AUGUST 2023

SEPEMBER 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.
The Thanksgiving service for David Jegede was held on the 6th July at Trinity. David was a long standing member of Trinity but has been unable to attend in recent years due to failing health.

His wife, Comfort, pre-deceased him.

It is with great sadness Trinity heard that Rev Mark’s Mother passed away peacefully on Tuesday 11th July. Our prayers are with his father, Arthur, sister Judith and all the family.

Mark and Sheridan, Trinity are also holding you both in our thoughts and prayers during this sad and difficult time.

See page 4 for further information.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

A new directory will be available only on request from the Church Office for £1, from Sunday 30th July until Wednesday 2nd August, when the office closes for its summer break.

The Church Office opens again on Monday 4th September, when again the directory will be available.
STORIES EVERYWHERE WE LOOK

The Bible is full of the most wonderful stories. I was introduced to many of them as a child in Sunday School: Daniel in the lion's den; Noah and the ark; the story of creation; Zacchaeus meeting Jesus; The Good Samaritan; Moses in the bull-rushes... the list is nearly endless.

Like most stories these are not simply historical records or accounts, in fact many of them are clearly not historical at all (eg the parables of Jesus), but nevertheless, they are all important because they speak to us in many powerful ways; they reveal the love of God.

Although we often lament that the society of which we are a part seems to have less and less connection with our Bible stories, one thing I'm ever conscious of is the fact that most people love a good story today, as much as they ever did. What do many people spend so much of their time doing for leisure? Listening to stories of differing kinds - on TV/internet, cinema, books, and of course in the theatre! This last means of conveying a story is one I've played a part in recently as Trinity's 'Music and Drama' society put on its production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!

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Ostensibly the story is about an amazing magical car, but the themes run much deeper and deal with big issues in our lives. A few examples: greed vs generosity, (Potts' lack of interest in money, compared with the avarice of the Baron); freedom vs domination, (the free life of Pott's children vs the 'Repression of Children Act' of the Baroness); and hope vs despair, (the inventors encouraging Grandpa to never give up).

I've been reminded of this whilst learning and practising for this production (which has been tremendous fun), but I've also remembered the importance of stories speaking into our lives and helping us find ways to navigate the joys and the sorrows we know in this life.

With that in mind I suggest we can find ever-new ways to make the powerful stories of the Bible some of the effective reminders of God's direction in our living.

Tell the story of God's love - by the way you live your life.

Blessings,

Mark

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Rev Mark posted this message on Face Book 14th July 2023........

With sadness, we're sharing the news that, after a short stay in hospital, our cherished Mum, Gwyneth died on Tuesday 11th July 2023. Mum, who lived her life to the full despite many challenges, is now resting in peace, safe in the arms of the Lord she loved and served all her life.

In the face of life’s difficulties, Mum/Gran/Great-Gran treasured these words: "God's never taken His eye off of you, not for a millisecond. He's always near." (Max Lucado). She found the words of the Psalmist to be true: He will not let your foot slip - He who watches over you will not slumber. (Psalm 121: 3) The Thanksgiving Service for Mum's life will take place at Shaldon Methodist Church, 12.30pm on Friday 4th August 2023, preceded by a committal at Torbay Crematorium, 10.30am. Everyone is welcome to both services.
Dear Church family,
If you are reading this I will now be starting as a Probationer Minister for The Fishermen’s Chapel and Highlands Methodist in the Southend and Leigh Circuit. I will also be starting my pioneering work of Chaplain to professional musicians.

I am so excited to be in my new role but it is tinged with sadness that I won’t be with you all on a regular basis any more. I have loved every moment of worshipping, being in meetings, drinking coffee, playing piano and walking with you in your church life. I have learned a great deal and had the privilege of being involved in services of rites of passage so close to your hearts.

I have thanked Rev Mark and Sheridan for their time, support, wisdom and kindness to me; myself and Dave hope that we will remain firm friends. I want to thank all of you too, some of you I may have missed in the last few weeks of being in church. You have really made my time at Trinity joyful. There is a lovely French word “apprivoise” – which means to form a bond with one another; to become known to each other through small moments. I love this, we may have only known each other for 3 years, but we have shared God given precious moments and for that I will always be grateful.

If any of you come to the seaside for the day please get in touch with me. I would love to see you. I will visit you too occasionally I am sure.

With love and blessings for your future journey together.

God bless,
Heather xx

Trinity sends prayers and good wishes to Heather, Ramona and Brain as each start a new chapter in their lives.
I've used this illustration in a piece of work that has been required for the Psycho-Spiritual Care course that the NHS are running in Oxford. The whole course has given me much to think about, but the issue above all else that has captivated me involves the suggestion that there are other ways to think about spirituality and how it affects our world than those we are used to.

That's made me ask myself, to what extent do I ever critically examine what I assume is reality for me? So many things I simply take for granted, at face value. Some theologians are suggesting that our relationship with nature needs a radical re-think. That the western industrialised economy can ultimately only lead to sickness. The illustration sums up some of the thinking.

I'm going to be thinking and praying about how we reveal the good news of Christ to a society that is sick, literally and metaphorically in a number of ways. Interested? Annoyed? Doubtful? Let me know!

Blessings,

Mark
Dear friends,

Firstly, thank you so much for your ongoing support of Chelmsford Foodbank. We are so grateful. Without your donations of food and money, volunteering and prayer we would not be able to do what we do and support those in Chelmsford who are really struggling to make ends meet at the moment.

Sadly, we continue to see an increase in the numbers of people needing emergency food support, and over the last 6 months from January, we have distributed more food than we have seen coming in each month. Clearly the cost of living crisis is impacting donors as well as those living in food poverty.

Harvest and Christmas collections are going to be even more important to us this year so we will really appreciate all you can do to promote those with your congregations. We will keep you updated.

The good news is that our 'hub' model for Foodbank centres, where we host outside agencies such as Citizens Advice, is providing valuable access for people to the support that they need, immediately. In the last few weeks I have heard of two people receiving backdated Personal Independence Payments as well as a lady living in temporary accommodation following a range of complex issues, being referred to Peabody and discovering that there had been some government funding made available very recently for people in just her circumstances - she would have had no idea if we had not had the opportunity to refer her then and there to a Peabody staff member.

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So there is hope! I know that as we come together as a community, both in Foodbank, through churches and in the city, and as we pray and invite the God of the impossible to get involved, we will see breakthroughs coming in terms of provision and people being set free from their situations. We've always said that we wish we didn't have to exist, and that is still the plan, but whilst we are needed, we will still be here for the people in our community who are struggling.

Many thanks for your ongoing support,  

Ruth

Ruth Leverett  
Project Manager

Happy holiday time to our hard working Office Staff.

Closing Date for October /November 2023 edition of Trinity News 20th September 2023 for publication on  

Sunday 1st October 2023

Articles to be sent to Anthea Tayler AND the Church Office or give a hard copy to the Church Office.

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