

Trumpeter



What's happening at Trinity

December 2019

Contacts at Trinity

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Church Office	Tasha Williams tttprojectoffice@gmail.com	01525 371905 (Answerphone available)
Stewards	Anne Gray (Senior)	07749 757263
	Alison Arnold	01525 370030
	Catherine Roots	01525 754789
	Ann Guy	Please see directory
	Chris Lowe	01525 383153

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www.trinitylb.org.uk Registered Charity No. 1151861



From The Manse

'You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise WOMEN instead of men, don't you? They would have asked for directions rather than navigate the star, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable nappies as gifts!'

It is one of the Christmas jokes I have found on the internet. It's about practicality and preparation.

'Preparation'. We have preparation time before Christmas. Most shops ask us to prepare for Christmas by shopping. The over-commercialization of Christmas is perhaps one of the most meaningful invitations Christians receive to explain our participation in Advent as a season. Our world has decided that Christmas is equated with consumerism, and the church should offer a counter-narrative framed in the confessional – and yet joyful – lens of Advent.

It's the start of the church calendar and a time for preparing our hearts and minds. Preparing, not just Christmas, but for the whole of the coming year. Because Christmas reminds us 'Immanuel' came to us in the form of a baby and is with us by his death and resurrection.

Advent preparation is not just for the celebration of Christmas but the life with and in Jesus Christ for the coming new year. It should begin with remembering the wonderful work of God in our lives in the last year. It gives us new expectations for the new year with his plan. Our joy does not come from Christmas presents we receive in the morning of Christmas day, but the perfect gift we have already received.

Winter by Kathy Keeley

The nights are getting cold now and we should remember those who brave the cooler temperatures, including animals. Having the right food, drink, shelter and clothing makes a huge difference to the length of time we can stay outside.

Jesus was born in a stable, comfortable enough in warm temperatures but not so much for a human in the cold. In a well-known carol there is the line, "You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

These strips of cloth are easy enough to make for somebody beginning to learn how to process textiles and are suitable for a baby new to the world.

Joseph, Mary, the animals and the shepherds looked out for Jesus when he was first born at a time of great upheaval when people were travelling to be counted for a census which would have helped allocate resources.

They were witnesses to the visitors who came to see him and kept him safe.

God bless all those with caring responsibilities at this testing time of year. Help us to help look after them so they can look after others. We should also remember the lonely who feel they have nobody to turn to. Help them find fellowship with people who suit their needs.

Lone Working

Do you ever find yourself alone on the Church premises? For example, you might be creating or removing a flower arrangement, setting up a room for a meeting or waiting for a supplier to arrive. If so, you need to be aware of Trinity's Lone Working Policy which sets out the responsibilities of the Church to those who are on the premises alone and also the precautions that need to be taken by those who find themselves in this situation.

The Lone Worker policy is on display on the Church notice board in the corridor. Please read it and take note of its contents.

Where are they now? Bob and Margaret Harris

As many of you know, we are now living in Ashby-de-la-Zouch in Leicestershire, about five minutes away from our daughter Sharon and family. We are retired, though sometimes we wonder how we ever found time to go to work. We certainly are not retired from church activities, though they have certainly changed. We attend Melbourne Methodist Church in Derbyshire, approx. 15 minutes drive from where we live. It is a very active church with many young families and a large group of young people. We are still local preachers in a large circuit; though with some small congregations. We have taken on no leadership roles in our church but are involved in many of the activities.

Twice a month we have what we call 'Splash' which is play and praise for under school age children and their parents, carers and in some cases grandparents. It is based on a Bible story which is told in several different ways; through puppets; being read from the Bible; and activities. It also involves songs; times of free play and drinks and food. That's where we come in; serving teas, coffee, cakes, fruit and biscuits but we also have the opportunity to sit & chat with the parents etc. and also to hold the babies. We had our youngest baby the other week who was just 6 days old.

At the other end of the spectrum we have our afternoon tea service once a month, when a proper afternoon tea is served with delicious sandwiches and cakes etc. It also includes an opportunity to sing their favourite hymns, a bible sketch; talk and prayers. Another chance to sit and chat with people.

Margaret is back playing the guitar as part of the worship group which leads worship on a Sunday morning and for the songs in Splash.

Bob is still painting and takes part in the annual Melbourne art festival in September where over 100 venues are open for displaying art and crafts. Bob displays in the Church alongside other church members.

Our lives are not fully involved with the church. This is a lovely area to live in with several National Trust properties close by and we spend times visiting them; particularly Calke Abbey which is just up the road.

Family wise, Neil and Tanya live in Cheltenham with their four children and as we said before Sharon and Gary live locally with their three. Three of our grandchildren are now at university. Adam, now 21, is in his final year at Loughborough studying Sports Coaching. He spent last year in Dubai leading fitness classes at the American university in Dubai; spending Christmas in Nepal and trekking towards Everest. Leah and Johannah, both 18 are in their first years at University, with Leah at Winchester studying Sports Coaching and Johannah at Bristol studying Medicine. Jacob is 16, Samuel 13, Adonai 12 and Hope is 10. They're all growing up which I suppose means that we are growing "older".

We're still in touch with many from Trinity and it's great to hear news of old friends and all that's going on. Our love and prayers to you all.

Message from Colin Dimmock

If you are reading this and are in contact with folk who have moved away and think they might like to feature in 'Where are they now?', please let Colin Dimmock have their names, addresses and phone numbers and he will add their names to his list of contact. Thank you.

Sunday Services during December

Date & Service	Led by	Steward
<u>1st December – Parade Sunday (please see p. 17)</u>		
9.15am – Early Church	Richard Bates & Catherine Roots	Chris Lowe
10.30am – Morning Worship	Peter Baker	Anne Gray
6.00pm – Circuit Advent Service at Luton Road		
<u>8th December</u>		
9.15am Early Church	Ben Williams & Judy Wyman Bates	Marina Mele
10.30am – Morning Worship with Holy Communion	Rev. Seung Wook Jung	Jacqui Donaghy
7.30pm – Sunday Night Live at Farley Hill		
<u>15th December</u>		
8.30am – Early Communion Service	Rev. Seung-Wook Jung	Elizabeth Hitchcock
9.15am – Early Church	Richard Bates & Karen Purton	Ann Guy
10.30am – Morning Worship	Joan Gregory	Catherine Roots
6.00pm – Evening Worship	Roger Owers	Donald Wray
<u>22nd December</u>		
9.15am – Early Church	Ben Williams & Jane Seaton	Marina Mele
10.30am – Morning Worship	Local arrangement led by Alison Arnold	Charles Horsefield

<u>22nd December (continued)</u>		
6.00pm—Carol Service	Rev. Seung-Wook Jung	Catherine Roots
<u>29th December</u>		
9.15am—Early Church	Jo Baker & Catherine Roots	Chris Lowe
10.30am—Morning Worship	Fiona Arscott-Smith	Charles Horsefield

Door Stewards at 10.30am Morning Worship	
1st December	Van Howard, Mary Eagleton, & Irene Hyde
8th December	Mary Eagleton & Kathy Keeley
15th December	Irene Hyde
22nd December	Irene Hyde

Flowers	
1st December	'Cilla & Philipp Wagner—In loving memory of our little daughter Celeste, sister to Christian.
8th December	Tony Oldroyd—In celebration of Ann's 80th Birthday on 14th December.
15th December	Flower Fund
22nd December	Joan & Ken Gregory and Jean Farmer—in loving memory of their parents,
29th December	Flower Fund

Tuesday Morning Service (10am) will be led by:

3rd December	Rev. Seung-Wook Jung (with Holy Communion)
10th December	Donald & Sarina Wray
17th December	Ann Guy
24th December	No Service
31st December	Rev. Wallace Edwards

Coffee Teams	
1st December	Janet Curzon, Heather Watkins & Joan Gregory
8th December	Tim & Elizabeth Hitchcock & Chris Bosworth
15th December	Charles & Sue Horsefield & Irene Hyde
22nd December	The Wray Family
29th December	Nancy Renfrew, Mary Eagleton & Margaret Dover

Request

Any donations of mince pies and cakes for the Christmas services would be gratefully received. Please check the dates of items, that they will last until 25th December. Thank you.





Christmas at Trinity



Sunday 1st December—Parade Sunday

9.15am—Parade service with
Scouts; includes Gift Service
10.30am—Parade service with Girls'
Brigade; includes Gift Service



Wednesday 11th December

2.30pm—Carols and Cakes



Sunday 22nd December

6.00pm—Carol Service

ALL WELCOME

Tuesday 24th December

4.00pm—Christmas Eve All Age Nativity
Service followed by Messy Church
Activities with drinks and cakes
11.30pm—Midnight Holy Communion



Wednesday 25th December

10.30am—All Age Christmas Worship



Coming up at Trinity and in the South Bedfordshire Circuit

Please see posters in the hallway or see the Trinity website for more details. Alternatively contact the Church Office.

Sun 1st Dec, 3pm	Toddington Methodist Church	Dunstable U3A Christmas Concert. Admission £7. Please see poster for details.
Mon 2nd Dec, 8pm	Trinity	Lammas Walk House Group
Wed 4th Dec, 8pm	Tasha's House	Worship Consultation
Thurs 5th Dec	Trinity	Deadline for greetings for Church Family Communal Christmas card
Tues 10th Dec, 10.30am	Trinity	Deadline for Christmas cards in the red letter box
Wed 11th Dec, Noon	Trinity	January Trumpeter Deadline
Thurs 12th Dec, 2-4pm	Trinity	Games Afternoon
Thurs 12th Dec, 8pm	Trinity	Owers' House Group
Sat 14th Dec, 10am	Trinity	Christmas Tree Decorating, with refreshments. Please see Chris Lowe, Tim Hitchcock or Tony Oldroyd if you'd like to help.
Sat 14th— Sun 15th Dec	Wigmore Church	A Christmas Card to the Community. Please see poster for details.
Mon 16th Dec, 8pm	Trinity	Lammas Walk House Group

Sun 12th Jan, 3pm	The Square Methodist Church	Circuit Open Meeting to discuss: The Report of the Marriage & relationships Task Group 2019: God in love unites us. Please see poster for details.
Sat 18th Jan, 9.30am-4pm	Christ- church, Hitchin	Local Preacher's Study Day. Please see poster for details.

Weekly activities

For contact details please see the Church Directory or contact the Church Office (01525 371905 or tttprojectoffice@gmail.com)

Badminton	Monday 8-10pm	Jan Cornfoot
Trinity Toddlers	Tuesday & Friday 9.45-11.15am (Term time only)	Karen Purton
Trinity Fellowship Circle	Tuesday 7.30-9pm	Marilyn Powell
Beavers	Thursday	Richard Bates
Cubs	Tuesday	
Scouts	Thursday	
Drop-in for the homeless	Wednesday	Charles Horsefield
Sewing Circle	Alternate Thursday 2-4pm	Sandra Digby
Girls' Brigade	Friday 6-9.30pm	Marilyn Powell
Prayers	Saturday 9-10am	Joan Gregory

Early Church Corner

Early Church is heading into the Christmas season! We will be following the lectionary readings in December leading up to Christmas. We have been busy following the Preaching Series and then moving onto two weeks on the story of Daniel.



We are always looking for new helpers at Early Church especially with hospitality, so if you think you could help with setting up, welcoming, Coffee& or the breakfast (on third Sundays at the café style service), please do talk to one of the Early Church Leadership Team.

Coming up

1st December—Everlasting Peace: Jesus is coming!

8th December—Someone is shouting in the desert: John the Baptist

15th December—Jesus and John the Baptist

22nd December—This is how it happened: The birth of Jesus

29th December—Jesus becomes a refugee: The Escape to Egypt

Early Church leaders are also involved in helping to lead the All Age Nativity Service on Christmas Eve.

Christmas at Trinity

Trinity will be ordering 2500 Christmas cards to be distributed to our local area. 500 of these will be designated for the new estates on Hockliffe Road. The Connections Group would really like some help in delivering all these cards. There will be a sign up sheet from mid November on the board opposite the hall and card will be available for collection and distribution from **Sunday 1st December**. Please speak to one of the Connections Group if you are able to help with the additional deliveries to the new estates.

As last year Trinity will be offering two options when it comes to Christmas cards. There will be the communal card, messages for which should be sent to Tasha at the church office by **Thursday 5th December**. These cards will be ready for distribution to Church Family on Sunday 15th December.

As in previous years Anne & Roger Webber have offered to distribute cards posted in the red post box. The post box will be in the Anteroom from Sunday December 1 until 10.30 on **Tuesday 10th December**. Of the expected 1,000 odd items, some will then be delivered: the rest will await collection from the Anteroom on December 15. Again, it would be good to have a volunteer or 2 to help with the final in-town deliveries. If you are able to do this please speak to Anne or Roger Webber.

Connections Group (Catherine Roots, Marina Mele, Peter Baker, Sheila Pollard & Tasha Williams)



Top tips for Bible reading

Article from 'Word in Action' Winter 2019 (Magazine produced by Bible Society)

Tips from helen Crawford, Digital Content Manager and Oldi Morava, Director of International Mission.

Two of our staff share their top tips for reading the Bible.

Get curious

If you're in a familiar passage or are coming to a text you know well, ask yourself where else in the Bible a similar theme or context occurs. Reading Ephesians? Look at Paul's history with Ephesus in Acts. Does the passage quote another part of Scripture? Check out the original. See how these explorations heighten your sense of what's going on.

Get perspective

If you tend to look into the details of a text and really try to 'rinse' a verse for all it's worth, challenge yourself to read through a book all in one go. You'll see the different patterns and possible form different conclusions. If you're used to looking at the big picture, dig into the detail.

Know what you're handling

Knowing which genre of text is in front of you will help make sense of what you're reading. You're going to interpret a letter differently to how you would a story, just as you'll respond to the 6 o'clock news differently to the adverts before it. If you're new to biblical genre, check out www.biblesociety.org.uk/genre

Pray

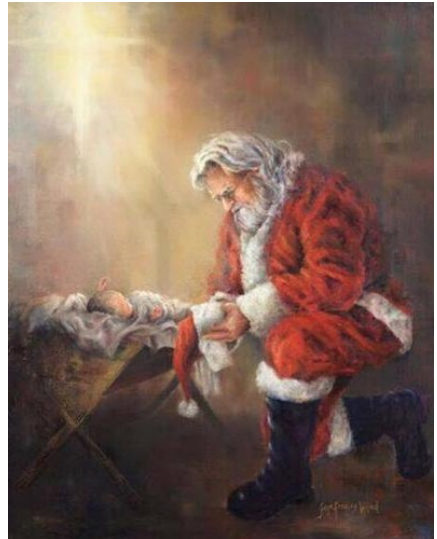
Pray before and after you read a passage. At the beginning pray that God will guide you and reveal himself through the passage that you're reading, perhaps by highlighting aspects you haven't noticed before. After reflecting on the text, turn what you have read into prayers for yourself and others, learn to make the Bible the vocabulary of your prayer life.

Use different translations

If you're stuffing a particular passage, read it in more than one translation of the Bible. The different renderings of translations may not only provoke your imagination, but also highlight some of the difficulties of the original text that you need to bear in mind when interpreting a passage.

Father Christmas and Baby Jesus

My dear precious Jesus, I did not mean to take your place,
I only bring toys and things and you bring love and grace.
People give me lists of wishes and hope that they came true;
But you hear prayers of the heart and promise your will to do.
Children try to be good and not to cry when I am coming to town;
But you love them unconditionally and that love will abound.
I leave only a bag of toys and temporary joy for a season;
But you leave a heart of love, full of
purpose and reasons.
I have a lot of believers and what
one might call fame;
But I never healed the blind or
tried to help the lame.
I have rosy cheeks and a voice full
of laughter;
But no nail—scarred hands or a
promise of the hereafter.
You may find several of me in town
or at a mall;
But there is only one omnipotent
you, to answer a sinner's call.
And so, my dear precious Jesus, I
kneel here to pray;
To worship and adore you on this, your holy birthday.



Annual Toy & Gift Service—Sunday 1st December

Gifts will be received at both the 9.15 and 10.30 services this year which will be a Parade Sunday. The gifts from the 9.15 service will then be taken into the church prior to the 10.30 service before being distributed.

We are continuing to support the work of the Leighton Buzzard children's centre this year and would ask that you bring along a gift or toy for children aged 0 – 5 years. Please ensure that the gift is unwrapped so that the staff at the centre can check the age arrange is appropriate and then wrap them.

There is also a need for toiletries for young mothers and any new baby garments up to the age of 9 months. If you would also like to donate wrapping paper this will be welcome.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Messy Nativity Sheep Trail

One of the Trinity Shepherds has again lost some sheep.

Can you help find them? They were last reported in the town centre seeking to get into some of the shops.

If you would like to join the search then pick up a leaflet from the book trolley or look on the church website www.trinitylb.org.uk to see which shops they may be in.

The trail begins on Monday 2nd December until 24th but we need to ensure our shepherd knows where they are by 24th ready for Christmas Day so please help us in the search.



Trinity Methodist Church Council—Minutes Summary (15th October 2019)

- Membership of meeting list circulated and agreed.
- Pastoral concerns—Phyllis Tucker in L&D Hospital, Henry Franks in Elm Lodge, Jenny Webb in The Knolls & Isabel Dyer who had been in hospital.
- Minutes of previous meeting on 27th June 2019, agreed and signed.
- Appointments—David Dawes was nominated as Church Treasurer. Margaret Dover, Elaine Greene and 'Cilla Wagner nominated as Church Representatives.

Life & Mission of the Church

- **Worship Planning Meeting**—trying to introduce 'quiet time' before 10.30am service, monitoring attendance numbers and patterns of 6pm service.
- **Pastoral Report**—Bring & Share for Pastoral Friends planned for 16th May 2020. Seung-Wook has met with house group leaders and would like to increase house groups at Trinity. Pastoral Leaders' Commissioning service on 31st May 2020.
- **Public Issues & Social Action**—2 new recruits for Drop-In, around 90 people attended the Oxjam concert raising £780 (including money raised by Cubs & Scouts at pop-up stalls)
- **Finance/Resources**— Roger Owers was thanked for his work as Treasurer (who in turn, thanked Sheila Pollard for keeping accounts in order). David Dawes to become primary user for Trinity bank accounts. Catherine Roots spoke on Legacy Funds and proposals—the new AV system is hoped to be installed by Christmas.
- **Property Committee** - Windows to Rooms 3, 4 & 5 , Atterbury Room & Vestry are to be replaced and quote accepted. Unanimous decision to delegate responsibility to Resources Committee to complete Methodist Annual Property Report. Leaks currently under investigation.
- **Leadership Team**—Next Steps Review (Weekly news is now being compiled by Tasha and volunteers in the church office)

- **Leadership Team (cont.)** - Trinity has decided to cancel Calamus licence for music reproduction as it is rarely used.
- **Early Church**—Catherine Roots thanked Jane & Graham Seaton for their work with Early Church. Graham emphasised that Early Church is an integral form of worship at Trinity, as much so as other worship groups.
- **Messy Church**—Messy Church is getting bigger and better with more attendees, especially in the new 7+ Crew which is proving popular. More volunteers as always are needed.
- **Safeguarding**— Training is being organised for relevant volunteers. Any concerns brought to Ann Guy's or Seung-Wook's attention are being dealt with.
- **Policies**—Safer Recruitment and Risk Management policies updated.
- **Health & Safety**—nothing reported
- **Churches Together**—plans afoot for VE Day celebrations, Carols in the High Street on Christmas Eve. Need for new secretary.
- **Circuit Matters**—Proposal of Circuit Prayer Diary, Advent Sunday service, Circuit even for all in the planning for Spring 2020, Preaching series for March 2020 being planned, consideration for more employed staff (property/legal advisor). Circuit 'training' for stewards has started.
- Diary dates compiled and distributed.
- Next Church Councils:
 - Wednesday 12th February 2020 at 7.30pm
 - Thursday 25th June 2020 at 7.30pm
- Annual Church Meeting—Sunday 26th April 2020 at 11.30am

Prayer Diary for December 2019

helping us focus on the needs of our Church and community.

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the centre, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time.

Please pray for:

- Those of our congregation whose name begins with V/W/Y/Z.
- Worship Leaders at Trinity in October (see pages 6–8)
- Events at Trinity and around the circuit (see pages 10-11)
- Christmas Services and events at Trinity (see page 9)

Teams at Trinity – in particular:

- The Leadership team and stewards including Vestry and Communion stewards

Our local neighbourhood:

- Southcott Lower School

Pray to God for the world around us:

- For the upcoming General Election on 12th December
- For those living on the streets, especially during winter time
- For those affected by the recent flooding in the UK.