February & March 2023

Our Mission Statement:

Our Mission is to proclaim the love of God, in Jesus to all people by:
Being a place of welcome, worship & nurture.
Belonging, learning & growing together.
Serving the community in whatever way we can.
Derek French

The Trinity church family was saddened to hear of the passing of Derek French, Pam’s husband. The service to celebrate his life was held at Trinity on Wednesday 18th January.

See page 6

Peter Batey - Hall Street

A service of thanksgiving for Peter was held on Tuesday 24th January at Chelmsford Crematorium. Peter was a long serving member and staunch supporter of Hall Street and also worked tirelessly for Christian Aid. He will be sadly missed.

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Flowers on 5th February will be in memory of Keith Gannicott from his family. On the 19th February they are given by Joan Layzell.

Thank you to all who have given donations over the past year to the flower fund enabling the flower team to continue to arrange the beautiful flowers for our Sunday services.
The daily devotional app I often use (pray-as-you-go.org) reminds me that today, 17 January, is the day when the Church remembers the Feast of St Anthony of Egypt. My low church Methodist upbringing didn't make the saints feasts' of any consequence to me(!) so it was with a sense of adventure that I learned a little more about this disciple of Christ who in the 3rd century became one of the first of the 'desert fathers'.

Like many of us, Anthony (not to be confused with the St. Anthony of lost things!) experienced upheaval in his life. He was born in Egypt in 251AD to wealthy landowner parents; when he was about 18 years old, his parents died and left him with the care of his sister. Shortly thereafter, he decided to follow the words of Jesus, who had said: “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasures in heaven; and come, follow Me.”, [Mt 19:21]. Taking these words as his inspiration, he gave away his inherited wealth, put his sister in the care of nuns and from that time on, committed himself to a monastic life. Although he spent thirteen years completely cut off from civilisation, he is known as the ‘Father of Monasticism’ as he was the inspiration for the coming of hundreds of men and women into the depths of the desert, who were then loosely organized into small Christian communities.

Like the experience of Saint Anthony of Egypt, we can all experience challenges and unexpected change. Life is full of ups and downs. When we experience times of struggle there can be comfort in spending time alone with God, but we can also find strength in connecting with fellow disciples in our church community. I pray that, like Anthony, as we live anchored in the person of Jesus, we will know the peace which passes all understanding.

Anthony advised ‘Let Christ be as the breath you breathe; in Him put your trust.’
Dear Church family,

Note to self – I have, up until now, relied on kind people reminding me to write some news for both our Trinity family and the circuit family. When they thought I had the hang of it all, they didn’t like to put any extra stress on me and so I blissfully went about my days of study, home, and church life without realising I had missed the Christmas publications, until I saw them in print. I felt like I let you down, as though you didn’t think I was interested in keeping in touch. Perhaps this is or isn’t the case, I guess you will all have varying opinions. However, it was a lesson for me. The lesson is to take responsibility not just for the big decisions we feel we must make, but the small acts of kindness and communications that can bring about a smile or just a sense that someone cares enough to remember. I often hear people saying, “I didn’t know that event was happening, no-one told me, etc.” but perhaps the responsibility lies with us to show an interest and find out ourselves.

I do care - I care that you all had a wonderful Christmas, I am sorry that I missed some of the events due to having flu. You have all made me so welcome in Chelmsford that I really wanted to share celebrations with you and also be there for the personal conversations of pain and loss which are raw at Christmas time. So, here I am, writing to wish you every blessing for the new year. When you read this, spring will not be far away with its newness and buds of hope.

My thoughts for us all are that God is at work already – God is in the small things and the big. Let us be curious, excited, keen to learn, listening and watching for where God is calling us to be and let us all take time to speak of our love and care for one another.

God bless,
Heather xx
(Student Minister)
Some of you in the congregation will remember Audrey who attended Trinity a few years back. This resume is based on information from Trevor, Audrey’s younger son. Ed

Audrey Averre Beeson
(1927 -2022)

Recollections of Her Family

Audrey was born in Kent in 1927 and despite the upheavals of war excelled at school, particularly in maths. On leaving school, she joined the BBC as an administrator.

In 1949 she married Archibald Beeson and over the next eleven years they raised three children, Carole born 1952, Martin 1956 and Trevor in 1960. In 1962, Archibald gave up his mixed career of teaching and journalism and moved with his family to Nigeria to assist in establishing the University of Nigeria. Audrey threw herself into a number of activities setting up a local branch of the WI along with Cubs and Brownies for the ex-pat community.

In 1965, the family returned to the UK. Audrey had the task of being homemaker, wife and mother while handling the accounts for a local car dealer and exercising her considerable talent as a pianist for a local tap dance group.

Sadly, Archibald passed away in 1978. Audrey decided to overcome this tragedy and according to the family embarked on a programme of doing those things Archibald didn’t want to do. She became a courier and spent many years travelling the world, including Australia and New Zealand, the USA and Russia.

Audrey took on the role of family matriarch, bringing together family and friends alike. In 1999, she moved from Shepperton where she had lived for over 40 years to Chelmsford to be closer to her family. In 2021, she moved into Trevor’s extended house in Felstead.

Audrey remained active all her life, maintained an interest in current affairs and politics and was not shy in expressing her opinions. She will be greatly missed by friends and family alike.

January 2023
Derek and Pam French have long been associated with Trinity Methodist Church in Chelmsford, Pam through her role in her regular support for church activities and Derek as a valued member of Trinity’s Bowls Club. Derek passed away on December 29, 2022 after a lengthy illness. A service in celebration of his life, led by Rev Mark Pengelly, was held at Trinity on January 18, 2023 where many members of Derek’s family, friends and members of Trinity gathered to remember him with love, respect and gratitude for his life with them.

Derek, born in 1948, lived and went to school in Grays, Essex and subsequently took up a 5 year carpentry apprenticeship, becoming a master carpenter. He and Pam first met at the cinema when Derek insisted on taking Pam’s phone number before she departed home on the bus. Pam was in training to become a teacher and while studying in Canterbury, Derek would travel at weekends from Essex to see her; they claimed the Dartford Tunnel was constructed solely to facilitate their liaison.
Derek and Pam started their married life together in 1969, renting rooms in Tilbury where they had to share a kitchen with others in the house. Derek applied his woodworking skills to building houses in Basildon while Pam became a teacher in the town which they then moved to, living in a new two-bedroom flat. They subsequently bought land in Langdon Hills and self-built a four-bedroom house. However, by 1975, the desire for a more rural existence led them to buy two derelict houses near East Hanningfield which they renovated. This became their long-term home. Derek further applied his master-carpenter skills by focusing on renovation of old and historically important buildings and making furniture for the family home.

Both Derek and Pam had a desire to travel and see more of the world. Initially, they purchased a camper van and toured Europe for 6 months. This was the start of a series of travel adventures that took them to all four corners of the globe from the Far-East, before it was a popular tourist destination, the Indian sub-continent, Africa, South America and most of Europe.

Apart from travel, Derek had several other passions namely: badminton, photography and bowls. Sarah, a friend, spoke movingly at the service of Derek’s contribution to the badminton club, his fierce determination to win for his club, the enthusiasm he instilled in others to play to their utmost and perhaps, most of all, his loyalty. Lynn, another friend and colleague, spoke also of Derek’s long-term support for the Moulsham Lodge Camera Club where he was a valued, popular and generous member. Once more, his natural enthusiasm came to the fore in many ways; generously buying up all manner of materials from club fund-raising bring-and-buy sales then taking it all home to his garage as “useful stuff”; waiting to the last moment for the light to be right for final photo shot; the slide shows of places around the world he and Pam had visited on holiday. Rev Mark in his address spoke of Derek’s contribution to the Trinity Bowls Club where, Mark as club president found himself as a novice player teamed against Derek in the president versus captain’s match, an unexpected and somewhat one-sided encounter, he later recalled.
According to Pam, Derek was of the opinion not many people would attend his funeral service. He was wrong! The church was crowded with family and friends all of whom came to convey their sorrow at his passing, who mourned the loss of an inspiring and loyal colleague, a true friend who touched them all. Farewell Derek and thanks for being part of our lives. God Bless You.

January 2023
After being known and enjoyed by everyone as Singles Lunches for almost 50 years our group has a new name! Over those years, many faithful volunteers have provided cooked lunches once a month for those who, young or old and for whatever reason would otherwise be eating alone or maybe a couple who are no longer able to shop and cook food regularly as they once did and would enjoy being invited along to share friendship, a chat and a meal together. It has always been made very clear that everyone is welcome regardless of age or circumstances and we do always look out for and contact people who would perhaps like join us for lunch. There is no discrimination. I and in fact many I have spoken to in the group was puzzled by the proposal to change our name but obviously time moves on and ideas change. After a lot of thought and many discussions we have come up with the name Friendship Lunches, because that is what they are. We are not a Club, just a group of friends meeting together and for anyone who would like to come along then please let me know and I will ensure you have this year’s Rota giving dates, who is cooking and their contact details so you can let them know you will be coming along but also keep an eye on the Church Notices. There is also usually a short Communion Service, after lunch around 2.00 pm for those who wish to stay.

Lunches mostly take place on the third Sunday of the month at 12.30 (ish!) but dates sometimes need to change to fit in with the plans of people who so willingly cook. I am still short of cooks and would be absolutely delighted to hear from anyone who thinks they may be able to help out and would like to know more. There are still three months I have left to fill this year, May, June and September and I know there will always be a need for new volunteers in future years, so do please have a think. Thank you.

Jenne Essam
Forty-one years of Towards One World!

“It made a difference to that one!”

I have been researching the various Towards One World projects that Trinity has undertaken, over an unbelievable forty-one years. I didn’t become associated with it until the half-way point, around 2000, but I do have some records of the early days that our late friend, Chris Abbott, left us. It is unclear how, and at whose instigation, the projects began. I have a suspicion that it might have been the late Don Jeary who began the whole thing. If anyone has any memories of the projects in the 1980s and 1990s, do share them with me, please. Making a very rough estimate, I reckon around £60,000 has been raised over the forty-one years, a splendid effort from our many supporters over the years.

The following, from Chris’s notes and my own, are the projects to which Trinity has committed:

1981-1985 “Friends of Vellore” - Kilmuttukar Village in S India - development of several Rural Health projects

1985  Ethiopian famine - we responded

1985-1986 Christa Illam - Methodist Mission, Sri Lanka - Well Project completed, with £1200 raised for clean water

1987-1988 Abidjan, Ivory Coast - books for theological college

1989-1991 Uzualakoli - motherless babies’ home, in Imo State, Nigeria - milk and finance provided

1992-1993 Mapuche Indians, Chile - Literacy and Welfare Project

1994-1996 Blantyre Epiphany Nursery School, Malawi - fees and food for ten poorest children

1997-2000 Wesley Methodist Church, Freetown, Sierra Leone - this was, for several years, Trinity’s twinned church - during and after the civil war, we funded food, stationery, bibles, hymn books, orders of service, commentaries, etc, as well as help for the destitute
2000-2002 *(The start of my association with Towards One World)*

Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service, India - we supported unskilled women, most of whom had no employment prospects - they were given tuition in practical skills, such as tailoring, to enable them to take on work - £2230 raised

We also did special fund raising to pay for the travel of our own Gwen Mumby, to enable her to spend three months there, assisting with the tailoring tuition!

2002-2003 "Zoom to Zamfara!" - liaising with the Leprosy Mission, we raised £3086 for the purchase of two motorbikes for the use of leprosy workers in Zamfara province, Nigeria

2003-2004 “Reaching lives in Rio - *Alcançando Vidas!*” - we raised around £6000 for a Christian team working in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to enable them to buy land on which to build a centre in which to care for vulnerable children in a disadvantaged area of the city the children would otherwise be at risk of exploitation as drug runners for gangs

2004-2006 “Laying the foundations in Bloekombos” - in excess of £10,000 raised to fund the foundations and initial building work for a multi purpose community building in Bloekombos township, Capetown, South Africa

2007-2009 Paediatric Outpatients’ Clinic, Freetown, Sierra Leone - we raised £5400 to assist with the development of a paediatric clinic, to be operated by the Field Centre arm of Mercy Ships

2010-2013 “Bringing hope to Haiti” - prompted by Rev Leslie Griffiths, we felt compelled to respond in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti - we raised £9900 to help to equip the rebuilt Leveque School in Port au Prince, Haiti
**2014-2015** “Be a pet! Buy a PET!” - in excess of £7000 raised, enabling PET Florida to make and distribute **around the world**, 44 Personal Energy Transportation machines (sturdy wooden vehicles, cranked by use of upper body strength) for the use of impoverished people with little or no lower body facility

**2016-2018** “Giving support to Agnes and David in Kibwezi” - working through Methodist-based charity Advantage Africa, we supported a co-ordinator and a physiotherapist, working with disabled and disadvantaged people in Kibwezi, **Kenya** - £7800 raised

**2019-2021** Working through All We Can, we supported moves to increase the yield of poor quality land and to train local people in better land husbandry in impoverished areas in **Ethiopia** - £5125 raised

**2021-2023?** *(Our current project - going very well!)*

We set out, in December 2021, working through Sheila Mukumba’s project “Seed of Grace”, to finance the purchase of twenty bicycles, for the use of Methodist ministers in **Zimbabwe**, over a period of two years. The cost was expected to be around £4000 and the ministers, many of them very badly paid, would be able to travel much more freely around the vast areas for which they are responsible.

At the time of writing, we are almost one year into the project, the bicycles are cheaper than we had envisaged and we have already bought thirty! Our target has been raised to forty bicycles....... and may go higher!

**News, hot off the press!**

Sheila and I are working together on the current project and I am very impressed with her enthusiasm for it! You will see that I have managed ten projects and I certainly feel that fresh impetus is now needed. I am delighted to tell you that we will complete the project together and then Sheila will take over as Towards One World co-ordinator for whatever the next project may be. I am sure you will give her the same support as you have given me!

*Jeff Green*
Again a huge thank you to everyone who has donated so many clothes, rucksacks, sleeping bags, toiletries etc which has enabled us to make regular trips to Whitechapel with a heavily loaded car. The support of Trinity is always so much appreciated and is needed more than ever in the difficult times we are all experiencing. Any items you wish to donate are always gratefully accepted and can either be left in the Link garage or we are happy to collect if you give us a ring or speak to us in Church. We must at this point again make mention of our dear friend Jean Plush who continued to knit warm bobble hats right up to her passing. We are missing her phone calls saying please bring me some wool or come and collect some hats and if there are any knitters who would like to have a go we would be delighted to hear from you or if anyone has any leftover balls of wool they would like to donate or discovers an unwanted bobble hat in a cupboard then we would love to hear from you too. Amazingly whilst on holiday in Germany just prior to Christmas we met and made friends with a gentleman, a real Christian as it turned out from our conversations, and to our amazement he gave us £45.00 to spend on goods for Whitechapel. We immediately went on line and were able to tell him we had been able to purchase 6 warm bobble hats and six pairs of gloves. Whitechapel were equally delighted when we delivered them just prior to Christmas and have since sent him a letter of thanks for his kindness.

*Keith, Jenne & John Essam*
Early to be looking towards Christmas already but we joined the long queue on line this week and have once again been able to secure tickets for our annual outing to Thursford to see this amazing show on Saturday 18th November. The cost this year will be £65.00 per person, a slight increase on this year as the ticket price even at party rate is now £51.00. for tickets in our usual raised seating area, plus coach fare and the driver’s tip. We will leave Trinity by 9.00 am and after heading off to pick up our usual group of friends who join us from Braintree Church, will make our way to Thursford arriving in good time for everyone to relax in the lovely warm marquee area where there are excellent toilet facilities and where a good selection of hot and cold food and drinks is available and also to look round the shops on site before taking our seats for the 2.00pm performance. The show ends at 5.00pm and we aim to leave as soon as everyone is back on the coach, normally arriving back in Chelmsford around 8.30pm. If you are interested in joining us we will only require a deposit of £20.00 per person at this stage and the balance will be payable at the end of August. Please contact us on 01245 461187 or mobile 07739260389 if you require further information or would like to reserve tickets.

Jenne and Keith and John Essam
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