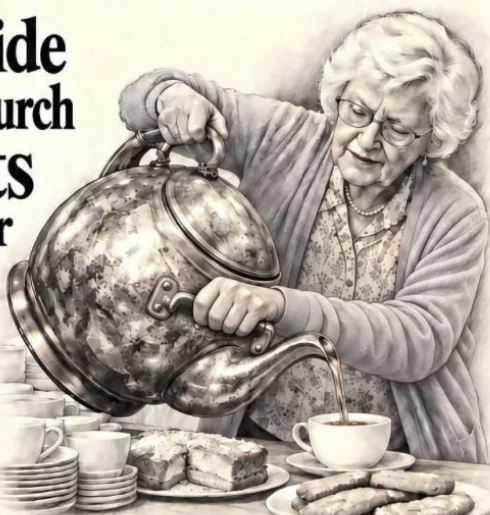
"You look like a two-sugars person" is not an appropriate form of pastoral assessment.

4. Coffee drinkers are also welcome.

Under a PCC resolution, and following our membership of something called "Fairtrade Church", only ethically traded tea and coffee will be served at St Faithful's. I support the principle, although I should have preferred to be consulted before the cupboard was reorganised. Decaffeinated coffee should also be available. Requests for lattes or cappuccinos will be passed to someone who has not yet spent twenty minutes arguing with the urn.

5. Alternative milks should be clearly labelled.

So should the jug being used to water the flowers. We must not rely on people noticing the difference. Please ask what people need; a request for oat milk does not require a discussion of what was wrong with the world before we had it.



6. Biscuits should be arranged on a plate.

Opening the packet at both ends is not "a more relaxed style of ministry", whatever the Rector says. Suitable biscuits for those with food intolerances should be offered separately, clearly labelled and somewhere visible. Keeping them in a cupboard known only to Pauline introduces an unnecessary element of spiritual discernment.

7. Please exercise restraint around the chocolate biscuits.

Take one, then allow others their opportunity. Turning a second one upside down beneath a digestive does not render it invisible.

8. Visiting clergy receive the same refreshments as everyone else.

There is no need to produce the concealed shortbread whenever a purple shirt appears. Some of us have been supporting this church for forty years.

9. Welcome newcomers before asking them to wash up.

We want them to feel that they have found a spiritual home. The discovery that this includes kitchen duties can wait until their second visit.

10. Return cups to the kitchen.

Please do not abandon them behind hymn books, on radiators or in the font. Mr Dobbs has begun photographing the evidence.

11. "Let me know if you need a hand" is a gracious offer.

It becomes considerably more gracious if you remain in the building long enough to hear the answer.

Finally, please remember to thank those serving. They have missed the final hymn, endured the urn and listened to six separate opinions about the strength of the tea. Any suggestions for improving these arrangements should be accompanied by your name and three Sundays on which you are available.

Margaret Basington-Smythe
Standards are easier to maintain when everyone has some.
St Faithful's, Havnot - stfaithfuls.com

Merton Winter Night Shelter 2026/27



This season is going to be a memorable one for the Merton Winter Night Shelter (MWNS). The Faith in Action Project Coordinator, supported by the FIA management team, have recruited six new faith groups. This will enable the Shelter to be open for twenty-one weeks starting on 16 November, a week earlier than last winter, and will operate till early April, four weeks later and after Easter. As a result, the project will deliver over 1,750 bed spaces compared with 1,344 last winter, a 30% increase, based on providing twelve bed spaces per night.

Trinity's shift will start on Sunday 10 January and end on 21 February. On that date, we will no longer have the unpleasant role of putting our guests back on the street. Instead, they will be going to a new set of venues so that work can continue finding the guests stable accommodation to move to and/or help with removing barriers like mental health and immigration status, to their moving on. Last winter forty-six individuals spent time in the Shelter, almost double the number in 2024/25; moreover, over half were moved into rental accommodation or reconciled with family etc. so they could return home. Overall, twice as many guests were moved out of homelessness last year as in any previous season.

The extra five weeks should enhance the move-on rate, which is a very exciting prospect.

Please do let me know if you are interested in getting involved. I have already written to last year's volunteers who we hope will get involved again. It is extremely rewarding work.

There will be training sessions for volunteers on Sunday afternoons 8 and 22 November + 2 February, starting at 2pm. New volunteers do need to attend one of these sessions, ideally one of the November dates. More experienced volunteers need to attend this training every three years. If attendance is not possible, the training can be viewed on YouTube.

Our shifts start at 2pm till 5pm, when the evening shift takes over which includes serving supper. The late shift arrives from 8.30pm and

can continue until 6.30am though there's an opportunity to leave at 2am. The breakfast shifts start at 6.30am and finish around 9am.

Help with moving the luggage, and chefs prepared to cook supper, will also be appreciated. More details on the operation of MWNS, and information on how guests and volunteers benefit, are available in the [annual report](#). Please do contact me if you would like to get involved.

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



This is the fifth year that Trinity has collaborated with Sustainable Merton to run this event, and the third year with Wimbledon Quarter.

Please show your support by coming along during **5 December**. It is always a lovely way to get into the festive spirit and to begin your Christmas shopping.

We will need volunteers to help with Trinity's stall, so if you are able to help, even for half an hour, please contact Elizabeth Scharinger on office@trinitywimbledon.org.



Christian CARE

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Last year with your help ChristianCare provided hampers to over forty families that they have worked with throughout the year.

We would appreciate your support to help make their celebrations special again this year.

Please fill the large bag with items for a family of 4:

- 1 Bottle of sparkling non-alcoholic drink
- 1 Large Christmas/chocolate pudding or 4 mini ones
- 1 box of mince pies
- 1 chocolate log or Stollen
- 1 tin/box of fancy biscuits/shortbread
- 1 tin of fruit
- 1 tin of custard
- 1 jar of cranberry sauce
- 1 packet of stuffing
- 1 jar/packet of gravy
- 1 box of chocolates or children's sweets

The hampers, along with a supermarket voucher for them to purchase fresh food, plus presents for the children, are delivered to families.

**Please bring your hamper to church on
Sunday 6 December.**





Decorating the church with Christmas trees

Will you sponsor and decorate a small Christmas tree for the church for £30? The pot grown trees will be provided - 60-80 cm high in a 20cm high pot - and will be yours to take away after Christmas.

The trees will be set up in position, so you'd just need to come into the church to decorate one in any way you like. Lights will be provided. Decorating day will be Wednesday 9 December.

Please sign the list in the vestry corridor as soon as possible (we'll need to order the trees), or email office@trinitywimbledon.org.



Faith in Action (Merton Homelessness Project) - Christmas gifts

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



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

Please bring your gifts to church on **Sunday 6 December**.



How might our view of the United Reformed Church change if we could visit all its corners, meet its congregations, and get involved in some of its diverse activities and events across the UK?

Now we can do just that, thanks to the reflections and drawings of the Revd Neil Thorogood, the current Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly.

Because that's his job. As well as overseeing the business of General Assembly next July, Neil is spending his year in office travelling the country to learn, to encourage, to represent, and to share the life and work of the URC. It's like being a cross between a pastoral visitor, an ambassador and a roving reporter.

Through the Moderator's Blog, we get to receive just some of the fruits of his zig-zagging along the railways lines and down the country lanes of England, Scotland and Wales. Accompanied by his own unique watercolour impressions, Neil has so far reflected on "A season for caring", "Abundance!" and "Cultivating a Flourishing Faith" – amongst other things. He has visited the URC's Northern Synod, lamented the devastation of the summer's wildfires, got stuck in at Greenbelt Festival, and been invited to the induction of two Synod moderators. And that's just in the first three months.

Intrigued? Want to know more about our URC neighbours around the country, and the wider impact and activity of the United Reformed Church? Make visits to [The Moderator's Blog](#) part of your routine and get a bird's eye view of what we're all about.

New posts around every couple of weeks.

Getting rid of old paint tins

Do you have any old paint tins with paint left over from when you brightened up a room years ago (the Church does!) and subsequently discovered that you could not put them in your domestic waste? You may have been told that oil-based and emulsion paints are now regulated in different ways, and that old gloss paint was now completely unacceptable because it is classed as 'hazardous'. We've just been through this for the Church and thought others might like to know what we found.



Have you ever heard of a FREE 'Hazardous Waste' service offered by the City of London on behalf of householders/tenants in every borough in Greater London (with the exception of Hillingdon)?

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/hazardous-waste-collection>

You might like to give it a go. If so, here are some helpful hints. But do be prepared for this job being a bit admin-intensive!

First you need your Council Tax Number (and your contact details), then precise information about each item has to be entered on the online Collection Form about the size of the container and its contents, using their drop-down lists. Be ready with your own list. Don't just fill it in on the online form. You will need all the same info again for packing. The total number of cans/containers must also be entered and the total litres are not permitted to exceed 50.

Cans/containers then have to go into strong boxes, liftable by a single person, and the items inside listed for each box. Thinners, varnishes and paints are the most likely substances for disposal in a household - these may be packed together. Since the service takes different items as well as paint, such as garden chemicals, they have rules for keeping distinct categories separate.

After they have received your form, they will contact you by email to arrange a suitable collection, which will be when they are in your area - it may take a fortnight or so.

It's not as bad as it sounds - and just think how good you will feel when it's done!

A footnote on emulsion. This service can also take liquid emulsion, but you may find it easier to dispose of this by leaving cans uncovered for some time (mixing something like sawdust or cat litter in first if there is a significant amount of liquid) in order to dry out the content. Then they can go in your domestic waste.



There is also an eco answer. The Community Repaint scheme offers a way to recycle emulsion – you can donate or purchase at more affordable prices: <https://communityrepaint.org.uk/>

Grace de Grouchy, Property Team Leader

Christmas Services

Sunday 6 December

11:00 Morning worship with Holy Communion
Reception of gifts for Faith in Action & Christian Care

Sunday 13 December

11:00 Morning worship
18:30 Service of Readings & Carols by candlelight

Sunday 20 December

11:00 Morning worship with Nativity

Christmas Eve

17:30 Christingle service
23:15 Service of Holy Communion by Candlelight

Christmas Day

10:30 Christmas Morning Celebration



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



From the Archives....



We remember Ronald Andrew Love - a Trinity hero

There are seventeen names on Trinity's First World War memorial. Several of these men had only distant connections with the Church. Not so Ronald Love.

The Love family, Mr & Mrs Charles and Mary Love and their four children, Herbert, Elsie (whose funeral service was the first conducted by Revd Ceri Lewis in 1980), Ronald and Bernard, moved from Clapton to Wimbledon - 36 Bernard Gardens - in 1900. Within four years Charles had been appointed Sunday School Superintendent - a position he held until 1934 - and the whole family was actively involved in Trinity's life and work, but especially with the children.

Ronald, born on 18 June 1892, attended the City of London School and joined Trinity's afternoon Sunday School. In 1908 he joined Trinity on Profession of Faith. Soon after that he became a Sunday School teacher. He started work as an insurance clerk but in 1913 he enrolled at Kings College, London (Faculty of Arts) and was awarded a BA war degree. Ronald's great ambition was to become a missionary.

In 1914 Ronald strained his heart while bicycling and suffered pain on exertion. He was nevertheless passed fit for military service and, with the First World War now well under way, he 'joined up' in January 1916, undergoing training in England before being posted to France in the July.



These were the early weeks of the Battle of the Somme. In September Ronald was wounded in action - he received a shrapnel wound to his arm - and he returned to England for treatment. A period of rehabilitation followed but in May 1917 he was back at the Front, now appointed to a temporary Commission and appointed Second Lieutenant in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

In March 1918 Ronald was again injured - a bullet entered his right shoulder and had to be removed.

It is not clear when he finally returned to the Front but on 1 November 1918, just before the end of the War, he was posted as missing and Mr and Mrs Love received a telegram from the War Office which read:

"Regret 2/Lt R A Love Inniskilling Fusiliers wounded and missing. Further news will be sent when received."

Several times the Loves wrote seeking news but none was forthcoming and on 3 March 1919 a letter was received that finally ended their fading hopes that he might be found. It seems likely that he died at the village of Roversart, south of Lille, when his patrol came under fire from the enemy at close range.

The whole of Trinity had shared with the Love family as they waited for news about Ronald, the young man they knew and admired. Now they felt the loss very deeply. Ronald's 'energy and wholehearted work, his love for the children and his earnest, but unfulfilled desire for work in the Mission field were sacred memories for teachers and scholars.' Lieutenant Love is remembered on both our Church and Sunday School War memorials, on the City of London School memorial and at Vis-en-Artois, Pas de Calais, France. Perhaps we could all think of him this Remembrance Sunday.

More details about Ronald Love and other men named on our War Memorial can be found on our dedicated site [www.trinityremembers@wordpress.com](http://www.trinityremembers.wordpress.com)

