

19th, 26th January 2025

From the Manse

The year 2025 has begun, but it feels far from a bright and hopeful start. With floods, wildfires, wars, extreme climate changes, and the loss of two church members, it's easy to wonder where hope can be found. Reflecting on these challenges led me to revisit the story of Jesus' birth from the past Christmas season.

At the time of Jesus' birth, Israel was under Roman rule, facing significant political, social, and religious challenges. Roman taxation imposed a heavy burden on the people, leading to widespread poverty and unrest. Society was deeply divided, with a small elite controlling most of the wealth, while the majority lived as farmers, labourers, or artisans struggling for daily survival.

Amid this bleak reality, God's messenger did not turn to Israel's leaders, revolutionaries, or renowned rabbis. Instead, the angel sought out a young teenage girl from the small town of Bethlehem, who was preparing for marriage. To her, God entrusted the message of hope—not just for Israel but for all humanity. Her response, "I am the Lord's servant, may your word to me be fulfilled," became the pathway through which the light of God's hope entered the world.

This story reminds us that hope does not stem from external circumstances or human solutions. True hope is rooted in God's promises and presence. Just as God chose to shine His light through someone humble and ordinary, He continues to call us to be bearers of His light and hope in a dark and troubled world.

Contd on page 4

What's on at Trinity

	Sunday 19 January	10:30am	Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by Rev Seung-wook Jung
		4:00pm	Messy Church led by Tania Stanford
		6:00pm	Evening Worship by zoom led by Sheila Norris (<i>change of preacher</i>)
Monday 20 January	8:00pm	Badminton at Trinity	
Tuesday 21 January	10:00am	Midweek service with Holy Communion led by Rev Seung-wook Jung	
Wednesday 22 January	2:00pm	Afternoon bible study by zoom	
	8:00pm	Evening bible study by zoom	
Thursday 23 January	2:15pm	Knit and Natter	
Sunday 26 January	9:15am	Covenant service at Early Church led by Rev Seung-wook Jung	
	10:30am	Morning Worship Local Arrangement led by Alison Arnold	
	6:00pm	Evening Worship by zoom led by Peter Baker	
Monday 27 January	8:00pm	Badminton at Trinity	
Tuesday 28 January	10:00am	Midweek service led by Rev Patrick Kandeh	
Thursday 30 January	2:00pm	Games Fellowship	

Church calendar : <https://www.trinitylb.org.uk/Calendar/Month.aspx>

Everyone is welcome to our services and activities – contact the Church Office for more details.

Tel: 01525 371905 ; tttprojectoffice@gmail.com

Pastoral News

John Digby

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of John Digby on 14th January. Please hold Sandra and her family in your prayers.

Christine Taylor

The funeral of Christine Taylor will be held at Crownhill Crematorium Willow Chapel, Milton Keynes on Wednesday 29th January at 11.30am. There will be a service of thanksgiving at the Salvation Army Citadel, Lammas Walk at 12.30 (approx.) followed by refreshments. Please continue to hold Peter and the family in your prayers.

Trinity News

Learning and Development resources

The Methodist Church makes available a range of learning and development resources through its Learning Network to support, encourage and inspire Methodist people. Resources range from the Bible Month to worship leading. Find out more on the Methodist Church website <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/learning-and-development/>. Please ask a Steward if you would like to see a printed copy of the Learning Network brochure which is in the Vestry.

Repair and mend in Ukraine

Hope and Aid Direct, who support Ukraine, are very grateful for our continuing help with knitted items etc. and have now asked that sewing items i.e. sewing needles, thread, pins, buttons, scissors etc. be added to their list of requests as well, to enable families to repair and mend where needed. If you have any of the above to spare, please pass them to 'Cilla.

Debbie Adams—change of phone number

Debbie's phone number is now 07887 555088.

Giving at Trinity

The amount given to Trinity in December was £5,473. In addition we budget for the equivalent of £1000 per month in Gift Aid. According to our budget our expected monthly expenditure is £6,400.

The retiring collections in December raised £94 for LB Mencap.

Stewkley Singers Quiz Night Saturday 8 February 7.15pm at Doverly Academy, Leighton Buzzard. Tickets £12 including a hot supper. Teams of 6/8 but teams can be made up on the night. Tickets from Anne Gray.

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God doesn't merely ask us to seek hope; He calls us to **be** hope—to be the light and salt of the earth. Times when hope seems absent are precisely the moments when Christians are most needed. While the world searches for hope and light, they are truly searching for the reflection of God in us.

As we face the uncertainties of 2025, may we not overlook this calling. Let us strive to be the hope and the light that God has called us to be, offering the world what it desperately seeks. May this year be one where we embody hope, shine as light, and fulfil God's purpose for us.

Every blessing,

Seung-wook

Prayer stars

Thank you to all those who helped set up and take down the Christmas decorations. I think we can all agree that the church looked very festive. None of this could be done without your help.

The Christmas tree has been removed from the front window and you may have noticed some odd looking stars in its place. This has been a project of mine for the past year.

It started at the end of December 2023 when we look to the new year, and think of all the things we would like to achieve. We are encouraged to look forward and think of God in our lives. I did the same.

I thought of the coming year, and what I might be able to achieve. I knew I would not be losing 5 stone or winning a Nobel peace prize so my mind turned to something which has a slightly deeper meaning in my life.

One aspect of Christian life I have always struggled with is quiet prayer. I have always struggled with the idea of having to sit and contemplate in silence, or even worse, speak my thoughts out loud. I have found over the many years that I also struggle with concentration. For those of you that know me this will not come as a surprise. After thinking on this for a while I concluded that this would be something I would work on in 2024.

The first challenge I faced was working out how to concentrate. This is not an easy thing to achieve when I spend so much of my time distracted. I thought to the times when I am most engaged. It's normally when I am doing something with my hands. If my hands are busy, I think better. I also like crafts. I endeavoured to find something which would combine all the things which would allow me to pray. I came to a conclusion to make prayer stars. It's something I have done in early church as a practical prayer activity. I thought it would be a way to do something small.

To help with goal setting I decided to get a jar and look to fill it by the end of the year with my prayer stars. In January 2024 I started this process. I initially would sit for just a minute, write my prayer on the paper, and then fold it into a star. I found that in January I only did one a day. My jar was not looking very full but it did have some stars in it.

In February it increased slightly. I was finding that the act of sitting for a moment was not so arduous as at first, and instead was a simpler process. The jar slowly started to fill.

March was when I stopped writing on each star. I was starting to find that simply the act of sitting down to start was enough to clear my mind for prayer. By the end of March my jar was full.

As the year went on, I found that making the stars become just part of my day. I would sit quietly folding them and praying. It has been a moment of calm in my day. I lost count of the stars some time ago but each one is a prayer I have said in my time of quiet.

I am not sure if I will continue with the stars, but I will continue with my moment of quiet.

The end of 2024 has come and gone. I didn't lose 5 stone or win the Nobel peace prize, but my star jar was full and so were two large boxes. I thought to share this with you all in the hopes that it will make you stop and think for a moment about each prayer you say.

I hope this explains the window display.

Jo Baker



Community Action Group

Now the dust has settled on Christmas and New Year perhaps more of us might consider getting into a routine of putting a food can in the box in the bottom corridor. The box usually gets emptied on a Tuesday. There is no danger of the Community Foodbank running out of stock for a while because they always get a lot of donations at Christmas but the need continues throughout the year and we as a congregation have been making our contribution for some years now.

The next Community Action Group meeting will be after the 10.30 service on Sunday 19th January. We will certainly be discussing our support for Kilgour Court and for the refugees at the Holiday Inn at Dunstable; also considering what we might do with our new Charity of the Year beginning in April. And the prospect of a visit from our MP Alex Mayer - what are we going to say to her? As ever, all are welcome to join the discussion over coffee.

Charles

Zoom links

Sunday Evening Worship

[https://zoom.us/j/94865623492?](https://zoom.us/j/94865623492?pwd=RlozVHRhYnFrcEU1cUJjdHZxUDQzQT09)

[pwd=RlozVHRhYnFrcEU1cUJjdHZxUDQzQT09](https://zoom.us/j/94865623492?pwd=RlozVHRhYnFrcEU1cUJjdHZxUDQzQT09)

By phone—0208 080 6591

Meeting ID: 948 6562 3492 Passcode: 494002

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study 2pm

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

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

By phone—0330 088 5830

Meeting ID: 928 7734 0921 Passcode: 869411

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 8pm

[https://zoom.us/j/97662553267?](https://zoom.us/j/97662553267?pwd=ektDbjZ4VkVxdVNxUWp2cUxtb3diUT09)

[pwd=ektDbjZ4VkVxdVNxUWp2cUxtb3diUT09](https://zoom.us/j/97662553267?pwd=ektDbjZ4VkVxdVNxUWp2cUxtb3diUT09)

By phone—0203 481 5237

Prayer Diary

Please pray for....

- Those who are leading at Trinity and around the Circuit— Rev Seung-wook Jung, Tania Stanford, Sheila Norris, Alison Arnold, Peter Baker, Rev Patrick Kandeh, Catherine Roots,
- The work of the Community Action Group at Trinity
- The work of Water Aid
- All those who mourn, in particular the families and friends of Christine Taylor and John Digby
- All those in our congregation who are ill, in hospital or awaiting medical treatment and those who care for them.
- All those who live on the Roman Gate estate
- Teachers and pupils at Greenleas Lower School (Derwent Road & Kestrel Way)
- All those in our Church Directory whose name begins with B

*The deadline for the next Trinity News will be 12noon **Wednesday 29 January 2025**. Send contributions to : trinityweeklynews@gmail.com or the Anteroom letter rack.*

Trinity Methodist Church, North Street, Leighton Buzzard,

Bedfordshire, LU7 1ES www.trinitylb.org.uk

Tel: 01525 371905 ; tprojectoffice@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/trinitymethodistleighton>

Registered Charity no.: 1151861

Bank details

Name of Account: Trinity Leighton

Sort Code: 08-92-99 Account No: 67239649

