

Beyond Exile

After our lockdown exile, the Bible inspires us to rebuild the 'Jerusalem of chapel worship', writes the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler.

As churches reopened for worship, many will have used the service 'Beyond Exile: a service to celebrate the return to public worship' (available on the Methodist Church website). The title picks up the image of exile, which was used by many of us to reflect on going into lockdown last year when, in the words of Psalm 137, we found ourselves singing the Lord's song in a strange land.

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah tell the story of the Jews, who struggled to sing the Lord's song in a strange land, returning to Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the city. It strikes me as I read the account that the return was a drawn-out process; it was over a period of decades that the exiles returned and rebuilding both the physical structure of the city and the community took time. As churches return and rebuild, we recognise it is not easy work – there is no quick fix!

Nor is there a route back to where we were. When the foundation of the Temple was re-laid by Ezra, those who had seen the former glory wept. The future will not be like the past, though how unlike we do not yet know. The full impact of the pandemic on our Church and society will not be apparent for some time and anxiety and stress will remain.

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Sunday 19th September

Ordinary 25

Time	Service (at Trinity unless stated otherwise)	Led by
9.15am	Early Church	Jo Baker
10.30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion	Rev. Seung-Wook Jung
6.00pm	Evening Worship on Zoom (for Zoom link please see page 4/5)	Rev. Patrick Kandeh

Activities during this week at Trinity

There are no additional activities at Trinity this week.

Activities during this week in the South Bedfordshire Circuit

There are no additional activities in the Circuit this week.

Sunday 26th September 2021

Ordinary 26

Time	Service (at Trinity unless stated otherwise)	Led by
9.15am	Early Church	Rev. Seung-Wook Jung
10.30am	Morning Worship	Peter Baker
6.00pm	Evening Worship on Zoom (for Zoom link please see the South Bedfordshire Methodist Church Website)	Circuit Service to launch the Circuit's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. The Preacher will be Rev. Inderjit Singh Bhogal. (See pages 9/10 for details)

Activities during this week at Trinity

Date	Time	What?
Wednesday 29th September	2pm	Afternoon Bible Study on Zoom (for Zoom link please see page 5)
	8pm	Evening Bible Study on Zoom (for Zoom link please see page 5)
Saturday 2nd October	2pm	Black History Month Launch. See page 8 for details

Activities during this week in the South Bedfordshire
Circuit (Sunday 26th September)

There are no additional activities in the Circuit this week.

Sunday 3rd October 2021

Ordinary 27—Harvest Celebrations

Time	Service (at Trinity unless stated otherwise)	Led by
9.15am	Breakfast	
10.00am	Morning Worship	Rev. Seung-Wook Jung and Jo Baker
6.00pm	Evening Worship on Zoom (for Zoom link please see page 5)	Rev. Margaret Newman

Zoom Links

Sunday Evening Worship (19th September & 3rd October)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93984169282?>

[pwd=MXR4YU85aG9JdzhyQjZQTzFWLzkxQT09](https://zoom.us/j/93984169282?pwd=MXR4YU85aG9JdzhyQjZQTzFWLzkxQT09)

Meeting ID: 939 8416 9282

Passcode: 699189

Dial by your location

+44 208 080 6591 The United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6592 The United Kingdom

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study 2pm

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/92877340921?](https://zoom.us/j/92877340921?pwd=Y2x3MUdTeFpWT0YvenUxMXZDNTArdz09)

[pwd=Y2x3MUdTeFpWT0YvenUxMXZDNTArdz09](https://zoom.us/j/92877340921?pwd=Y2x3MUdTeFpWT0YvenUxMXZDNTArdz09)

One tap mobile

+443300885830,,92877340921#,,,,*869411# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 928 7734 0921 Passcode: 869411

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 8pm

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/97662553267?](https://zoom.us/j/97662553267?pwd=ektDbjZ4VkVxdVNxUWp2cUxtb3dlUT09)

[pwd=ektDbjZ4VkVxdVNxUWp2cUxtb3dlUT09](https://zoom.us/j/97662553267?pwd=ektDbjZ4VkVxdVNxUWp2cUxtb3dlUT09)

One tap mobile

+442034815237,,97662553267#,,,,*873153# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 976 6255 3267 Passcode: 873153

Circuit Service (26th September)

Please see <https://www.southbedsmethodist.org.uk/new.htm>

For the Zoom codes nearer the time.

Beyond Exile (continued from page 1)

Along with the weeping there was joy. The future was not like the past but there was much good in it and not only in Jerusalem. The experience of exile taught the Jewish people that God was not confined; Jewish communities scattered throughout the Ancient Near East – the diaspora – had found that they met God in

worship where they were.

Rebuilding Jerusalem

The rebuilding of Jerusalem put the Temple back at the heart of the city as a pilgrim centre for Jews everywhere. This was the context into which Jesus was born and ministered. The diaspora was the context through which the good news of Christ's resurrection spread throughout the Roman Empire.

Our exile has been to the Babylon of the online world; our diaspora may be to remain in the lands of Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube. The Jerusalem of our worship will take time to rebuild and some circuits might never be what they were before. However, as we build back, we open ourselves to whatever God will do in and through us, feeling confident of a greater future ahead.

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Trinity Notices

Messy Church Extra

On Sundays 17th October and 21st November at 4pm we will be trialling a new initiative—Messy Church Extra.

I am looking for a few volunteers, particularly who can help in the kitchen and with the packing down. If this is something you would be able to help with please contact Tasha in the Church Office.

Clearing the Stage

The Property Committee is hiring a skip to take away all the unwanted items that they can find, especially those on the stage. If you have anything you want to claim before it is removed, please do so as soon as possible. The skip is expected to be removed during the last week of October. Volunteers are needed

to help with the clearing of the stage and filling of the skip. All offers of help to any of the Property Committee.
Thank you, Tim Hitchcock

Thanksgiving Service

When we held Ken Gregory's funeral, we were only able to invite a limited number of people and were unable to sing. Ken loved to sing, so we are celebrating his life with a Thanksgiving Service at Trinity Methodist Church on Saturday 23rd October at 3.30pm. This will be followed by light refreshments. If you are able to come along you will be most welcome. From Joan Gregory.

Messages of thanks

Sincere thanks to all who have sent messages and lovely cards during my recent severe illness. I am gradually feeling a little stronger and depend on the Lord for His strength and comfort. Thank you all for your prayers and messages. From Janet Graham.

I would like to thank all the friends at Trinity for their love, support and prayers for what has been a very difficult time for us as a family when Wallace was taken into the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital whilst on holiday in Devon.

He was very ill but the doctors and nurses saved his life and for that we are truly grateful. It was a miracle.

Best Wishes

Mary, Wallace & Helen Edwards

Church Directory

The 2021/22 Church Directory is being compiled. If you would like a Large Print copy, please contact Tasha Williams in the church office as soon as possible. 01525 371905 or tttprojectoffice@gmail.com

Black History Month Launch

On Saturday 2nd October at 2pm Trinity Methodist Church are hosting the launch of Black History Month in Leighton Buzzard. Leighton-Linslade Town Mayor, Councillor Farzana Kharawala will launch the event with local resident Ken Breinburg presenting a talk on Black History and how black people came to be in the UK.

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will take place on 3 October and will be for everyone who normally attends either Early Church or the 10.30 service.

Breakfast will be available from 9.15 and the service will start at 10.00 am (please note the change of time).

It would be helpful to know approximate numbers who will be coming for the breakfast and so there will be a signing up sheet on the notice board in the corridor at the services on 19 and 26 September.

The Church will be decorated on the morning of Saturday 2 October between 9 and 11 am. If you would like to help with the decorations please contact Jo Baker on msjbaker@hotmail.co.uk

The gifts brought to the harvest service will be used to support the Food Bank operating from the Black Horse. The following items would be greatly appreciated:

Tinned meat - preferably that which can be heated.

Dried potato and tinned potato.

Coffee

Tea

Vegetables

Biscuits

Custard

Creamed Rice

Canned pasta - spaghetti etc

Crisps

Noodles

Chocolate
Shower gel
Shampoo/conditioner
Toilet rolls
Cleaning products - including washing powder/gel

Alternatively, there will be an opportunity to make a cash donation for the work of All We Can.

Charity of the Month—BMS World Mission

Our mission is to reach the most marginalised, least evangelised and people on the move. We're making it happen, with your incredible support. The currently have 3 main appeals: I will stand (sharing the gospel in some of the hardest to reach places), Global Covid Relief Appeal and Disaster Recovery. If you would like a copy of their Prayer Guide please visit <https://www.bmsworldmission.org/product/bms-prayer-guide-sept-dec-2021/> Or contact Tasha in the office for a printed copy. To donate please visit <https://www.bmsworldmission.org/give/> or call 01235 517641.

Circuit News

Services on Zoom

Harlington welcomes anyone who wishes to join their 10.00am service using Zoom. It is also live streamed to their YouTube Channel, where it remains as a recording so it can be seen later. For the Zoom link, please contact Clive Salmon:

CliveDSalmon@aol.com

The Harlington YouTube Channel can be found at: [https://www.youtube.com/results?](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=harlington+methodist+church)

[search_query=harlington+methodist+church](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=harlington+methodist+church)

Trinity is holding 6.00pm Zoom Services on most Sunday evenings—please see page 4/5 for Zoom link.

Circuit Services

The recording of the Welcome Service for Rev Patrick Kandeh, Superintendent Minister can now be found on the Circuit YouTube Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgImffM3oeRd29kRrAqKQ0g/playlists>

On Sunday 26th September there is a Circuit Service to launch the Circuit's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. Rev Inderjit Bhogal is going to be the key preacher.

Inderjit Singh Bhogal is a leading Theologian and Methodist Minister. He is founder and President of City of Sanctuary, a former President of the Methodist Conference and former Leader/CEO of the Corrymeela Community.

His work in interfaith relations was recognised with an OBE in the 2005 New Year's Honours list. Inderjit is recipient of the World Methodist Peace Award [2018].

Inderjit is founder and President of the rapidly growing City of Sanctuary movement.

Wider Church News

Eco-Church Discussion

The District, are holding an open discussion to share stories of Eco Church and learn from each other. This is taking place on Zoom on Friday 24 September at 7.30pm for about an hour.

Please use the link to register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqcCgrjMqH91UJIT3Okn7rBRkcF8dpFuQ>

Book Group—Mental Health for All

There is a new book group starting on Thursday 16th Sep and still have some spaces available.

The group is being led by Rev Lorna Murray, a Methodist minister who spent most of her years in ministry as a Mental Health Chaplain within the NHS. Now retired, Lorna remains committed to encouraging the well-being of individuals and communities.

Her book shows us how to approach a subject which affects an increasing number of people in today's world—having experienced a global pandemic, locked down restrictions and issues which affect life in every sphere.

Lorna's book offers fresh perspectives on health, wellness, friendship and community, and you are invited to journey through it with Lorna and others over these 6 sessions on Thursday evenings on Zoom from 7.30-9pm:

Sept 16th & 30th

Oct 14th & 28th

Nov 11th & 25th

For more information please contact Lorraine

Darlow darlowl@methodistchurch.org.uk

Thinking Lunches at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St. Albans

Thursday 7th October , 12.30-1.30pm

The Reverend Dr Evie Vernon will be speaking and discussing "A talk for Black History Month: Still I rise—acknowledgements to Maya Angelou.

One-Bedroom Almshouse in Leighton Buzzard

The Trustees of the Leighton Buzzard Almshouse Charity (charity no. 1118085) invite applications from individuals who wish to be considered for appointment as a resident to one of the almshouses in North Street. Applications should reach the Clerk to the Trustees by no later than 12 October 2021 in order for them to be considered by the Trustees.

For an application pack please email your interest to

lbuacharities@gmail.com or

write to: The Clerk to the Trustees, Almshouse Charities, c/o

Parish Office, All Saints Church, Church Square, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1AE

Prayer Diary

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Collect for 19th September 2021 from www.lectionarypage.net

Please pray for....

- Those who are leading and preaching at Trinity over the coming weeks.
- Events at Trinity and around the South Bedfordshire Circuit over the coming weeks.
- BMS World Mission
- **People who live on:** Old Road, Soubury Road, Bideford Green, Derwent Road, Himley Green, Bunkers Lane Estates
- **People who lead and attend** the Communications Team
- **People in our Church Directories** who's surname begins with R
- **Children, parents and staff** at Mary Bassett Lower School
- **For the world around us** particularly Afghanistan Crisis

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www.trinitylb.org.uk

Registered Charity no.: 1151861

The deadline for the next Trinity News will be Wednesday 29th September, 7pm. Please send contributions to trinityweeklynews@gmail.com