



Trinity Baptist Church

News Sheet Sunday 28th March 2021



Welcome to Trinity!

From 10am Zoom meeting led by David Linley; details in Kerry's email to you.

10.30 am Morning Service. Speaker Andy Banks. Reading: Luke 19:41-48

'My House Will Be A House Of Prayer.'

YouTube Click here to watch the service streamed live: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8vTabe_7Y0_2Ka7BtCdRUQ

Noon Church Members Meeting via Zoom



Pastor's Message

This week marked a year since the start of the first UK Covid-lockdown. The figures are staggering and deeply tragic. 126,445 UK Covid deaths to date. More than 4.3 million UK confirmed cases, some, including within our own fellowship, with continuing effects on their health. Each of these individuals is a person, with family and friends who are also affected. And this is before we consider the spiritual, mental, physical, educational and economic effects of isolation, lockdown, closed schools and universities, trauma and overwork for our emergency services, and so forth. How can we begin to make sense of such pain and loss? Where can we turn to help us have faith in the midst of it all?

One resource within the Bible is the many laments in books like the Psalms and Lamentations. Although written in different contexts, and therefore including different details, we can discover something of how to express our sorrow, or even anger, to God, and how to find hope in the midst of it all. For instance, Lamentations 3 begins somewhat shockingly:

*"I am the one who has seen affliction
by the rod of the LORD's wrath.
He has driven me away and made me walk
in darkness rather than light;
indeed, he has turned his hand against me
again and again, all day long." (Lam 3:1-3)*

We might want to defend God against such an accusation, but God himself has seen fit to include this in his Word. The correctness or not of the theology is not so important as the ability to express how it feels. That expression enables the writer to later state:

*"Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:
Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
I say to myself, 'The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him.'
The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;
it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD." (Lam 3:21-26)*

In case we think lament is only an Old Testament practice, we might also take another look at Jesus on the cross, crying out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46, quoting Psalm 22:1). The purpose of lament is to express our pain honestly to God and to leave the solution at his door. The beginning of Holy Week may be a good opportunity to pause and to lament what has happened this last year, and through that process to allow God to minister to our pain.

With my love to you all.
Andy.

For Your Prayers

- Praise God that the tenants have moved into the manse.
- Continue to pray for full healing from those who have or have had Covid.
- Pray about who you could invite to an online Alpha course.
- Pray for the witness of our Easter services, and that people might tune in or come who don't yet know Jesus.
- Pray for those suffering with their mental health.
- Pray for those suffering with loneliness and grief.

Trinity Diary

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|---------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Monday 29th March | 1 pm | Foodbank |
| Maundy Thursday 1st April | 8 pm | Communion |
| Good Friday 2nd April | 11 am | Service of Reflection |

More news on page 2...

Easter at Trinity

Maundy Thursday Communion

8 pm Thursday 1st April

Good Friday Service of Reflection

11 am Friday 2nd April

Easter Sunday Family Service

10.30 am Sunday 4th April

Book your tickets via www.trinitybexleyheth.org.uk/diary



Trinity Baptist Church
Bexleyheath

Study Leave

Andy will be on Study leave from 5th -11th April.

Japanese Tea Time @ It's A Man Thing

Peter & Janet's "Japanese Tea Time" will be coming to It's A Man Thing on Wednesday 7th April. Advance booking needed to get your goody bag! Please contact Peter & Janet (dallmanjp@omfmail.com)

Admin Working Hours/Annual Leave

Kerry has now reverted to working three days a week; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Also, she will be on annual leave from the 5th to 12th April so will publish details of Sundays 4th & 11th April this Thursday. Please submit any contributions by midday on Thursday.

GodZone Zoom

The next GodZone Zoom will be on Saturday 10th at 4.30 pm. Look out for an email this week with more details.

Trinity Baptist Church Staff

Pastor: Revd Andy Banks

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Pastoral Care Assistant: Janet Grist

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Community Worker: Alexa Moody - on furlough

Administrator: Kerry O'Sullivan

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Registered Charity Number: 1130034

Face to Face Meetings

We have increased the capacity for face to face services back up to 60, and as there is still space available, you can now sign up for as many services as you wish to come to over Easter and in April? Sign up through the website (click on the date you want to attend) or if you don't have access to the internet, ring Kerry to book you in. <https://www.trinitybexleyheath.org.uk/diary/> Online services will continue.

The Alpha Course

Alpha

We have set a provisional start date of Sunday 25th April, 8pm for the Online Alpha Course. We would appreciate someone with experience of running Zoom meetings, including showing videos and dividing into breakout groups, who could take responsibility for the technical side of running the course. Promotional material to come. Please pray about who you could invite.