

TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS



Eastertide 2025

Issue 66

A message from Rev Sam Funnell

Dear Friends,

This Easter edition of TNV comes with the greetings and blessings, of our whole Church community, in the hope and joy we have in the resurrection of Jesus. I hope that whoever you are, whenever you read this, something of the love of God that is revealed through the Easter story, may touch your heart and mind – perhaps for the first time or maybe just afresh this year!

As Easter coincides with the season of Spring and new things are breaking out all around us – I wonder what you have found to be 'new' and 'joyful' this year? In 2025, where do you see God's hand in revealing something you've never really noticed before? Like the tiny violet plant that's just started poking its tiny head through by my patio doors. Or the minute robin that sings its heart out in my hedge and I have to hunt to spy and wonder at the amazing, joyful, mellifluous sound that comes out of such a small bird.

Or perhaps it's the bible reading (or prayer) that you may have read or heard many times before but this time, this year, this moment - it speaks to you in new ways, more joyful ways?

When we have open eyes, ears, minds and hearts – the 'new' of God's amazing love, life and joy, offered so freely to us through Jesus – are all around us and can be 'wondered at' every single day.

One of my 'wonders' this year, is to rejoice in the sheer joy of being with you at Trinity. I know I'm about to embark on another period of 'time away', for my sabbatical but it really is a great joy to be your minister and work alongside you, here in Woking. I look forward, with joy, to when I return to ministry in July and to being really well and full of energy and enthusiasm for all that God has in store for us!

With love, prayers and JOY!

Sam x



Family news

Farewell: Daniella leaves at the end of April. Appointed as Trinity's Administrator in September 2019 she has served us as not only that but much more besides. She has been the welcoming face of Trinity to the many groups and individuals who use our premises week by week (a role that has no doubt tested her diplomatic skills from time to time) and a huge support for all our own activities. So we bid 'farewell' with sadness but with our love and best wishes for the future.

In memoriam: In recent months the following members of the church family have passed away: Joan Busby, Dorothy Kirkman, Doreen Lee, Edna Evans and Bill McMullan. As we thank God for their lives please continue to remember their families in your prayers.



Welcome: In December we welcomed into membership Patrick and Lisa Stokes and Mabel Opoku. Most recently on Easter Sunday Ildi Johnson is being received into membership. This is a joy compounded by the news that after 16 months of treatment for cancer Ildi is now in complete remission.

Pastoral care: We want to say a very sincere 'thank you' to Joyce Nelson who has retired after giving many years' dedicated and devoted service to Trinity as Pastoral Secretary, and working with the Pastoral Team. Allison Jackson has taken over this very important role and we also welcome two new Pastoral Visitors: Lyn Lorberg and Ruth Taylor.



Query from the Archives



This bell was recently handed to me for our archives. Does anyone know its history? It is inscribed "Youth Fun Day Juniors" and it appears to have been a contest in the Circuit, being won by Woking, Knaphill and Sheerwater in various years between 1989 and 1995. It certainly has a loud ring!

Jean Normington



Plant Sale

Add charm to your home and garden
with a lovely plant! Enjoy refreshments, helpful assistance,
and browse a selection of other goods.
Cash and card accepted.



10 AM to 12 NOON
10th May 2025
Saturday

**Trinity Methodist Church,
Brewery Road, Woking**
GU21 4LH



Coffee Donation Charities for April, May and June

As you know, we gratefully accept donations each week for the refreshments served after the morning service. Each month a new Charity is chosen, often following suggestions by members of the congregation, and all the money collected is sent to the charity at the end of each month. The following charities have been selected for April, May and June.

APRIL



'Engage' is a local Christian charity which is passionate about taking the Christian message into schools in and around Woking. Their mission is to

share the message with children and teenagers throughout their school life, supporting and inspiring them through faith, hope and love. They work collaboratively with local churches and the community to help build and strengthen connections with our local schools.

'Engage' manages and coordinates all the activities delivered by a team of talented volunteers and church Youth Workers who take the Christian message into over 30 local Primary Schools, several Secondary Schools locally and Woking College. They deliver Primary School assemblies, run lunchtime and after-school clubs, run storytelling sessions and small group work focusing on well-being and mental health. They deliver RE lessons, organise Christian Unions, mentor students and support school staff in a pastoral capacity.

They also support The Bible Society's 'Open the Book' Bible stories programme. These services are provided at no cost

to the schools, students, and staff, and are positively and widely welcomed.

More information at: www.engagewoking.org

MAY

Christian Aid, a global movement of people, churches, and local organizations, works to end poverty and injustice worldwide through humanitarian relief, long-term development support, and advocacy, focusing on dignity, equality, justice, and love.



For over 75 years Christian Aid has worked with some of the most marginalised people in the world of all faiths and none. It seeks to eradicate extreme poverty by tackling its root causes, and working with people living in poverty, speaks truth to power to create lasting change.

It is a founder member of the Disasters Emergency Committee, and a major member of The Climate Coalition, The Fairtrade Foundation and Trade Justice Movement campaigns.

Christian Aid aims to expose poverty throughout the world, to help in practical ways to end it and to highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.

More information at www.christianaid.org.uk

JUNE

Open Doors UK & Ireland is a Christian ministry dedicated to supporting persecuted Christians worldwide. Established in



OpenDoors

1955 by Brother Andrew, who began by smuggling Bibles into Eastern Europe, it's grown to operate in over 70 countries.

Their initiatives include distributing Bibles and Christian literature, providing training for church leaders, offering emergency relief, and advocating for religious freedom. In the UK and Ireland, they mobilise churches to pray, give, and speak out on behalf of those who share their faith but not their freedom - as well as learn from their 380 million persecuted brothers and sisters and be inspired by them to courageously live for Jesus

More information at www.opendoorsuk.org

Helen Bowerman

'The Chosen'

This summer, Trinity Methodist Church Woking will be beginning to show 'The Chosen' as part of a WatchParty, where you are invited to journey with other 'curious' (and well-established) Christians on a better understanding of what the Ministry of Jesus is about. We will be showing fortnightly each episode of series 1, followed by a question (and hopefully answer) session on what has just been watched.

The Chosen is a crowd-funded, critically acclaimed dramatization of how Jesus' Ministry unfolded whilst He was on the Earth. Using the scriptures as the central pillar to the journey, it portrays life as it probably was then, and attempts to fill in relationship elements from everyone of the time, whilst not detracting from the

gospels themselves. Many people who have already seen it, especially younger adults, have seen their lives changed as they came to understand what being a Christian means and how relevant it is to modern life, something that just reading the bible, perhaps, struggles to do.

So come and join us, bring curious friends, sit back and enjoy. The first WatchParty begins on **Thursday 1st May** at 7.30pm and runs fortnightly after that. The second WatchParty begins **Thursday 8th May** at 7.30pm and runs fortnightly after that. Both are identical, and you are welcome to attend as many as you wish – there is no obligation to attend all.

I hope to see you there.

David Emmerson

'Hands'

I held my Mum's hand the night she died. I took the night shift so that my Dad and brother could get some sleep. Both Mum and I slept a sound and peaceful sleep for a few hours, holding hands, until in the morning daylight she passed away, holding my hand.

I have a lovely photo of my hand and my mum in law's hand, one day when I was caring for her in the last year of her life, and I took the photo to send to my Paul (her son). She had my shawl on, maroon and grey with stars on, and a light blue hospital blanket over her lap– left by the paramedics on one of her many hospital runs! Her hand is brown, and mine is pale, and her nails are stained with the



aftereffects of the medicine she took. They both stand out against the fabrics. It is one of my favourite photos. No faces, but hands. Talking without words.

One of the young people from halow is Muslim. She had her hands painted with henna for Eid this year. I remarked to her that one of the ladies from Shifa also had her hands painted. The halow key worker said that when I saw her next, to ask her to go in and show them. This she did. I left them in the room together, with the young people looking at her hands, talking about what the colour and pattern meant. Communicating across cultures with hands.



Think of all the different hands that make things happen at Trinity? Hands tapping keyboards, moving the mouse, entering numbers, fixing drains, digging soil, arranging flowers, tapping in nails and screws, PAT testing, crafting with children, playing musical instruments and holding a hymn book, locking and unlocking with a key, shaking another hand, holding hands to comfort, emptying the bins, putting the kettle on, washing up, serving tea, using the photocopier (no-one wants that job!)

Hands giving communion, saying a blessing, leading a prayer.

Think of all those praying hands, in this church and others, across different faiths, praying for a better world, a fairer and more just world, a peaceful world.



Hands are important.

Love, **Dan**

TRINITY 60TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

SATURDAY- 14TH JUNE
2025 @ 6.30PM



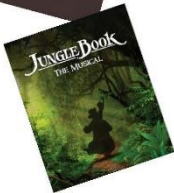
**BRING YOUR OWN
REFRESHMENTS**
(no alcoholic
drinks allowed on
the premises)

**FREE
ENTRY!**

Featuring *current and past
Trinity members from the
English and Chinese
congregations.*

For free tickets please
contact
sixtytrinity@yahoo.com

This is also a fundraising event for
the upkeep of this church building
and our work with the local
community – any donations would
be appreciated.



It only took fifty years!

I became a Member of the Methodist Church on Sunday 17th April 1966, in the small Chapel at Sway, on the edge of the New Forest. Shortly afterwards we moved to Lymington and my membership transferred to the Church there. We had a young Minister – Rev. Frank Earle. He asked me if I would lead the Youth Club and I accepted. He encouraged me to set up a partnership with the Youth Club at Brockenhurst, just over three miles away. In those days I travelled everywhere on my motorbike. One evening Frank asked me to join a meeting with the music group at Brockenhurst.

He wanted us to write, for a Circuit service, some new words for a well-known hymn tune, sadly I can't remember which one it was. He had written two verses as examples and asked us to write the third – Moira, Mike, Clive and I struggled. In the end my mum came to the rescue and helped us out. I had forgotten about this over the years until in October 2018 my Local Preacher colleague, Lyn, invited me to join her at the ArtServe conference.

(ArtServe had evolved out of the Methodist Music Society which ecumenically was looking at ways of Worship through the Creative Arts.

Over the weekend we had various options to choose from on the theme of 'The Cross around the World'! We could choose three sessions from - dance, drama, creative arts inspired by a Psalm, stone painting/prayers, music, singing, journalling, a prayer walk or song writing. For me dancing of any kind was not on! I know my limitations.

Art is another subject that had its limitations – as my school report at the age of twelve read, “*Graham has no aptitude for this subject.*” I didn’t know what to expect but was stirred, as I come from Saxon descent, to produce a Lindisfarne style illustration of the first few verses of Psalm 24. It was a very challenging experience but there was a lot of advice and support. However, if I had been an Anglo-Saxon monk I don’t think I would have made it to the Scriptorium, more likely to the kitchen preparing vegetables!

My second choice was a Prayer Walk which I really enjoyed, and I have occasionally led one around Goldsworth Park Lake. (Incidentally, I would be very happy to conduct another.)

My third choice was to write a Hymn and to achieve that unfinished task from my late teens. There were three themes to choose from: The World Around Us, The Beatitudes, or The Emmaus Road. From my preaching experience over the years I have built up a collection of Hymns/Songs I have great affection for and one of those popped into my head – Methodist Hymn Book 941 – ‘Lord Jesus in the days of old two walked with you in waning light.’ Sadly, for me, it didn’t make it to ‘Hymns and Psalms’ or Singing the Faith’ ... Suddenly a rhyming couplet, Spirit inspired I believe, popped into my head – ‘*Lost and confused, Distraught and bemused*’ and they evolved into this poem – which the leaders, who were musicians, set to music, and we sang it at the end of the day’s presentations. I wish I had recorded the tune.

Then a couple of weeks’ ago it was suggested that for the next ‘Coffee and Chat’ we chose a poem to read. I found the original verses and made some amendments. The task finally completed. It only took fifty years!

Graham Warr

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

To Emmaus they walked, together they talked,
Lost and confused, distraught and bemused,
How did it happen?
Why did it go so wrong!
It had started so well, how could they foretell
Jesus, denied, tried, crucified!

The road to the light unrevealed!

A Stranger appears and talks to their tears
Don't you understand? God has it all planned,
The Prophets and Scriptures foretold
Of God's love through the stories of old.
Messiah would come! In love to bring us home,
For God loves us so! But the Son, to the cross,
had to go!

The road to the light part revealed!

They asked him to stay, please don't go away!
Breaking bread clarified; Christ was alive!
Risen indeed! From sin all are freed!
No longer confused, distraught or bemused
They ran back to share the 'Good News!'
That's how it happened and why.

The road to the light now revealed!

*Graham Warr
ArtServe 2018, modified, Trinity Woking Easter
2025*

Fifty years in Guiding



On Sunday 12th January, during our morning service at Trinity Woking, Liz Penfold was presented with an award for 50 years' service as a volunteer in Girlguiding by Jenny Ryan the Division Commissioner. Liz gave us this potted history of her life in Girlguiding.

I was a Brownie and then a Guide in Barnes. I continued as a Guide when I moved to Walton on Thames as a teenager and became a Young Leader.

I moved to Woking in 1971 and started as assistant leader at 8th Woking Guides with Betty Eldridge. After a break to get married and have our family I returned and was Assistant Leader and Leader for over 30 years.

I took girls to the 75th Anniversary of Guiding at Crystal Palace in 1985 and a celebration camp for 100th Anniversary in 2010. I enjoyed camping and always joined Guides and Scouts at Scoutabout. One year the driver of the coach the District had hired insisted that the girls had nothing with them inside the coach. We were the last unit to be picked up This meant that there was no room for my equipment and tents, so I was left in the (then) Brewery Road car park, with a big pile of equipment, having waved all the girls and leaders off! What to do? Luckily, one of the girl's mums went home for their trailer, and very kindly drove me and the equipment to the South of England Showground, Ardingly, where the camp was being held!

I helped set up the Rainbows and I was District Commissioner from 2003 to 2007.

Since retiring from the unit, I am now the Division Training Advisor and County Mentor and a member of the Trefoil Guild.

Liz Penfold

Psalm 23 -The Mariners' version

*The Lord is my Pilot; I shall not drift.
He leadeth me across the dark waters and
steereth me in the deep channels. He
keepeth my Log and guideth me by the star
of holiness for His Name's sake.*

*Yea, though I sail amid the thunders and
tempests of life, I shall dread no danger, For
Thou art with me; Thy love and Thy care,
they shelter me.*

*Thou preparest a harbour before me
in the homeland of eternity; Thou anointest
the waves with oil, and my ship rideth
calmly.*

*Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me
all the days of my voyaging, and I will rest in
the port of my Lord forever.*

Chinese Year of the Snake

On 2nd February we were once again privileged to share with our Chinese congregation as they celebrated the Chinese new year.

This is the year of the snake and Indy Lee has provided

this reflection on its significance the Christians.



Embracing the Wisdom of the Snake: As we step into the Year of the Snake, it's worth taking a moment to reflect on the symbolism of this fascinating creature, both in Chinese culture and the Bible. While the snake is often seen as a sign of caution or even fear, its deeper meanings reveal themes of wisdom, resilience, and renewal—values that are particularly meaningful as we navigate life's challenges.

When we think of snakes in the Bible, the first image that often comes to mind is the serpent in the Garden of Eden, a symbol of temptation and downfall. However, the Bible also presents another perspective. In the Book of Numbers, Moses lifts up a bronze serpent in the wilderness, and those who look upon it are healed. This story reminds us that even in our struggles, there is always a path to redemption, healing, and renewal.

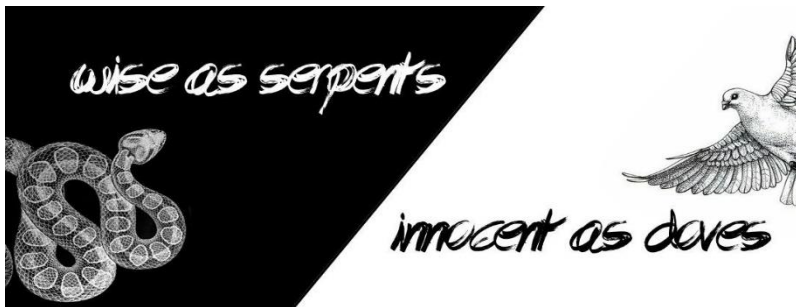
Snake in Chinese culture - creation and transformation: In Chinese folklore, the snake is closely tied to creation and transformation. One of the most well-known figures is Nüwa, the mother goddess who is depicted with the body of a snake and the head of a human. According to legend, Nüwa painstakingly moulded people from yellow clay, giving them life. But as she grew weary, she flung drops of mud into the air, each drop becoming a person. This story highlights a profound truth—whether shaped with care or formed by chance, every life is valuable. Nüwa’s snake-like form reminds us that, like a snake shedding its skin, we must let go of the past to embrace renewal and transformation.

Snake and the Great Race: The Chinese zodiac legend tells of the great race held by the Jade Emperor, where twelve animals competed to determine their place in the cycle of years. The snake, lacking great strength or speed, demonstrated intelligence and strategy. By coiling itself around the hoof of the horse, it remained hidden until the last moment, then uncoiled and startled the horse to claim sixth place. This story teaches us that success is not always about strength or speed—sometimes, wisdom, patience, and adaptability are the key to victory.

Legend of the White Snake - a love story:

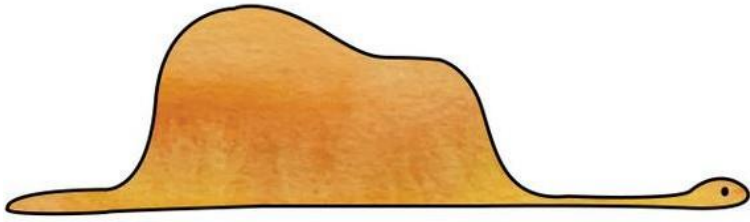
Another beloved story is the Legend of the White Snake, a tale of love, faith, and sacrifice. Bai Suzhen, a white snake spirit, fell in love with Xu Xian, a kind herbalist. Despite their deep love, their happiness was threatened when a monk exposed Bai Suzhen’s true form, leading to betrayal and heartbreak. However, Bai Suzhen never abandoned her love. She risked everything to save Xu Xian, showing that true love is about devotion, resilience, and sacrifice. Her story reminds us that even in the face of adversity, love endures.

Bible - snakes and doves: Jesus' words in Matthew 10:16 offer an insightful lesson: *"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."* This verse encourages us to navigate the world with both discernment and integrity. Being "shrewd as snakes" means being wise and perceptive, while being "innocent as doves" reminds us to uphold righteousness and sincerity. In a world full of complexities, we are called to balance wisdom with moral integrity.

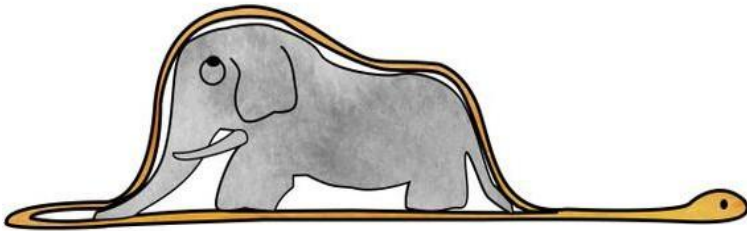


The Little Prince: In *The Little Prince*, there is a moment where the narrator recalls drawing a picture of a boa constrictor swallowing an elephant. However, all the adults who saw it mistook it for a hat (*see facing page*). This scene serves as a metaphor for how easily we misinterpret things when we only see the surface. Similarly, while snakes may seem fearsome at first glance, they hold profound wisdom and lessons for those willing to look deeper.

Snake - Reflection, Growth, and Personal Transformation: The snake may not be the most universally beloved animal, but it carries valuable lessons. As Rev Paul Glass put it in his message at the Joint Service on 2 February, Year of the Snake is to help us to focus on Reflection, Growth and Personal Transformation. Whether in mythology, scripture, or folklore, the snake reminds us



"My drawing was not a picture of a hat.
It was a picture of a boa constrictor digesting an elephant."



that change is a part of life, and with wisdom and resilience, we can turn challenges into new beginnings.

As we embrace the Year of the Snake, may it bring wisdom, strength, and renewal to us all. Wishing you a year filled with blessings and new possibilities!

Indy Lee



Trinity Redevelopment Investigation Project (TRIP) – April 2025 summary

Context of project:

- Primary objectives are to rectify property deficiencies and put property finances in a good state for at least a generation ahead
- The need to know the feasibility of redevelopment is urgent as > £500k property spend is anticipated in 5-10 year time frame, the first tranche potentially triggering at any time
- CC approved looking into options for a significant property project

Outline of current thinking:

- Increase parking provision from current 40 to 50
- Circa 16 residential units at ground, first and second floors across back of premises – stage, Curtis suite, toilets, lounge, small hall, music room and bungalow demolished.
- Large hall retained. Small hall relocated.
- New suite of rooms to side of sanctuary. Final overall area of rooms will be very similar to the existing.
- East entrance as store – direct access to Sanctuary & Main hall, rear access to rest
- All roofs except sanctuary would be new. All new build to latest thermal standards.
- Proposing a substantial solar roof and grey water system – green and will reduce utilities
- Heating systems a combination of gas and heat pump with proper zoning.

Funding:

This depends on use to which residential is put. I have been speaking with Charlotte Betts and Nathan Green from the

Methodist Property Team. Both are highly experienced in social housing projects. Their recommendation is to use as *Specialist Supported Housing* (SSH). This would work something as follows:

- Get letter from Surrey County Council supporting the need for this kind of development in this area. Note that generally speaking there is a serious shortage of SSH in the SE.
- Select a Registered Provider (e.g. a Housing Association) who will manage the residential premises.
- Identify a charity specialising in SSH. They will be responsible for finding and caring for tenants. They are paid from government funds to do this.
- As a SSH, the rents for the tenants are paid from a central pot. The rent effectively passes straight through to the church to pay a mortgage covering the development costs. When the mortgage is paid off, this is church money.
- To deliver the scheme requires that *enabling works* are carried out, e.g., rebuilding to the side of the church the spaces demolished at the back to make way for the scheme. The *enabling works* are costed as part of the scheme and give us our modernised premises.
- There are property developers who specialise in developing such schemes. We are already talking with one recommended to us to confirm costings etc. A crude estimate of the total cost of such a project is £4.5m.

There is still a lot to do to even establish viability. We expect to be in a position to know enough to make a decision as to whether to proceed with the project or not sometime in June. By next TNV we should be in a position to give more information.

Hugh Bowerman

The Reassuring Palm

As I was walking down the roads of **brokenness**,
And roaming on the pathways of **hopelessness**,
My eyes were blinded by the **shades of**
suffering.

And I wasn't sure how to end the **darkness of**
struggling.

Like an angry river, the **confusion** was dragging me
down,
And the arms of **uncertainty** were forcing me to drown.
Floods of tears were covering my worn and **pain-filled**
face,
Whilst my **worries and anxieties** were attacking at a
fast pace.

Powerful questions were rushing through my
helpless brain,
'**Why I am the one who has to suffer and live in**
pain?'

So, I knelt down, interlocked my fingers and started to
PRAY,
Thus, those dark and troublesome thoughts decided
not to stay.

Instead, in my body I felt a **breeze of comforting**
relief,
As I was **no longer a prisoner** of my struggles and
grief.
I sensed a **soothing feeling of contentment**, peace
and calm,
As I knew that **GOD** is with me, holding me in **HIS**
reassuring palm.

Ildi Johnson

Trinity Library



I had meant to write a much more considered piece about our library in the corner of the courtyard, but our Editor says time is up for articles for the next edition of TNV, so this is a 'shortie'.

Looking at the book in which to sign for borrowing, the library does not appear to be well used. Please take a look at the wide variety of books there and borrow

whatever appeals to you. If you have any suitable books lurking at home, please consider donating them to our library. Some of the childrens' books are a bit 'tired' and it would be lovely to replace them with fresh ones in good condition. So, if your children have grown out of some of their books, I would be delighted to receive them.

It would be great to have a really vibrant library, perhaps with readers' comments and recommendations in the TNV.

Elaine Slatter

Drama at Trinity

Many people will have fond memories of plays, pantomimes and musicals at Trinity over the last 60 years – most of which were under the banner of '**Trinity Players**'.

Hopefully you're already aware that this year marks the **60th anniversary** of Trinity Methodist Church at **Brewery Road** (1965-2025). It's quite a significant anniversary because Woking's Methodist community has now had its home at this location for the same amount of time as was spent at its previous home on **Commercial Road** (1905-1965).

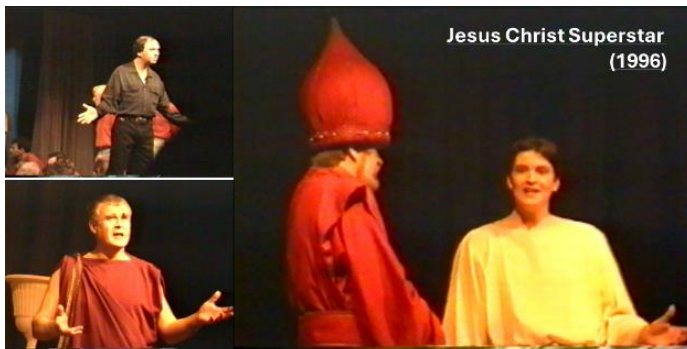
I'm not sure when the drama group '**Trinity Players**' was formed, but it's clear that drama / theatre / music have played a huge part in the life of the church over the last 60 years at least, particularly from the 1960s to the 1990s, and that's why I wanted to take the opportunity to celebrate this 60th anniversary with a show that includes looking back to performances that have taken place at Trinity across the decades. (**Sat 14th June @ 6:30pm** – see poster!) [*page 11 Ed.*]

I must say thanks to **David Lorberg** for lending me all the programmes he could find – it's been really interesting looking through them. The programmes date back to April 1959, and the first play after the opening of the Brewery Road site is from November 1966 – '**The Imperial Nightingale**', starring **Doreen Lee** and **Jill Pearce** (amongst others!), along with **Bill & Muriel Rodley** on lighting. The 1970s included what must have

been a show-stealing appearance by **Rod Hockley** as the Ugly Fairy in '**Jack & The Beanstalk**', and during my childhood in the 1980s, a number of familiar names started appearing on stage – **Jill Willis, Derek Lee, Katherine Nelson, Glen Penfold** ('*The Dong with the Luminous Nose*!'), **Miriam Windsor, Helen Ward, Emma Sergeant** – and **Trevor Ledger** and **Brian Pearce** working hard off stage.

Apparently there were productions of '**Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat**' and '**The Wizard of Oz**' in the 1980s, but there are no details about them – anyone know anything about these?

The 1990s look to have been a lot of fun – including **Derek Lee** starring as *Aladdin*, **Mike Tozer** as *Ratty* and **Kevin Bown** as *Chief Weasel* in '**Wind in the Willows**', and that was the decade when my mum and I started getting involved in shows such as '**Jesus Christ**



Glen Penfold (Judas), Barrie Tabraham (Pilate)
Graham & Bernhardt Warr (Caiaphas & Jesus)

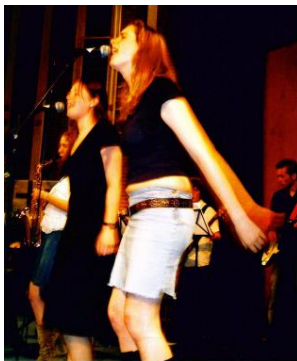
'Superstar' and '**Mowgli's Adventures in the Jungle**'. Memorable performances from **Graham Warr's** son **Bernhardt** as Jesus and **Glen Penfold** as Judas, and a couple of big gear shifts as **Rev Barrie Tabraham's** and **Miriam Chapman's** moving performances as *Pontius*

Pilate and *Mary Magdalene* in 1996 morphed into monkey *King Louie* and *Kaa the Snake* in 1997! And I will remember **Brian Coope** as elephant *Colonel Hathi* and a starring performance from **Ben Tozer** as *Mowgli*.

Not so many straight plays since the turn of the century, but still quite a few



Ben Tozer (Mowgli), Miriam Chapman (Kaa), Monkeys, including Mary Ledger
Various Vultures, Derek Lee (Baloo)



151 concert (2005)

Holly McMahon, Alison Bradley,
Nicola Pelham, Dave Sage,
Mark Owers

Jill Willis, Richard Northedge and others in *Abigail's Party* (2007)...

shows in the 00s, including **David Emerson** 'Preparing the Way of the Lord' along with **Richard Northedge, Rev Mike Long, Chris & Katherine Grogan** and others for **Glen's Jesus** in *Godspell* (2000), **Jackie Taylor** as *Red Riding Hood* (2002) with cast including the ever enthusiastic **Judith Bramall**, a concert featuring the youth band **151** on the year of Trinity's 40th anniversary (2005), **Gill Kozlowska,**

And in the 2010s, there was the '**Together We're Invincible**' extravaganza featuring all the children's & young people's groups, '**Trinity's Got Talent**', and a

new version of '**Jack & the Beanstalk**' – featuring **Anna & Elizabeth Kozlowska** as *Jack* and the *Princess*, **Edward Lee** as *Flunkit*, his dad **Derek** as *Dame Trot*, **David Lorberg** as *Blunderbore the Giant*, **Stuart Best** as *Slimeball* and my mum **Janice** as *Edena the Eco Fairy*!

And on top of all this, drama has appeared in services every now and then – particularly during **Nativity** services of course, but also I've been looking for more opportunities in recent times, and I hope those who have



attended services when there has been some drama have appreciated it. Please let me know if you'd ever like to be involved in some drama during services!

I hope you will come along to the show on **Saturday 14th June** and enjoy a look back at some of those past performances, as well as a number of never-seen-before items from the English and Chinese / Hong Kong congregations.

Graham Kirby-Smith

Community Award for Tarina Berry

On Friday the 14th of March, Tarina Berry's charity fund raising was recognised at the Community Champion's Reception Held at Surrey County Council headquarters, Woodhatch Place in Reigate.

35 years ago, Tarina held a coffee morning to raise money for good causes. This became an annual event, and with only a two-year break during COVID, she has raised many thousands of pounds for four charities - Cancer Research, Macmillan Cancer Support, Air Ambulance Service and My Sanctuary.

Tarina was nominated as a Community Champion by Saj Hussain - Chair of Surrey County Council. In his commendation, Saj said the following:

"Over the past several years Tarina Berry has made an extraordinary impact by raising thousands of pounds for the Kent, Surrey and Surrey Air Ambulance service. Her incredible efforts are supported by the local church, which graciously allows her to host coffee mornings, cake sales, tombolas and raffles. Tarina's exceptional organisational skills have made these events so popular that people from all over Woking travel miles to attend, eagerly anticipating the next gathering.

Tarina's dedication and passion for her cause are evident in every event she organises. Her ability to bring the community together for a common purpose has not only raised



significant funds but also fostered a powerful sense of community spirit. The success of these events is a testament to Tarina's hard work, creativity and unwavering commitment to making a difference. Her efforts have not gone unnoticed, and the positive impact she has made on the community and the Air Ambulance service is truly commendable. Tarina Berry is a shining example of how one person's dedication can inspire and mobilise an entire community."

Tarina was one of 50 people throughout Surrey who have supported their community in many different ways – all volunteers giving of their time and talents, and each nominated by their local County Councillor. All the Community Champions and their guests were treated to a lovely lunch in beautiful surroundings and were given a certificate acknowledging their achievements.

Well done Tarina! A fitting recognition for a huge commitment over many years.

Helen Bowerman

Looking back.....

In 1957 Timothy Windsor and Margaret Collicott were busy making plans for their wedding. Both were members of the Methodist Church so their marriage was to be at the Methodist Church in Woking.

At that time the Methodist Church was in Commercial Road, roughly where Boots shop is today. The church had a very Anglican look – up steps to big wooden doors surrounded by carved masonry leading to a tall spire. Inside the church, there were wooden pews on each side plus a balcony overhead. On the arch leading to the choir

stalls and altar it stated "Oh Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness", decorated enough to welcome eyes to the area. The Choir, always well gowned and well trained, on the left the organist could be seen beneath the organ pipes. The altar included two large brass vases for flowers. The oak pulpit on the right hand side was reached by steps and wrapped around the preacher. All ladies wore elegant hats with many feathers, inviting a blow from children – no T-Shirts or Trainers could be seen. At the back of the church was a hall and a flat for the caretaker.

The pavement outside the church edged the most busy road in Woking – Commercial Road took all the traffic going to and fro from Victoria Arch. Opposite the church was 'Sparrow Park' with the War Memorial, where a bench near the bushes provided a regular place to feed the pigeons. We had friends who lived in the row of houses whose gardens reached the canal. When the Council built Victoria Way they were relocated and Commercial Road disappeared.



Contrasting styles.....

The Minister at that time was Rev. Rudland Showell who had recently returned to England from China. He lived in the Manse on the south side of Hill View Road with his wife and daughters Audrey and Maelyn. At the side of the

manse was a grassy lane leading to two areas of grass and a Tennis Court, also a pleasant 'hut' with facilities for tea and sandwiches. If you looked through the side hedge people could be seen walking in the Park.

When I first came to Woking I was a student at the National Children's Home – Ashwood and my name was changed to 'Peggy'. It was there that I met Mrs Ablett. She was a wonderful needlewoman repairing linen and clothing. It was she who made my lovely wedding dress. At the time of my marriage I was working as a resident nursing guide at Arreton House, home for the blind on Shores Road.

In 1957 my father was very poorly but determined to walk his number two daughter up the aisle. My parents stayed for two nights with Mr & Mrs Fosbury – very kind members of the church. Father was keen to know we had arranged everything. Pullinger's were booked to make the cake and the refreshments in the church hall. Tony Palmer, a friend from the Youth Club in his twenties, wanted to start a photo business and would use our wedding as an example.

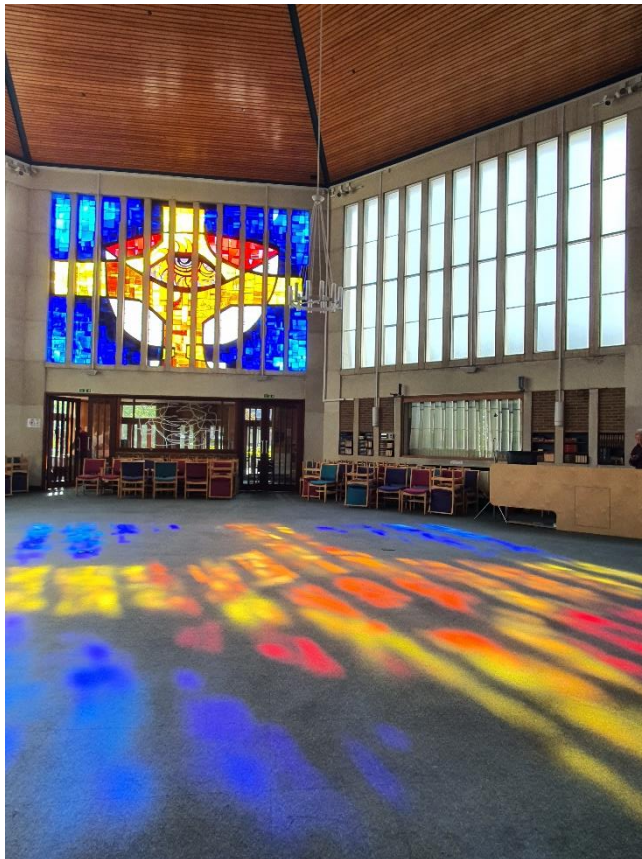
About 2 weeks before our wedding on 1st June 1957 the Rev. Showell died. An emergency minister was sent in, a Rev. Don Halley (not Bill Halley the jazz musician!) but he was charming and married us. We all posed on the steps outside the church and Tony 'took' photos being very careful to avoid the traffic with his camera tripod. David Boorman, an old friend, was bobbing about taking unposed pictures which he would develop and print himself.

A group of family and friends waved goodbye to us on the train to Bognor Regis for our honeymoon. On our return, my father died about three months later – never seeing

any grandchildren. The photographs 'taken' by Tony did not exist as he had put the plates in the camera wrongly! So the casual photos taken by David were all we have. Much embarrassment!

When our present church was planned and built 60 years ago - well!! how brave and forward looking the design. What an exciting, unusual and brave shape for Woking. It is our Methodist home on the other side of the canal.

Peggy Boorman



[The image on the facing page was taken by Ildi Johnson in glorious early morning sunshine on 13th April 2025]

A note to contributors

It is our practice to publish each edition of TNV on the Trinity website. It is an important source of information about church life at Trinity and something we want to share with others. At the same time we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable for their personal details to appear on the internet in this way. We will be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so.

From the Editor

Thanks to all who have helped with the preparation and distribution of this issue of TNV. We are planning that the next issue will be published in September. The deadline for copy will be announced in due course.

David Lander



**TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS is the magazine of
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING**

**“Trinity is a welcoming Church seeking to live
in the love of God and share the message of
Jesus Christ”**

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