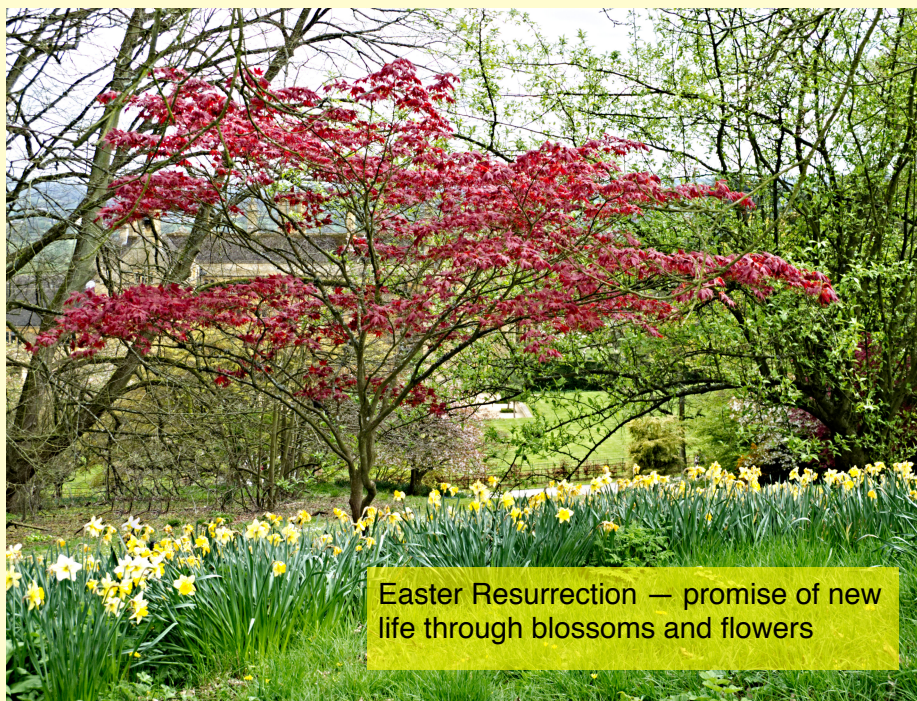


# Trumpeter

News and views for Trinity Methodist Church  
Leighton Buzzard



Easter Resurrection — promise of new  
life through blossoms and flowers

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**MARCH 2018**





## Sunday services at Trinity will be conducted by:

### MARCH

- |    |       |  |    |       |  |
|----|-------|--|----|-------|--|
| 18 | 10.30 | Local arrangements<br>6.00 Circuit Service @ The<br>Olive Tree | 8  | 9.15  | Early Church<br>10.30 Joan Gregory<br>6.00 SNL @ The Square    |
| 25 | 9.15  | Early Church<br>10.30 Steve Rogers<br>6.00 Christina Salmon    | 15 | 10.30 | Peter Baker<br>6.00 Rev S-W Jung - HC                          |
|    |       |  | 22 | 9.15  | Early Church<br>10.30 Elisabeth Bibbings<br>6.00 LPC @ Wigmore |

### APRIL

- |   |      |   |    |       |  |
|---|------|---|----|-------|--|
| 1 | 8.30 | Rev S-W Jung - HC<br>10.30 Rev S-W Jung - HC All<br>Age | 29 | 10.30 | Rev S-W Jung - AGM<br>6.00 Peter Baker |
|---|------|---|----|-------|--|

## ***Tuesday Worship at Trinity*** (followed by refreshments)



10.00 am to 10.30 am will be led by:

### MARCH

- |    |                |    |                     |
|----|----------------|----|---------------------|
| 20 | Ken Harris     | 17 | Rev Wallace Edwards |
| 27 | Frankie Fisher | 24 | Rev S-W Jung - HC   |

### APRIL

- |    |               |    |                      |
|----|---------------|----|----------------------|
| 3  | Rev Wyn Jones | 1  | Joan Gregory         |
| 10 | Robin Gurney  | 8  | Colin Dimmock        |
|    |               | 15 | Roger Owers          |
|    |               | 22 | Donald & Sarina Wray |
|    |               | 29 | TBA                  |



A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall what the menu was for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be dead today."

No comments were made on the sermon contents anymore.

As a preacher I cannot say how this story encourages me to preach one more Sunday. I may not have wonderful feedback just after the service from the congregation but I'm sure God will work in their

## From the Manse



minds and in their lives with the words I preach even though they don't recognize it immediately.

And I always thank God for calling me to this gracious work. But it is not just for me as a minister, we are all called by God in different ways and as a different part of the body.

How valuable what you are doing may not be recognized as it should be but I'm sure that without your contribution we cannot survive as a church. You are not wasting your time. Every single thing you are doing nourishes us and gives us the strength we need to do the work of God and make us to stand as a church, the body of Christ in the community.

In this Lenten season, how about having a look around and encouraging each other by giving little compliments about what each is doing. It can be another good exercise of what God wants us to do to 'Love your neighbour'.

*Seung-Wook Jung*

## ***The Editor writes***



Over the years that I have edited this magazine — this is issue 85 under my editorship — I have consistently tried to draw attention to the world in which we live, move and have our being and see this in the context of our Christian faith and life in our local church.

I thought of this again when writing for this issue, in two contexts, the first in relation to a message from a Syrian friend — a former work colleague — on Facebook, noting that in reflecting on the terrible tragedy that is Eastern Ghouta and the incessant fighting and suffering in that area on the outskirts of Damascus, we should not forget that the “rebels” there have shelled the Christian area of Damascus and among other things have damaged two schools and an Orthodox Cathedral. It is a reminder that there are always two sides to a story. In pointing this out it in no way diminishes what is happening

in other parts of that country.

The other item is more personal. Ruth and I have taken the difficult step of deciding to move house and home. Like many others before us, as we age we would like to be nearer our daughters and grandchildren.

This means that in the near future we expect to move to Witney, in Oxfordshire. The next issue of Trumpeter is likely to be the last that I will edit. It has been a joy and a privilege to have been able to do this near the end of a journalistic career that has spanned some five or more decades, with 25 or more of those years spent outside of the UK, and homes in at least three countries.

It will not be easy leaving Trinity or Leighton Buzzard as it is where I was born and still have family, and where former Sunday School pupils and teachers are happily still around.

A few days ago I received a telephone call from Colin Dimmock suggesting that Trumpeter should ask those who over the years have moved away and still receive Trumpeter, to let us know how they are getting on, in a column “Where are they now”. As I join those ranks I promise, Colin, to keep in touch. More next issue! *REC*



In this column in the February issue I highlighted the present concern about rubbish, particularly plastic rubbish and the problems that this is causing.

Some companies are trying to combat this growing problem. Iceland stores are set to eliminate plastic packaging from their own brands of ready meals in five years. Experts are developing paper and pulp alternatives, cellulose-based technologies to replace the black plastic trays. The carton sleeve is to be made of cardboard.

MacDonalds plan to use only biodegradable trays and utensils for cold beverages by 2020, and by 2025 their "guest" packaging aims to be from renewable/recycled or certified sources.

The EU has pledged that the aim is to have all plastic packaging made biodegradable or recyclable by 2030.

A firm in Scotland is set to ban the sale and manufacture of plastic

stemmed cotton buds. These items are to be made from cardboard.

Despite various educational campaigns, people still flush litter down their toilets. Sewerage systems are not able to remove small items which can go on to kill marine animals and birds.

Another firm in Scotland uses a small proportion of plastic waste in the mix for asphalt, replacing the amount of toxic bitumen. A school in Penzance is using cardboard straws instead of plastic ones.

For years the UK has been shipping our compacted plastic waste to China, where young people sorted through it and put aside recycleable items to sell, and keeping the money it generated. China has now stopped accepting our rubbish, saying that it was contaminated and polluting their environment.

In this issue of Trumpeter there is an article about Trinity being awarded the Bronze Plaque as an eco-church. It has been pointed out that this column and this publication have been among those areas which, on a continuing basis, has consistently drawn attention to our Christian responsibility in relation to God's creation - may it long continue.

*Janet Graham*



# Angel shower thanks

It seems a long time since Christmas but as promised here is the update on the Angel Shower.

Thanks to the fantastic ladies of the church who knitted the angels, we had approximately 650 to distribute. Lots of people took bags of them to leave on walls, benches, etc. or to give to specific people who they felt needed an extra 'cuddle'. Some were taken on dog walks or left on seats in cafes. Others were left in the High Street and they were all gone in half an hour.

Everyone who spoke to us about the angels was thrilled to take one home and the feedback we had showed how touched people were that someone cared about them and how they were feeling at Christmas.

The best story which has come to me was from a hospital. When a lady left the Costa cafe she left an angel on a chair. A paramedic stopped her and said she had left something behind. After she had explained what it was he asked if he could have it to keep in his ambulance. Of course she was thrilled to give it to him.

However, although the Angel Shower was a success and would be a lovely thing to do again we

feel it should not be a regular event as this could lessen the impact. Also, we all need to put our energies into something perhaps more important. The church needs much more money than is coming in with regular giving, so we are organising some fund-raising events during this year.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Bacon and Buttie morning due to the inclement weather but other things are in the pipeline.

As a group Trinity Sewing Circle can organise these events but we do need everyone to be involved either by helping or attending. The next event is to be a plant sale and coffee morning on 19 May. We need lots of plants to sell, so please look around your garden to see what you can spare. You may have some perennials which need splitting or a plant you have always wanted to get rid of — please give them to sell.

We would ask you to look on these as church events, not just the Sewing Circle. We all need to pull together and we can have lots of fun and get to know each other better by doing so, as we have proved with the Angel shower.

*Sandra Digby*

# Trinity Eco-Church Award

Eight years ago Trinity worked for the Eco Congregation awards and gained the Gold Award. It was a congregational effort which included the fitting of the Solar panels for which many people gifted or loaned money. Since that time the Eco-congregation award has been superseded and a new church scheme inaugurated.

The Methodist Church is backing this new scheme and is now urging churches throughout the country to show that the 'Church' is good for God's earth. It is asking churches to express love for God's creation in management of buildings, land, worship & teaching Community and Lifestyle. We are encouraged through the Eco Church Survey to assess where we can include environmentally friendly practises for everyone's benefit.

There are three new awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold. They cover five areas: Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global, and Lifestyle. Each section has to achieve the same level in order to progress to the next level.

When the leadership team looked at the Eco Church Survey, it was realized that thanks to Janet



Graham and Trumpeter, Local Preachers, Messy Church and Toddlers together with the work done eight years ago, that we could achieve the Bronze Award. That has now been duly awarded. So thanks to those who have kept us on track over the last eight years.

The question now is do we, as a Church, want to take it to the next level, Silver? The Leadership Team would like to do this but we need your support.

Worship & Teaching and Buildings are already at the Silver level. In fact Worship & Teaching is at Gold level thanks to the good practises we have continued over

*(Continued on next page)*

# Trinity Eco-Church Award

*(Continued from previous page)*

the past eight years .

In order to bring the other three sections to Silver we need to do some of the following things.

**Land** – Tidy up the gardens at the side and front of the church, put in place if possible a bat box, and another bird box. Plant some native wild flowers which are butterfly and bee friendly. A wildlife survey before and after we do the work to see if anything has changed. If we can do these this year we would achieve our aims.

**Community & Global** — Consider toilet twinning our toilets with ones in places such as Uganda. This could be done by, for example, holding a coffee morning.

Toilet Twinning is a water and sanitation initiative. By donating £60 to twin your toilet, you help those in desperate poverty to have access to a proper latrine, clean water and the information they need to be healthy.

As a church we have an overseas project that we regularly pray for in our services and as individuals. This could be added regularly to our prayer card as a reminder. We could advertise and hold a Fair Trade evening or similar event.

**Lifestyle** — Encourage each other to look at our carbon footprint on an annual basis. Consider other things to do at home.

Let us know if you are prepared to support our efforts. We need to hear from you especially if it is “yes, go for it”. If you are keen and would like to be involved do please let me know. If we don’t get the feedback then we will assume you are not interested! I would hate that to be the case. Even if you can’t help physically but are interested, talk to each other and encourage others. Don’t hesitate to ask for more information.

*Catherine Roots.*

Everyone is invited to a special Circuit Service on

**18 March 2018 at 6.00 pm at**

**The Olive Tree, Blenheim Crescent Site, LU3 1HB**

Preacher: Richard Armiger

The service will recognise Steve Rogers as a fully accredited Local Preacher

*Refreshments will be available after the service*



# Christian Aid Lent Reflection

**Read: John 12:20-33**

## ***Something to consider***

The question that Andrew and Philip bring to Jesus triggers quite a response. Perhaps Philip himself had recognised the significance of both the question and the questioners, and that is why he went to Andrew first, not wanting to bring this question to Jesus by himself.

Such was the message and example of Jesus that those outside Judaism, even the Greeks, were being drawn to him. And even to the place of Jewish worship. The Pharisees' fears are being realised - everyone is choosing to follow him. It is in this moment that Jesus recognises the beginning of his journey to the cross.

Perhaps not as they imagined, but the Greeks would have their question answered, they would see Jesus, as all people would, high and lifted up.

When we begin to lift up our heads from the dust of the wilderness towards the events of Holy Week, we encounter another story of radical inclusion on the Count Your Blessings Journey.

Since 2013, militant Islamist group Boko Haram have used bombings, assassinations and abductions to instil terror and fear in northeast Nigeria. Many have fled from the violence and up to 1.7 million people have been forced from their homes.

## ***Ayuba's story***

Ayuba was one of those who fled before many others and he managed to find a property to live in.

As he anticipated, Boko Haram devastated his village and burned many properties. Many fled the chaos and arrived where Ayuba was living with nothing.

Having the foresight to leave earlier and having a place of safety for himself sorted, he began sheltering those who fled from his village after him. He has 58 people in his house. Previously the number was 136.

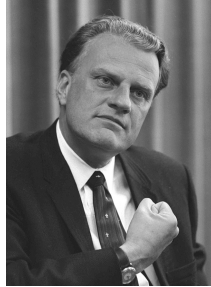
**Christian Aid has provided Ayuba and the other residents with food for seven months.**

Ayuba says he felt obligated to help those who had fled, even if it meant sacrificing a potential income from rent money.

This is an example of radical inclusion and hospitality, a reminder that even in the most challenging of circumstances there is encouragement to be found.

Perhaps for the same reasons the voice from heaven could not remain silent but spoke as much to strengthen and encourage Andrew, Philip and all those who could hear that even in the most difficult of things God is present.

# Methodist Tribute to Rev Billy Graham



The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the **Rev Loraine N Mellor and Jill Baker**, have offered their condolences to the family of US evangelist the Rev Dr Billy Graham, who has died aged 99.

Graham, best known for preaching to audiences in large arenas, died at his home in North Carolina on 21 February. He became a Christian aged 16 after listening to an itinerant evangelist and was ordained as a minister four years later.

The President said:  
“We send our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of Billy Graham, without doubt one of the greatest evangelists of the last century. He shared the love of Jesus Christ to millions around the world.”

*A statement from Methodist Central Hall Westminster, where Billy Graham preached on occasion said: Rev Billy Graham was one of the most influential Christian evangelists of the last 100 years and all of us at Methodist Central Hall are saddened to hear of his passing, mixed with joy that he will, in his own words, ‘see Jesus face to face’.*

**The Rev Martyn Atkins**, Superintendent Minister at Central Hall added:  
Billy Graham was one of the great figures of 20th century Christianity. He inherited a slightly dubious & debatable form of evangelism, and made it mainstream, more nuanced, sensitive and respectful: all augmented by his fine personal example of discipleship.

**The Rev Tony Miles**, Minister at Central Hall, tweeted:  
RIP Billy Graham! He once said 'The most thrilling thing about heaven is that Jesus Christ will be there. I will see Him face to face. Jesus Christ will meet us at the end of life's journey.' I thank God Billy helped so many to begin a faith journey in this life too: even at Methodist Central Hall



## **Faith in Politics: new podcast**

Faith in Politics is an exciting new podcast series that features guests discussing topics from current affairs that link in with faith, has been launched by the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT).

The podcast is aimed at JPIT's existing supporters and activists but will also appeal to a younger audience thanks to increased engagement with current affairs and politics, and the accessibility of social media and podcasts.

Those taking part are people who are living out a faith of some kind in public and political life. Guests will include the Co-Leader of the Green Party, Jonathan Bartley, Labour politicians, the Rt Hon Stephen Timms and Alan Milburn, and the Conservative politician and member of the House of Lords Baroness Sayeeda Warsi.

## **Time for a Smile**

A lady in the church was well-known for looking on the black side of every situation. It was always bad news and never good news. She went to her doctor one day for a general medical examination. When this was finished the doctor said, "I have good news and bad news. The good news is that you are not a hypochondriac."

Inspectors make regular visits to schools nowadays and one teacher developed a foolproof system to ensure that the children in her class displayed an impressive level of religious knowledge. When asked a question by the inspector or the teacher, every child would raise a hand — the left if the answer was known, the right if the child had no idea. The teacher said she never failed to select a pupil who would supply the correct answer. The inspectors were impressed.



# News from Eaton Bray

On the last Sunday in January, Peter Baker led our worship and gave us a meaningful and inspiring sermon which focused on the powerful authority of Christ. We were reminded of the many times Jesus spoke and acted with quiet but compelling authority and in death acted as a 'human bridge' to make a new life available for all. We must claim this power to reach out in to all in His Name.

The preacher due to take our service on the first Sunday in February was prevented from doing so. Our own Geoff Joels stepped in and led us with verve, involving the whole congregation in an interesting and thoughtful interactive session contemplating 'the Kingdom of God'. We are fortunate to have versatile and skilled members who are prepared to respond in emergencies.

Our café Service with Communion on the second Sunday was memorable. Our Minister, Nigel Bibbings, brought the bread proving in a warm box. It baked during the first part of the service, while we discussed and reflected on the symbolism and significance of bread in the Last Supper and Communion. And then, with the aroma of fresh bread pervading the church, the new loaf was broken and shared. It gave a whole new dimension to Jesus's words "the Bread of Life".

Joan Gregory made a welcome return on the third Sunday. Her

message focused on the Temptations and reminded us that we often face 'wilderness experiences'. It takes courage to resist the challenges, but we are not alone.

On the fourth Sunday, John Enajo gave another challenging sermon, highlighting Jesus's assertion that, if we are ashamed of him, he will be ashamed of us on the last day. We must remember that loyalty is the test of true love.

On the first Sunday in March we were relieved that the worst of the snow had melted so that Ivor Michelmores was able to preach. He gave us a typically joyful sermon based on the Commandments of Jesus, reminding us that they are just as relevant today as they always were. When we are told 'to love the Lord', we should remember that love expresses itself through actions and obedience. We are also told to keep the Sabbath Day holy. Is this practical in today's world? We need the Sabbath day of rest and must consider how to make this possible.

## Dates for your Diary:

*Cafe Community:* Saturday 14 April, 11.00 am – 1.00 pm.

We will be delighted to see you if you come to join us for a cup of tea/coffee and/or a light lunch.

*Social Afternoons:* Weekly on Thursdays , 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Chat, meet friends, games, refreshments. All Welcome.

# Prayer Corner

## The Empty Vessel

*(Martin Luther has been in the news recently because it is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This prayer was written by him.)*

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.

I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbour.

I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and I am unable to trust you altogether.

O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have.

I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor.

I am a sinner; you are upright.

With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you there is the fullness of righteousness.

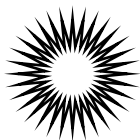
Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.

Amen

## Christian charities free to speak about faith

Tracey Crouch, the minister for civil society, has told Christian charities they needn't worry about hiding their faith while carrying out services. With concerns that some would miss out on funding or face punishment, many charities have been wary about how explicit they can be about the faith element of their work. Speaking at the Raising Funds for Christian Charities and Churches conference in London, Tracey Crouch acknowledged there had been

problems in the past but she wanted that changed. She said, "I know that some of you here feel that successive governments and local authorities have wanted to applaud all the good things that you do as Christians, but discourage you from speaking openly about the faith that motivates you, I assure you that that is not the intention and I encourage you to challenge anyone in government who makes you feel you need to suppress your faith. I very much appreciate that, for so many of you, the inspiration to do such amazing acts of service in your communities comes directly from your Christian faith."



# **Trinity Fellowship Circle**

Tuesdays at 7.30 pm

## **MARCH**

- 13 Fish & chip supper
- 20 Getting ready for Easter
- 27 No meeting

*Please contact Marilyn Powell  
for details of April's activities.*

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## **Flowers in church**



## **MARCH**

- 18 Gareth and Heather  
Hodgkinson in loving  
memory of Thelma and  
Philip Hodgkinson
- 25 Jim & Audrey Woods in  
loving memory of their  
parents

## **APRIL**

- 1 EASTER DAY - Easter Flower  
Fund Appeal
- 8 Elaine Green celebrating my  
husband Vic's birthday and  
our wedding anniversary

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## **This is the worst disease**

*(These words are attributed to Mother Teresa)*

I have come more and more to realise that being unwanted is the worst disease that any human being can ever experience. Nowadays we have found medicine for leprosy, and lepers can be cured. There's medicine for tuberculosis and consumption can be cured. but for the unwanted, except there are willing hands to serve and there is a loving heart to love, I don't think this terrible disease can be cured.



# ***Weekly activities at Trinity***

## **SUNDAY**

- 8.30 Holy Communion. Optional breakfast (usually 1st Sunday in month)
- 9.15 Food 4 Thought (Chatteris Suite - returns in the Spring)
- 9.15 Early Church, All Age Worship followed by 'Coffee&' in Chatteris Suite (2nd and 4th Sundays in each month)
- 10.30 Morning Worship (coffee afterwards in the hall)
- 5.30 Freedom Generation (Youth group for ages 11-16) in Chatteris Suite
- 6.00 Evening Worship

## **MONDAY**

- 8.00 Badminton in the hall

## **TUESDAY**

- 9.45-11.15 Mothers & Toddlers (Chatteris Suite) Term time only
- 10.00-10.30 Half hour market day worship + refreshments
- 7.00-8.30 Cubs
- 7.30 Trinity Fellowship Circle

## **WEDNESDAY**

- Evening Drop-in for homeless

## **THURSDAY**

- 2.00 Sewing Circle (Every two weeks. See Sandra Digby for details)
- 6.15-7.30 Beavers
- 7.30-9.00 Scouts

## **FRIDAY**

- 9.45-11.15 Mothers & Toddlers (Chatteris Site) Term time only
- 6.00-7.30 Girls' Brigade - Explorers
- 6.30-8.00 Girls' Brigade - Juniors
- 7.00-9.00 Girls' Brigade - Seniors
- 7.30-9.30 Girls' Brigade - Brigaders

## **SATURDAY**

- 9.00-9.30 Prayer Service

**For introduction to any of the above, please see a Steward**

Trumpeter is edited by Robin Gurney at  
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Sunday, 29 April. Deadline for contributions will be  
**NOON on FRIDAY, Friday, 20 April 2018**  
Deadline for the following issue to be decided.



Website: Trinity: [www.trinitylb.org.uk](http://www.trinitylb.org.uk)  
Follow Trinity also on Facebook and Twitter

Trinity Methodist Church is a Registered Charity, No: 1151861



*February Daffodils in Evenley Wood  
Garden. Photo: REG*

**For the fruits of all creation,  
thanks be to God;  
for the gifts of every nation,  
thanks be to God;  
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe keeping,  
thanks be to God.**

*Fred Pratt Green  
(Singing the Faith 124)*