



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH  
WOKING

Weekly News  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Thank you to everyone who has answered the call for content for the newsletter! It is great to have so many of you contributing, and to have such a variety in content. I hope you find inspiration, entertainment and comfort below.

*Daniela*

Jackie has this week written our Easter Message, which will be sent to everyone in time for Easter Sunday. We therefore open the newsletter with two prayers, written by John Birch, and shared with us by Allison Jackson.

**Bless the helpers and carers,**  
who spend their days giving  
in so many ways; with family,  
local community, homeless,  
wherever people are in need.  
May their selfless acts inspire  
and encourage us all to share  
your love, given so generously  
that it might be freely spent  
and lives both helped and blessed.

**Gracious, loving Lord,**  
as you touch our lives  
so hearts are warmed  
and burdens eased,  
feet are steadied  
and faith renewed,  
hands made useful  
and lives restored,  
as you touch our lives,  
gracious, loving Lord.  
John Birch

**Message from the leadership team**

There's a cold wind a-blowin' as I write this and I'm not sure how long it's going to last. Weeks, I'm told. Weeks before the warmth returns. Weeks before life im-

proves. Weeks before our sanity's recover. What are we to do until then?

Does life really stop? But I see this as an opportunity. A Personal opportunity. An Empathetic opportunity. A Spiritual opportunity. A God-placed opportunity. Opportunity to change society forever and return to the Garden Of Eden. Now is the time perhaps to reflect and get ready for when the sun begins to shine once more.

As Christians, we are fortunate to have the fire of our Lord inside us to cope. He protects and shields us and is always there for us if only we ask. And it is important for us to continue to nurture this fire during these darker times. Now that we are apart, it is our own personal responsibility to find new ways to Worship and not wait to be fed. God has graced us with technology that allows all forms of worship to come to us when we look. To pray together, study together, love each other as if we were together. Our first on-line Foundry service is scheduled to happen this Sunday, following in the footsteps of other churches providing live Sunday worship. It will never replace the joy of worshipping at Trinity as One, but it does highlight how we have to be ready to adapt. After all, the church is its people and not the building.

So keep a look out for opportunities in the coming weeks. And, whatever else you do, don't lose Faith.

Much love to you all,  
David Emmerson

David and Daphne Lander returned safely from holiday in Grenada, just as the coronavirus hit our shores.

**David shares his reflections here:**

Daphne and I flew to Grenada for a 10 day holiday on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Despite some misgivings when we set out, there was no official advice against making the trip. However just 48 hours later the UK government issued its advice against foreign travel and then on Wednesday (18<sup>th</sup>) the Grenadan government closed its borders to UK travellers having identified their first case of the virus – sadly imported by a UK tourist. We rushed to secure an early flight home - for which we were immensely relieved, if poorer!

This was our first visit to Grenada and we were looking forward to exploring what is by all accounts a beautiful island – famous for its spices (especially nutmeg) and its waterfall. Sadly we didn't get to see any of that but we did manage a trip to St Georges, the capital. The Methodist church built in 1820 is the oldest church on the island and a tourist attraction in its own right. Sadly it was closed and locked – for the same reason that our churches are. In other circumstances we would have liked to attend a service, although with a service time of 7.00am that would have been a tall order!

Methodism has a strong tradition in the Caribbean. The first congregation outside the British Isles was formed in Antigua in 1759 by Nathaniel Gilbert. A house church which included slaves. These days one is more likely to come across a Wesleyan Holiness church in smaller settlements and the churches belonging to that tradition can also be found in many of our inner cities.

Some years ago we did manage to attend a service in the Methodist church at Holetown on Barbados. It was held at a helpful (and for the Caribbean somewhat unusual) mid-morning hour. The service lasted a couple of hours but the first 45 minutes or so were taken up with stories from the congregation. A rather more broad-ranging session than we enjoy at Trinity but I imagine that 20 years' ago it was perhaps the main way that neighbourly news was shared. I recall a warm welcome and lusty singing from the old Methodist Hymn Book! We hope we will have the opportunity for another trip to the Caribbean in due course – who knows?



Photo: David Lander

### Prayer Journal

The Circuit have helpfully circulated the link to the Thy Kingdom Come website, from which you can download prayer resources. Unfortunately the circulation of hard copies of the Prayer Journal, for example, isn't possible at the moment for

obvious reasons, so they are making members aware of the available resources: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/prayer-resources>

### The Shape of Things to Come

Glen Penfold has just finished writing, recording and publishing on YouTube a song called *The Shape of Things to Come*. Glen says he had to persevere and finish the song, against the back drop of ill health in his family, and the coronavirus. He writes, "the song actually blessed me in the end, so I hope that it may bless others too".

The link to YouTube is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFelhRuz95U>

For those without access to the internet here are the lyrics...

I can't imagine how it was for You  
To face alone what only You knew  
The horror that was facing You  
When all seemed dark and friends were few

You knew the shape of things to come  
You walked towards them did not run away  
Alone You faced the tempter's guile  
Promising things already Yours  
To make You doubt yourself it seems  
And test You hard to your extremes

Impossible to think how hard it was  
The focus of the spite they showed  
They hated You without a cause  
Betrayed by friends let down by laws

You knew the shape of things to come  
The God in You did not succumb  
So, to Your father You were true  
Bread from the stones you did eschew  
To save us all without the cross  
Could not be done You bore the cost

My Saviour King and friend gave all for me  
In trials of life that's where He'll always be  
To calm the waves in a stormy sea  
Strong hands reach down to rescue me

I know the shape of things to come  
So, in this darkness feeling numb

Still I will swim for heaven's shore  
And wind and waves hold power no more  
To cast my hope on Your race well won  
Because I know the shape of things to come

CCLI Song Registration Number:148693

### **Devotional Videos by Ministers in the Circuit**

The ministers in our circuit are, each week, uploading a video devotion to the circuit website. The most recent is by Rev Dave Faulkner. You can find the videos here:

<https://www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk/home/news/devotional-videos.html>

They will hopefully be helpful to you as you worship at home.

### **Solitary Self Isolation**

Something many of us are doing, and when it was first announced it sounded, and felt, rather formidable. One of the benefits I found though was the amount of 'spare time' I had. There were some negatives- I couldn't get to Trinity for Worship or Prayer Group, visit my grandchildren, make my usual regular volunteering visit to Wesley's Chapel. Even the Crematorium was locked and I couldn't make my weekly visit to change the flowers at Christine's memorial.

Yet there were unexpected benefits - thank God for modern technology - quickly this Newsletter was set up, we started the WhatsApp Virtual Friday Prayer Group. I may not have been able to get to Trinity for Worship but I have taken part in the YouTube feed from Wesley's Chapel, participating in Sunday Morning Worship, and the Holy Communion service last Sunday.

I have made four jigsaw puzzles, with another in the process - of places with happy memories. When completed they will be framed and hung in various parts of the house.

I have been able to fulfil my Lent task; I am not able to fast for medical reasons so I undertook to take a walk every day or another form of exercise. Today I took my camera on a walk round Goldsworth Park to make a Solitary Self-Isolating photo

montage. I was part way round when I realised that this is not a new idea, for part of the meaning of Lent is around the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness before starting his mission to bring God's love to the world.

He used the time to focus on God and the task ahead. He was entirely alone with God and spent his time fasting, meditating and praying. As I walked I found myself talking to God and as I took the pictures of bare trees, and the lake ( even the coots and swans were keeping at least two metres apart) there were signs of new life and hope - bushes budding, a variety of wildflowers blooming, and gardens with new growth.

Spring was on the way- the season of new life and hope. I found myself thinking of Romans 8:35-39. Jesus was not separated from God in the wilderness and today nothing - not even Covid-19 - can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

*Graham Warr*

### **Ann Dawson tells us what she has been up to this week...**

I have tried keeping fit with Joe and enjoyed his encouragement to keep going, finish this exercise, then you can rest. As for Sunday worship - I tried Andy Fishburne and his link to the Isle of Man service at home. Interesting sermon and Bible study as well as an idea to download a sheet with suggestions on so had space to write down and answer the question, "What do you think about the Bible passage" and to have space to add your own prayers and ideas for that Sunday. Guitar playing by Andy, from a room in Andy's house I presume, decorated with books and other guitars added to the gentle feel of the service.

I am learning WhatsApp speak and connecting with Friday prayer group for the Friday prayer. We spent a busy hour praying to God with each other and my phone and the links worked. So that felt encouraging.

Jeff and I have done a lot of weeding in the garden - more to do but a good start and I want to prune roses next. I know we

are late in the season for this task but I hope not too late.

We also plan a short walk down the canal tow path just to keep walking muscles working.

*Ann Dawson*

### **Fishing for Hope**

Fishing for Hope is a prayer activity created by ministers, lay workers and the Southern and Islands Learning Network. People are invited to prayerfully create a fish using knitting, crochet, paper cutting, lego – whatever is to hand. You can find the details here:

<https://learningnetsi.org.uk/fishing-for-hope>

Note from Dan - I am mindful that some members of the Church Family receive this mailing by post. I don't want them to miss out on content like this because they cannot access the internet, so if any of those members would like us to download and print the fishing for hope instructions for them or indeed help them access the Prayer Journal from Thy Kingdom Come which was signposted above, then can they please let John Nelson and I know via their pastoral visitor, or via Allison and Shirley.

### **Trinity Giving**

During the Methodist service from Wesley's Chapel in London on Sunday morning we were reminded to carry on giving to our local church as we are able.

This is just a note to say that if you would like to do this you can, by sending your donations via the banking BACS system.

Trinity's account for giving is the following:-

Bank	HSBC
Sort Code	40-02-06
Account No.	11308297

Please use your Surname and at least one initial as a reference with your donation. Mike can then claim Gift Aid as appropriate.

If you have any questions over this arrangement, please do not hesitate to contact Mike.

Thank you all for your continued support for Trinity.

*Mike Tozer - Gift Aid Secretary*  
*Sue Waddell- Treasurer*

### **Valerie Slyfield sets us a brain teaser:**

What is the only tube station in London that does not contain any of the letters found in the word mackerel?

She also writes,

"Plant nursery selling off stock at Guildford. I was pleased with mine <https://www.perfectchoiceplants.com/>

Those isolated in my Close have set up a list of our details and we are emailing lists of books and DVD's to borrow. and surplus food".

*Valerie Slyfield*

### **David Lander has also set us some quiz questions!**

Name 4 US states whose names begin and end in the same letter

Name 2 US states whose names contain 3 pairs of double letters

Name 1 US state whose name contains 2 pairs of double letters

Answers to Valerie, and David's questions will hopefully be available next week!!

### **And People Stayed Home**

Allison Jackson shares this poem, written by Kathleen O'Meara, in the wake of the Irish Famine. The poem was written in 1869.

"And people stayed home  
and read books and listened  
and rested and exercised  
and made art and played  
and learned new ways of being  
and stopped  
and listened deeper  
someone meditated  
someone prayed  
someone danced  
someone met their shadow  
and people began to think differently  
and people healed  
and in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways,  
dangerous, meaningless and heartless,  
even the earth began to heal  
and when the danger ended  
and people found each other  
grieved for the dead people  
and they made new choices  
and dreamed of new visions  
and created new ways of life

and healed the earth completely  
just as they were healed themselves."  
Kathleen O'Meara

**Thanks to Carol McKinney for our  
closing poem, written by the  
inimitable Spike Milligan!**

Carol writes,

In these days of contagion, remember  
there's another kind! This poem written  
by Spike Milligan about the contagious  
affect of a smile is a good reminder to  
keep positive.

"Smiling is infectious,  
you catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today,  
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner  
and someone saw my grin.  
When he smiled I realized  
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile,  
then I realized its worth.  
A single smile, just like mine  
could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,  
don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick,

and get the world infected! "

**Please keep the content coming, we  
will back next week!**



Image : [garden.lovetoknow.com](http://garden.lovetoknow.com)