



Reminder

Articles and contributions for the Easter edition of TNV should be submitted by 8th March to TNV@trinitywoking.org
Let's make this a bumper edition!

Jean Normington

Jean is Senior Steward at Trinity, and one of the editors of TNV

Message from Rev Keith Beckingham

Sam is on holiday this week, so we are sharing Rev Keith Beckingham's Pastoral Message instead.

Dear Friends,

I have been privileged to attend a Day Conference (Zoom) arranged by the South East Methodist District with guest speaker the Revd. Roger Walton, ex-President of the Methodist Conference. Roger chose as his theme the word "Rupture". In a sense the pandemic has been a massive rupture in the life of the nation and our own personal lives. The spiritual rhythm of worship has been dislocated and arguably this has affected preachers as much as anyone. The plaintive cry of Psalm 13, "How long Lord" resonates deeply for us.

Of course, there are, as Roger pointed out, other ruptures. Brexit is one as is the environmental crisis and the increasing move towards separation and nationalism and sectarianism evidenced in several countries. Perhaps the rupture that affects us most deeply and most personally is the rupture of bereavement which radically reshapes our personal world. Roger shared his experience of this. Just when he and his wife were looking forward to having more time for each other after he was to sit down after 40 years of active ministry, they had to receive the news that she had been diagnosed with a life limiting illness that would deprive them of a shared retirement.

Walter Brueggemann, in his book 'The Message of the Psalms', identifies three key themes: orientation, disorientation and new orientation. My guess is that many of us are presently experiencing a sense of disorientation, and I confess that this is my experience also. Psalm 13 "How long Lord" is a recurring theme in our hearts and minds. Importantly after disorientation we do not have re-orientation (a return to old patterns) but new orientation (a discovery of new ways of being).

Roger referred to Barbara Glasson's book for Lent, 'Reflections on the Water', published in January 2021. In it she speaks of events which reframe our understanding of the past. I consider the pandemic to be such an event. The experience of lockdown, and how it has affected places of worship, requires us to ask searching questions about what our churches are for, as we approach the recovery phase of the pandemic. Specifically, what is the Methodist Church for and what is each local branch of the church for? If other organisations are having to restructure following the rupture of the pandemic, can we expect the Church to continue as if nothing has happened? These are hard questions which perhaps we would rather not face.

Roger referred to the thread of lament, which runs through the Psalms. Lament can help us to find our way through the darkness and to discover how to be faithful in a changed context. What is it that you have lost? Some have experienced a sense of loss of power, others a loss of choice. I wonder what you feel that you have lost in the last twelve months. What has the pandemic taken away from you? You may feel that the wilderness of lockdown has been a place of hidden fruitfulness and subtle blessings.

Here are the questions which Roger asked the ministers on the conference to consider: 'What has been rupture for you? What was lost? How have those around you and in your care experienced disruption during the pandemic? How has your prayer life been during these months? Write a Psalm of Lament for the Pandemic or some other form of rupture.'

For many people Methodism is an activist religion with many opportunities for service. Sadly, these opportunities have been greatly curtailed in the last 12 months. I wonder if the flip side of this struggle has been the opportunity to deepen our spirituality. It was following a spiritual struggle that Jacob was given a new name. In wrestling with the questions posed by the pandemic we have the potential to forge a new identity in relationship with God, our Christian fellowship, and our local community. I wonder how we will adjust to the renewed hurly burly of frantic activity when we re-emerge from the rupture of the pandemic.

I have heard people share personal stories of the effect of the rupture in family life due to the pandemic. How hard it has been for many people to be unable to spend time with their wider family. I thank God that the road out of the pandemic has now been set out and we look forward to meeting up when we are out of the lockdown wilderness. In the meantime, a great blessing of recent times has been the work done by Roger Walton and others on the Methodist Way of Life. This is not dependent on buildings or on physically meeting together but is something that can bind us together into a spiritual community wherever we are and whoever we are with.

May God be with you until we meet (in person) again!

Rev Keith Beckingham

Keith is Superintendent Minister of the Wey Valley Circuit

Message from the Leadership Team

“Recurring theme . . .”

For me it feels as though during this last fortnight a significant corner has been turned. Last weekend it was warm enough to get out into the garden. Crocuses and other bulbs planted last year (by Helen, not me!) are sprouting to show that the cycle of life continues. Whilst the pandemic continues to dictate daily life, the encouraging vaccination statistics suggest a gradual return to something that approximates to normal. Hope is in the air!

In my Church role hope is also in the air. One activity I am part of under the ROC umbrella is a survey into loneliness in Woking. When we realised we might need to distribute greater numbers of the survey there was concern about the growing cost of printing and postage, but these have been covered. More mundanely I reflect on the work to re-light, re-sound, build in streaming and re-floor the sanctuary. This is a big project, complicated by lockdown. But alongside the professionals, a team of volunteers has made steady progress and we can be hopeful that not only will we get the work done but that the result will be good. Then there was our leadership team and staff away day last weekend (on Zoom), resulting in positive ideas as to how the Church and Foundry can move forward. I came away with a real sense of hope, if somewhat tired eyes! Yes, hope is in the air.

All that was before the Sunday services. Now hope is not a theme I traditionally associate with the first Sunday in Lent, but both Sam in the morning and Louisa at Foundry Worship talked about hope – the promise that God has made not to abandon us, symbolised by the rainbow. This last fortnight hope has even figured in the preaching! I think God is trying to say something.

I am aware that not all of us will be in a place where hope is able to displace despair. Some of us feel trapped in the wilderness. The encouragement from yesterday’s services is that the rainbow is for us all. God sustains us, as he sustained Jesus in the wilderness. God does not abandon us. In Jesus Christ we have a living hope. Louisa suggested yesterday that this lent, rather than giving something up, we instead look to Jesus and share the hope we have in him. If you know someone stuck in the wilderness, why not radiate some hope to them? As Christians, perhaps hope should not just be in the air but a part of our very being!

Hugh Bowerman.

Hugh is the Foundry Missioner and is a member at Trinity. He is an accredited local preacher in the Wey Valley Circuit.



Hope of Spring in our front garden this week, *Dan*

News from the Church Family

I am so grateful to Rev Sam, the Pastoral Team, Junior Church, and all my friends at Trinity for their prayers, thoughts, phone calls, cards and flowers that have kept me sane and lifted my spirits since my problems started in November. It has been a long haul. Now I am longing to be able to catch a Eurostar and go on the Continent again. I shall take some party-poppers with me!

Barbara Phillips

A Word in Season 46 – ‘From another Mountain Top’

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)

In September 2018, after 47 years of trying, and whilst on a rail tour of Switzerland, I managed to put three wishes into my bucket list within four days. The first two: (i) to come face to face with Mont Blanc (4808m, 15274ft) from Chamonix, and (ii) the Matterhorn (4478m, 14695ft), from Gornergrat above Zermatt.

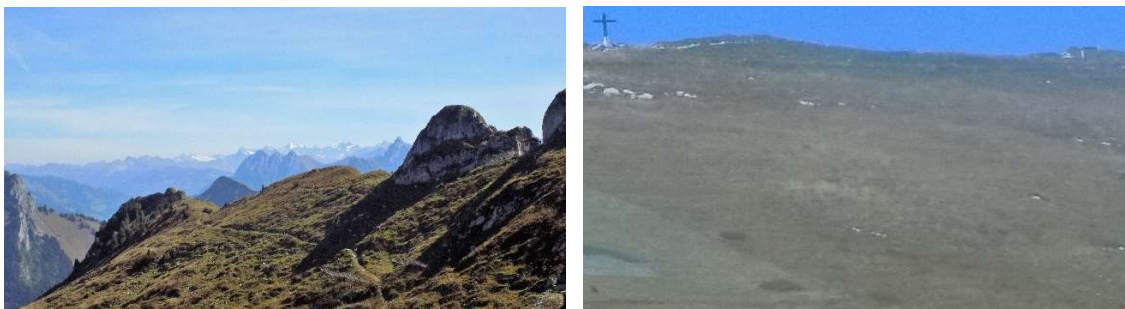
They were spectacular journeys with amazing views! The trains were good too!



The Matterhorn

However, it wasn't either of those mountains that came to my mind on Sunday when we started the Lent Liturgy with a picture of the stones Cross Jean had made. It was my third bucket list entry.

An interesting mountain railway climbs up from Montreux on Lake Geneva to Rochers de Neye (2042m, 6700ft) and I was able to ride up to see the view over Lake Geneva and the High Alps.



I had decided I would walk along the rocky path (in the left-hand picture) to get a good view of the distant snow-capped high Alps. I had all the right equipment plus water and high energy snacks and showed the Tour Leader where I would be going. When I reached the end of the ridge, and I turned to go down into the valley and follow the stream-side path back to the station, I looked over the valley and perched right on the edge was a plain, stark, cross (top left-hand corner of picture 2). I knew I had to cross the valley and climb up the slope to reach it. I could see a couple of animal tracks up from the valley bottom and had plenty of time to go up there and walk back along the opposite ridge. It didn't look that far, but mountain distances can be deceptive. It was easy walking down to the stream and along the track but to my dismay the animal tracks didn't go all the way up to the top. At times I was on my hands and knees scrabbling up over the rocks and tussocks. I had to stop two or three times for a breather and drinks but eventually with scratched hands I eventually made it to the top. The view was stunning!



As I sat at the foot of that cross it reminded me of the terrible journey Jesus was forced to make carrying the cross, even with the enforced help of Simon of Cyrene. My spent energy and scratched hands paled into insignificance compared to what it cost Jesus to carry the cross up Calvary and then, crucified, to bleed and die for me. I really felt God's presence in the soft breeze and cloudless sunshine.

Jean's stone Cross brought those feelings back to me and as she read the words of the Liturgy and I reflected on the stones a Gospel song ran through my thoughts:

*Days are filled with sorrow and care, hearts are lonely and drear; burdens are lifted at Calvary, Jesus is very near.
Cast your care on Jesus today, leave your worry and care; burdens are lifted at Calvary, Jesus is very near.
Troubled soul, the Saviour can see every heartache and tear; burdens are lifted at Calvary, Jesus is very near.
Burdens are lifted at Calvary, Calvary, Calvary; Jesus is very near. (J. M. Moore)*

and a chorus from my Youth for Christ and early preaching days:

*Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan! Oh, the grace that brought it down to man! Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary!
Mercy there was great, and grace was free; Pardon there was multiplied to me; there my burdened soul found liberty at Calvary!
(33 Youth Praise W R Newell)*

In our daily walks Dan and I have noticed the changes in nature as Spring edges nearer. There are real signs of new life. Hope is growing of a new beginning after Covid, but whatever may come we can know that Jesus is very near and we are his and he is ours. As we move through Lent and closer to the Upper Room, Gethsemane, Calvary, the Cross and the empty Tomb we can reflect with these words:

*Loved with everlasting love, led by grace that love to know; Spirit, breathing from above, you have taught me it is so. O this full and perfect peace! O this transport all divine! In a love which cannot cease I am his and he is mine.
Heaven above is softer blue, earth around is sweeter green; something lives in every hue, Christless eyes have never seen; birds with gladder notes overflow, flowers with deeper beauty shine, since I know, as now I know, I am his and he is mine.
His for ever, only his: who (or what) the Lord and me shall part? Ah, with what a rest of bliss Christ can fill the loving heart!
Heaven and earth may fade and flee, but, while God and I shall be, I am his and he is mine.
(George Wade Robinson MHB 443vv1-2)*

Lord, bless us with your peace and give us hope, faith, strength and courage, as we begin our Lenten journey this week. Amen
Graham

Graham Warr is a Member at Trinity and an accredited local preacher in the Wey Valley Circuit.

Knitted Crosses

We are going to include the crosses some of you kindly knitted last year in the Easter edition of TNV.

If you still have any that you haven't given us yet, please could you let us have them. Dan will be at the Church on Thursday mornings (from 10am to 12 noon) as she prints and posts the newsletters, or you could post them through the Church letterbox at any time.

Many thanks to all of you who knitted them.

Jean



Woking Street Angels seek a new Treasurer

The current Treasurer of Woking Street Angels has decided to resign because of other activities that will take them away from Woking. Someone new to take on the role is therefore being sought as soon as possible, ideally to start in April. Mark Potter (Trustee) has prepared a job description. If you're interested in the role and would like to see it, email Daniela and she will send you Mark's full email with JD attached.

Originally submitted via Churches Together in Woking



World Day of Prayer: A Women led, Global, Ecumenical Movement

Informed Prayer – Prayerful Action

Friday 5 March 2021 'Build on a strong Foundation'

Prepared by the women of Vanuatu

The pandemic means that we are sharing the WDP

in different ways this year. If you wish to follow the service online, please do so

through the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXo2hgvAMgDUw-aEFuM3n8g>

or go to YouTube and search for 'Parish of St Peter Woking'.

Premiered at 10.30 am on Friday 5 March or watch any time afterwards.

We hope you will join us.

Submitted via Churches Together in Woking

Enid Pullen, a member at Trinity, is on the Woking Committee for World Day of Prayer & can be contacted for an order of service.

IMM (Inter-generational Music Making) are one of the members of our ROC Woking loneliness action group.

I'm hoping Trinity will in time host IMM sessions. Until then the only way we can sample the IMM offering is through Zoom.

It would be great if a few volunteers could join a session and give feedback. This will help us to plan appropriate events.

Doubtless not something you'd normally do, but if you could it would help me a lot. Objective feedback is always good.

The first session is this Wednesday, 3rd March at 11am. Speaking with Mica from IMM, they are OK with people attending any or all of the sessions. All IMM request is that you provide some limited information about yourself in advance. If you are interested then either contact me, Dan or Mica (mica@imm-musicmaking.com) and we will get you sorted.

Hugh

Valerie's Quiz Corner!

ANSWER FROM LAST WEEK

1. In which country was the British athlete Mo Farah born? *Ethiopia*
2. With which colour do you associate the hotel chain "Premier Inn"? *Premier Inn*
3. Sauerkraut, a German dish is made by pickling which vegetable? *Cabbage*
4. In which Spanish city is the Museo del Prado? *Madrid*
5. Where is the Grand National Steeplechase held? *Aintree*
6. Followers of which religion observe a strict fast from dawn til dusk during the month of Ramadam? *Islam*
7. Which spiny shrub is also called furze or whin? *Gorse*
8. In which London street is the Cenotaph? *Whitehall*
9. Which county contains the majority of the Peak District National Park? *Derbyshire*
10. What is a baby squirrel called? *Kitten*
11. Which King made himself head of the Church of England in 1531? *Henry VIII*
12. The cochlea, mallus and vestibular nerve are found in which organ of the body? *Ear*
13. In which ocean does Mauritius lie? *Indian*
14. What was Mendelssohn's nationality? *German*
15. Who wrote "The Spy Who Came In from The Cold"? *John Le Carre*

HAVE A GO THIS WEEK...

1. The Blue John Cavern is in which National Park?
2. Who said, "Golf is a good walk ruined?"
3. Which is the U.K 's bestselling brand of tea?
4. Welsh singer and regular presenter on "Songs of Praise"?
5. Which country has a red flag with a central gold star?
6. What is a polygraph?
7. What does the letter C stand for in R.S.P.C.A.?
8. Who wrote *To kill a mocking bird*?
9. Anfield Stadium is home to which English football team?
10. Colloquial term for a car enthusiast?
11. Which animal is referred to as 'The ship of the Nile'?
12. How many months of the year have exactly 31 days?
13. Where does a troglodyte live?
14. Which is the longest river on earth?
15. How much of our air pollution comes from motor vehicles?

Newsletter edited by Daniela Warr Schori, Church Administrator and Foundry Centre Coordinator, Trinity Methodist Church Woking.