

A photograph of the Trinity Baptist Church building, a large brick structure with classical architectural features like columns and a pediment. The image is overlaid with a blue tint. A sign on the building reads 'TRINITY CHAPEL 1868'.

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED FOR THE
**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**
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Trinity Baptist Church, Bexleyheath, DA6 7AY
Registered Charity Number 1130034

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Opportunities for Service

You are always welcome to get involved in the many opportunities that arise in the life of the fellowship at Trinity. Feel free to enquire with Andy about anything you might be interested in, however particular needs are outlined in the reports as follows:

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Senior Pastor's Report

It is one of those strange circumstances that I will have reached the milestone of retirement by the time you read this. After 25 years at Trinity there is little left for me to say that hasn't been said before. However, I would like to record my thanks to God and to you for the opportunities and privileges I have had as I have served as Pastor at Trinity. I know I also speak for both Debbie and Jonathan. Most of our marriage and family life have been very happily spent here. Thank you.

Particularly, I am grateful for the support and encouragement you have given to me as I have received and worked through my diagnoses of two different cancers over the last three years. However, we all face a period of great uncertainty because of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic but a scripture, which I have often had recourse to, speaks confidence and comfort to me: 'My times are in your hands' (Psalm 31.15). I commend it to you.

My text for the year and my final Sunday morning sermon series have focused on the example of the faithfulness of the Apostle Paul to the gospel. We have joined with the Ephesian elders, on the beach at Miletus, to receive Paul's final instructions on what it means for leaders and church members to remain faithful to the Word of God. I am relieved to know that I leave you under Andy's ministry which is characterised by this kind of faithfulness, and is so necessary in these days. He has been an excellent partner and encourager to me in the Lord's work. Pray for and support him as, together with others and the whole church, he charts the way forward. I commend him and his family to your prayers.

My final series of Bible studies have been on Hebrews and on the Sermon on the Mount. The Wednesday night study and prayer meeting has taken various different shapes over the years but there has always been sufficient interest for more detailed Bible study and discussion to sustain it. However, the time has come to finish this particular ministry which I have always found personally stimulating. The preparation has helped to stretch me and I have learned from the wisdom and knowledge of others over the years. Thank you.

The trip to Tula in Russia in June was my seventh and Debbie's first. We were accompanied by Ron and Eileen Jones (their third and first visits respectively). This relationship between our churches has been a mutual blessing and joy. Knowing our Russian brothers and sisters has been one of the greatest highlights of my whole life and ministry. This world is not worthy of them (Hebrews 11.38). I commend them to your continued prayers and encouragement.

Two stalwarts of Trinity have passed into glory in the last year. I attended and participated in the funeral of Pam Mills who was a member of many years standing before she moved to Redditch. Her family grew up at Trinity and we shared many hilarious stories about her and the various roles she fulfilled in the church, becoming the first woman to be elected a deacon, and the only person ever to be honoured with the title of 'Trinity Poisoner', after an unfortunate incident with a cup of tea and some salt, which she made for our guest preacher, John Steer, from Minnesota. Our next but one longest standing member, Don Roberts, died last summer. He had been a member since 1951 and was one of the very few who can remember Trinity's former pastor, 'Old Pop' Porter. Don's fine Welsh voice, upright and cheerful manner, and his quiet service continue to be missed by all who knew him.

Meanwhile, some of us were delighted to share in the joy of Graham Baker's marriage to Sarah in Manchester last summer. It was a bit of a Trinity reunion for those who came through the youth group with him and have since moved up and down the country. There was also the joint celebration of Roy & Chris Harmer's 80th birthdays in Longfield which was a very happy occasion.

I am glad to have seen the completion of the Chapel Refurbishment Project and to have enjoyed the benefits of it, albeit for a short while. The church held together really well while we moved to the BB Hall for our main Sunday service from July to October. In the course of the last thirty years the whole Chapel site has undergone renovation and improvement. Trinity has a great position on the Broadway to exploit. We now have a much more serviceable and welcoming building for the twenty-first century, which still retains its links to the past, and continues to be a symbol of the faithfulness of God to Trinity over many generations. Look after it well and use it even better!

We shall soon be vacating the Manse at 75 Standard Road. This is a unique site and, in my opinion, well worth retaining. It has been an oasis for us and a pleasure to look after and enjoy. My prayer and hope is that before long there will be another ministerial family to occupy it as the Lord blesses and enables the church.

Thank you to all the unsung heroes and partners in ministry over this last quarter of a century. However, the more important report to read is the one immediately beneath this one. I gladly hand the baton over now. Continue to pray for Debbie and myself as we move to our house in Broomfield on the edge of Chelmsford in Essex. It will be the first time in my life that I have ever lived outside London, and it will take a little adjustment to become a 'country boy' and an 'Essex' man. We will join a new church as soon as we can as we seek to remain useful in the Lord's service.

As the Apostle Paul signed off his first letter to the Corinthian church: 'My love to all of you in Christ Jesus.'

Terry Griffith

Associate Pastor's Report

I want to begin this report by saying thank you to you all for your vote of confidence in me to pastor Trinity Baptist Church, as we enter the next phase of our growth together. I also want to register my enormous personal gratitude to Terry for how he has nurtured and supported me from the start of my pastoral ministry. In my first interview, I asked both Terry and the deacons how they saw our relationship working. The deacons' stated that I would find Terry to be an enabler, which has most certainly been the case (without that enabling, coupled with correction, and the trust he has placed in me, I would not have been ready to contemplate taking on the role of sole minister at Trinity). Terry's first response to my question was "I want to learn" – a measure of the humility with which he has ministered. Again, I have found that to be true, such that, whilst he has always remained senior, we have truly worked together in partnership. I will greatly miss the opportunity to talk through challenges as they arise and to learn from his wisdom, but I am blessed to have begun my ministry working under and alongside Terry. Nevertheless, now God is calling us all to a new season together.

We always knew that 2020 would bring enormous change for us. But none of us could have predicted quite how much change we would have to face as we begin this new chapter together. As I write, we are just over a week into the closure of all our activities due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). I suspect, as you read this, we may still be in a period of significant restrictions on our movements, if not full lockdown. I pray that, as a result, the spread of the virus will be much more under control, and many lives saved.

I have been impressed again by your willingness to support one another through the buddy scheme (the idea for which was birthed, before we even knew of COVID-19, as Chris Harmer listened to God in prayer). It is one example both of how the Church can be blessed by a prophetic ministry, and of how the Church is called to be a family together. I hope we will continue to look out for one another and keep channels of communication open long after we no longer "have to," especially for those among us who live alone.

Whilst times around us change, there is great comfort in knowing that God does not change. In a time of prolonged national crisis, God revealed himself to Moses as “I AM WHO I AM” (Exodus 3:14). Hebrew tenses are not equivalent to English tenses, meaning that this could equally be translated, “I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE,” or even, possibly, “I AM WHO I WILL BE” or “I WILL BE WHO I AM.” Two encouragements to draw from that self-revelation of God’s character are: 1) that God does not change, but is and will be consistently who he is; and 2) that God’s (consistent, good, loving, almighty) character is proved by how he will act. Reassurance is given, not by the *sight* of immediately changed circumstances, but by *faith* in who God is and what God will do. The same is true of God’s promise repeated in Hebrews 13:5: “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” We *believe* that to be true, and as we experience God through our lives we also *discover* it to be true, which in turn builds our faith that, no matter what we face as individuals and together, we will find God with us and working for our good.

Equally, the core of what God calls his Church to be does not change (though its practical expression does change in response to changing circumstances). In Acts 2:42-47, we see a church that is devoted to:

1. Solid biblical teaching;
2. Genuine fellowship;
3. Praise and worship, particularly focused around Communion;
4. Prayer;
5. An openness for the Holy Spirit to work;
6. Generous and sacrificial giving;
7. Maintaining a good reputation with outsiders;
8. A missional and evangelistic focus; and
9. Pastoral care for existing members.

Over the last year we have seen many examples of that calling lived out, both corporately and individually. Our teaching ministries (sermons, children’s and youth work, small groups, Freedom in Christ, etc.) continue to be centred on “Jesus Christ and him crucified,” as they must always remain. I want to take this opportunity to thank those who give their time week after week to make these ministries happen. A list of small groups is included at the end of this report, and I would encourage you to join one and regularly attend it, once we are able to do so again.

I particularly want to thank Debs Harmer, who has thrown herself wholeheartedly into leading GodZone since September, including organising a great Christmas service, and, in this latest crisis, providing brilliant children’s material for families to work through at home. I greatly enjoyed my closer involvement with GodZone over the last few years, but it is wonderful to be able to pass that leadership over to someone who is more able than me. One of my final highlights was to be able to lead and teach on the GodZone Camp last June. We used Toy Story 2, alongside the Bible, to help us appreciate that, in Christ, we are Significant, Accepted and Secure. I’m sure you were all blessed when the children shared what they had created in response. I commend the GodZone reports to you and ask you to pray for the teams listed there and the children under their care.

I also want to give a special thanks to Louise Brady for her outstanding leadership of YP over the last five and a half years. She returned to Bexleyheath to take the role in response to our request and need, although youth ministry was new to her. And she was thrown almost immediately into a YP weekend away! The team then was small and overstretched. Lou has built a faithful and highly skilled team and managed the transition to what is currently a large youth group, whilst maintaining great personal relationships with each of the youth. The number of youth baptisms over the last few years, including those of Arianna Altman, Kachi Onyeagucha and Angel Osei in November, is a testament to the work she and the team have done. I have been blessed to work alongside them, not least in a number of Baptism Enquirer’s courses (from the latest course, we expect at least one baptism – Esther Moody – when we are able to meet again). Lou was also instrumental in introducing

YP Serve On Sundays, the blessings of which I believe will continue to grow. She will be a loss, but again, it is encouraging to know that the existing YP team (see YP report) is very capable of building on her leadership to take the ministry forward. I thank them for their willingness to share the load.

Returning to Acts 2, our family events have been tremendous fun and a great way to facilitate people getting to know others in the church who they did not know well. I hope that the family spirit engendered by the buddy scheme will further spill over into even greater attendance at these events when they restart.

Our praise and worship continues to be significantly enhanced by the faithful and passionate efforts of the band, sound technicians and projectionists. It has been great to see new faces within these ministries, and we look forward to a greater variety of service leaders too over the coming months and years. Thank you, too, to Jon, Helen and Leo for enabling us to enjoy this aspect of church in our homes over the last months.

Through The Year With Prayer has been an excellent initiative, which has helped us both to understand and pray for the various ministries in which we are involved or partner. Again, I hope and expect that we will build on this foundation to grow our prayer life together. Nothing happens in the Kingdom of God without prayer, especially if we want to see more of the life-giving ministry of the Holy Spirit among us.

Sacrificial giving over many years enabled us to renew our heating system, and with it, renovate our chapel area, such that it can effectively serve our ministries for many years to come. The way the church worked together during our time at the BB hall is another example of family working well together. We face a similar financial challenge this coming year to meet the expenditure needed on the manse at 75 Standard Road, which has not received significant investment for over twenty years. We do not yet know what additional financial pressures COVID-19 will place upon us, so we would ask you, if you are able, to review your giving.

Oasis, and our ministries in which we partner with other churches (Cornerstone, Foodbank, Bexley Winter Shelter, Freely, Street Pastors, School Pastors, etc.), have helped us build a good reputation within the local community, particularly as we have the facilities to be able to host many of these activities. Thank you to those who have enabled these ministries to continue and thrive, not least the Foodbank during the current crisis.

Let us also continue to look for ways to share our faith with others. We will continue to partner with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, whenever the tour can be rescheduled. Prior to that, we will still be hosting the Christian Life and Witness course at the earliest opportunity. I encourage everybody to attend this free half-day course. Testimonies from around the world suggest that it can have a hugely positive impact on a church's confidence in evangelism.

Lastly, on the pastoral care front, it remains a tremendous privilege for me to be able to walk with people through both exciting and painful life experiences. This year, that included taking part in Don Roberts' funeral, whose genuine concern for others is sadly missed. We were also able to finalise our Safeguarding Adults at Risk policy and guidelines, which will help protect the most vulnerable amongst us going forward. Both professionally and personally, I want to thank Janet Grist for her pastoral ministry. I also want to thank everyone who supported us as a family following Fiona's dad's death in June, who encouraged Fiona in her return to work as a radiographer two days per week, and who has taken an interest in our children. We feel tremendously blessed to be able to continue to minister at Trinity Baptist Church.

Yours in Christ,

Andy Banks

Small Groups List

Group	When	Venue	Contact	Availability
Beta Group	Tuesdays, 10am	Chris Harmer's house	Chris Harmer	Red
Knitting for Africa	First Tuesday of month, 12:30pm	Trinity middle hall	Irene Woosnam	Green
Cornerstone – Recovery through Christ	Tuesdays, 7pm	Trinity upstairs	Ian Moody	Green
Bexleyheath Cell	Wednesdays, 8pm	Monica Benson's house	Monica Benson	Red
It's A Man Thing	Alternate Wednesdays, 8pm	Trinity upstairs	Prince Dumi	Green
Just Women	Alt. Wednesdays, 7:30pm	Trinity upstairs	Angela Roach	Green
Blendon Drive Group	3 out of 4 Thursdays, 7:30pm	Pat and George Garrett's house / Etty Haworth's house	Pat / George Garrett	Green
Welling Cell	Thursdays, 8pm	Steve & Jayne Furber's house	Steve / Jayne Furber	Amber

Key to availability:

Green = Plenty of capacity for new group members

Amber = Some capacity for new members

Red = Unfortunately, no current space for new members

Pastoral Assistant's Report

'Let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus the champion who initiates and perfects our faith'. Hebrews: 12:3

I have been encouraged by this verse as I have endeavoured, and will continue, to promote the importance of Pastoral Care both within our fellowship and beyond. I believe that we can all play our part in encouraging one another by supporting, caring and valuing each person in their lives. There will be times I am sure when God will test and stretch our faith to the limits, but our faith will become stronger as we keep our eyes firmly fixed upon Jesus.

I continue to offer both practical and spiritual support to those who feel isolated and lonely. Individuals may often feel disconnected or even superfluous to Church. In my visits to those at home or in Residential Care and in phone calls my aim is to maintain links and foster in them a feeling of connection to Trinity. I attend weekly Staff Meetings. Oasis still provides the opportunity to chat to both Trinity and other regulars. It's known that I am at Oasis every Tuesday, so people can seek me out to pass on any news they think I should know about.

I lead the Pastoral Care Team (PCT), which comprised last year of Terry, Andy, Scilla Stirling, Chris Harmer, Caz Kirby-Smith and Jason Vaughan. Jason has recently stepped down from the team. I would like to thank him for

his steadfastness and commitment. During the PCT meetings we pray and discuss any current issues that folk might have.

It seems to me that in the present situation (Coronavirus and ensuing Church shutdown) it is more important than ever to keep in touch with folk. A 'Buddy System' has been introduced for our more vulnerable members. Maybe this is something we could consider extending and continuing in the long term.

From May, I will be increasing my hours from one to two days per week. As Andy begins his role as the sole Pastor, I envisage working closely with and supporting him in this period of transition.

I'll leave you with this verse: 'Therefore, we who have fled to Him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us'. Hebrews 6:18.

Janet Grist

Prayer

It is very encouraging to know that we are part of a faithful praying church. When I consider all the groups and individuals that pray, I feel privileged to belong to such a varied family. The power of prayer is infinite because our God is the focus of that prayer and He is able to do far more than we could ask or even imagine. My thanks go out for all the prayer that rises from individuals, small groups, prayer meetings, the prayer chain and our prayer during services. We are indeed blessed through these prayers. It is well-known that praise is powerful in releasing God's presence in prayer. When we can leave our own thoughts and needs and focus on being in God's presence. Listening to Him then becomes easier.

The prayer chain has continued to grow with more people willing to receive emails about prayer needs for those in the church or known to us. We have had many different prayer requests, but most are health issues and many of these have given the recipients much comfort and sometimes healing. God has answered many of our requests and it is comforting to know that others are praying. The prayer chain increases faith as we see the way our God answers us. It also demonstrates our love for each other. There are currently about 75 people praying each time a request is made. The number of requests and updates vary from week to week and some people have long term requests, but we ask that all emails are deleted as soon as possible so that we comply with data protection regulations. The prayer chain continues to be a comfort and source of blessing and encouragement at this difficult time. If you would like to be part of it and see God at work through our prayers, please send me an email and I will add your name. We have a wonderful God and a very loving church family.

For those who have more personal and confidential prayer requests, the prayer ministry team can be asked to pray. This comprises about ten people, though we are always looking to welcome new people, who may like to be involved in this way. Please contact Caz if you would like to know more about this or explore this possibility.

The sessions of Through the year with Prayer (TTYWP) that took place in May 2019 highlighted our mission activity, both at home and abroad. Our evenings included presentations from the Trinity Mission Team and others, who gave information from those involved with mission from our Trinity community. We were updated with current situations which gave us food for thought and prayers. We concluded with prayer in smaller groups for them all.

The September TTYWP sessions focused on our Children and Young People's work. We had presentations from the leaders of the different age groups. It was good to hear first-hand of prayers being answered for our

children. The leaders gave us specific areas for prayer, we then committed to pray for the children and young people along with their leaders.

In January TTYWP had a change of direction, as the urgency of the Pastorate options very much needed prayerful consideration. We met on two occasions to pray through the process and issues needing clarification, and considered the options available to us as a church membership. I believe much was achieved through our prayers for this. It feels good to have that time behind us now and to know more clearly what God is saying to the fellowship for the future.

I have received feedback to the effect that the TTYWP presentations from various groups were a help in raising awareness for praying for the various areas of community, mission, and our younger members of the family. We will be looking at these groups further for our next sessions, hopefully in the near future.

There are plans for the pray-ers who meet on Thursday evenings to join with the Worship Band to enjoy times of Worship and Prayer together with all our gifts being employed. Feel free to come and enjoy with us!

I am looking to introduce half nights of prayer on a quarterly basis when we resume activities at the chapel. I'm thinking about having a few prayer stations available for four hours possibly whenever there is a 5th Friday in a month, though exact dates are still to be discussed and decided. All these plans will be covered in the News Sheet to keep you informed; if you'd like to be involved with organising it, I'd love to hear from you.

During this time of threat from Coronavirus, may I encourage you not to be fearful but in everything with prayer and thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. He is our hope and strength and he tells us not to be anxious because he cares for us. There are many people praying for you.

Caz Kirby-Smith and Scilla Stirling

Worship

As in previous years I'd like to thank all the members of the Worship Group for their service this year. The continued service is greatly appreciated by me and I'm sure by the Church as a whole.

Over the course of the year Josh Dixon and Tony Weeks have joined the SongPro (word projection) rota to help out, particularly on Sunday evenings where there remain opportunities for service. At the same time, Stuart Campbell and Isaac Osei-Kwame have needed to step down from serving on the sound desk. We are very grateful to Stuart and Isaac for their service, which helped cover the gaps left from their respective children going to university!

We are always looking for people to help with SongPro and particularly the Sound Desk (we now have just four sound technicians on the rota which means covering all services is proving difficult). If you feel you are able to serve in this way, please do speak to me or Dave Camp. Training will be provided and you won't just get thrown in at the deep end!

Of course, the key challenge of this year was continuing our sung worship whilst services were temporarily held in the Boys Brigade hall. Many thanks to all those who helped lead the sung worship the services and with the packing down and setting up of music and sound equipment, both in the Boys Brigade hall and of course in the Trinity Chapel; it was great to see everyone pulling together to get the job done! It was a relief to be back in the chapel and to use the now 'fit for purpose' stage. I would like to extend a big thank you to Dave Camp and

Leo Beaumont particularly for their skills, expertise and man-hours in helping with the stage design and getting the new setup working.

Please continue to pray for more volunteers to serve in the band and on the SongPro and sound desk stations. As always, please pray for us in the band that we would have strength to continue serving and that we would grow in our gifts and walk with God. And please feel free to encourage the members of the Worship Group if you feel that you have been blessed in a particular service.

Jon French

Welcome Team

‘I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God....’ Psalm 84:10

I am pleased to have joined the team this year and to organise the rota. It’s a small commitment to Church life, but important that we can be there to welcome everyone that comes in and generally watch over the comings and goings at the back of the Church on Sunday mornings.

On the rota we have Gareth & Angela Roach, George Sydee, Elaine Camp, Stuart & Louise Campbell, Malcolm & Janet Grist, Isaac & Cynthia Osei-Kwame, Monica Benson, Elizabeth Fabowale-Makinde, plus Zachary & Dylan Altman. On the YP SOS Sundays, the YP take over and give their own unique welcome. Our thanks go to Hilda Agyeman, who has stepped down following the recent birth of baby Nicole. There is always space for anyone who would like to join us.

We deliver a wide variety of welcomes to suit the huggers, the hand shakers, the fist bumpers, the noddors and the look straight ahead-ers and hopefully we always do and say the right thing to make people feel welcomed and valued.

Of course, we are all part of the welcome team, each doing our best to make newcomers and regulars welcome. I think this will take on a greater meaning when we at last get back together again on Sunday mornings, following this enforced isolation.

Andrew Altman

Women of Faith Events

Our vision for this area of Trinity’s ministry is to be able to equip women of Bexley Borough with the skills, passion and resources to serve God. To give them opportunities to meet with God, to meet with each other and to apply the teaching received in their own lives and churches. Our usual programme of women’s events is to have a one-day conference every two years, plus a Pentecost celebration and Advent for Women in early December every year.

After a busy year of events in 2018, we needed a rest this year. We only put on Advent For Women in December. As always, it was special to spend time with God and with each other during the busy preparations for Christmas. Our focus was ‘God with Us’ and we enjoyed a rare treat to hear Debbie Griffith speak as she looked back over her and Terry’s ministry at ways in which they have experienced ‘God with us’.

At the time of writing, we are stuck in lockdown due to Coronavirus meaning we have no events planned for this year yet. We are still considering where God is leading this ministry and hope to use this down time to

listen carefully to where God is leading. Helen is busy with work and YP and I with work at Trinity and involvement in my children's school so we'd appreciate your prayers for knowing where our time and focus should be.

Kerry O'Sullivan and Helen French

Trinity Mission Team

We have continued to meet to pray for our Mission contacts and after the meeting I email the notes to those who could not be there so we all up to date in our prayers.

It was great to at last meet up with Dave Mahon our link BMS Missionary in Iquitos Peru. Dave preached at the first morning service we had in the BB Hall on July 14th. He took the lack of sound system and slight air of confusion in his stride and his ministry was much appreciated. He stayed with us so we got to know him a little. He is a lovely man, a wise Christian and a very proud father!

We continue to pray for Janet and Peter in Japan. We were so pleased to hear that Janet completed her Master's dissertation and graduated with distinction last July in Japan.

It was good to see Andrew and Sara Harwood (Birmingham) on 3rd November when they came to lead the morning service. We have also prayed for the Pennys (who are moving to New Zealand), for the Church in Tula, Russia, for Anj and Ieuan's trip to Haiti (a few emergency prayers for that one!) and for Dave Camp's trip to Uganda. We cover the globe in our prayers!

Some of our group went to the Good Friday Breakfast in 2019 at Footscray Baptist Church. Missionary speakers Helen & Wit live in Wang Daeng – a village in Thailand and are involved in teaching English, weaving, football & guitar playing. They have started a small House Church and have seen several people converted from the Buddhist community which is unusual. They are really making a difference.

With Coronavirus here it will not be easy to meet up to pray but it is so vital particularly now. Dave Mahon emailed us to say schools are closed in Peru – even in the Amazon Rain Forest! We shall find a way!

Beryl Hutson

Oasis Coffee Shop

Oasis is open each Tuesday from 10.30-12 in the Church, serving hot and cold drinks and home-made cakes and scones. Oasis provides a calm, welcoming atmosphere where our friends can stay for as long as they wish. We have regulars from other churches and some who have no involvement with Church. Recently, we have had people just drop in because they saw our sign outside. Oasis is also used by various church leaders for more formal meetings. In her role as Pastoral Care Assistant, Jan finds Oasis helpful in that she is around to keep up to date on any news or needs of church members that may not have reached Terry or Andy. It means she is also available if anyone needs a chat or help with anything.

Oasis would not be possible if it were not for our fabulous team of helpers, from bakers to servers to washer-uppers, who turn up week in and week out.

Our bakers are Betty Abernethy, Louise Campbell, Sarah Mills, Joy Sanger, Irene Woosnam, Margaret Osenton, Kerry O'Sullivan, Helen French, Norma Barber, Jill Holland and Chris Martin. We say 'Goodbye and Thank You'

to our Bakers, Andrea Andrews, Wilma Cooper, Margaret Kemp and Debbie Griffith. After a recent appeal for more volunteers, we are pleased to say that Geraldine Alliston, Ruth Martin, Brian Weller and Anne Linley have all offered to bake for Oasis.

When you arrive at Oasis you are greeted and served by one of the Serving Team. This team is Chris Martin, Jill Holland and Scilla Stirling, who has recently joined us. Our kitchen team is Roy Burman, Pat and George Garrett, Joan Hildick and Caz Kirby-Smith. Brian Weller has just joined us and is willing to bake and wash up.

For some time, Oasis has supported Azar. However, when Oasis re-opened after the Chapel refurbishment, we thought it was time to support a Home Mission. So, since our return, we have been supporting the Foodbank. We have donated £354 to Azar and £415 to the Foodbank this year.

We pray that Oasis will continue to provide a place where you feel you can come in and just 'be'.

Elaine Camp and Janet Grist

Foodbank

At the Trinity Foodbank this year, we have had to overcome many problems including the renovation of the church, the increase in donations and the increase in the number of food parcels that have been given out. Throughout it all the support of the volunteers has been tremendous whether they were regulars or just came to help in our very busy times.

The building works meant that we tried to find alternative spaces to operate from. In the end we were able to use the Methodist church hall for the interviews for the six weeks of the summer holiday. After that we shared the upper hall space with the BCU until the end of October. The contractors were very good at working around us in the back hall, only doing work in there when we were not present. One big advantage was that we were able to leave out in the back hall the schools and churches harvest festival donations which were not able to be sorted on the day that they arrived.

We have benefitted from picking up donations from the Ocado warehouse in Erith, which have averaged out at around 450kg per week. Last year we were able to pick up from Lidl fruit and vegetables that were being thrown away, but during the year the quality of the produce and communication with the manager there deteriorated and so we decided to stop picking up from them. We have managed to pick up bread, pastries and some vegetables from 6 mini-supermarkets on each Monday and Friday for which our clients have been most appreciative. On many occasions we have had plenty of bread left over at the end of the session and so the birds in the gardens of our volunteers and the ducks in Danson Park have been well fed!

This year we have given out 1738 food parcels which helped 2097 adults and 1603 children. This is an increase of 56% over last year's parcels. Much of this increase has been due to the introduction of Universal Credit in the Bexley Borough but we have also seen a rise in the number of victims of domestic abuse and/or trafficking. The rise in numbers using the Foodbank have meant that we have had to introduce a ticketing system and has sadly meant that we have had less time to talk with our clients about their situation.

We received 49,266kg of goods during the year which is an increase of 100% on last year's donations. I have to thank all the volunteers who have worked so hard especially during the very busy times of harvest and Christmas. Members of the YP helped during the summer holiday (you know who you are), on a Friday night at the height of the harvest donations and again at Christmas. We are so grateful for your youthful energy! Also,

members of the church who have helped us in so many different ways. We could not continue in the same way without your continued support.

Martin Sansom and Margaret Kemp

Cornerstone

I have been asked to give an overview of Cornerstone's work over the past year as a full report covering four meetings (five since COVID-19) three courses, two outreach programmes and two annual events would be far too big.

Leadership

We have been blessed with many great leaders from many different churches ; Ian Moody (CEO), Alexa Moody (Community), Jackie Lyon (Courses), Irene Masters (Advocacy), Dan Milne (Prayer), Des Mills (Albany Park Meeting), Danny Driscoll (IT), David Lomas (Safeguarding), Kate Earnshaw (Administrator), Gemma Martin (Social media) and Carole Bevan (Events organiser).

Charity status

2019 was the year we attained charity status which was a real achievement but brought its own problems. The first few months of being a charity were hard for our trustees. Time had to be spent getting the policies and procedures that were in my head written down - around 48 pages and 30,000 words! Well done trustees! We have an excellent committed team of trustees chaired by Gareth Roach. I could not do all I do without this team and oversight. This next year we will be concentrating on finance.

Fellowships

Our fellowship meetings have changed significantly in the past year. In the last year we grew to four meetings (five since COVID-19). We meet on Tuesday, Wednesday (men's meeting), Thursday and Sunday evening. The number of people attending meetings has dropped slightly across most of the meetings, yet those attending are earnestly seeking Christ so a slight drop in numbers has led to an increase in discipleship! We still serve around 60 regular attendees a week. This year, the Wednesday afternoon men's meeting held at Trinity has been an amazing blessing; two men came to Christ through this meeting.

Courses

The main reason our groups have decreased in numbers is the increase in attendance on our courses. We run the Alpha, Freedom in Christ and Recovery courses which are now widely attended by many who come from other churches and, once served, return to other churches. The numbers on these courses have been very high, which is great to see.

Events

Big Church Day Out was an awesome day last year. We took 20 people; 15 adults and five teens. We are being supported by the Big Church Day Out with free tickets and discounts for Cornerstone members. Two teens gave their lives Christ at this event. Our work with Big Church Day Out will go on for the foreseeable future.

We started to put together our second annual event last year, which was held on March the 7th this year. The 'Into The Light' Conference had 111 attendees from as far away as Wales, Nottinghamshire, Watford and Coventry. We have had great feedback and will definitely be doing a conference every year.

BWS

Cornerstone's work with Bexley Winter Shelter covers the assessments and case work, as well as Alexa and me sitting on the steering committee. This year has been a great success, we have improved on our work of last year and seen great results. Last year, not many of the men engaged with us, this year nearly all did; 11 were housed and nearly all remain in contact with Cornerstone.

Freely Project

This project is such a blessing to us. We have helped, with either collection or delivery, over 400 people and families since we started the project. It is still in need of volunteers, a van, an office and finance. Until these things are in place, Alexa and I do this work with a borrowed van. We are blessed by the work as much as those who receive from it.

These meetings, works, courses and outreaches would be impossible without the support of Trinity, so I thank you for your ongoing support. The need does not stop increasing and nor will Cornerstone stop increasing in Christ to meet it.

Ian Moody

Baby & Co

Our baby and toddler group is part of Trinity's community outreach, usually meeting on a Wednesday morning 10-11.30am during term time in the middle and back halls. We offer a wide variety of toys and books for the children to explore as well as some sensory play such as sand, water or playdough. A simple craft is prepared and always proves popular. Halfway through the session the children sit up to the tables for a beaker of juice and a selection of fruit and vegetables, whilst the parents and carers can grab a hot drink and a biscuit. We finish the session with parachute games and an often loud and lively song time!

Anne Linley and Liza Georgilidakis continue to serve on the team and not only provide a huge help in practical terms, but are gifted at talking to parents and carers and engaging with the children too. Barbara Spencer stepped down from the team over the summer term to care for her elderly mother and we are so grateful to her for many years of faithful service, particularly organising the refreshments for us. Pam Mills came to take over from Barbara and she's a great addition to the Baby and Co family. Kim McColl also joined the team this year and we've benefited from her ideas and experience. Hilda Agyeman is taking some time off following the birth of baby Nicole in January and Alison Pryor has been wonderful in providing cover when necessary, often at the last minute.

Due to the building work at Trinity, Baby and Co. relocated to the Boy's Brigade Hall for a short while last summer. We were very grateful for the provision so that we were able to continue meeting together. During the summer term, families joined us to visit a local care home, where we led a music and play session that was appreciated by young and old alike. We held our annual Bouncy Castle Fun Day at the Manse in July which was very well attended and was a lovely way to finish off the academic year – thanks go to our hosts, Terry and Debbie. We returned to Trinity for the Autumn term, which concluded with our Christmas party including a visit from Father Christmas – thanks to Ian Moody for making that possible!

Last June, I met with other leaders of toddler groups in the borough to pray together as part of the London Prayer Marathon for Toddler Groups. Instead of attending the Care for the Family conference that I usually go to, I decided to go to one organised by the London Toddler Group Network called 'Rhythms of Grace'. It addressed the cultural changes that affect our groups like the increased number of grandparents and childminders bringing children along, work patterns that mean we don't see parents and carers as regularly as

we once might have, and the fact we have less time with families as children often go to nursery earlier. It was a helpful day to focus on how we can best support families in our ever-changing social climate. I also did a craft workshop that gave me new ideas to bring back.

This past spring term has been increasingly challenging with the spread of Coronavirus. Baby and Co. closed three weeks early due to the government's social distancing advice but before this we were putting extra measures in place to keep the families and team safe. Understandably, we had seen a drop in numbers attending in the final couple of weeks. We don't yet know when it will be safe to meet again so I have been sharing some resources to use at home with our families in the meantime. I am particularly disappointed to be missing the opportunity to provide an Easter celebration. People need to hear of the hope we have in Jesus.

Please pray for Baby and Co. while we are unable to meet. That we manage to maintain connection and a sense of community. King David knew what it was like to be under threat and his advice (In Psalm 37: 3) was to "Trust in God and do good" so I'm taking that as my challenge during this testing time- to put my faith in God for the future and continue to build His kingdom in new ways.

Alexa Moody

Please note, Trinity has taken advantage of the government's Job Retention Scheme and placed Alexa on furlough whilst COVID-19 prevents Baby & Co. from meeting. Therefore, please do not contact Alexa about matters related to Baby & Co. until she is back at work. All emails sent to alexa@trinitybexleyheath.org.uk will now be forwarded to Kerry.

Safeguarding Children

Keeping children safe from harm is an important part of the world in which we live. It is therefore vital that in church our children and young people can grow in their faith in a safe and secure environment.

Child Protection training sessions

All our children's and youth workers at Trinity are given the opportunity to attend a child protection training evening, to ensure that their knowledge is up to date and relevant and to remind them what to do if faced with any safeguarding issues. There have been four such evenings since the last annual report; in May, September and November 2019 and in February 2020, with 30 people attending these sessions overall. We encourage all workers to attend these meetings every two years.

DBS checks

Andy Banks, as DBS liaison officer, continues to organise the DBS checks for all our children's and youth workers (DBS stands for Disclosure and Barring Service). These checks investigate any past convictions that may exclude someone from working with children and can be updated if necessary, after four years. All workers are currently DBS checked or in the process of being so.

Designated persons for Safeguarding

Martin Sansom and Joy Sanger continue to be our Designated Persons for Safeguarding (Child Protection). They are independent from the workers and should be consulted if ever a safeguarding issue arises (or is suspected). If you are not sure who they are, please see their photographs on the wall.

Database

We continue to operate the database for all the children in our care, to further ensure they are kept safe and well, by notifying children's workers of any medical or other needs they may have. Please let us know if your children's needs change in any way.

We take Child Protection extremely seriously at Trinity. If you ever have any concerns, please consult Martin or Joy, who will advise you. Remember that the safety of our children is the responsibility of the whole church.

Nikki Hall

Crèche

After serving in crèche for a number of years I now have the pleasure of running it. I want to say a huge thank you to Margaret Kemp who did a great job for so many years and also to Linda Brady who has had to step down too.

Crèche is aimed at babies from 0-3yrs of age. As soon as they turn three years old they "graduate" to Alpha. We offer a safe haven for the youngest members of the church, so that parents can enjoy the service. We have a selection of toys out each week, such as puzzles, books, toy animals, the kitchen, sit in car, buggies and the slide to name but a few.

We had a few teething troubles during the spring/summer whilst we moved out of Trinity and into the Boys Brigade hall. Not least because the slide had to be taken apart to fit through the doorway! I am very grateful to Anne Linley, Isabel Mills and Kerry O'Sullivan who were able to help me clean the toys that had been stored in Terry's garage for months.

We are currently very low on numbers, on a busy week we can have four little ones to look after, and on the quietest Sunday's no customers at all! An idea expressed by two of the team is to have some age appropriate bible stories and some children's Christian music playing. I currently haven't got any CD's, or a CD player or books so we would be thankful for any donations.

I am extremely grateful for those who have continued to be on team, they are Anj Hill, Anne Linley and Cynthia Osei-Kwame. Hilda Adyeman is currently having a break after the birth of baby Nicole in January, we look forward to lots of cuddles with Nicole. Hilda is welcome back on team as soon as she is ready. I am very thankful that Catherine Gould, Ciku Nyandusi, Isabel Mills, Kerry O'Sullivan and Una Kiernan agreed to join us. They have all been a great addition and each add a different little something! We will be saying farewell to Isabel in September (all being well) as she moves to Winchester to study Psychology with Criminology. Although I'm sure I can squeeze her on the rota during the holidays!

If you would like to join up to help care for the youngest members of our church family please speak to me when all is back to normal.

Sarah Mills

GodZone

A child joins GodZone when they turn three and they move through the four groups; Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta, until they reach Year 9 at school, when they move on to YP. We are so lucky to have a large number of

children at Trinity and it is a real privilege to be involved in the children's work. You can read more about what happens in each group in the individual reports and I would ask you to pray for the work that goes on each week. Pray that the children will develop a personal relationship with God, as well as a good knowledge of the Bible. Please pray for our leaders and helpers who give up their time to prepare lessons each week and miss out on time in the main services.

The main highlight since the last annual report was taking our Gamma and Delta groups away to Westwatch for GodZone camp in June. We enjoyed a range of activities including archery, team building, a camp fire, table tennis and exploring the woodland near to the centre. During our sessions we looked at the topic of 'Who I am in Christ'. It was great to see the children engaging in the worship and discussions that followed each talk. Camp is a great opportunity to get to know the children in a more informal setting and for them to have a little taste of independence! We had a fantastic time and we hope we helped the children discover a little bit more of God. Sadly we have had to cancel our plans for camp in June 2020 due to COVID-19 but we hope it won't long before we can plan some activities at church to go a little way to make up for it.

I took over the leadership of GodZone from Andy Banks in September. I have been lucky to inherit a fantastic team of leaders and helpers, who have supported me as I got my head around all that the role entails, so a big thank you to you all!

When I took on this role, Andy encouraged me to think about the direction in which I wanted to take GodZone and my vision for its future. I feel incredibly lucky to have grown up within Trinity and have often felt the benefits of this family, so I felt strongly that this is what I wanted to pass onto the children in GodZone. That they feel a part of this big family and that they know and feel the support that is there for them, when they need it; for them to develop friendships with peers and relationships with leaders who care and are invested in them.

This focus on family meant I was keen to continue the Trinity Family Events programme, as they are great occasions for people of all ages to spend time together having fun in a range of different ways. So far, we have enjoyed a light party, New Year's Eve party and a quiz night, which have all been great events. Events are currently on hold whilst we are closed due to Coronavirus, but we hope it won't be long until we can be together again. If you haven't joined us for an event yet, then I would encourage you to think about coming along to one.

Christmas was another opportunity to bring GodZone together as we planned a collaborative service, with one focus and topic. The children all worked really hard and did a fantastic job at showing what they had prepared. We spent time with all the groups together preparing for the service and it was lovely to see the way the younger children watched and looked up to those children older than them.

All you have read about above really is a team effort. We have some opportunities for service in our older groups and will be looking for people to join our team as leaders and helpers in the coming months. If you would be interested in joining our team, then please let me know.

Debs Harmer

Alpha Zone

Alpha Zone is the first group within GodZone and includes children from the age of 3 to the end of their Reception Year at school. The group is led by Debs Harmer and Liz Bryant with our brilliant helpers Adam Harmer, Paul Bryant, Steve and Jayne Furber, Fiona Banks, Rosemary Amoateng and Arianna Altman.

This last year has seen lots of change in Alpha! Over the summer, along with the rest of the church, Alpha moved up to the BB hall while building works were carried out at Trinity. We joined together with Beta each week and met in the upstairs room at the BB Hall. This change in venue brought some challenges, but mostly lots of fun as we learnt more about the Bible and tried to sing louder than the rest of the congregation below us!

When we returned back to Trinity, we continued to join Alpha and Beta together because we didn't have a big enough Alpha group to run separately. We spent time learning about leaders in the Old Testament before moving on to prepare for Christmas.

2019 finished with our GodZone Christmas service, where our very little ones showed such amazing confidence and joined in brilliantly with the songs and retelling of the story of Jesus' birth. We were so proud of them!

In January as a result of growing numbers we decided to split Alpha and Beta and begin meeting separately again. We now have a lovely group of about six regulars each week who love to have fun and approach activities with great enthusiasm! We begin each session hearing the children's news, this is a really important time for them to develop their speaking and listening skills and for us to get to know them better. After this welcome time our sessions include a story, game, craft, song and time of prayer. We try to be as creative as possible in how we teach the story and pray each week. Alpha can be a child's first time away from parents so we work closely with families to do all we can to make sure they are happy and settled. We love watching the children grow in confidence each week and it is always so special when children answer a question or join in for the first time.

Please pray for the children in Alpha Zone as they begin to develop their understanding of the Bible. Also, pray that we will plan lessons that are fun and engaging and be able to meet each child's needs.

Debs Harmer and Liz Bryant

Beta Zone

Beta serves our young children in Years 1 and 2 (between 5 and 7 years old), introducing them to God and the bible in age-appropriate and fun ways. The children have continued to grow in the Lord. We welcomed new members moving up from Alpha over the last year and watched some of the older children move up to Gamma. The Beta group has significantly grown this year and we now have an average attendance of 12 children each week.

The children really enjoyed the joint presentation with Alpha at Christmas and we hope you also enjoyed watching them.

The Beta team has been made up of some amazing and committed leaders and helpers who show great care, love and joy working with the young children. The teams are made up of the session leaders Laniyan Feyisetan and Etty Haworth with Janet Grist, Elaine Camp, Eileen Jones and Debra Knight working beside Etty and Laniyan, willingly sharing their experiences and helping to lead classes. In these sessions, we have seen our young children develop their love of God and knowledge of the Bible as well as talking and answering some very thoughtful questions and ideas.

It has been wonderful to see and hear how our young members have grown in their understanding of the Bible and God over this last year and how they have deepened their relationships with God and their friends in the sessions.

Etty Haworth and Laniyan Feyisetan

Gamma Zone

Gamma is for children in school years 3 - 5, so aged 7 to 10. It is a large, lively group, with about 15 on the register and average attendance of 11/12 children. The group leaders are Sarah & Graham Beswick, Ian & Julie Malpass and Claire & Andrew Altman.

Each session follows the same kind of pattern – we start by giving the children the opportunity to share news and key events from their week, next an introduction to the story or topic, usually a game or an activity everyone can be involved in. Using the Scripture Union Xstream material, we work through a Bible story or theme, often using drama to bring it alive, followed by activities to help the children remember and apply what they have learnt to their own lives. Finally, we pray together, sometimes praying for the children's concerns and sometimes encouraging them to take a turn in praying out loud.

Over the past year we have completed a series on Jesus healing using the book of Mark, parables Jesus told from Luke, the Christmas story, Noah and the flood, and the life of Jacob. We had just started on a series relating to the Israelites entering the land of Canaan – we hope to finish this when we are able to meet as a group again. It is a pleasure to lead Gamma and see the children grow in faith. There are some strong personalities and definitely some future leaders – please pray that there will be something in each session that speaks to every child and pray that, as leaders, we have time to appreciate them each as individuals.

Claire and Andrew Altman, Sarah and Graham Beswick and Julie and Ian Malpass

Delta Zone

Delta is a group in which school years 6 to 8 can meet together and study the Bible. We play games, discuss the Bible and also enjoy a range of creative activities such as drawing and drama. It's a great opportunity for those transitioning from primary to secondary school to get to meet each other and work together. The children are able to encourage each other with stories of school and to help the younger attendees with settling into schools. We believe that the session is particularly helpful in allowing the teenagers to discuss pressures and difficulties they face during their time at school and to understand the Christian perspective on topical issues.

One highlight of the year has been GodZone camp where we got to spend time together and meet some amazing horses! We sang campfire songs, toasted marshmallows and created a drama to present to the church. Another highlight was our Christmas production in which the Delta group created a news report from 'Delta Daily', featuring stories from members of the church demonstrating different views around Christmas.

The dynamic of the group has changed a lot since last year as we now have fewer regular attendees. This has been a little difficult planning the sessions as we don't always have enough people to do group work, however, it's been a good year for the group to grow closer to each other and it's been a good opportunity to get to know everyone individually. Please be praying for all of Delta who are moving to YP and to those coming up from Gamma, so that we would be able to use the coming year to encourage and teach those who come.

Jasmine Daniels and Kerry-Ann Reid

Young People

Trinity YP (Young People) is our youth programme for teenagers aged 13-18, school years 9-13. We currently have 45 teenagers on our register, with an average attendance of 30 on a Sunday morning, and 20 on a Friday evening. The weekly format consists of us meeting together socially on Fridays (8-10pm), and for Bible study

during the Sunday service 11am-12pm. We are unable to meet as a group at the moment due to COVID-19, but the leaders are making sure that videos of talks and encouragements are posted on their Facebook and Instagram pages to keep connected.

'YP Serving on Sunday' (SoS) has continued to develop this past year, where on some Sunday's the YP serve on various teams, including: welcome, offering, worship and refreshments. The aim was to develop these into completely youth led services, and on 1st December 2019 the YP led their very first morning service, which was the first service of Advent. The YP did amazingly well, and I want to thank you for the support and encouragement that they felt stepping out in this way. This service showed us that we can learn from our youth, and that they have something to bring to our Sunday morning service.

This year we had a very fruitful weekend away in September, where we had teachings based on the book of Daniel where we explored the theme 'Where Do You Draw Your Line?'. We also had powerful worship times. For our Sundays together we have recently completed HTB's 'The Prayer Course', which we all found really helpful (leaders included). A few of the YP were so inspired by it that they were talking about arranging their own informal prayer group, where they meet in someone's house and pray together.

We celebrated the baptisms of Arianna Altman, Angel Osei and Kachi Onyeagucha on 17th November 2019. Andy Banks has also been running a baptism enquirers course which consists of seven weekly sessions which two of our YP have been attending.

We have seen a few members of the team step down within this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Lomas and Kate Earnshaw for all of their time and energy invested in our youth, it has been greatly appreciated. This year we welcomed Hope Wilton-Waddell to the team, and Leo Beaumont, who is waiting to try out YP to see if he wishes to join the leadership on a permanent basis.

This year the team has included: Myself, Andy Banks, David Lomas (stepped down from January), Helen French, Lorraine Sansom, Andrew Evans, Emmanuel Wachira, Alan and Alison Pryor (Friday's only), Gemma Martin, Kate Earnshaw (stepped down from January), Jack Sydee and Hope Wilton-Waddell.

As you will be aware, I will be stepping down as YP Group Leader, so this is my last annual report! As a result, the current YP leadership team have been delegated elements of my current role in order to take YP forward in a new and exciting way. This is a scary but exciting transition for the YP, and will come with a mixture of emotions, however, God is doing amazing things with them, and will continue to do so. Although we do not have a permanent group leader yet, Lorraine Sansom has agreed to be the go-to person temporarily.

Points for prayer:

- Adjustment and coming to terms with the impact that COVID-19 is having, as a youth group, but also individually in relation to our young people's schools, exams, friendships, etc.
- Pray that even though our routine has been disrupted, the YP will pursue their faith, whether it be baptism, or the YP prayer group that was hoping to form.
- Pray for the changes in leadership, with YP leaders taking on delegated tasks, as well as prayer for a permanent ongoing YP Group Leader.
- Pray for an exciting new season for the YP.
- Pray for more YP leaders.

Thank you for your prayers.

Louise Brady

Student Liaison

This year there are 12 students with Trinity connections, some of whom still come along to Trinity when they are home in their holidays and others whom we don't often see, but who grew up in our fellowship and whose family still attend. We have been writing to them each term to remind them that they continue to be in our thoughts and prayers and we hope that this is an encouragement to them.

We are conscious that some are established and growing in the faith, but for others they are no longer following the Lord as closely as they once were. We still think it is appropriate to write to all of them to remind them that nothing can separate them from the love of God and that he can be relied upon to guide them into the future He has prepared for them.

Our students are spread around the country from London to Bath, Kent, Nottingham and all places in between and are studying a range of impressive subjects including Midwifery, Economics, Medicine and Engineering to name just a few. If you would like to join us in writing to them, please ask us for their details – we are sure that they always welcome a friendly reminder that people from 'home' are remembering them. Otherwise please remember all our students in your prayers. Pray that they use the talents God has given them to the best of their ability and pray that they will walk closely with God and rely on Him to direct their paths.

Angela and Gareth Roach

The 18 – 30s Group

The Trinity 18-30's is currently a social and support group for those at Trinity who feel they belong to this group. We do not have a specific age limit as we wish to be inclusive to those who are finding their place within the church. We think that it is important to meet together, develop friendships, encourage and catch those who can easily lose their place and belonging in a church. This group also includes those who go to university and come back to Trinity in holidays, unsure of their place and needing to reconnect. You don't have to be single without kids to join, just in the ages 18-30's. So, if you feel like you want to see what this group is about and whether it is for you, make yourself known to us!

We try to meet for social events once to twice a month. However, it has been less frequent this past year. Events have included: breakfasts before church, firework night, a table at the family quiz night, a Christmas film night, the church picnic. The prestigious annual 'Mulled Wine, Mince Pie' event which happens after the carol service at Trinity each year was a particular success, with new faces and students who were back from university. We also hosted a worship event at Trinity, inviting 18-30's groups from various churches in Bexley Borough. This was an amazing God-filled evening, and it was amazing to see people from other churches attend. The group regularly keep in contact via a WhatsApp group, sending prayer requests so that we can pray for one another and general encouragements to one another. We would love to see this group to grow further.

The current administrators of this group are myself and Helen French. However, a mixture of people step up and arrange the social events also.

Prayer points:

- For more people to join the group and integrate well.
- To build deeper friendships and support for one another.
- To establish the group with 18-30's outside of Trinity.
- For other leaders to step up into more leadership roles within the group to make it more sustainable.

Thank you for praying.

Louise Brady

Catering

There is actually very little to report regarding church catering this year due to some very significant events.

The first of these happened in July when the builders moved into the church and we all moved out and began worshipping on Sunday mornings in the BB Hall in Bexleyheath. This precluded serving refreshments after the service and so a number of us took advantage of the local cafes to invite other members of the fellowship to join us for a cup of coffee or hot chocolate. A favourite place was just across the road from the BB hall, at Kaspas Ice Cream Parlour. We were made very welcome each Sunday and on one occasion there were at least twelve of us.

Unfortunately, in July, Marie Roberts lost her dear husband, Don, and a service of Thanksgiving for his life was held. With Trinity out of commission at this time the service was held in the Methodist Church in Bexleyheath, followed by refreshments in their church hall. I was very grateful for all the help given to bring over the crockery, tablecloths, kettles, etc, from Trinity to the Methodist Church. Other helpers set out the food including the delicious cakes baked by the ladies of Trinity.

We didn't move back into Trinity until 27th October, but seeing the changes in the Sanctuary made it all worthwhile. After the service it was good to have everybody together and to be served by the refreshment team and to chat together over our tea/coffee.

Just a few weeks after our return Arianna, Angel and Kachi were baptised and there was a wonderful bring and share lunch to celebrate and to welcome their families and friends. Unfortunately, I had an accident whilst on holiday at the beginning of November and was unable to organise the lunch. However, Kerry O'Sullivan and her team did a brilliant job and a lovely time was had by all.

The Women's Advent evening went off very well in December where refreshments were served, including our very popular mulled fruit juice. Mince pies were served after both the Children's Nativity and the Carols by Candlelight Services.

Our final service in Trinity was held on 15th March 2020 before the enforced closure of churches and shops etc, due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me with the catering during the past seven years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my role heading up the catering at Trinity but now feel it is time to hang up my pinny and pass the baton on.

Pat Garrett

Note: We are looking for a team of people to oversee different aspects of Pat's former role, namely: 1) Refreshments on Sunday mornings; 2) Church lunches; and 3) Mid-week events such as funerals (which Jill Holland has kindly agreed to take on). If you can help with oversight of either areas 1 or 2, please make yourself known to Andy or Kerry.

Cleaning

My name is Cynthia Osei-Kwame and I am responsible for the cleaning of the church premises. My responsibility is to ensure that church members (in groups) who are involved with the cleaning of the church as listed on the

weekly rota (see notice board in the Middle Hall) have the tools and cleaning materials for the job and also to ensure that those who help with tea and coffee, after church every Sunday and other days have the materials for the cleaning.

This responsibility involves preparing a six/seven weekly rota for the various cleaning groups within the church to clean the church and middle halls and the lounge upstairs every Saturday throughout the year. I am also responsible for purchasing the cleaning materials and making sure there are no stockouts.

This year like the previous ones has been challenging and rewarding in equal measures but the Lord has been faithful, and the church has always been cleaned without fail on Saturdays. I welcome the new people that have joined the cleaning rota for the first time helping to replace the people who dropped out the previous year for various reasons.

I am so grateful to all members involved for their cooperation and dedication in making this year a success despite all the challenges. A special thanks to all those who came to clean the church after the refurbishment.

Finally, if you would like to be involved with this 6/7 weekly church cleaning cycle please contact me on 07954992264 to be included on the rota. We have need of many more people. I would also like to thank those who have dropped out recently for various reasons for their contribution over the years in this unsung service to God.

God bless you all as you continue to support His work.

May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel. May the ever-present God help you at this troubling time.

I am very grateful to all for your co-operation and support.

Cynthia Osei-Kwame

Trinity Books

Thank you to all those who continue to, or have recently begun to, order Bible reading notes from the bookstall. Sadly, the CLC bookshop in Welling closed in January 2020 but the manager there, Luke, has enabled us to continue to order resources through him, which is a blessing. Along with regular orders of bible study notes, we also had a bookstall at Advent for Women and the discounts given on these resources has meant we have been able to send donations of around £200 to various charities. New customers are always welcome. Thank you again.

Joy Sanger

Fabric and Maintenance

The last year has again been a busy one on the fabric front with a number of works being completed to improve the standard of the chapel building.

My report last year mentioned that we were about to start work on the mezzanine toilets. These have vastly improved the standard of the facilities which were probably the original from the 1930's when the rear halls were built.

We have also repaired and painted the external fire escape on the west side of the building and recently had the internal staircase to the first floor redecorated.

As members will know, the major item of work carried out over the last year was the refurbishment of the chapel and the replacement of the heating system. This work followed an extensive design process which commenced two years ago and a tendering process last spring. As is often the case, some 'value engineering' and compromises to the original scheme had to be made to keep the design within the allocated budget.

The successful contractor, Apex, a firm based in Bexley, have been good to work with and worked around the operations of the church as much as possible, making sure that disruption was kept to a minimum. We have now benefitted from a reliable heating system throughout the winter period, with only a couple of hiccups, which have been quickly attended to by Apex and their subcontractors. At the time of writing there are a few minor issues outstanding and these will be reviewed and dealt with during the 12 months defect period which ends in October.

Thank you to all who helped out in July clearing the chapel and other areas of furniture and equipment to allow the works to progress and, in October, brought it all back and deep cleaned everything thoroughly.

On the financial front, even with additional works being added to the contract, Apex have agreed to settle the account at the tendered figure and we will be making a final payment later in the year when defects are completed.

As with all property owners we need to make provision for ongoing maintenance and improvement to the buildings we have so that they are fit for future generations. This upgrading of the buildings has been strongly supported by Terry over the years giving us buildings to be proud of. One building that has not received an upgrade is 75 Standard Road and Members have considered a letter explaining options for the Manse after Terry and Debbie vacate it. This will be the significant project for the coming year.

I continue to undertake or arrange general minor maintenance works over the year and so if you see something that requires mending or fixing, please speak to me or email me and I'll try to fix it myself or get someone to do it.

And finally, thanks once again to all who provide support with the electrical and heating installations and to Kerry O'Sullivan who sets the heating programmes each week and deals with the regular recurring maintenance contracts, such as fire extinguishers and other testing, etc.

Dave Camp

Health and Safety

Achieving a healthy and safe environment at Trinity is a collective task shared between the deacons, staff, group and activity leaders, church members and all those who enter our premises.

There is always more that could be done, but doing the basics consistently and well goes a long way to keeping our premises healthy and safe. This means in practical terms, for example, keeping the premises tidy and maintained, testing evacuation routes and checking that fire exits are clear of obstruction (especially when the building is in use - who can forget the 6 foot inflatable slice of pizza in the vestry one Sunday morning?), having regular assessments and providing information to users of our premises about how to stay safe when in the building. It also means for each of us, especially when the chapel is busy (as it can be at big occasions), thinking

about how we would all be able to leave the building safely – for instance, is my coat or bag a trip hazard to me or someone else? Thank you to everyone for doing your bit – we remind ourselves at regular points on the importance of taking appropriate and proportionate steps.

Thank you to Dave Camp and Rob Kemp in particular for the time and energy they give to our fire and electrical risk assessments and the general running of the chapel building. Kerry O’Sullivan also does a great job keeping tabs on those who check our equipment such as fire extinguishers.

A comprehensive fire risk assessment was carried out in January 2020 with a number of actions arising to ensure we meet current standards as they apply to us in our setting. Some actions were achieved before the coronavirus shutdown took effect in March 2020. Outstanding actions will need to be addressed when it is safe for us to do so - this includes ensuring that routine checks are carried out and logged as matter of practice. The Deacons are currently reviewing our health and safety arrangements including a health and safety policy and procedure.

Please speak to me if you have any questions or concerns relating to our health and safety.

Stuart Campbell

Finance

We are grateful to God for all that we have and receive financially and continue to trust and look to him to provide for our needs as a church. Praise the Lord indeed we have exceeded our budgeted income by about £5.5k (£225k vs £219k), with the help of one-off gifts to the value of £16k and this will be seen with a greater degree of accuracy once the financial insert is available.

We are unique and blessed by Jesus as a body in his name and, like any family, the church needs money to do its job as God wills it, and to take care of its members. We are very grateful to all who give generously and will have to continue to do so to enable all to carry out his mighty and glorious work in and through us.

We know that the money coming into our church is given by all of us faithful people who long to serve God, build his kingdom, and who believe in our church’s mission. With that in mind we understand that we have a great responsibility to be wise with how that money is being distributed and spent.

As you are aware, to complete a major investment phase in our church premises, we have had to borrow a loan of £250k from the London Baptist Property Board, repayable with interest over a period of 10 years (Total £290k to £300k). 2020/21 will also bring events we may not be looking forward to; namely, the retirement of our beloved pastor, Terry, and the need to carry out essential maintenance work at the manse. We need to plan and consider the financial implications of such a project. Members have been asked to prayerfully consider several options, but in the absence of being able to hold church meetings at present due to Covid-19, the deacons have taken the decision to proceed for the time being with the most basic refurbishment necessary to secure rental income from the manse. More could be added to this project if finances allow.

As explained in the budget letter we are predicting a reduction in our regular giving compared to last year in the region of £53k due to changes in individual circumstances. We do not yet know what further impact COVID-19 may have on our income. However, we are all confident that God will provide all our needs and give us what he knows we need to continue his mighty work here on earth for his Glory and Honour.

Gift-Aid Many of us do this already. But if you don't and you pay tax, please do speak to me. Any gifts received under the Gift-Aid system allow us to claim back 25% of the gift from HMRC. I am happy to say that at least 90% of our income is gift aided.

Offerings: If you usually give through a cash offering, please consider giving via bank transfer during this period when we are unable to meet together.

Our sincere thanks go to those who are involved with the responsibility and hard work of maintaining the finances of the church and producing the church accounts;

George Garrett – Year end accounts for the Charity Commission

Isaac Osei-Kwame – Payroll

Daniel Kwalombota - Examiner

All those involved with the Sunday collections

Martin Sansom, Roy Burman and George Garrett – Counting stewards each Sunday morning

Stuart Campbell - work on the cash flow projections.

Yohan Keerthiratna

Administration

I am responsible for production of weekly News Sheets, Welcome Packs, maintaining the church diary, minuting church meetings, website, Facebook presence, editing and producing this booklet and the Church Directory, keeping our Membership data up to date and church communications including the weekly 'so what?' email. I help the children's and youth leaders and Foodbank leaders with admin tasks on an ad hoc basis and I am involved with some building and maintenance tasks. I am also responsible for liaison with the Charity Commission and the Baptist Union, who require us to take a census each year.

Ron Jones acts as Secretary to the Pastors and Deacons and manages the administration around their twice-monthly meetings. Simon Davidson edits and distributes the e-news.

I try to update our Facebook page as much as I can – advertising our own events and those of organisations such as CRiBS and AZAR. If you are on Facebook, do check out and 'like' the page if you haven't already done so: www.facebook.com/trinitybexleyheath. Similarly, do check out our website if you haven't done so recently. If you miss a Sunday, you can listen to the sermon online and view the news sheet.

This year we have continued to send out follow-up questions entitled 'So What?' following Sunday morning sermons. We hope this is a helpful way for everyone to be able to get the most out of the sermons. This year we have added in the prayers from the news sheet and hope this helps people support each other in prayer. If you would like to receive these emails and the weekly e-news, do let me have your email address.

The website update is ongoing. Between Louise Brady and myself, we have struggled to find the time to work on it but at time of writing I am working from home due to coronavirus lockdown so I am hoping to have some time to work on it.

I have to say it was a feat of endurance to work at the chapel during the refurbishments! It was noisy and very dusty but also helpful to be on site as someone who could answer or field questions from the contractors. My involvement in building matters seems to be increasing with involvements like the building project, contract management and heating settings; this does have an impact on how much time I have for other admin.

As staff we meet together each Tuesday morning for a short devotional and to pray together. It's good to spend time together and share news as appropriate. I find this a helpful time to pick up on items needing prayer from around the fellowship which I then disseminate through the news sheet. If you have something for praise or prayer you would like included, do email or call me by midday on any Thursday.

Kerry O'Sullivan

Trinity Baptist Church Financial Summary
12 Months to March 2020

	General Fund				Other Funds
	Actual	Budget	Variation	%	
<u>SUMMARY</u>					
INCOME	276,841	272,947	3,895	1%	326,075
EXPENDITURE					
Ministry & Evangelism	90,246	100,543	10,297	10%	369,310
Giving & Support	52,545	54,042	1,497	3%	0
Operating Expenses	74,545	105,861	31,316	30%	0
Balance Sheet Items	8,602	12,500	3,898	31%	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	225,938	272,947	47,008	17%	369,310
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	50,903	(0)	50,903	0%	(43,235)
INCOME ANALYSIS					
Gifts and offertories	224,799	219,000	5,799	3%	
Tax Recoverable	51,136	53,947	(2,811)	-5%	
Other Income (deposit interest)	906	0	906	0%	
Gifts to Fellowship Fund					6,023
CRP 2019					311,395
Tax Recoverable - Other					5,805
Other gifts Restricted to donors' intentions					2,852
TOTAL INCOME	276,841	272,947	3,895	1%	326,075
EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS					
Associate Pastor & Expenses - Andy Banks	39,190	42,057	2,867	7%	
Community Worker --> Alexa Moody	3,314	3,221	(93)	-3%	
Evangelism & Special Events	1,154	1,500	346	23%	
God Zone & YP - Check Refund	1,710	5,000	3,290	66%	
Pastoral Assistant - Now Janet Grist	4,693	4,993	300	6%	
Pulpit & Guest Speakers	100	600	500	83%	
Senior Pastor & Expenses - Terry Griffith	40,083	43,172	3,089	7%	
Fellowship Fund					8,548
CRP 2019					357,791
Other Funds					2,971
MINISTRY & EVANGELISM	90,246	100,543	10,297	10%	369,310
Appeal Response Fund (including Sponsorship)	3,500	5,000	1,500	30%	
AZAR	637	637	(0)	0%	
Baptist Missionary Society	3,263	3,263	(0)	0%	
Boaz Moody	2,500	2,500	0	0%	
Cornerstone (Ian Moody)	10,803	10,800	(3)	0%	

CRIBS	6,458	6,458	0	0%	
Graham Baker - Until June'19 Only	600	600	(0)	0%	
LBA - Home Mission Fund	2,807	2,807	(0)	0%	
Overseas Missionary Fellowship - J & P Dallman	11,250	11,250	(0)	0%	
Operation Mobilisation - Andrew Harwood	9,585	9,585	0	0%	
Spurgeons College	541	541	0	0%	
Thamesmead Debt Centre	600	600	0	0%	
GIVING & SUPPORT	52,545	54,042	1,497	3%	0
2nd Manse (75a) rates & utilities	3,280	3,800	520	14%	
Administration	14,084	14,062	(22)	0%	
Auto Enrolment Pension		324	324	100%	
Building maintenance & repairs	23,114	49,325	26,211	53%	
Catering	355	450	95	21%	
Chapel cleaning & upkeep	2,908	2,600	(308)	-12%	
Chapel rates & utilities	9,596	8,500	(1,096)	-13%	
Eqpt maintenance & repairs (and small items under £500)	3,555	6,900	3,345	48%	
Governance	350	350	0	0%	
Insurance	4,886	4,500	(386)	-9%	
Manse rates & utilities	4,484	4,250	(234)	-6%	
Stationery & Postage	3,058	5,000	1,942	39%	
Subscriptions & Licences	3,434	4,500	1,066	24%	
Sundries	1,104	300	(804)	-268%	
Training	30	500	470	94%	
Web-site	308	500	192	38%	
OPERATING EXPENSES	74,545	105,861	31,316	30%	0
New Equipment	3,333	2,000	(1,333)	-67%	
Rent of External Premises	1,155	2,000	845	42%	
Loan Interest Repayments	4,115	8,500	4,385	52%	
BALANCE SHEET ITEMS	8,602	12,500	3,898	31%	0