



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 10th May 2020

I came home from Paul a month ago and am missing him very much. But, as someone commented to me last night, I am one of the few adult children who can see, and even better, hug, their parent(s) at the moment. I realise this is a great privilege and I am going to give Dad an extra big hug today, for all of you who cannot hug your own parents!

Daniela

Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends,

As we near the end of our second three-week period of lockdown, I'm sure we are all wondering what restrictions, if any, will be eased over the next few weeks. For a variety of good reasons some will be longing for the lifting of restrictions more quickly than others. Meanwhile let us all reflect on the effect this time is having upon us, and maybe what we have learnt from the experience. Over the last six weeks our daily lives have changed enormously, and with those changes has come a significant change of perspective for many. A nation for whom disposing of the used and shopping for the newest had become an all-consuming obsession, and for whom the takeaway coffee &/or meal had become an essential staple of life, we have now resumed more creative and wholesome pastimes such as gardening, especially 'growing your own'; sewing, knitting, crochet, woodwork, cooking meals from scratch! Judging by my observation of my neighbours and the noises coming from their houses and garages, adapting and up-cycling things we would once have taken to the dump without a moment's hesitation, is now also becoming either a necessity or another creative outlet.

The grievous loss of thousands of loved ones, of livelihoods and freedoms must never be underestimated, and we cannot expect to get over Covid 19's worst effects any time soon, but devastating as this virus is some people are now seeing the possibility of real and lasting good things which could come out of this world-shaking event. The lessons are there if we care to learn them and act accordingly. I have never subscribed to the belief that the loving God we worship deliberately causes disaster to fall upon humanity and the world in which we live. Nevertheless, I do strongly believe that God can and does work even through the worst of circumstances. The cross of Christ is a constant reminder to us that however dreadful things may seem from a human perspective, God is indeed working out his good purposes for us and for all creation. [Romans 8:28-39]

Every Blessing
Jackie

Message from the leadership team
Squirrels

This weekend we celebrate 75 years since VE day. This was well before I was born! I do remember my mum talking about her life in Worthing during the war. She gleefully recalls crossing some waste land as an enemy plane emptied its ammo on it (she to me: "I suppose it was really quite dangerous"). Or the bombing raid that blew up the gasworks a few streets away. She tells of watching aerial dogfights – live entertainment, with the added excitement that if a plane came down nearby you could jump on your bicycle and try and get as close as you could. The horrors of war, the sacrifices being made, the total disruption to life barely figured. This was her normal – and to her it was a good time.

My mum was, of course, protected by loving parents. They created for her the security she needed. The world could have fallen apart around her, but so long as her parents were there, she was OK. Her normal was not really defined by the war, but by her loving relationship with her parents. VE day – a significant marker for change in the UK – will have passed by

with little impact on her perception of normal.

And so to the family of squirrels that live in our garden. We've counted six of them – two adults and four kittens. They spend hours each day chasing each other, wrestling, doing all sorts to get to food. They are a pure joy to watch. Their parents keep a watchful eye for predators (the fox, neighbour's cat and red kite), whilst the kittens just play and enjoy themselves, learning new tricks every day. Being a squirrel kitten in our garden is a pretty good place to be at the moment.

My hope is that our 'normal' will be to be rooted in God – which is a pretty good place to be. The foxes and cats may prowl and the red kites circle, so we need to remain attentive and faithful to Him. Whilst we may not have the carefree energy of the squirrel kittens (it saps your energy just watching them!), our Christian 'normal' can nevertheless express a *joie de vivre* despite all the turmoil in the world around us. As we remember VE day, let us even more remember that we are under the watchful eye of the best parent ever. John 3: 16
Hugh Bowerman

Update on the June/July TNV

David Lander and Jean Normington have agreed that they will not produce a June/July edition of TNV (the copy deadline had been published last time as being 24th May). David and Jean think, that with the church not meeting, the Newsletter is providing an effective means of communication, and is probably utilising everyone's creative juices! David and Jean will announce their intentions for subsequent issues in due course.
David Lander & Jean Normington

Friday Prayer Group

We meet for prayer on a Friday morning from 10.00am - 11.00am for prayer via WhatsApp. If you want to join us, please let Jean know. She can add your mobile number to the group and with her help you can be ready for Friday morning. Anyone in the group can suggest a topic for prayer and we pray over the hour. Because the prayers remain in a thread on your phone, you can delete what you wish

and be ready for the next prayer time. During the week prayer can be requested and it is an easy way to link us all in prayer. Please send any prayer requests to Dan or to me on email please at anndawson789@googlemail.com The prayer group would be delighted to lift you up in prayer each week.

Ann Dawson

Tribute to Pam McCallum *written by Valerie Slyfield*

It was good to read about Pam last week. So sad we must wait for her thanksgiving service. I attended the inaugural meeting of Noela 35 years ago in Pam's home. I had met Peggy Boorman at a Lenten Ecumenical Bible study and she gave me the details of the group Pam was setting up. All the members were so friendly and my daughters and I (they were 7 and 10 at the time) had a lot of fun with the group. Members held tea parties in their gardens, we had pub lunches followed by a walk and even a swim in Walter Deakin's pool. I remember an outing to Petworth House one Sunday afternoon as well as the theatre trips. I left the group in 1990 as I was no longer alone but was invited back for their 21st birthday party. Bas met Pam when they were both members of Woking Society of Art and she was there when we joined Trinity. Latterly she and Ann set up the walking group around Goldworth Park Lake and we both enjoyed it. We all went on to "Andy's" coffee shop and sometimes after a bit of shopping Bas and I went back there for lunch.

Good Bye Pam,
Love Valerie.

Glen Penfold's April Song Writing Challenge

I mentioned, (after a recent Zoom service), that I was working on my April song writing challenge to write a song in the context of this awful virus. I have just uploaded that finished song and its video to YouTube. It is called "Looking For The Rainbow" so, if folk want to see/hear what I came up with, the link is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHVWq12oqYg>
Glen Penfold

A Word in Season 7 'The War is Over!'

Some of us will have personal memories of the Second World War and VE day, more of us will have memories of growing up in post-war Britain in the late 1940s and early 1950s. I remember sweets coming off rationing in the early 50s!

Bernhard and I accompanied my Dad to the VE Day 50th anniversary celebrations in London 25 years ago, Dad had been in the Auxiliary Fire Service in London through the 'Blitz' and had later been an Attendant in a Salvation Army Men's Hostel at the end of the war. Consequently, a teenage Bern very proudly pushed his Granddad (now in a wheelchair) in the parade with the Salvation Army contingent.

It is right and proper that we should remember VE Day and all that it meant; but for my Dad's work colleague and friend, Ronnie, the war was not over on May 8th as he was in Burma, a Prisoner of War still working on the infamous 'Burma Railway.'

Mum and Dad were unable to go into central London for VE Day but were amongst the crowds in London on 15th August for the VJ Day celebrations.

This week we are waiting to hear from the Government what their plans are for the easing of 'lockdown.' Many of us are still concerned because we are likely to be the last group to be involved due to our age or other risk factors. For us, the 'war' against Covid 19 is not over. We face continued self-isolation and the concerns and worries that it brings.

I was heartened to share in the service at Wesley's Chapel on Sunday. The appointed Psalm was 23 *'The Lord is my Shepherd.'* It reminded me of a weekend in April 1998. I was planned to preach at HMP Send on the Sunday evening. As usual, I had planned the service the week before, and discovered on the Friday that the Home Office had informed the prisoners that the prison was closing with almost immediate effect and they would all be dispersed to other prisons across the country at very short notice; none of them knew where they were going and some

had already gone.

By coincidence (or divine intervention?) my theme was on the Good Shepherd and the sermon based on Psalm 23:4. *'Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and staff - they comfort me.'*

We also sang, *To God be the glory, great things he has done; The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine, and Guide me O thou great Jehovah.*

At the end, several of the 20 or so prisoners told me how comforting the Service had been. It was a sobering thought that I would be going home to my family but they had no idea what would be about to happen to them.

But, as God's children they would not be going alone into the unknown, God would go with them, as God will go with us into the uncertainty of the next few months.

'In heavenly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear; and safe is such confiding, for nothing changes here: the storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid; but God is round about me and can I be dismayed?' (StF 736)

Graham Warr



VE Day, Friday 8th May

Sue Waddington has forwarded me an email from Surrey Police, with the excellent suggestion I include the details here. The email gives several ways in which we could celebrate VE day together, safely, on Friday, 8th May.

11am: from our homes, join the 2-minute silence to remember those who lost their lives.

11.15am: Join the British Legion Livestream event:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/stories/ve-day-75-livestream>

9pm: Singalong to "We'll meet again" on BBC1:
<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/stories/ve-day-singalong>
Sue Waddington



Christian Aid Week 2020 is moving online! Christian Aid will be live-streaming worship each day during the Week (10 – 16 May) and hosting a fun daily quiz to join and raise funds. Please join in to show love for our neighbours near and far, as a global family.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/virtual-fundraisers>

Fundraising is more important than ever this year, as the coronavirus means many of the usual fundraising initiatives cannot take place.

e-Envelope

Help to raise vital funds by sending your friends and family a personalised message in an e-Envelope. It's easy to use – just go to <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/> create your message and send it by email or share the link on social media. The money raised will help people to overcome poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest.

How to give to Christian Aid online:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

Telephone: call 020 7523 2269 to donate using your bank card.

BACS transfer: call 020 7523 2226 to pay directly into Christian Aid's bank account.

Please give generously this Christian Aid Week.

Henk Innemee

Here are the answers to last week's quiz set by Valerie Slyfield on the theme of "Flowers"

- Hallo Cynthia *Hyacinth*
- Straight laced flower? *Primrose*
- The correct change is always given. *Honesty*
- Savage? *Lily*
- Get rich after wedding? *Marigold*
- Broken mythical animal? *Snap Dragon*

- Bird with a bit off a cowboy boot? *Larks Spur*
- Goddess of the rainbow? *Iris*
- Floral emblem of Wales? *Daffodil*
- What you do when you think hard about something? *Tulip*
- Keep the fire going? *Red hot poker*
- Cherub holding a brass instrument? *Angel Trumpet*
- So, Elizabeth Anne? *Lizzianthus*
- Bloom with a sore toe? *Corn Flower*
- Boyfriend lies injured after shooting himself? *Love lies bleeding*
- Floral emblem of England? *Rose*
- Valuable stick? *Golden Rod*
- Looked in a puddle to see his reflection? *Narcissus*
- Feline polo? *Catmint*

Valerie, thank you, for this week's quiz, on the theme of Fruit!

American key_ _ _ _ pie?
After ski- ing ,baby's cradle?
Fruit found in Genesis?
Served at Wimbledon.
Berry named after a kind of poultry?
Roahl Dahl wrote about a giant one?
Makes a nice sandwich with Brie?
To get a very good job - - - .?
English person living in Australia and a rock?
Not available in W. W. 2...
Two hairy feet?
Framboise is the French for this fruit?
Cooked with apple to make a traditional fruit pie?
Gather in the hedgerows and mix with gin, leave for 3 months shaking occasionally.
Pressed to make oil?
Two of these?
You can't buy this fruit at the bakers?
Cut into rings and tinned?
Azure Berry?
Fruit from New Zealand?
Valerie Slyfield

A lovely closing poem by Lemn Sissay, submitted by Ruth Taylor:
"How do you do it?" said Night
"How do you wake and shine?"
"I keep it simple," said Light
"one day at a time."