



Trinity Baptist Church

News Sheet

Sunday 13th June 2021

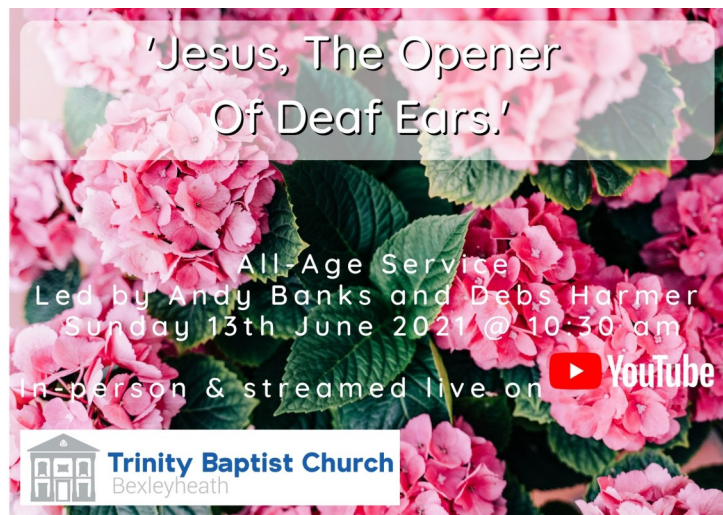
Welcome to Trinity!

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

10.30 am All- Age Service. Led by Andy Banks and Debs Harmer. Reading: Mark 7:31 - 8:21

'Jesus The Opener Of Deaf Ears'

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



Goodbye Tony!

We are sad to say goodbye to Tony Weeks for whom this is his last Sunday with us before moving to Wales to be closer to his daughters. Tony has been a wonderful and faithful friend to many and we will miss him. We also want to thank him for his many quiet acts of service that have helped the smooth running of the fellowship for many years - things like filling and heating the baptism pool, opening and locking up the church, serving teas and coffees, etc. Tony, we pray that your new home will soon feel like home, and that you will quickly find a local church in which you can grow and contribute. May God bless you.

For Your Prayers

- Pray for our 'Big Alpha Weekend' next weekend (19th - 20th June). We will meet on Zoom on Saturday morning, when we will talk about, and give an opportunity for guests to encounter, the Holy Spirit. Then we will meet as usual on Sunday evening. Please pray that this will be a significant moment for all our guests."
- Pray for Andy and his family, giving thanks for their ministry among us.
- Pray for those who are suffering with their mental health.
- Pray for those who are no longer able to get out of the house.

Pastor's Message

"Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: 'Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember?'" Mark 8:17-18

There are some very stark and challenging questions contained within our Bible reading for today's service. If these questions were aimed at the Pharisees or Teachers of the Law, then we might more easily dismiss them as irrelevant to us. But they are aimed at Jesus' disciples, at those who had given up everything to follow him.

Firstly, Jesus was amazed at their lack of understanding of his words. He had warned them of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod, i.e. of their faithless teaching and their opposition to Jesus. Yeast was commonly used in the Old Testament as a symbol for evil, most notably in the Passover Festival which they celebrated every year, so it should have been a familiar metaphor to them. Yet, somehow they completely missed the point and thought that Jesus was bemoaning their lack of physical bread – despite having twice seen him feed thousands of people with just a few loaves! They did what we can also be guilty of – grasping at an immediate explanation, however ludicrous, rather than doing the hard work of thinking through teachings we don't at first understand.

Then Jesus asked some even harder questions: "Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?" A hardened heart was a terrible thing. Pharaoh's heart was hardened through unbelief and ruthless self-centredness, and so he stood opposed to God and his purposes for his people. Similarly, Isaiah used the image of dulled ears and blinded eyes to describe those of his day who had abandoned their faith in the true God and were merely following empty rituals. Likewise, the Pharisees' hearts were hardened against Jesus and his claims to be the Messiah, and Jesus applied Isaiah's words to them. But, at this moment, it seems that Jesus was warning his disciples that they were also at risk of becoming like the Jewish leaders in their unbelief, if they could not or would not make the necessary connections between what they experienced with Jesus and the new situations they faced.

Yet, we can so easily slip into the same pattern of failing to recall the lessons we have learnt time and again of God' faithfulness to fulfil all his promises to us. We can so easily look at the situations around us and let our fears govern our responses rather than choosing to trust in God. We can so easily skim over the harder passages of Scripture to understand (or avoid reading them altogether), rather than wrestling with them in prayer and / or in discussion with others. We can so easily fall in with the beliefs and practices of the world around us for fear of standing out for Jesus. God calls us, rather, to invest time and energy in growing in our knowledge and love of God, such that we bear fruit in every good work, and such that Christ is formed in us more and more day by day (see Colossians 1:9-12; Galatians 4:19). I encourage you, as I encourage myself, let this be our primary focus in our lives no matter what life throws at us.

My love to you all.

Andy.



National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast 2021

Online

Life Beyond Covid: A Renewed Hope

Friday 25 June · 8.00-8.45am

Please join us for the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast 2021 *Online*, which will be livestreamed on Friday 25 June from 8:00-8:45am.

The event will include prayers led by parliamentarians, hymns led by special guest singers and a keynote address by The Rt Revd Professor NT Wright.

As we start to think about life beyond the coronavirus pandemic, we want to bring together parliamentarians, church leaders and Christians from across the UK to pray for our country, parliament, government and politics, and reflect on the message of renewed hope that the Christian Faith brings to our society.

<https://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk/prayer-breakfast/attend/>

Family Picnic

We're organising some family events now that we can meet together socially again. The first is a picnic on Saturday June 19th from 12.30 pm at Hall Place.

Places are limited so that we can stick to government guidelines, so do book your places. Bring your own picnic and any games we can play together safely. We'll meet in the open area on the house side of the river beyond the formal gardens.

Looking forward to seeing you! Debs Harmer - GodZone Leader

Book your places here: <https://trinitybexleyheath.churchsuite.com/embed/events/rfhybych>

Trinity Diary

Monday 14th June	1 pm	Foodbank
Wednesday 2nd June	8 pm	Men's Zoom
	Meeting ID: 956 4934 3610	
Friday 18th June	10.30 am	Foodbank
Saturday 19th June	12.30 pm	Family Picnic
Sunday 20th June	10.30 am	Morning Service

Trinity Baptist Church Staff

Pastor: Revd Andy Banks

020 8301 2890 andy@trinitybexleyheath.org.uk

Pastoral Care Assistant: Janet Grist

020 8308 1446 janet@trinitybexleyheath.org.uk

Administrator: Kerry O'Sullivan

07801 627031 kerry@trinitybexleyheath.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1130034