



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING  
Weekly Newsletter  
Sunday 11 October 2020

Message from Rev Sam Funnell

Dear Friends,

I heard a couple of things yesterday that made me stop and think.

It's October and it's getting noticeably darker at the end of each day as the daylight contracts and the year moves onwards into autumn. It's also been quite damp....well, wet really! And so wet, dark and damp can feel a bit depressing. Especially if we look ahead to even darker, colder days to come – cheery soul, aren't I!

Anyway – a conversation occurred after church when, as is often our wont, we talked about the weather and how 'not very nice' it's been and the person (I hope they forgive me mentioning this!) said – 'But I like all the weathers. I found myself moaning about them and decided this wasn't good and that I should be more positive' - or words to that effect. And it made me think – that they were quite right – we so often find ourselves talking ourselves down into a hole of despondency and that can be quite paralysing and certainly not very attractive or helpful to those around us. (Just think perhaps how you felt when you read my second paragraph!)

In the evening at Foundry Worship, Hugh and the team were leading us through a time of reflecting on the gospel passage for the Sunday – Matthew 21:33-46 (why not look it up!). In the sharing time a comment was made (again, I hope I'm forgiven for including this by the person concerned!) about the landowner in the parable of Jesus (that we understand to be God) not being bitter, even though the tenants had not given him the fruits he was due and had badly treated his

servants. God gave them another go, even sending the Son in his place and risking even more.

Are we like that? Open-hearted, never bitter; willing to give people another chance and to look for the positive – in people, in the weather and in life in general?

Those two comments have stayed in mind, I hope they stay in yours – for we are meant to be positive people of hope, promise, love, forgiveness and 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> chances galore! Even in dark days – whether due to the changing seasons, the on-going challenges of Covid-19 restrictions, or the basic interaction with people that don't always do what we hope they might – let's ask God to grant us a moment of insight, joy and uplifting, so that we can seek to be more like Jesus (the Son) in the powerful embrace and encouragement of the Holy Spirit!  
*Sam.*

Leadership team message

Joyce and I had a lovely walk at Wisley Gardens on Wednesday afternoon in the sunshine. We always look at the vegetable garden to see what is happening there. I don't know why because I always come away very envious of what they are achieving!

This time, it was the tomatoes! There were many plants heavily laden with bunches of large, firm, blemish free tomatoes ready to pick. Why are they so much better than mine, I ask myself. I conclude that it is because of the careful and thorough preparation before planting and then regular tending thereafter. I do some of that, but clearly not enough.

Also on Wednesday, I had seen Jill, Elaine and Lee working bags of compost into the front gardens at Trinity. It is that sort of preparation and their diligent tending of the plants that makes the garden so lovely.

When I apply this to being a Christian, I have to admit that my preparation has not always been as diligent as it should have been and it is salutary to note how many times I am 'too busy' to properly do the daily regular tending of my faith. Whilst I use *Fresh from the Word*, I know I am not sufficiently regular with that.

The end result is inevitably the result of the preparation and ongoing work and I know that without the thorough preparation and careful tending, it will be difficult to be sufficiently confident of my faith to start conversations about it with others, possibly strangers. I must try to do more.

How about you?

We need people to be able and willing to do that as we welcome some of the groups back to our premises and as we develop new projects through ROC and The Foundry, which we hope will bring new people into the building. Our ambition is to give such a warm friendly welcome that people will notice we are a bit different (in a nice way) and start wondering why and hopefully questioning us about our faith.

Could you help us with that?

*John Nelson*

A Word in Season 29  
(Wholly – all together)  
Holy Communion

*'On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover Lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?'*

(Mark 14:12 NRSVA)

The answer Jesus gave to this question is well known, he gave them instructions to find the earmarked upper room.

That isn't quite what happened to me on Sunday! I was planning to attend Trinity for the Communion Service and then the rain came, for much of the weekend. Dan was away and I didn't fancy a 2mile walk to Trinity in the rain. So I decided to watch on the live stream.

Over my early morning cup of tea, I read Sam's note for those who couldn't attend Communion. I thought the idea of the 'Miracle Meal' was excellent and I was slightly disappointed I wouldn't be there to share it. After a time of reflection, I decided to use a

cross as my focus during Communion, but then, which one would I choose? In the end I decided to use these four, each one has a special significance.



On the right is a wooden cross inlaid with a brass cross. It was Christine's, presented to her when she graduated from the Lutheran University in Bern. When she was poorly, Christine had suggested I wear it when preaching. The first time I preached and wore it was shortly after she died and that was at Trinity. It was a comfort and strength as it symbolised my love for my Lord, and my love for Christine. It also reminded me of the love, care, and support of the Trinity community that day and in the time since. On Sunday I prayed, with thanks, for the whole Trinity Community worshipping together at that moment, in church, or on YouTube.

The cross on the left was given to me as a thank you from a friend who had needed some specialist support and I was able to help. It is a cross to carry in your pocket and hold in a hand and it goes with me everywhere. It is extremely smooth and comforting and reminds me that Jesus is always present and only an outstretched hand away, in both good and difficult times, like now, and that it is often in the little things we do for others that Jesus can work, mightily!

You will see the third cross, at the top of my homemade mobile phone stand.

It is so special to me. It is a Palm Cross, and before Isobel and Clara's C of E primary school closed at the beginning of 'lockdown' they were handed out to all the children.

I received the cross out of the blue in the post with a note which said,

*"Opa, I took this for you because with lockdown you won't be able to go to Church, Love Clara, xoxox."*

What a reminder of the love of family and friends from the act of a child! I found myself thinking of the many families and communities I have shared with/in during my adult & professional life - playgroups, nursery, infants, juniors, seniors, students, adult learners, and at Trinity – Toddler group, Junior and Messy Church, Friday Fun Club, Bible Investigators, House Group, Coffee and Chat, Chinese Congregation, Church Council, WhatsApp Prayer Group, and in local preaching. In the quiet I was able to spend a moment bringing them all to the Lord.

The fourth cross, in the centre, is the one I made at ArtServe last year. It points downward in channels to symbolise the love of Jesus and his blood flowing in a healing, redeeming stream given unconditionally for all:

*'He left his Father's throne above – so free – so infinite his grace, emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race. 'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for O my God, it found out me!'*  
(Charles Wesley, StF 345 v 3, H&P 216)

As with the Cross on Calvary, I gave this cross an epitaph, some personally challenging words by Mary E Maxwell,

*'Channels only, Blessed Master, but with all your wondrous power flowing through me, you can use me every day and every hour'.*

The cross was made as a response to the call of the Holy Spirit that as a Christian I am called to be a channel to let Christ's love flow from me to others, as we are all called to do in our

different ways.

I focused my prayer on the future work and mission for our community here at Trinity.

The time was passing, and I looked up from the armchair and opened my eyes to notice that I was surrounded by crosses - from the lounge curtains (Dan bought them because they were cheerful not because they had crosses on!), across to my Forty Year Preaching Certificate: representing and reminding me that Christ died for all!



As the service came to its conclusion I reflected upon the significance of our Community at Trinity and our role in sharing the redeeming love of our Saviour with all we meet; sometimes through words, sometimes through actions and always in prayer.

So thank you, Sam, and all those involved in making this a whole church community experience of our Lord's love and the power of the Holy Spirit to take us into the future together.

God bless us all.  
*Graham*

Picking up on the theme of Crosses...  
Christmas Crosses

If you are knitting these crosses, the advice is to use double knitting wool, size 8 needles and any colour wool you like.

*Jean Normington*

'Samaritan Woman' by Glen Penfold

My challenge for August was to write a song about a woman from scripture.

The story was a favourite of my friend Revd Dr Rob Frost. I heard Rob tell it a few times over the years and was always transfixed listening to him relate it with such energy and humour, so this song, (based on John 4), is in loving memory of him. Rob came to Trinity some years ago to run a weekend workshop for us.

He had a profound effect on me and others at Trinity. For my part, shortly after that weekend I joined Rob on his first Inner City Mission in Tottenham, London. That was eventually to lead to working with him on another Inner city mission in Falmouth, Cornwall, helping him at his Easter People week of celebration, his Agenda Tour and many other initiatives over about a twenty year period. He taught me so much about sharing my faith and also about how to encourage folk to share their faith by using whatever they had to offer by way of interests, abilities or just the simple desire to do that in any way they could. Rob really was, one in a million.

I am incredibly grateful to Revd Derek Winterburn, Vicar of St James's Church, Hampton Hill, who very kindly sent me some pictures of the area around Sychar/Shechem/Nablu, (the area in which the well is located) to use in my YouTube video.

Here's the link to the song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPV EZr Xhyo>

*Glen*

#### The Parable of the Goats and Sheep

I read this in the NIV Blog [Click Here for Blog Post](#).

It's about goats and sheep. I feel it describes how I feel about service and who I am. Let me know what you think, it takes a few minutes to read and perhaps longer to digest.

*Sue Waddington*

#### Week of Prayer for World Peace

##### Annual Gathering

This year the Annual Gathering will be held online. Starting at 3:30 pm on Sunday, 11 October, the Gathering will last about 90 minutes. This multifaith Gathering will include prayers from various faith traditions and music. It will include the presentation of the Wilson/Hinkes Peace Award.

All are welcome to join using Zoom. Details can be obtained from Daphne Lander or Daniela.

*Daphne Lander*

#### Valerie's Quiz Corner

Answers for last week:

- Yellow
- Woodwind musical instrument of renaissance period
- Greece
- 100 million viral particles
- Zimbabwe
- Elias Howe
- 14
- Rainbow trout
- Oxford
- Mexico City
- Silicon
- Manet
- Marine swampy areas
- Mercury
- Dickson of Dock Green.

This week's quiz:

- Ruby Murray is rhyming slang for what?
- Who wrote Wind in the Willows?
- What common metallic element has the symbol Fe?
- What type of creature is a piranha?
- On which river does the German city of Heidelberg stand?
- Who was Sir Walter Raleigh?
- Which explosive was invented by Nobel Prize benefactor Alfred Nobel?
- Where is the Irrawaddy River?
- What is a dingo?
- Which country has the longest coast line in the world, of approx. 151,000 miles?
- What is the most popular boys name in the world?
- What is a chamois?
- How many islands does the Phillipines consist of?
- What was the Christian name of Sir Winston Churchill's wife?
- Which TV presenter owns a 1000 acre farm in the Cotswolds – known as Diddly Squat?

#### Feedback please

How easy is this newsletter to read electronically? What's the optimum length for you to read it comfortably on your phone on your tablet? Please let me have your feedback. *Dan*