



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 30 August 2020

Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends,

None of us can have failed to notice and be affected by the high winds of the last week. There is a great deal of observational and anecdotal evidence that animals and children can be powerfully affected by windy weather. As an ex-teacher I can bear witness to the fact that, on windy days, usually well-behaved children, especially the younger ones, could appear restless and unsettled, and even become argumentative in the classroom and the playground.

Despite the dangers and inconveniences (my plastic garden shed, complete with contents, recently blew over!) I have always had a love of windy weather. I find it invigorating, energising, and exciting. Who among us cannot get at least a bit excited at the sight of birds surfing the thermal updrafts in seemingly effortless flight, or by the challenge of the powerful tug of a kite on the string that keeps it earthbound!

Wind is a helpful, though not complete, metaphor for the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It emphasises the Spirit's communication of God's truth and call, and the empowering of us to fulfil the kingdom tasks to which we have been called. The Greek word *pneuma*, in the New Testament usually translated 'spirit', can also mean 'breath' or 'wind'. Recently, whilst walking the dogs, I stood in the park enjoying the sound of the rustling of the leaves, the sight of the branches bending back and forth in response to the wind's power and feeling energised by the gusts that assailed me.

From my earliest childhood my favourite sound has been the rustling of leaves in the breeze, signifying for me the whispering breath of God (in Hebrew 'ruach'), comforting me with the discernible sign of God's presence and

challenging me to consider what that means for me in the current moment. As we all embark on a new phase in our journey of faith let us each seek to be open to the wonder of the Holy Spirit's inspiration and empowerment, and to rise to the challenges before us.

Every Blessing

Jackie

Message from the Leadership Team

When it is my turn to write the Note from the Leadership Team, sometimes I know just what I want to say, but mostly I must confess, it is a struggle to get my mind sorted out! This week, it is quite straightforward, I simply want to say a big THANK YOU to those who have kept us going since Lock Down.

To Jackie and Graham who have found something to say to us every week. That is a real challenge and so Thank You both.

To Valerie Slyfield who has challenged us with a great variety of quiz questions, a few of which I was able to answer! Thank You Valerie.

To Dan who has put it all together in the weekly Newsletter and printed and posted it to those who cannot access E-mails and sent links in an E-mail to us all. Dan has also become our Covid 19 Guidance expert! If you have not read any of the guidance you will not know just how long and complicated the guidance documents are; and of course, they keep changing! So, Thank You Dan for keeping us on the straight and narrow.

And then those who have helped us work out and set up the Church in a Covid safe layout so that we can use it for private prayer on Wednesday mornings and worship on Sundays. I know it is not the same, but it is good to be together and please remember, most churches in the area and circuit, have no thoughts about opening for live worship for some time to come.

There was a sentence in Fresh from the Word the other day which struck a chord. "Jesus had been teaching in the synagogue, but now needed to step outside and do things differently." That is what the Leadership Team believe we must

concentrate on now, how to spread the news of Jesus further afield. And so, another Thank You to James who has led us towards streaming the services to the wide world over the internet as well as to our own members. That is a great step forward, and another thank you to everyone who has already responded so generously to our appeal for financial support for this project.

But mostly, I just want to thank God who has clearly been working with us, encouraging us to make things happen and to step into a new way of doing things. We are so blessed.

John Nelson

A Word in Season 23 – He Restores My Soul (II) 'A change in the weather'

In the morning there was thunder and lightning
(from Exodus 19:16)

Day Four: I woke early, as I often do. My bed was in the Saloon which was at the front of Tasselweed and the door led out to the front deck. When I peered out through the gap in the curtains the sun was just rising. I quickly and quietly dressed, grabbed my camera, and crept out through the door and over the next half an hour I watched the sunrise.



It was much cooler, but it was pleasant to sit with a cup of tea and celebrate the beauty of nature. I thanked God for the peaceful aura around me and the quiet time to reflect upon his love.



Over breakfast we discussed the plan for the day. Our first priority was to turn the boat round. To do that we had to go up the rest of the flight of locks and use the 'winding hole' (turning place). Then we wanted to go for a walk; Bern and I wanted to visit the old Pumping House, Jess to stretch her legs and the girls to ride their bikes.

Turning the boat was quite a challenge. The winding hole was the junction between the Oxford Canal and the unused arm to the old pumping station. There were several boats moored around the area leaving only the minium space for turning. Bernhard asked for quiet as he concentrated on the very diffult task in the limited space. It took at least a six point turn, easing forwards and backwards. It was a work of great skill and precision – fascinating to watch! He told me afterwards that he had carefully read the instructions in the guide of how to proceed and what to avoid. It was a lesson in paying attention to the instructions and reminded me of the importance of carefully studying the Bible to find the way for us to live and witness to God's love and following the instructions therein to practice what we have discovered.

By now it had become a muggy and warm morning and the weather forecast was for random thunderstorms anywhere in the area. As we set off on our walk we heard the distant rumble of thunder but it was a long way off. When we were at the point to leave the towpath and cross a couple of fields there were some spots of rain and another rumble of thunder with a lightening flash in the far distance. After a brief conversation Jess decided to walk back with the girls to the boat. Looking at the weather app on his phone and following the progress of the storm Bern and I believed the storm would pass us by, so we set off along a very overgrown footpath to the pumping station. As we reached the end of the path and were about to cross the open field toward our destination a flash of lightning lit the sky and very shortly afterwards a crash of thunder followed by increasingly heavy rain.

We were dressed in shorts and tee shirts and although I had an umbrella it would have been of little use. Hastily we beat a retreat back through the overgrown footpath and down the towpath.

By now the rain was pouring and we were getting soaked to the skin, fortunately the storm was not directly overhead and was passing to our left. It wasn't far to the boat but we were concerned about the others. Coming round a bend we found them sheltering under a bridge. We were all very wet but not cold and the rain was easing as the storm passed. The concerns over the storm and the thunder and lightening were discussed fully and with both Jess and Bern being physicists an impromptu lesson about the hazards of thunderstorms and what to do and not to do were explained fully. The storm has passed, the girls set off on their bikes, talking about 'Faraday Cages', and we adults followed more slowly ruminating on whether we should have set out in the first place.

It was an object lesson for me, as a Christian. How often do we think we know more about life than God and plunge into things, ignoring the indicators of possible difficulties and carrying on regardless. I thanked God that we got back safely, although very wet, and for the lesson that we need to use our faith wisely and not believe we are greater than God. When we make these mistakes and recognise our fault and approach God for forgiveness, it is freely given through the sacrifice of Jesus. We are restored and set back on the path to righteousness. However, in spite of our foolishness we are never alone because God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are always with us.

Once back on board we had hot drinks and showers and wisely decided to stay put until the promised break in the weather. After lunch we passed through the locks, filled up with water and then meandered back through the green pastures now refreshed by the rain, and the golden fields of corn, not very damaged by the storm, and the still waters of the canal.



When we arrived in Braunston, back on the Grand Union Canal, we found a quiet mooring spot for the night between two locks. All day I had been aware of God's presence, from sunrise to sunset, through our 'folly' and the restoration of the green pastures and still waters. When sheltering under the bridge from the rain, one of the 'great' songs from the Billy Graham, Harringay and Wembley Crusades of the 1950s/1960s came to me. Some words from Fanny Crosby:

A wonderful Saviour is Jesus, my Lord, a wonderful Saviour to me; he hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, where rivers of pleasure I see. He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, that shadows a dry thirsty land; he hideth my life in the depths of his love, and covers me there with his hand.

A wonderful Saviour is Jesus, my Lord, he taketh my burdens away, he holdeth me up and I shall not be moved, he giveth me strength as my day. With numberless blessings each moment he crowns, and, filled with his goodness divine, I sing in my rapture; O glory to God for such a redeemer as mine. (710, Salvation Army Song Book, 1987)

We woke the next morning knowing that it was going to be a heavy day as there were 11 double locks, and the tunnel, to get through. As in all families there were instances when it was a bit of a tetchy, fractious morning but we survived with the help of a picnic lunch, ice cream and some shopping at a small, canal side 'souvenir' shop. The afternoon was much better, and the girls were able to get back on their bikes for a long stretch of the towpath. We finished the day moored just south of Weedon by the 'Narrow

Boat' a canal side pub restaurant, where we had a socially distanced dinner overlooking the canal.



It was a lovely end to a busy, but at times difficult day; don't we all know days like that, what you might call a 'normal' family day. We finished the day in a happy and loving state. How much more is God, our heavenly father, loving us and wanting us to share all the shades of life with him.

Brian Doerksen sums up that relationship with our Lord:

*Faithful One, so unchanging, ageless one,
you're my rock of peace.
Lord of all I depend on you, I call out to you
again and again.
You are my rock in time of trouble.
You lift me up when I fall down.
All through the storm your love is my anchor,
my hope is in you alone. (StF 628)*

Tomorrow was intended to be a special day as we were to meet Dan and Paul for a lunchtime, family, celebration for my birthday. I'll tell you about it in my final instalment next week.

May God be with you and bless you this week.
Graham

Adam Best writes about his plans for the year.

In September, I am returning to Birmingham to work with a Christian charity that supports students in University Christian Unions called UCCF, on their 1-year "Relay" graduate programme, specifically working with two universities in Birmingham (University of Birmingham, and Aston). I will be receiving training through conferences with all 50 Relay workers nationally and meeting up with students regularly to talk about faith and for bible studies on top of assisting with the CU events

throughout the year. I was heavily involved with the CU during my time as a student, including being on the committee in my third year, and am very excited to be able to continue supporting the CU during this potentially exciting time of change, despite the year destined to look very different to previous years. I will be sending out monthly prayer letters so if you would like to pray for me or stay in touch, please subscribe via <https://www.uccf.org.uk/our-team/adam-best> or email me at adbest98@btinternet.com. It would be great to have as many people as possible from Trinity praying for me this year!
Adam



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Interfaith Cricket Tournament

Woking People of Faith are organising an Inter-Faith Cricket Tournament which is going to take place on Saturday 12th September at Puttenham Cricket ground.

If anyone is interested in taking part, then they need to contact Imam Hashmi from the Shah Jahan Mosque who is organizing it. They are looking for teams of mixed faiths to play against each other and I gather medals are to be awarded! If anyone is interested, they must contact Imam Hashmi by 1st September to register their interest. His email address is shashmi51@hotmail.co.uk .

I will have more details nearer the time.
Daphne Lander

Inter Faith Week Buddies

The scheme involves two people of different faiths or of a particular faith and of a non-religious belief:

- keeping in touch on a weekly basis during September and October;
- choosing or developing questions on which to share their thoughts and experiences; and
- during Inter Faith Week, sharing online or at a socially distanced event, in an agreed

way, some reflections on what they have gained from this.

This is an opportunity for sharing and learning, on a one-to-one basis across a limited period of time, about what is important to us, in the context of our wider community. The process may, of course, lead to longer term conversations and new forms of practical co-operation.

Working People of Faith have developed some resources to help you get started if you would like to

participate. You can get a copy of these from Daphne Lander or Daniela, by email.

Daphne Lander

Answers to last week's Quiz Questions 😊

Who wrote the novel "My Cousin Rachel"?

Daphne du Maurier

What is the capital of Colombia? *Bogota*

The Israeli city of Tel Aviv is at the eastern end of which sea? *Mediterranean*

German Theologian 1906-45?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Which type of art will you find in The Tate Gallery? *Tate Modern - Modern art!, Tate Britain - British Art 1500-Present Day, plus museums in Liverpool and St Ives house modern and contemporary art*

As well as being a classical guitarist what other instrument does Julian Bream play? *The Lute*

What does the acronym NASA stand for?

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

In which Spanish city is the unfinished cathedral Sagrada Familia? *Barcelona*

In which year did the National Health come into effect? *1948*

Who did the American dancer Fred Astaire partner in many films? *Ginger Rogers*

What is Tufa? (i) *Limestone*, or (ii) *Volcanic Rock*

Where did the British exile Napoleon? *Elba*

What are spats, full name spatterdasher?

Footwear Accessory

Who wrote "Little Women"?

Louise May Alcott

Which nuts are used in the manufacture of Marzipan?

Almonds

We finish this week with a quote from Ginger Rogers (see Quiz):

"I do everything the man does, only backwards and in high heels"!