



**TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING
GENERAL CHURCH MEETING ~ BOOK OF REPORTS
SUNDAY 3 APRIL 2022**

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Stewards/ Leadership team

The Leadership team is made up of the 5 stewards, our 5 paid members of staff and our minister.

Covid continued to be a challenge this year, but hopefully things are now getting back to a kind of normal. We are holding our services in Church and have reverted to a 10.30am start. We have resumed serving teas and coffee after the service. Most of our tenants have returned with a few new ones.

Our technical team continue to serve us well, our thanks to them, and our services are live streamed each Sunday.

The Trinity Tomorrow appeal held last year raised nearly £30K,

We held our 2nd Away-Day for the Leadership Team in December, and this time we were able to meet in person.

At the GCM it is the time to reflect on the last year and to celebrate some of the things we have done and achieved as a Church:

- ◆ Neighbourhood Party resumed
- ◆ Harvest Tea
- ◆ Easter & Christmas Sweets give-away
- ◆ Coffee & Chat – re-started, growing and new feeling
- ◆ Foundry Worship – less burdensome, more people involved
- ◆ Adopted 'God in Love Unites Us' report and registered building for same-sex marriage
- ◆ Offering Christian Hospitality
- ◆ Messy Fun Church – Developed and offered every week
- ◆ ROC conversation in Church – leading to ROC partnerships, Action groups (Youth, Mental Health/Wellbeing & Social Isolation) as well as links to Police and Woking Council
- ◆ ROC Woking projects – Phone Friends & Loneliness survey
- ◆ ROC Laptops4 schools is a ROC Woking project and bringing all the Woking Youth leaders together to start meeting regularly.
- ◆ Online Communion now offered via Livestream
- ◆ Practical Pastoral Support upon opening after Covid lockdown(s)
- ◆ Managing to keep in touch with people not in Church

- ◆ A strong Pastoral Team
- ◆ Active Facebook presence
- ◆ Quiz evening - for Tearfund
- ◆ Keeping Live Church and live-stream going, as well as improving the live-stream
- ◆ Coffee times with Mums of our young people
- ◆ New drapes in Church and upgrade to lighting, sound system and new flooring
- ◆ Renovated Curtis suite
- ◆ Parenting in Faith Course – helping parents in their faith journey with their children beyond Sundays
- ◆ New direction in organisation for Foundry Project
- ◆ Use of Church Suite IT system - enabling much within Church life
- ◆ Beginning to strengthen relationship with the Chinese Church
- ◆ Growth of Bible Investigators inc. involvement of Chinese young people
- ◆ Growth in income from but also partnerships with tenants - especially IMM
- ◆ Invitation from Woking Council to support Lakeview Community Centre
- ◆ IMM Gala Concert
- ◆ Welcoming Office
- ◆ WhatsApp prayer group
- ◆ Posters sharing special events and Christmas Services
- ◆ Dealing with the Local Arrangements well
- ◆ Advent prayers on zoom
- ◆ Sam led a 5-week evangelism course
- ◆ Achieved Eco Church Bronze level
- ◆ Lent prayers
- ◆ Safeguarding
- ◆ Circuit Mission Day Andy Roberts
- ◆ Welcomed new and transferred members
- ◆ Recruiting for a social media post
- ◆ Ordering Dona machine

A lot of these achievements would not have happened without the help of all our teams of volunteers, so a big thank you to them and to everyone who contributes to the life of our Church.

Jean Normington for Leadership Team





Pastoral Work at Trinity

The Pastoral Team have continued to support our Trinity members and families in a variety of ways as we have been in and come out of lockdown.

Membership is now 116, with around 35 adherents. We are waiting for 3 people to come into membership.

We welcome into membership Sue Wetherall, Marion Nash, Bharati and Naveen Rajput, Louisa Nye, David Pearson, Brenda Wilson and will also be welcoming Joan Callin, Jenny Jackson and Wendy Rockhill.

We have had some members move their membership due to moving away – Henk and Gerda Innemee have moved to Holland, and Barbara Jones to Shrewsbury.

We have had several deaths this year: Margaret Chisholm, Margaret Davies, Isobel Higgins, Maurice Lee, and Alfred Vice, and we remember them with love, and the huge part they played in the life of Trinity.

ChurchSuite this is the new church database, and all staff now have access to this.

We are very grateful for the team of Pastoral Visitors, and thank them for their practical and prayerful support. They have been able to keep in contact with their groups during the year. They have been in touch mainly by phone, with house visits starting up again. The church Weekly Newsletter is sent out to @12 households – those who are not in church or do not have internet. (thanks Dan!)

PVs revolving doors: We welcome Sheila Card, and Marion Nash to becoming a new pastoral visitor, and thank Edna Evans, Monica Annobil and Henk and Gerda for all their support over the years.

Training: We promoted some online courses run by the Methodist Layworker network and Godalming Baptist Church to our Pastoral Visitors.

We had a fish & chip supper in November for Pastoral Visitors to meet together, and we discussed the role of a Pastoral Visitor.

Shirley and Allison have attended sessions run by the Layworker Network on Addressing Bullying and Safeguarding.

At Christmas and Harvest we distributed plants to @ 30 people in our congregation, and we continue to support those who are housebound, in hospital or in need of care.

We have not been able to take Home Communion to many (apart from a few during summer months), but hopefully this will soon resume. Visiting has changed due to Covid.

We continue to support the All Souls Service, and were thankful to meet in Church this year. This service is appreciated by those who have lost loved ones, and it is a valuable opportunity to remember them.

Pastoral work has changed this year, for our Pastoral layworkers and also for the Pastoral Visitors. However, we are thankful to be back in Church – meeting for a coffee and chat in the Sanctuary afterwards, and renewing contacts. Most people are now back in Church, although a few have decided not to come back in for health or mobility reasons. Allison and Shirley continue to support the pastoral needs of the congregation as well as supporting the work of the Pastoral Visitors.

We support the Prayer Group, and share appropriate church family news with the congregation on Sundays. We are not using the Intercessions Book at the moment, but please do let Shirley or Allison know if you or anyone in your family is struggling, and let us know of any concerns that you would like to be included in the Sunday Intercession prayers (or for private prayer).

We pray for the continued support of the Pastoral Team, and we pray for you, your families and all those in need. We find that we are encouraged to share our faith, and as Jesus showed his love to all, we put Jesus at the centre of our lives.

We thank Joyce, Sam, the Pastoral Working Group and the Leadership Team for their support during the last year and also Dan who is able to turn her hand to anything we ask!!

Allison Jackson & Shirley Turner, April 2022



Prayer at Trinity

The prayer team have continued meeting weekly on WhatsApp, with a face to face prayer session at Trinity once a month; on the first Friday of the month.

Requests for prayer can be sent to Ann Dawson or Jean Normington, or via Dan in the church office.

If you would like to join the prayer team please speak to Ann or Jean.

The work of the prayer team is confidential.

Daniela Warr Schori for Trinity prayer team

Children, Young People and Families

Over this past year, a lot of positive things have been happening.

I have done a parenting in faith course run by Cliff College, the course was challenging me to think about how church isn't just for a Sunday morning- it is for every day of the week, encouraging us as a church to think differently, how we greet families as they come into church, how to make them feel at home, how to create a multigenerational church.

All huge challenges in some ways but exciting in other ways.

Junior Church on a Sunday morning is being held in the Kabin, we still use zoom for those who can't attend including our young family who are now living in Africa for the next two years, this is an example of technology at its best

when we can remain connected to people as far away as they are. The children respond well to each other on zoom. I still produce a film of worship each week, this still works the best in a hybrid setting.

Although numbers are up and down due covid infection rates in schools, J church is happening every week.

Friday Nights have now become Messy Fun Church, therefore messy church is now every week, it brings its own challenges as well as its joys.

Numbers have been as many as twenty children plus their parents and as low as five and parents, families are inviting others to join us.

This has become our outreach church, it is simple and effective, children have been taught about how to be kind and caring, using the parables they have learnt about nature and how God wants us to look after his world. Birds in the bible, the butterflies, gardening etc. we have looked at muddy church, we used this concept for the Christingle, and we took the nativity outside and filmed it, the children loved it as did the adults and leaders, it was like being a film director.

I have invited members of the adult church to share their loves of creation and their skills such as making hedgehog houses and inviting a real hedgehog to visit us.

Church is changing rapidly; children love to run and shout and play and at the same time they are learning all the time about Jesus.

Just recently we have been blessed with a few new babies, this has created an under one's group. It has happened very simply by mums coming to messy church.

After having a conversation with an NHS health visitor, I realised there were very few under one's groups around. The mums we have come together and are chatting and sharing, it is very new my hope is that they build new relationships and grow and understand us as a church and we understand their hopes and dreams, and the challenges they have of being a new parent in today's new world.

Bible Investigators is led by Denzel, he has been working extremely hard to build relationships with our teenagers and the young people in the Chinese Congregation. if you walk past the Kabin on a Sunday afternoon you are bound to hear the laughter as they play silly games, eat cake and drink hot chocolate and at the same time have the serious conversations about where Jesus is in their lives today.

Finally, I cannot do this work without the help of a very small team and their dedication and love in wanting children, parents, and young people to get know and love Jesus.

We could achieve far more if we had more volunteers, therefore if you would like to help in any way, I can promise you it will never be dull you will be challenged, and we would love to have you as part of our team.

Sue Waddington





Trinity Woking
22 October 2021 · 🌐

If you saw our post about Messy Church @ Fun Club last week, you will have seen David L working on his hedgehog house.
And here is the finished article!
Join Sue, David, Kevin, Helen and Graham for fun and a cooked meal, from 4.30pm today.



Foundry

This report reviews the period since April 2021. Note that some activities in this report overlap with other areas of church life.

Foundry Worship: Maintained worship fortnightly throughout the period. 5pm during GMT, 6pm during BST (time is up for review!). Message/teaching themes: Fruits of the Spirit; Methodist Way of Life; Festivals. FW band growing in strength. Numbers nudging up (circa 20+). Seeing new faces – age range 40+. Café style worship.

Service Streaming: This is regarded as an important part of our mission beyond Trinity. Every service is streamed to a good amateur standard. Our thanks to the technical team, those who provide regular feedback and those who are patient when things have gone wrong.

Neighbourhood Party: One held Oct 2021. 35 guests. Many helpers back despite a two year gap. Party deemed a success. Said thank you to Henk Innemee who returns to Holland in December. Also acknowledged the work over the years by John Craig. Pleasingly we have some new volunteers to help. Next party planned for April 24th 2022. Dancers from Cremona will be providing entertainment. Cremona remain one of our anchor tenants and we work in partnership with them.

Church Suite. Used to manage NP. Foundry contacts now transferred onto it. All Trinity membership data now on it. Children's module in development. Been used to generate new membership directory. CC agreement to add people's pictures. *This is a powerful tool that will make us more efficient and help us in our mission.*

Short Stay School (SSS). We have had a group of KS3 youngsters helping out on Wednesday mornings as part of their enrichment programme. They help with moving furniture and bring cakes that they serve with tea and coffee to lace makers and coffee and chat. Excellent community contact – SSS are keen to continue and feel we make a difference.

Intergenerational Music Making: Bringing people Together with Music. National charity based in Woking. Became aware they were looking for an office. Prompted conversion of Curtis Rooms into office, meeting room and store. IMM moved into office Nov 2021. Relationship with IMM working well. Intergenerational sessions held at Trinity Jun/July 2021. Two day song writing workshop with school children, IMM and community volunteers hosted Nov 21. Gala concert Nov 21 with our Graham Warr and the BBC stealing the show (deservedly!). New TWM hub starting at Trinity after Easter.

Digital Agenda: Hugh reduced hours to enable a Digital native to be appointed to enhance our offering in the digital space. Dan Forshaw (specialist & consultant working at Central Hall) appointed to help and advise. Good initial progress (e.g., Foundry Logo), but now stalled since we have been unable to find someone to appoint. Investigating recruiting an admin assistant to release Dan WS to focus more on the digital area. Ruth Taylor obtained funding for us to recruit someone through the government Kick Starter programme, but sadly we weren't able to recruit. There are lots of jobs out there for talented youngsters!

ROC Woking: Dan WS, Hugh B and Ruth T continue on Steering Group. The next stage in the life of ROC W is to become a CIO. Note that ROC-W is regarded as a success by ROC-UK and we are now asked for our advice. Some ROC-W activities this past 12 months:

- Facilitated Youth (Ruth) and Social Isolation & Loneliness (Hugh) Action Groups
- Phone Friends continues (Dan)
- Laptops for Schools – ongoing. Now more for poor families needing IT than schools.
- Working together for Woking event in Nov.
- Agreement reached with WBC to manage the Lakeview Community Centre. This will coincide with the grant of CIO status. This will give ROC-W a 'base' – it has reached the stage where a sense of place will be beneficial. Note that Lakeview is relatively local to Trinity and there is scope to capitalise on our links there.

Strategic Thinking: A church such as Trinity has enormous opportunities. As part of our missional purpose we have made time to think beyond the confines of the day to day work we are doing:

- Met Stephen Hetherington, Director of Property Support, Connexional team. Useful advice about longer term potential for making our premises match our missional intent.
- Ongoing conversations with the Chinese Congregation => 1 + 1 = 3?
- Attended Circuit Vision day – some radical thinking about how Circuit could be done that should help us be much more missional in outlook => 1 + 1 + 1 = 5?
- Listening out for those half-opportunities that could be transformational. Being bold to offer Trinity/Foundry as part of the solution to other people's challenges. Think IMM.
- Forthcoming visit from the District to showcase our work.

Plans: Some of these are being worked on already, and we plan to roll-out during the course of this calendar year:

- Welcoming pathways. Reviewing our welcome in light of the way society works in the digital/social media age
- Small group/home-groups refresh.
- Launch of Foundry new web/facebook
- Car Park donations for Taxi's initiative – create fund by encouraging donations for parking. Fund to cover costs of transport to Trinity based activities for those who can not afford to get here otherwise
- Working with property c'ttee to improve access, security and 'ambience' of public areas in the church – these all impact mission, welcome etc. Emlyn Taylor has been working with us 10 hours a week to improve the door opening mechanism in the East Entrance, install entry CCTV for Dan to monitor the front door, get down our copying costs, and take forward other small operational projects we've badged as Foundry.

- Projects to enhance missional impact of premises – points of interest/discussion; challenge
- Further NP's and organisationally lighter 'tea parties'
- Develop our digital mission to reach out to people in Woking – particular focus on isolated/lonely
- Work to leverage income from property and grants so our missional work can continue
- Increase face to face contact opportunities to build relationships with those outside the church and share the good news. This is not just a Foundry staff responsibility.
- Tap into connexional God for All initiative to encourage and train us all in being more effective in sharing our faith.

Conclusion: The year has been very busy. Too often we don't have time to work on our 'missional' objectives. That is in part the nature of our two person team (approachable, available, capable, distractable!), but also because there is often no practical option but to deal with the day to day challenges that arise. A particular disappointment has been the inability to engage members of the church community to volunteer as Building Welcomers during the working week, and to make the level of progress we would have liked in the digital/social media area, but we're looking at alternatives now. All that said, when we look back at the past 12months, we can see that progress is being made. Our prayer is that this continues and that more and more of our membership and adherents catch the excitement of the opportunities that lie ahead.

Hugh Bowerman & Dan Warr Schori



Trinity Woking
22 October 2021 · 🌐

This is the house that God built.
First outing of the new Foundry logo on my name badge today.
We are hosting a two-day songwriting workshop for our friends at IMM. #layingthefoundations #partnershipworking #musicmakesourworldgoround IMM-Music



Trinity Woking
10 July 2021 · 🌐

In this week's Woking News and Mail...our IMM project with Horsell Junior, and Kettlewell House care home! You might recognise some of our Church members! From: News and Mail.



Finance

It is good to be able to report that after a very difficult year 2019/20 when we had a shortfall on General Account of more than £14K, we are able to report a surplus for the year 2020/21 of almost £23K. We must not be complacent as that result was largely due to a one-off Covid related grant from the Circuit of £10K and a very successful fund raising effort which totalled nearly £30K with a lot of extra Gift Aid. Regular weekly and monthly offerings have held up and we are most grateful to those who have increased their offerings which has helped to mitigate the losses we have sustained through members dying or moving away. Thank you!

We could have 'furloughed' our staff during the lock-down but decided not to as there was a great deal of work to be done in keeping in touch with our membership but also working on new relationships that started with the successful ROC conversation a couple of days before lock-down was announced. Whilst that decision caused a blip in our finances, we had reserves to cover and it has proved to be a right decision as our members have felt supported and we have established links and relationships in the local community which simply would not have happened. The rewards of those relationships will be seen during the current year in financial terms but also in missional terms.

During the last 12 months or so we have renewed the Narthex Roof, the lighting, sound system and carpets in the Sanctuary and converted the outdated and little used Curtis Room into a smart, modern office facility with additional meeting room and storage facility for Sue Waddington. This work was funded largely by the 2020 Development Fund, money raised for development purposes 3 or 4 years ago.

Our cash balances at the end of August 2021 were; General Fund £100K and 2020 Development Fund £84K which includes the Frank Thompson Legacy of £40K.

So far as the future is concerned we know that this is the final year of 3 when The Foundry Project has been supported by grants from the Circuit (£30Kpa) and District (£15Kpa) which we will need to replace in the year 2022/23. During the current year, we can only hope to make the books balance if we resolve to raise at least £10K by a special appeal or fund raising effort. (We hope to talk about this over lunch before too long.) We hope to find some new grants from Circuit, District and others to replace the expiring grants, otherwise we will need to use all of the Legacy money which could be so useful in other ways, and would still have a large shortfall each year after 2023.

Our strategy through The Foundry is to support the groups already using the premises but also to attract more groups so that we are better utilising the fantastic asset the building is. Recently the relationship with Intergenerational Music Making has been growing, the Sanctuary was used for pantomime rehearsals (or yes it was!), it has also been used by Surrey County Council for holiday clubs and 2 additional choirs have booked it for rehearsals or concerts and 2 weeks ago we were pleased to see the return of the Blood Donors lorries. We need the church to acknowledge that we do need to be quite commercial in 'marketing' the building because we need the money, but the equally important point to remember is that we are overtly offering Christian Hospitality to everyone who comes in, as part of our declared mission to serve the local community.

Property

At its meeting on 27th January, **Property Committee** developed a very long list of improvements or changes we consider necessary to both sustain the building and make it more supportive of the growing range of activities being hosted at Trinity. These range from 'essential' to 'nice to have'; from large to small and from 'urgent' to 'in due course' and it is meaningless to simply produce a list. The next step is to prioritise the work and then see how much can be achieved with the limited funds that we have available. The main point to make is that we simply cannot achieve all that needs to be done, through the current Property Team or the current structure of the Property Committee. I am willing to continue as Chair and David Lorberg is willing to be Property Steward (Maintenance), but we need more support to organise the work that needs to be done in the coming months and years. We are working with some of our Chinese friends on Monday mornings and find their skills can blend with ours and broaden the maintenance team. It is great to be getting to know them and their wider skills have quickly achieved some tasks that would have taken much longer. A super development in many ways!

Some priority is being given to potentially small items that may give big improvements such as controlling the East Entrance door from the office using modern technology; tidying the main corridors and providing 'cleaning stations' so that if tenants have a spillage, we can expect them to clear it up. The installation of digital screens giving a welcome, advertising what we are about and showing where different groups are to meet.

With a greater range of activities in the Sanctuary we are finding that the current furniture creates difficulties when clearing the space or providing tables etc. So we are exploring how we could rearrange the toilets, Narthex and Creche to provide better facilities to include a kitchen, modern toilet arrangements, a small meeting room/vestry and a furniture store.

The kitchen and toilets at the rear of the building are very tired and need refreshing but they are still working. When we have decided the level of catering we anticipate providing in the coming 10/20 years, we can develop a plan to upgrade the kitchen. The toilets are about 25 years old now and need to be brought up to modern styles, possibly changing the layout.

The small hall and the lounge are both very dated and need revamping. This may include renewing the windows, some of which have not worked properly for some years.

The largest items are the Sanctuary Heating and the roofs at the rear of the building. However, the heating works, albeit rather inefficiently, and none of the roofs are leaking at the moment and so we regard these as important to plan for but not urgent. Our heating consultants offered a budgeting estimate of £150K to replace the heating and 4 years ago, we were advised that a budget of over £80K would be needed to replace the roofs. So large expense coming up that we must not lose sight of.

Externally, we must pay attention to the driveway which needs resurfacing and we are also bound by WBC to create a water garden to the west of the building, to divert the water from at least half of the church roof away from the normal drainage system. Potentially this could become a Community Project and we must start planning to get started before too long.

We know that work needs to be done to preserve our beautiful stained glass window but frustratingly, the expert surveyor has still not delivered his report following his site visit, despite many promptings. Once we have the surveyors report, we intend applying for a grant to help with the cost of the work. We do regard that as on the essential list.

We do now have the additional issue of the double glazing units in the Sanctuary to resolve as a matter of urgency.

Whilst the major works are hopefully a few years away, we need to work together now to plan how we would pay for the work which is inevitable if not urgent. We know that we will need to search wide and far for grants within the Methodist Connexion and elsewhere, but it would also be helpful if our finances allow, to set aside an annual amount towards these projects. Whilst that might be a good aspiration, our future budgets discussed above, show just how challenging it will be; but let's keep praying and looking forward with confidence and enthusiasm.

John Nelson





Trinity Woking
15 February · 🌐

Busy busy day at Trinity!
Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts using the back of the building for auditions, Surrey Young Carers holding half term holiday club in the Sanctuary, our Chinese Congregation friends offering their Seekers session in the Kabin. #allarewelcome #keepingbusy #spaceforall



Trinity Woking
8 September 2021 · 🌐

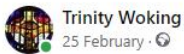
Wow! What a busy morning. We were bursting at the seams in a lovely, vibrant way! BSF in the Sanctuary and in the rear halls, Mayford Lace in the Kabin, Coffee and Chat in the Music Room. Fabulous!! Photo is of the flowers I snipped in the church garden beds to cheer the Kabin up a little. Happy Wednesday!



Best of the Rest from Social Media, Church Year 2021-22

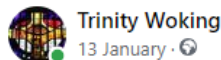
I've really enjoyed re-visiting the church year through our Facebook page (Search Trinity Woking on Facebook). All the images in this booklet are posts which have been made over the past 12 months. There are many more but I've selected these for what I hope are obvious reasons.

Daniela Warr Schori



Trinity Woking
25 February · 🌐

Please pray for those filling 2 containers for The Gambia today. It's really hard work and we're grateful to them.

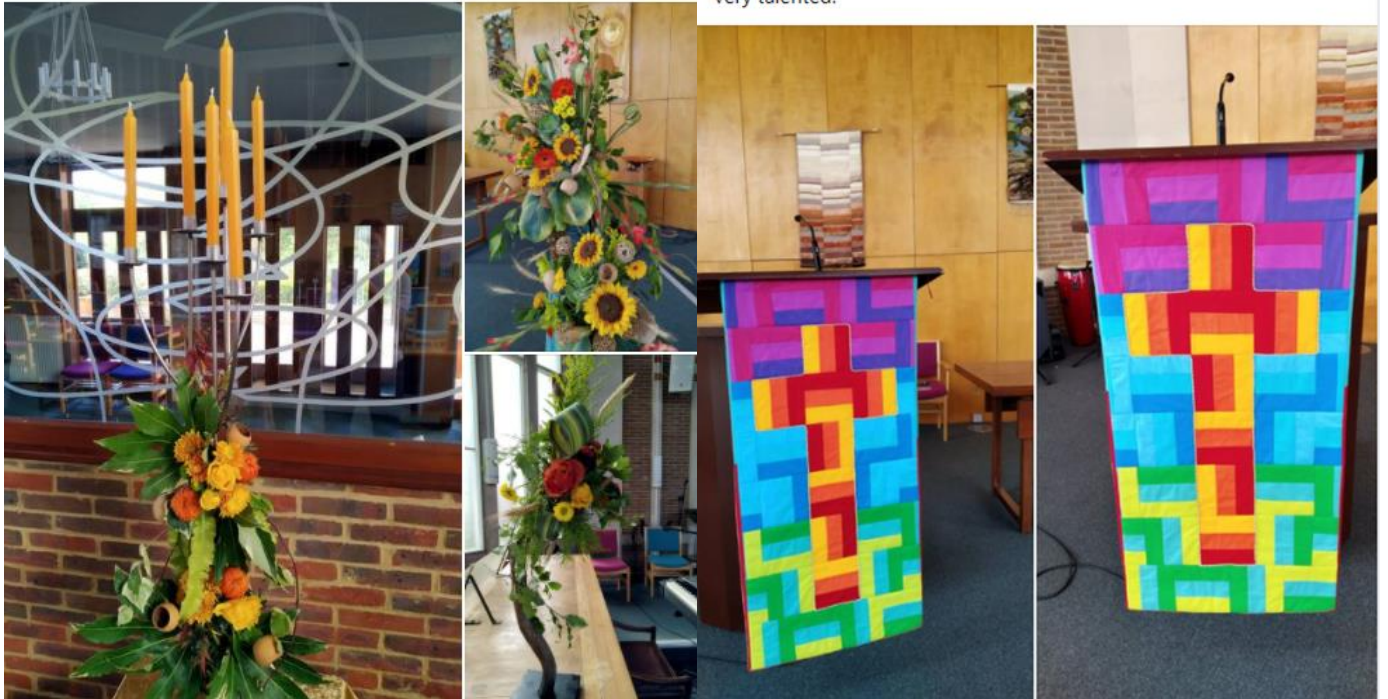


Trinity Woking
13 January · 🌐

Wonderful to see Trinity on screen tonight on The One Show. There were lots of Trinity friends in the VT and spotted in the audience, and Brian Conley made good use of our stage curtains 🤗. Also nice to see it was so obviously a church building, including a shot of our welcome sign through the Sanctuary doors. Well done Graham 🤗. Thank You Intergenerational Music Making (IMM) IMM-Music. Right, back to normal now then 😊 #allarewelcome #thefoundry #godislove

Trinity Woking
1 October 2021 · 🌐

Thank you to one of our church members, Valerie, for her fabulous Harvest floral display.



Trinity Woking
9 July 2021 · 🌐

Thank you to [Jean Normington](#) our Senior Steward for making this beautiful new pulpit fall. It is stunning! Come to church on Sunday, or watch on the livestream and see it in person! Thanks Jean - you are very talented.

Trinity Woking
28 May 2021 · 🌐

Been to pick up these lovely young plants from a member of the church family this morning. All ready for our Plant, Craft & Cake Sale tomorrow, 10am - 1pm. Come along! Weather is supposed to behave, fingers crossed 😊



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