

Trumpeter



What's happening at Trinity

January 2020

Contacts at Trinity

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HAPPY NEW YEAR...? By Kathy Keeley

Christmas is over and a new year has begun. Once we have got over all the festivities it's back to normal life, whatever that is.

One of the most quoted stories in the bible is that of the lost son in Luke 15:11-32. A man has two sons: One stays at home and works on the farm while the other claims his inheritance early, spends it on good living and prostitutes and returns home when he has run out of money. Despite this his father is pleased to see him which upsets the brother who stayed at home.

These sort of dynamics are not unusual at this time of year. We all get fed up of our relatives from time to time and there is a balance to be struck between the routine and ordinary and the exciting and different. Most of us need a little of both, but there are always practicalities to consider. In this story my sympathies are with the animal that sacrificed its life to feed this dysfunctional family. We should be mindful of those caught in the cross fire of our disputes and keep a sense of perspective.

We can get fed up of people who are constantly around us or with those who don't seem to be there when we need them.

Sometimes we forget the needs of the those who do the day to day things that keep us alive and happy. At other times, like the man walking on the opposite side of the road in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) we may not act on the needs of those we don't know or don't see very often.

It can be difficult to address both needs at the same time. We may not have the ability, resource, insight or connections. We may have other concerns and we all need a break from time to time. Our needs, abilities, understanding and priorities change over time and in different circumstances.

This is why we need God, and a little help from our friends.

Climate Concern and the Threat of Global Warming

by Janet Graham

There was a meeting organised by the Christian Ecology Group, Friends of the Earth and the Leighton-Linslade Low Carbon Town at All Saint's Church in November. It was well attended. The speakers were Chris Brierley, a scientist from University College London; Paul Brown, a retired journalist and Steve Dixon from Central Bedfordshire Council.

They addressed the causes of climate change, and what action was needed by councils, governments and individuals to reduce greenhouse gases. We were encouraged to use natural energy like solar panels, wind and waves, free from fossil fuels. Most were against nuclear power and all were against fracking leaving coal in the ground.

Advice given was the following:

- Cut down on meat and dairy products as they use lots of water and cause waste and methane gas, which is more dangerous than carbon dioxide.
- Do not buy more than you need and use it up.
- Avoid plastic packaging and reuse and recycle where possible.
- Plant more trees.

The councillor did not really answer our questions about facilities but said that a climate emergency three point plan will be launched in April 2020.

As Christians we are stewards of the earth and have a responsibility to look after it.

Message from 'Cilla Wagner

Grateful thanks to all those knitting squares, strips and other items for 'Help & Aid Direct'. Thanks also to those who have given haberdashery and scarves etc. All these are given to the refugees in Greece, where the need is still great. If you have any spare wool for the knitters, that will also be much appreciated.

Where are they now? From Colin Dimmock

Following on from last months 'Where are they now?', newcomers might like to know that the pictures hanging in the Ante-room were painted by Bob Harris and presented to our church before they moved.

Early Church corner

5th January—Visitors from the East—The three gifts

12th January—The Spirit God—a dove: The baptism of Jesus

19th January—Blessings in Christ—Thanks, blessings and trust

26th January—Be united—Being with one thought and purpose



An Open Letter to the Prime Minister (taken from www.methodist.org.uk)

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have written to the new Prime Minister, assuring him of their prayers and asking for clarification on key issues including climate change, poverty and social cohesion.

We wish to congratulate you on being given the responsibility by the British electorate to form a government, and assure you of our prayers and the prayers of the Methodist people as you take on that responsibility.

Churches are rooted in communities around Britain. It is our task to emphasize, from our ground level experience of British society, issues which we believe must be seen as key priorities.

Creation does not belong to us. Our task is to nurture and recognise our place within it. Many of our members see climate change and environmental degradation as the most pressing issues of our day. Can you tell us what steps you will be taking internationally and domestically to help the UK to reach its climate change targets? What kind of lead will you be taking at the 2020 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow?

Many of our churches and church members are involved in running foodbanks and offering support for people caught up in poverty. Foodbanks should not have to exist. Can you clarify for us what steps your new government will take to address the scandalous levels of poverty, and particularly child poverty?

The church is an inter-generational, multi-ethnic, socially diverse collection of communities. It is far from perfect. But we have seen in our communities growing forms of hostility, divisiveness and hatred, and have sought to support people who have experienced such discord. What active steps will your government now take to work towards healing and greater concord in society?

We wrote to you, Prime Minister, in July to express our concern that a No Deal Brexit was likely to impact the poorest communities very hard indeed. We wish to reaffirm our concern that the poorest in society face huge risks as our trading relations with EU are rewritten. We seek your reassurance that needs of families facing poverty will be central to the proposed trade deal and that should it not be in place before the transition period expires that comprehensive measures are put in place to protect them from the ensuing upheaval.

Rev'd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

Professor Clive Marsh, Vice-President of the Methodist

The Report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group 2019: God in Love Unites Us

We will be holding a **Circuit Open meeting on Sunday January 12th at The Square from 3pm - 5pm** to explore the report using the study guide that the church has produced to help us. This is an opportunity for you and others from your church to come and find out more about what is being proposed and how it may affect your church if the recommendations are eventually passed by the Methodist Conference.

Copies of the report and study guide are available in each church - please speak to a steward if you would like to read the report - it can also be found in full on the Methodist Church website. Also, if you require additional hard copies of the report or study guide, please contact Marina Mele at the Circuit Office.

A vote will be taken on this at District Synod, it is therefore important that all Synod representatives have given the report due consideration to enable them to make an informed vote.

Synod votes will in turn be one of the influences informing the decision of the 2020 Methodist Conference.

Our Circuit is set in a particularly diverse area and it is likely that when we all come to such a conversation and exploration there will be a rich variety of thoughts and views about marriage and relationships. We hope that we can explore together - with an attitude of mutual respect for the passionate convictions of others. The task group has sought to find ways and words that can unite us - while continuing to respect the contradictory convictions that people hold.

Any conversation of this nature that touches on matters close to people's hearts will require us to be sensitive and courteous, but I hope we will still be able to share our concerns and our joys with one another with a measure of honesty.

We are all human beings - and we can never be entirely certain that our interpretation of what God says to us - through the Bible or in any other way - is exactly what God is saying. None of us has the monopoly on the truth.

We are simply asked to consider what the report is saying from our perspective, with our experience of life and church - to go a little way on the journey that the Methodist church has been on since 1993 - a Pilgrimage of Faith. We will also pray for all those who are tasked with voting at Synod and Conference.

Please do come and share in the conversation.

Rev. Julie Bradshaw

Covenant Prayer

At various services during January we will be recommitting our lives to God using the Methodist Covenant Prayer. Take some time over the next few weeks to think about how that looks for you.

*I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you,
or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.'*

The traditional Covenant prayer (shown above) makes it very clear that this affirmation is a serious one that embraces the whole of our life, in all its parts. Most people find it quite tough to say, and really mean it. But the prayer is so central to the Christian life that other Churches have also adopted it.

Sunday Services during January

Date & Service	Led by	Steward
<u>5th January</u>		
9.15am—Early Church	Richard Bates & Rev. Seung-Wook Jung	Anne Gray
10.30am—Morning Worship	Geoff Best	Marina Mele
6.00pm—Evening Worship	Rev. Julie Bradshaw	Ann Guy
<u>12th January</u>		
9.15am Early Church	Steven & Karen Purton	Ann Guy
10.30am—Morning Worship with Holy Communion	Covenant Service led by Rev. Seung-Wook Jung	Jacqui Donaghy
No Evening Worship at Trinity. Please see article on page 3 regarding the Open Circuit Meeting which will conclude with an Act of Worship.		
<u>19th January</u>		
8.30am— Holy Communion	Rev. Seung-Wook Jung	Jacqui Donaghy
9.15am—Early Church—Café Style	Jo Baker & Catherine Roots	Alison Arnold
10.30am—Morning Worship	Steve Rogers	Marina Mele
6.00pm—Evening Worship	Ben Williams	Catherine Roots
<u>26th January</u>		
9.15am—Early Church	Communion and Covenant Service with Rev. Seung-Wook Jung & Tasha Williams	Anne Gray

26th January (continued)		
10.30am—Morning Worship	Local Arrangement led by Catherine Roots	Charles Horsefield
6.00pm—Evening Worship with Holy Communion & Covenant	Rev. Seung-Wook Jung	Ann Guy

Door Stewards at 10.30am Morning Worship	
5th January	Irene & Mary E
12th January	Irene & Van
19th January	Janet, Janette & Joan
26th January	Irene

Coffee Team	
5th January	Phil & Cilla Wagner, Frances Underwood & Elaine Green
12th January	Kathy Keeley, Marina Mele & Tony Oldroyd
19th January	Janet Curzon, Heather Watkins & Joan Gregory
26th January	Tim & Elizabeth Hitchcock & Chris Bosworth

Flowers	
5th January	Flower Fund
12th January	Flower Fund
19th January	Flower Fund
26th January	Peter Baker in memory of Caroline and to give thanks for the fellowship and support of Trinity.

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

7th January	Laurie Renfrew
14th January	Rev. Seung-Wook Jung with Holy Communion
21st January	Molly Bowman
28th January	Rev. Wynn Jones

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.

Thurs 2nd January, 2-4pm	Trinity	Games Afternoon starts back
Thurs 9th January, 2-4pm	Trinity	Sewing Circle starts back
Tues 14th January, noon	Trinity	FEBRUARY TRUMPETER DEADLINE
Tues 14th January, 7.45pm	Trinity	Leadership Team meeting
Thurs 16th January, 7.30pm	The Square	Circuit Leadership Team meeting
Tues 21st January, 7.45pm	Trinity	Connections meeting

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	Janet Curzon
Games Afternoon	Alternate Thursday 2-4pm	Sandra Digby
Girls' Brigade	Friday 6-9.30pm	Marilyn Powell
Prayers	Saturday 9-10am	Joan Gregory

Wanted

Each edition of Trumpeter contains up to 4 pages of articles. Unfortunately, we don't always get articles and so the magazine is supplemented by articles that are appropriate, either to the time of year or the charity of the month (connected with the retiring collection). If you would like to provide something please send it to Kathy Keely (Kathy.k@live.co.uk) or Tasha in the Church Office (tttprojectoffice@gmail.com or leave in my pigeon hole). This could be article from an individual or perhaps a group you are involved in e.g. house groups, sewing group, prayer group etc.

Prayer Diary for January 2020

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

Lord, at the beginning of this New Year, I offer you my life. Come take my voice, may the words I speak be filled with encouragement and goodness. Come take my hands, may the work they create be generous and giving. Come take my feet, may the journeys I walk be led by your Spirit within. Come take my life Lord, for I love your goodness, your kindness and your leading.
Amen.

Please pray for:

- Those of our congregation whose name begins with A/B
- Worship Leaders at Trinity in January (see pages 8-10)
- Events at Trinity and around the circuit (see pages 10)

Teams at Trinity – in particular:

- Early Church Team

Our local neighbourhood:

- Beaudesert Lower School
- Bedford Street, Lammas Walk & North Street
- Hamilton Court

Pray to God for the world around us:

- For the 'new' government as they work towards the Brexit deadline.
- For the Climate Emergency plan due to be launched April 2020 (please see article on page 3).