



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 7th June 2020

Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends,

For the past few years, the Methodist Church has designated June as Bible month when a particular book is read and studied across the Methodist Church. Last year it was Jonah, this year it is Ruth. In this time of need because of the pandemic, the interrelationship of people from different backgrounds have been brought to the fore. Currently news about racial tensions in the US has highlighted the continuation of racial discrimination and disadvantage over many generations and in many nations. It seems to me that the choice of Ruth for study at this time was divinely inspired. The study resource can be downloaded free from LWPT by googling '30 days with Ruth', or if you prefer, just read one chapter each week and reflect upon whatever aspect of your reading you feel the Holy Spirit is prompting you to spend time on.

In the meantime, here's a bit of background. The story of Ruth is set in the time of Judges, when Israel was a loose confederation of tribes settling into its newly conquered homeland, but the book of Ruth was written much later. When those exiled in Babylon returned to their homeland and were trying to re-establish themselves after a generation of enforced absence, they found themselves once again having to establish themselves among neighbours whose faith and customs had developed differently to their own. Leaders such as Ezra and Nehemiah encouraged them to keep themselves separate from their less pure neighbours, lest their purity and identity as God's own people, maintained at such cost during the Exile, be diluted and compromised. Their efforts to do this during their resettlement of Jerusalem and its neighbourhood, were in fact the origin of the intense enmity between Jews and Samaritans which still existed centuries later in Jesus' time, and even the troubles between modern Israelis and Palestinians may stem partially from a continuation of this view. The book of Ruth however seeks to counter racial and religious exclusivism and illustrates that acceptance within the covenant of

God's love is not a matter of birth, race or ethnicity. It is more to do with loyalty to God and care for his people and for those in need. Thus Ruth, the non-Jewish Moabitess adopts the religion, culture and family loyalties of her migrant husband. Even when his death frees her from continued obligation, she insists on continuing to care for his widowed mother and accompanies back to the place of his birth despite considerable hardship and difficulty. To her mother-in-law's neighbours she is obviously foreign and different, and they treated her with some reserve, however, her devotion and goodness to her mother-in-law finally leads to her acceptance. There are echoes of this stoical devotion in the significant contribution made, not just in the US but also in our own society, by those whose ethnic origins may tempt us, consciously or subconsciously, to view them as somehow lesser citizens, leading to bias, discrimination and injustice. Many of us have done a great deal of self-examination and reflection during the weeks of pandemic lockdown. Here is something else for us to prayerfully consider in our own lives and in the life of our church.

Every Blessing

Jackie

Message from the leadership team

You may remember that some years ago, Bob Sneddon asked us all to hi-light our favourite verse or passage in a bible that passed around the membership. (Not allowed today!!) We called it the Viral Bible and we still have it at Trinity.

My favourite was the story in Acts when the Holy Spirit comes to the disciples who are immediately filled with confidence to talk openly about their faith and are enabled to heal people through their faith. The people around them saw for themselves that they had something different and they wanted it too. I just find it such a powerful scene and sort of wish I had been there or that I could share that sort of experience.

Fresh from the Word last week was challenging us about our witness with questions like: How would people know that we believe? What would they see in us? Is the power of God evident in our lives and does our presence make a difference in the city streets?

Our hope for Trinity and The Foundry is that those with whom we come into contact, either in the building or elsewhere in the Woking Community, will see something different and attractive in the way we act, or speak or generally deal with them, and so want to talk to us about it, opening the door for us to talk about our faith, trying to make new disciples.

Of course, the coming of the Holy Spirit to the original disciples followed a week when they had been constantly praying. That is something we can all do, even though we are 'locked-down', either individually or by joining the WhatsApp Prayer Group at Trinity.

Stay safe!
John Nelson

A Word in Season 11 – Trinity at Trinity

As Christians, we have recently come through the agony of the Passion and Crucifixion and shared in celebrating the glorious Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. We have also celebrated the birthday of the Church, and the amazing, empowering scenes of Pentecost. We are enduring the course of Covid 19 and the 'lockdown'. However, the situation is slowly improving.

Now as we approach our festival of Trinity it is an opportunity to take stock. To reflect on all that has happened over the years and more recently and ask, what does all this mean for the future of the community, buildings and resources at Trinity Methodist Church, Woking?

Covid 19 has had a significant effect on our life and work at Trinity as well as our everyday lives. Things will never be the same, but we can grasp the future in highly creative, Holy Spirit directed ways.

I first came to worship at Trinity one damp, misty November evening in 1969, when I started working at the 'Railway Children's Home', in Oriental Road. It was there I met Christine. Duties allowing, I attended worship until I started Teacher Training at Bishop Otter College in Chichester in 1970. In September 1974 I became a member at Trinity after Christine and I were married, and we made our 'home' at Woking Homes.

Whenever possible we attended worship and brought our own children into the church family through the Creche, Sunday School and Youth Club. Keith one of the young people from the home came to the Youth Club with Daniela and Bernhard; he eventually went to Membership Classes and was welcomed as a Member, before moving back to live with his Dad in North London.

Throughout our time here we have been cared for by the Trinity family. Particularly when Christine died in 2016, as a family we were immersed in so much love from the congregation, and still are. But I recognise the world has changed, the challenges have changed, but God hasn't! As I read these words, written in June 1970, from my

Recognition Letter as a Fully Accredited Local Preacher, I am reminded of that fact:

'Go into your task knowing that Christ has called you, and that God's Word is a relevant today as ever.'

Lord show us what our mission means for us, as a congregation, and as individual Christians today.

Think of a world without any worship, think of a God without his only Son,

Think of a cross without resurrection, only a grave and not a victory one.

We thank you, Lord, for showing us our Saviour, and praise your holy name.

Thanks to our Lord for being here among us; thanks be to God for sharing all we do.

Thanks for our church and all the love we find there, thanks for our community, and all your promises true.

We thank you, Lord, for life in all its richness, and praise your holy name.

(92 in StF & 572 in H&P)

The essence of this Newsletter article is based on the service I led here at Trinity, on Trinity Sunday, 31st May 2015. We were at the starting process for the development of our ministry at Trinity. The Message was on Trinity at Trinity – Questions of Faith. The readings were: Isaiah 6:1-8, Isaiah's vision of God and Isaiah's response, and John 3:1-17, Nicodemus visits Jesus.

God's love for us – 'In this is love, not that we loved God, but he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.' (John 1 4:10) God became human, in the form of Jesus, his only Son, who came to show us the way to renewed life in God's Spirit.

John Wesley believed that God's Spirit of love washes over us and moves day after day to awaken us from godlessness. To lead us to the foot of the cross – and in all things bids us to join Jesus there. When, by the Spirit, we yield control of our lives to Jesus, the Spirit draws near to tell us we are, redeemed and forgiven children of God.

New Birth from above – 'To be born again from above means receiving life from the Spirit through the life-giving death of Jesus. (John 3:14 - 17) John Wesley believed not only does Christ forgive us for past sins when we accept him as our saviour; he also gives us a new life – a new life to live differently. Not only does Christ deal with the guilt of our sins, he also deals with the root problem that causes us to sin. In Wesley's scheme, new birth is the beginning of the

holy life, the beginning of sanctification. The witness of the Spirit comes, in every moment, however we feel it the Spirit assures us that we are God's children; just as when we breathe, we know we are alive.

Here am I – what do I do?

As redeemed and forgiven Children of God, this stirs us to respond in love and a desire to serve our Lord by sharing God's love with others, in thoughts, words and deeds. But we recognise our limitations and unworthiness. In his vision Isaiah found himself in this position when faced with the awesome majesty, power, and holiness of God. He recognised his sin and inadequacy. As he came to the feet of God, Isaiah received God's forgiveness, cleansing and sanctification through the coals of fire. When we come to the foot of the cross, we receive cleansing, forgiveness and sanctification and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Today as we reflect on God's love for us through the life, death, and victorious resurrection of Jesus, and the imperative of the empowering Holy Spirit we face the same challenge as Isaiah. God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit says,
'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'
(Isaiah 6:8)

In the power of the Spirit of love will we respond like Isaiah - Here I am. Send me, and pick up the message from Jesus,
'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation' (Mark 16:15)

Following Covid 19 many challenges face us here at Trinity, and in the Circuit, and throughout God's Creation. Trusting in the promise of Jesus,
And remember, I am with you always ...
(Matthew 28:20)

Will we take the step of faith needed to go into the future – placing our lives in God's powerful arms, redeemed by the Son, empowered by the Spirit can we respond as our Methodist forefathers did and give to Jesus our whole selves. Committed to grasp the opportunities of the future and work to bring God's love to his 'lost sheep' by reaching out from our building to embrace the needs of today, encouraging and supporting in every way by using our time, talents, resources – spiritual, practical and financial to step forward boldly.

Please join me, prayerfully and sincerely in these words of Bramwell Coles,
'Here at the cross in this sacred hour, here at the source of reviving power, helpless indeed I come with my need, Lord for your service fit me I plead.

*Strength for my weakness, Lord, impart; sight for my blindness give to me,
Faith for my doubtings, Lord, I would crave, that I may serve you worthily.'*

As we take our tentative steps out of the pandemic may God lead us boldly into the challenges of serving Christ today. God bless us all and empower us with vision of the Holy Spirit.

Graham Warr

Following the sad death of Maisie Morgan last week, it would seem fitting to celebrate her life by reproducing an article that appeared in the April/May 2012 edition of TNV written by Margot Craig.

"Congratulations are surely due to Maisie Morgan, who has now completed 26 years with the WRVS on the Abbey wing refreshment bar at St. Peter's. Following a comprehensive training course to 'be prepared' for a range of possible emergencies, Maisie joined the rota on the Abbey wing, and for many years worked an additional stint touring the wards with the 'useful items' trolley. This service she says was much appreciated by patients.

Perhaps retail experience gained in a large newsagent and commercial printing shop in her hometown of Calne helped her cope with this often fairly hectic style of volunteering. This shop was Maisie's first post on leaving school at 14. Maisie says she has enjoyed the contacts made over these years and has seen many changes, with updated equipment replacing the basic kettle and teapot routine of the 1980's. However, she admits the 4-hour stint with responsibility for cashing up large sums and keeping kitchen equipment spick and span can feel demanding now, so it will be with rather mixed feelings that she finally hangs up her overall".
Submitted by Jean Normington, with original words by Margot Craig.



Donations.

This is just a note to say that if you would like to donate to Trinity's funds at any time you can, by sending your donations via the banking BACS system. This can be a single payment or you can make it a Standing Order if you prefer. Trinity's account for giving is as follows:

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.

I can then claim Gift Aid as appropriate.

If you have any questions over this arrangement, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Thank you all for your continued support for Trinity.

Mike Tozer

Gift Aid Secretary

How Covid changed the world in 3 months.

I was flicking through the BBC news website this morning, and saw the headline above, accompanied by a picture of a frontline worker in full PPE.

It has settled into my mind and I am now posing the question to myself, in what ways has Covid changed my world?

My world has contracted and expanded. Contracted in the sense that I am working from home full time, and I miss my colleagues, and all of you. I can't get a coffee on the way to work or travel freely between Dad and Paul. And I can't spontaneously go the Crem to see Mum because it is only open weekends and bank holidays at the moment. I didn't know how much I missed that, until I went for the first time on Saturday, and realised that I couldn't go again for another week. It isn't that I would ordinarily go more frequently, it was the fact I didn't have the *freedom* to. But it isn't all bad. My world has expanded too. Paul and I faceted friends in Australia, which if I am honest, we would not have done without the impetus of Covid. My two best friends and I Zoom every other Sunday afternoon, which keeps us all in touch with each other more regularly than usual, and talking of that Zoom call, and zooming in general my godsons, the twins (age 8), zoom along in the background as their Mum chats. It's hilarious to watch them charging about and touching when they come and sling an arm round their Mum's neck before 'zooming' off again. I would not see that normal day to day interaction as much were it not for the zoom calls - usually when we see each other it is on a day out or for a special occasion.

And as well as teachers, Dad and I have become confidantes, 'mates', and daily, sometimes hourly (!) messaging buddies to the nieces. I am hoping to see them on Sunday, and I guess that will be the point at which I really realise how much Covid has changed my world. *I won't be able to hug them but there will be so much joy at seeing them in person.*

Some important things have been lost to us in the 3 months since Covid changed the world, but others have been gained; deeper human relationships, a cleaner planet, less consumerism, a renewed sense of community. I want those things to stay and grow.

Daniela

Quiz Answers for last week:

- What is the gestation of a pig?
3 months, 3 weeks, 3 days
- Where is the Darling river?
Australia
- Where does an otter live? *A Holt*
- Which is the only vitamin not found in an egg? *Vitamin C*
- Where do rubber trees originate from? *Brazil*
- What is a leveret? *A baby hare*
- Which is the largest of the Great Lakes? *Superior*
- What is the county town of Wiltshire? *Trowbridge*
- Since 1066 we've had only 1 Victoria on the throne. Name the 3 other monarchs after 1066 whose names have never been repeated? *John, Steven, Anne*
- Which drug comes from poppies?
Opium
- In which Cornish town will you find Rick Stein's seafood restaurant? *Padstow*

And now get your thinking caps on for Valerie's quiz this week...

1. What is the capitol of Barbados?
2. What are the Christian names of the artist L.S: Lowry ?
3. Where in the body is the patella?
4. What is a Flying Fox?
5. What is the official language of Brazil?
6. Who invented the miners safety lamp?
7. What is the former name of Rhodesia?
8. What are the Queen's second names?
9. Where is Tallahassy
10. - - - - - Kingdom Brunel who revolutionised British engineering?
11. Who was the female star in My Fair Lady in 1965?
12. In what year was Concord's last flight?
13. Who was Rudolf Nureyev's dancing partner?
14. Which is the largest and most populated island in the Mediterranean?
15. Where are the sculptress Barbara Hepworth's works exhibited?

Barbara Hepworth sculpture, entitled *Pelagos*. The image is from the Tate website and copyrighted to Bowness.

