



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 19th July 2020

Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends,

My garden has been visited by a lot of butterflies this week. I have enjoyed watching them, although I am conscious that there will be a cost later: the resultant hungry caterpillars will damage some of my carefully nurtured plants. Why is it they don't seem to eat the weeds!

In Christian circles butterflies are a long-established symbol for hope and resurrection because of the radical change (metamorphosis) that they undergo as part of their life cycle. When it can gorge itself no further, the fattened caterpillar encases itself in a chrysalis where its body completely melts down into a kind of primal soup. The beautiful butterfly that eventually emerges effectively has nothing of substance in common with the caterpillar that preceded it, but nevertheless they are both manifestations of the same living entity! There are a number of contemporary Christian thinkers who, even before the coronavirus disruption to 'normal' Church life, were variously applying the caterpillar-chrysalis-butterfly analogy to what is happening to the Church of our age. Some interpret the uncertainty and dissatisfaction, and the perceived need for radical change to both worship and institution as part of the chrysalis melt down. Others view the process of Church metamorphosis as more advanced and see our current struggles to determine the way forward and to meet the needs of contemporary society as the essential struggles of the butterfly to emerge from the dead encasement of the chrysalis, which has served its purpose of protecting the vulnerable new life developing within it. Either way it is not a comfortable, safe or easy stage to be in. But the process must be completed at its own pace, it cannot be hastened to its conclusion without damage to the precious and beautiful life that is emerging.

Is the caterpillar worried or fearful of what will

happen during the chrysalis process? Does it have any idea of what lies ahead? Would it even recognise itself in the butterfly that eventually emerges? Such speculation on our part is fanciful and irrelevant. Whatever the caterpillar may or may not know or feel, what is certain is that the chrysalis must be entered and the process must be endured to its completion if there are to be any future generations of butterflies. And so, it is with the Church: we are part of the process of God's recreation and salvation of the earth, and the process and the outcome are God's to determine, not ours.

Every Blessing

Jackie

Message from the leadership team

The readings in Fresh from The Word just now are about the Israelites journeying through the wilderness, complaining to Moses when they face difficulties or change, sometimes wishing they were back in Egypt where some things in their lives were assured, such as food and shelter, forgetting of course that they were also slaves!

I know that as we are planning to reopen the Church stage by stage, there are those longing to get back to what we used to do, but of course, it won't be like that. One of the biggest changes will be that we cannot sing the hymns! It is likely that we will have music from the organ or a YouTube clip, the words will be on the screens, but we cannot join in the singing. I like a good sing as much as anyone and so will miss that, but it is also an opportunity to pay more attention to the beautiful words.

We won't be sitting so close to one another and so chatting to your neighbour will be different. Perhaps that gives time to sit and quietly reflect on why we have come to church, perhaps reading a bible passage (bring your own bibles by the way) and really searching for the presence of God and spending time in quiet prayer.

Whilst some of the essential changes may be seen as negative, there are also very positive changes to be made. We know that some will not want to come to worship until we can sing, and of course there are those who are housebound so we are hoping to start streaming our services live through YouTube so that anyone with access to the internet can join us for worship, wherever they are in the world. I know some of our Chinese friends are joining worship in Hong Kong in this way, and also some members who are joining morning prayers at Wesley's Chapel every day! There has been a surge in the number of people who are joining worship services on the internet, far

more than ever visit a church, and so we must not miss this new opportunity.

So, it will be different, but let's seize the challenges as opportunities and do everything we can to spread the message of Jesus far and wide and as confidently as we can.

John Nelson

A Word in Season 17 – Life is a Journey, Long is the Road

Thomas said to Jesus: *'How can we know the way?'*

Jesus said to him: *'I am the way, and the truth, and the life!'*

How significant are those words at this moment? We have the measured advice from the experts but are bamboozled, bemused, and confused by the inconsistent Government responses to a way out of lockdown and into a post Covid 19 'normal'.

Do we really understand what we are expected to do when the way is so confused? None of us want to act irresponsibly but what exactly are we to do.

Whatever we may think, we do need to follow the rules of common sense and the legal requirements if we are to bring the pandemic to an end. We know that the journey and the road will be long.

As we plan to open the church for, socially distanced private prayer tomorrow and work towards extending that to public worship when we can, we pray that God will reveal the way forward to us. That people will come to seek the Lord in prayer and some who have no direct link with Trinity will find God's peace and comfort.

However, we must go on living and to be prepared to change our thoughts and actions to get us through the struggle. For many, 'lockdown' hasn't really changed; they are still isolated from friends and families, limited in their contacts, and feeling low and forgotten, as it were, particularly if they are 'shielding'.

Jesus's words are so relevant today for it is in relying on our Lord to direct our thoughts and actions that we find the way to go. Joseph Medicott Scriven points the way in his hymn,

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations is there trouble

anywhere? We should never be discouraged: take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Saviour, still our refuge – take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer; in his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there. (StF 531, H&P 559)

The woman who met Jesus at the well outside Sychar, and drew water for him to drink, had many 'trials and temptations and trouble everywhere, and felt despised and forsaken' but Jesus met her with compassion, care, and love. He met her as an individual, one to one, and offered her the gift of the water of life. Today, Jesus is here for each one of us, one to one. Our Lord offers us a deeply personal relationship, he knows us all, individually, and offers us God's love and the water of life which refreshes our spirits and gives us renewed hope, faith, and direction.

I have found particular strength and hope in this song by Albert Orsborn:

Life is a journey; long is the road, and when the noontide is high, souls that are weary faint beneath their load. Longing for the waters, and cry: The well is deep, and I require a draught of the water of life, but none can quench my soul's desire for a draught of the water of life; till one draws near who our cry will heed, helper for us in our time of need, and we, believing, find indeed that Christ is the Water of life.

Life is a seeking, life is a quest, eager and longing desire – for the true things, for the best, God our spirits aspire.

Life is a finding; vain wanderings cease when from the Saviour we claim all we have longed for, solace and peace, and we have life in his name.

(351 Salvation Army Song Book, 1987)

Yes, for us all Christ is the water of life. Trusting in Jesus we can find the way forward through the uncertainty of the moment. Our Saviour will be with us in this time of need and we, believing, will find indeed that Christ is the water of life.

We hope that you will take an opportunity to come and pray, socially distancing, silently, conversing with God, our Saviour and find comfort, strength, and purpose for the future.

May the God of hope fill us all with all joy and peace as we trust in him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)



'Water of Life springing from the rock'.
Aareschluct, Bern, Switzerland (my photo)

Graham Warr



Free stock photo Public Domain Images

Congratulations to all our young people

This year several young people who started their Christian lives at Trinity have finished their University degrees in lockdown with amazing results.

I bring you news of some of them and apologies to those I've not been able to contact.

- Adam Best gained a 2:1 and is going to be working to support the Christian Unions in Birmingham and Aston University as part of the UCCF relay team.
- Paul Best has completed his degree.
- Josh Cudby gained a 1st Class degree at Cambridge in Maths and is going on to do a Masters' degree.
- Elizabeth Kozlowska gained a 1st for her dissertation at York University and is looking to follow a career in writing.
- Anna Kozlowska is still planning to go to Nairobi in December with Mission Africa and meanwhile plans to study at All Nations Christian College.
- Sophie Kozlowska will be starting a degree at Nottingham University this Autumn.
- Dom Page has another year to go at

Loughborough University. He has had a year in industry this year working as a recruiter within capital markets as part of his Management Sciences degree.

- Jess Waddington got a 1st Class degree and has been offered a job with Surrey police.

Congratulations to them all.

Ruth Taylor

Congratulations to Kelly Wightman (nee Berry) and her husband Adam who had a baby boy on Saturday 5th July. Jack Henry weighed 8lbs 2.5 oz and mother and baby are both doing well. Many congratulations to Tarina too!!

Helen Bowerman



Free to share image from Google Images

Did you get the answers right to Valerie's Quiz last week?

Who wrote the book *The Phantom of the Opera*?

Gaston Leroux

Where are the Phi Phi Islands? *Thailand*

What is the protein found in bones & tendons that can be turned into gelatin? *Collagen*

Which is the second largest of the Great Lakes in North America? *Lake Huron*

What is the scale measuring the force of a hurricane? *Beaufort wind scale*

Where in the body is the Renal Artery? *Kidneys*

What is special about a marsupial? *They've pouches*

What is an Arroyo? *Dry creek or stream bed*

Where was the first wheel reported to have been created? *Mesopotamia (Potter's wheel)*

What is a bloater? *Salted, smoked herring*

What noble gas was discovered in 1861 and has the chemical symbol He? *Helium*

Where was the birthplace of Rembrandt? *Leiden, Netherlands*

What is the capitol of Myanmar? *Naypyidaw*

Who was Mr Teasy Weasy? *A hairdressing icon in the 50s*

What is a stroboscope? *Device that emits regular flashing light*

This week's questions are:

1. Who invented the Pie Chart?
2. In which body of water is Bermuda?
3. How many children did Queen Victoria have?

4. Breakfast cereal of rolled oats, fruit and nuts?
5. Informal term for a camera or photography enthusiast?
6. German composer 1685- 1750
7. Nimble goat like ruminant that lives in mountain ranges of Europe and W Asia, 7 letters?
8. Common name for the Hellebore Niger?
9. In the Bible O. T. the first of the 12 books of the minor prophets?
10. Another name for a dugong?
11. Where did the Ku Klux Klan originate?
12. From where did the fabric nylon derive its name?
13. What is a numbat?
14. Which civilisation used Papyrus to make paper?
15. Artist famous for painting and engraving horses?



Trinity is now open for private prayer and you are welcome to join us every Wednesday from 10.30am – 12 noon. Please check website and mailchimp (or ring) before travelling just in case there are any amendments. Thank you to everyone who has made the re-opening of the Church possible.

Daniela