December 2022

Mission Statement:
Our Mission is to proclaim the love of God, in Jesus to all people

January 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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The Trinity church family were saddened to hear that Jean Plush died on Wednesday 5th October. Our prayers are with her family. Jean’s funeral was held on 4th November at the Crematorium.

Jean was a very kind lady, devoted Christian and served Trinity for many years. Jean supported the Care Club on a Wednesday, frequently cooking lunches and latterly, helping in the kitchen. She is greatly missed.

BAPTISM OF ETTY

On Sunday 20th November we welcomed into the Trinity Church family Harriet Celeste ‘Etty’ born on the 25th April to Grace and Owen; grand-daughter to Sheridan and Rev Mark. It was a joy for Mark to officiate at his grand-daughter’s Baptism.

A huge thank you to Mary Stevenson and her small ‘band’ of helpers for the wonderful display of flowers we see every week in church. We especially thank them during times of celebration when extra flower arrangements are around for all to enjoy.
From the Manse.......... 

No Room?

There are many cherished Christmas traditions, but well towards the top of the list for sure is the Children's Nativity Play, that beautiful amalgam of every element of the gospel's birth narratives from Matthew, Mark and Luke! Of the many loved versions of the Nativity presented with cherub-like angels and villainous-looking shepherds, is the legendary version which contains an Inn Keeper, who upon being asked if there's 'any room', grins broadly and is delighted to say to the bedraggled Mary and Joseph, "Oh, yes! I've plenty of rooms, come on in!"

I can hardly think of a time when the question of there being room to shelter has been more urgent than it is this Christmas. As a Methodist Circuit (group) of churches we have just launched an appeal for a new fund to support the housing of refugees in the wake of the 6 month 'hosting scheme' raising anxiety about where Ukrainian refugees will find room. You can find out about it via the Circuit website:  
chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk.

I guess it's in light of this situation that the Methodist Church has produced Christmas publicity material this year which is freely available for any of our Churches to use this festive season. It has a simple message, which I hope we will take into our hearts, and share with others as well:

May we know the rich blessings of God's love, revealed in Jesus this Christmas.

Mark
OUR MINISTERS’ CONTACT NUMBERS

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Action for Children

A huge thank you to everyone who donated money to Action for Children this year. Overall we were able to send £614.85 to this worthy cause. It’s most heartening that in these difficult times, Christian people are able to look beyond their own problems and offer help and assistance to those less fortunate, particularly children. On behalf of Action for Children, thank you and God bless you all.

We will continue with the home collection boxes but we find that with the advance of the “cashless society”, the coins we used to have about us are becoming rarer. If you’d prefer to donate note(s) or make out a cheque for your future donations, this would be most acceptable.

Anthea Tayler
Michael and I came to know Connie about 40 years ago when she and Ken lived near Colchester. We met at the house of a mutual friend and struck up a close friendship when we discovered we each had a lovely son who suffered from slight mental disabilities.

Connie had an intelligent and lively personality and a good sense of humour. She was very interested in theatre, music and literature; she also loved to travel.

Latterly, life became very difficult when Connie's eyesight deteriorated badly but she never complained. She was a joy to know and will be greatly missed.

Audrey Ward
The following was received on 21st October as Mark departed for a short break to see family in Devon.

By their fruits you shall know them...

One of the things I'm looking forward to doing next week, when I have a few days off, is visiting a pumpkin patch! Despite my aversion to the American import that is Halloween, I've been supportive of a Devon pumpkin patch as it's the entrepreneurial work of my godson Richard and his partner Emily. Last year Richard, a Devon farmer's son, rented a small piece of ground near to a major dual carriageway (for good access) and ran a tremendously successful pumpkin patch. Sadly we weren't able to visit last year, but this Autumn we've aligned a Devon visit with family to coincide!

In 2021 the growing of the pumpkins was no problem, all went well. But this year’s drought has meant a reduced crop, and some of the plants died due to the severe dry conditions. Nevertheless, as you can see from the photo, there's still plenty of pumpkins!

I've followed the growth of the patch closely on Facebook and at this Autumn time when we focus on Harvest, it's a reminder of the need for growing conditions to be not too much this, or too little that, but 'just right' (as Goldilocks would say)!

It occurs to me that the same can be said of our faith - that's also something that grows, but only when the conditions are right. Like all growing things faith needs nurturing and care to produce the fruit that we long for. Don't forget to tend the 'patch of faith' where you are!

Do people gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Of course not...... A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear fruit. (Matthew 7)
MISSION MATTERS.......... Gwen Mumby reminded everyone in October about a time that was very important for her.

Some years ago, we had a Minister (Rev Ken Nichols) who gave us a talk at a Church meeting regarding a project in Kolkatta, India which he thought we could support for our Towards One World project. He ended his talk by telling us how good the ladies in the slums were with sewing. They embroidered their sarees wonderfully.

After his talk I said to myself “that’s where I am going, when I retire from Sketchleys. I worked there as a tailoress.

This idea was later put to the church who decided they would raise the money to let me go. All on my own! The money came in quick and fast. The scouts were great, also Moulsham Lodge contributed to the fund.

It was arranged for me to go in January 2002 and I stayed until Easter. Whilst there I went into seventeen slums talking about my sewing and looking at theirs. One thing really stays with me; they had next to nothing but learnt to sew lovely patterns on their sarees with not very good needles. One lady had a large rusty one, I just had to give her some of mine!

It was an amazing three months. You just need to accept what the Lord puts in front of you.

Mission of all sorts really matters. Gwen Mumby
CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December
18th  5.00pm  Big Sing
24th  6.00pm  Pyjama Service for the Young and young at heart
         11.30pm  Midnight Communion
25th  10.00 Christmas Day service
         With Deacon Ramona

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New Years Day 1st January 2023
Online service only