

TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS



By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3b)

Easter 2024 Issue 63

A message from Rev Sam Funnell

Dear Friends,

The long days and weeks of Lent have passed and Easter is finally here (or almost here, depending on when you read this!). So we rejoice and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus: death is defeated; love wins!

The Methodist Church's Lenten focus has been on the 'Unbounded Love' of God and Easter is the ultimate expression of that – the love that will not be contained by any human limitations, not even the grave!

I wonder what that means for you?

In my daily prayers I use an App that comes from the Jesuit movement in Britain (Society of Jesus Trust for Roman Catholic Purposes), called, 'Pray As You Go' and during Lent, in place of the usual ending of The Gloria (* see the words at the end of this letter) the prayer has been ending with a version of St Ignatius' prayer which reads thus:

*You have given all to me,
To you Lord, I return it;
Everything is yours,
Do with it what you will;
Give me only your love and your grace,
That is enough for me. Amen*

Once we arrive at Easter we return to using words of glory and praise after the extended time of reflecting on what God has given us and what that calls us to 'do' and 'be'.

Maybe this Easter we might consider these two thoughts as wrapped up in one? That as we have considered all that

God has done for us, through Jesus Christ; that this truth, this joy, this revealed glory might be something that **we** can be part of, in its bringing to birth in the world – not in our own strength but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Recently I was privileged to spend a day with the senior church leaders from Churches Together in Surrey. We spoke about many things but what struck me was the optimism, that despite the many challenges our various denominations face, signs of hope, of joy, of love, of practical aid and new missional ideas are evident all around us – resurrection stories abound, proclaiming 'God is here!', 'Jesus loves you!', 'You are not alone!'.

We often pray for the world to be changed by the faith we hold and seek to share, God's 'Good News' – this Easter may we all commit to living the kind of lives that seek to play our part in being the answer to our own prayers. This is not to say that we equate ourselves with God, simply that we recognise that God has equipped us by the Spirit, trained and taught us through Jesus' earthly ministry and placed us in the environment where we are, so that we might play our part in the in-breaking of the Kingdom of heaven.

So, have a joy-full Easter and don't keep that joy all to yourself!

With love and prayers,

Sam x



THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 20th April Neighbourhood Party (see opposite page)

Sunday 28th April General Church Meeting

Saturday 11th May Plant Sale in aid of Christian Aid (see page 20)

Sunday 14th July Farewell service for Anna Carrington and Rev Sydney Samuel Lake at Byfleet (see page 21)

Over recent weeks we have mourned the death of four members of the Trinity family:

Dorothy Bosomworth

Lisa Barrott

Don Bilet

David Woodhams



Please continue to remember their families and all those who grieve their loss in your prayers.

Neighbourhood Party



Saturday 20th April 2024
4:00 – 6:00pm

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, BREWERY ROAD, WOKING

You are warmly invited to our
Neighbourhood Tea Party.

Transport can be arranged.

**There will be a high tea,
entertainment, and a fun quiz.**



Please join us for a jolly good time, meeting friends old and new.

Contact us via phone, post or email
to be added to our official invite list.



PHONE

07749 094064 (Marian)
07729 301713 (Pauline)



POST

Trinity Methodist Church,
Brewery Road, Woking, GU214LH



E-MAIL

trinitywoking@btinternet.com

Please invite anyone who would
enjoy a sociable afternoon out.



The Methodist Church



A FEAST OF HYMNS AND SONGS FOR EASTER Reflections on the Easter Story through Hymnody

(References: MHB The Methodist Hymn Book, StF Singing the Faith)

Palm Sunday:

My earliest memory of singing an Easter hymn was at the Salvation Army in Bromley when I was 7/8 years old – it was very simple but for me still has a relevance for today. I remember being told the story of Palm Sunday as a preface to this hymn. How the people shouted and sang their praises as Jesus took the journey into Jerusalem. We treated it as a bit of a volume competition.



*The Sunday School Easter Garden
in Portsmouth Cathedral*

*"Children of Jerusalem sang the praise of Jesu's name;
Children, too, of modern days join to sing the Saviour's
praise (refrain) Hark, hark, hark! while infant voices sing,
Loud hosannas to our King." (John Henley MHB 837)*

Today I love to sing a more contemporary song:

*"Make way, make way, for Christ the King in splendour
arrives; fling wide the gates and welcome him into your
lives. Make way, make way for the King of Kings, make way
make way and let his Kingdom in." (Graham Kendrick StF
264)*

Maundy Thursday:

A few years ago, I attended the Maundy Thursday service at St Paul's Cathedral where the act of Jesus washing the



The Chapel in Coventry Cathedral where the floor has the inscription 'So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.' (John 13:14)

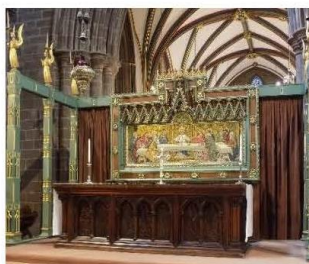
disciples' feet, before the 'Last Supper' was commemorated by the Dean washing twelve parishioners' feet. It was very moving, trying to imagine Jesus washing mine. It took me a little while to find the right words but with the help

of the Bible references at the back of a hymn book I found these – so real and challenging.

"All the room was hushed and still, and when the bowl was filled he stopped to wash their feet. And when it was complete, he said, this is what I'm asking you to do, this is why I'm kneeling here beside you. This is what I want my Church to be, this is what I want the world to see - who it is you follow." (Graham Kendrick StF 266)

The Last Supper:

There are many hymns referring to this part of the Easter story; I could have chosen a book full. However, I have picked two, one that reflects a traditional approach and one a more contemporary approach.



The High Altar and 'Last Supper' Triptych at Chester Cathedral

"Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart; Saviour, abide with us, and spread your table in our heart. There sup with us in love divine, your body and your blood, that living bread and heavenly wine, be our immortal food." (James Montgomery (MHB 766, the tune Belmont is one of my favourites!)

"Bread is blessed and broken, wine is blessed and poured: take this and remember Christ the Lord. Share the food of heaven earth cannot afford. Here is grace in essence – Christ the Lord." (John Bell and Graham Maule StF 576)

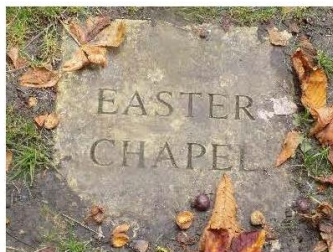
Gethsemane:

The representation of this story is profoundly told in these words from another of my loved and well used hymns:

"There in the garden of tears my heavy load he chose to bear; his heart with sorrow was torn, 'Yet not my will but yours,' he said." (Graham Kendrick StF 272v2)

I also found this verse; I don't know it at all: but it challenged me!

"Go to dark Gethsemane, you that feel the tempter's power; your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour. Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray." (James Montgomery MHB 194)



Whipsnade Tree Cathedral near Dunstable

The Trial: (John 19:1-7)
What a mockery! For me there are only a few hymns to describe it and even if it is about 350 years old, the words and tune have the essence of the reality.



*The Corona – Crown of Thorns
Blackburn Cathedral*

"O sacred head sore wounded, with grief and pain weighed down, how scornfully surrounded with thorns, your only crown! How pale you are with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn! How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!" (Paul Gerhardt StF 280)

To sum up that horrendous miscarriage of human justice, we are pointed towards the sacrifice made for each one of us in these words"

"Truth of our life, Mary's Child, you tell us God is good; prove it is true, Mary's child, go to your cross of wood." (Geoffrey Ainger StF 193)

The Crucifixion:

There are so many hymns/songs written about this event. Several people I have spoken to suggest this one is their favourite: Some prefer the tune Rockingham, others O Waly Waly. (I am happy with either):

"When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down; did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorn compose so rich a crown?" (Isaac Watts StF 287)



*Jesus Carrying the Cross
Bishop Otter College Chapel
Chichester*



*The Crucified Christ:
St Dunstan's RC
Church Woking*

One of the other hymns I find very descriptive and equally challenging is:

"Come see his hands and his feet, the scars that speak of sacrifice, hands that flung stars into space to cruel nails surrendered. So let us learn how to serve and in our lives enthrone him, each other's needs to prefer, for it is Christ we're serving." (Graham Kendrick StF 272)

The Resurrection:

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed, Hallelujah!

There are some great Resurrection hymns and songs - each one of us will have our favourites. But mine is not in many hymn books. In my mid-teenage years, we moved out of Bromley and down to a tiny hamlet in North Dorset. When my voice broke, I joined the Damerham Youth for Christ Choir, and we used this song at the opening of the monthly Youth for Christ Rally:

"I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today; I know that Christ is living, whatever folk may say; I see God's hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer, and just when I need Christ he's always there. He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way."

He lives he lives, Salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives? Christ lives within my heart.” (Alfred Henry Ackley The Salvation Army Song Book 334)



*An empty Cross and
Caves: Bridgnorth*

I hope you have found these choices interesting and perhaps challenging. You may have agreed or disagreed with them, but I pray that you all have a soul refreshing Easter, with the risen Saviour.

God bless you all.

Graham Warr

Thank you to Grace Foo for this list of hymns which are sung by the HK Chinese Congregation over the Easter period.

- **Palm Sunday** – Hosanna; Because He Lives; You are The King of Glory
- **Good Friday** - The Old Rugged Cross; Near The Cross; Wounded for Me
- **Easter Sunday** - He Lives; Christ Lord is Risen Today; The Day of Resurrection.

Some recent events

There have been a number of notable events within the Trinity family since our last issue of TNV went to press at the beginning of December. Here are some reminders.

On 6th December the ladies of **Coffee & Chat** enjoyed a visit to the Shah Jahan mosque. The original iconic building dates from 1889 and was the first purpose-built mosque in the UK. The group were able to tour both it and the building generally used today with a talk from the Imam's wife, Kawther Hashmi, followed by refreshments in the library. Some 30 Christian and Muslim ladies took part.



Christmas was a busy time as ever at Trinity with the customary range of special services. On Sunday 17th December our Chinese congregation were treated to a special Christmas Cantata performed by the Epsom Chinese Choir. As a result our **Carol Service** took place on the previous Saturday evening. Once again we were delighted to join together with our Chinese congregation and celebrate together with music and readings in both English and Cantonese. Here is a smiling group of some of the musicians who took part. *(See also page 27)*



Back at the start of Advent there was an invitation to join friends at the **Light Box** to provide some seasonal music for their Winter Craft Fair. Thanks to Graham Kirby-Smith for leading the singers.



On 4th February a large congregation from across the Circuit came together at one of our regular fortnightly Founary Services to mark the 25th anniversary of **Hugh Bowerman** becoming a local preacher. The service was led by our Superintendent Minister, Rev Paul Glass, and Sam with contributions from others, and music provided by the regular Founary band.

On 11th February we were invited to join the Chinese congregation as they celebrated the **Lunar New Year** with worship and feasting! (See page 18)



Finally, over 100 people from across the Circuit shared this year's **Mission Supper** on 2nd March where the guest speaker was Deacon Angleena Keizer, until recently the Methodist Liaison Officer in Jerusalem. Her experiences of the life facing ordinary Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, even before the atrocities that commenced on 7th October 2023, described in words and images, had the impact that only first-hand experience can deliver.

Troubling and thought-provoking as much of this was, Angleena also spoke warmly of her many Jewish friends and the inspiring work being carried out in joint initiatives between Christians, Jews and Muslims in the cause of justice.

Nearly £800.00 was raised on behalf of Hope School, a Christian project providing education for orphans and disadvantaged children in Bethlehem and the Palestinian territories.



Strawberry Hill House

*This article was originally intended for the Christmas issue of TNV but it was not possible to include it. Since then **Lisa Barrott**, who organised both the trip to which it relates and the Book Club meetings, has of course tragically died. The article is published now in memory of Lisa and appreciation of her contributions to both the Book Club and the life of Trinity.*

A glorious day last Summer greeted the annual Book Club day-out, this time to Strawberry Hill House at Twickenham. About 20 of us made the trip and enjoyed a guided tour round this extraordinary house and grounds.



Strawberry Hill House as it appears today is the creation of Horace Walpole, the son of our first Prime Minister Robert Walpole and himself a sometime Member of Parliament. He purchased the property in 1747, then a relatively small country house, and set about a huge

programme of works with the objective of establishing a country seat as befitted his standing.

The grounds were extended to over 40 acres, stretching down to the bank of the river Thames. But the most notable work was to the house itself. Over some 30 years Walpole rebuilt and expanded it to his own specifications, in a highly distinctive and unusual style.



The Gothic features of towers and battlements on the exterior were complimented by elaborate decoration inside to suit his extensive and eclectic collection of antiquarian objects, extending to several thousand pieces. As a result it drew many visitors from near and far to study the

architecture, grounds, and Walpole's carefully cultivated collection.

The reason for our visit was because the Book Club had attempted to read Walpole's Gothic novel "The Castle of Otranto" which had proved quite a challenge. Apparently the book, set in a haunted medieval castle, came about after Walpole had a nightmare in which he saw a gigantic hand in armour hanging over the stair well at Strawberry Hill House.

Our tour of the interior was led by a highly knowledgeable and very enthusiastic guide who was particularly interested in showing us the vast amount of painted glass which Walpole had acquired over the years and which

showed heraldic, historical, classical and biblical scenes. Not to everyone's taste but very interesting nonetheless.

After Walpole died in 1797 the house was initially passed down through his family. In 1842 a huge sale was held by the then owners John and George Waldegrave in an effort to recoup a squandered family fortune. As a result the house was stripped of virtually all its contents and left to deteriorate. Eventually it was purchased in 1923 by St Mary's University College and is now leased to the Strawberry Hill Trust. After a £9 million restoration the house was re-opened to the public in 2015.



Exploring the Year of the Dragon: A Cultural Comparison between East and West

The Chinese zodiac assigns each year an animal sign. The dragon places as the fifth. It is not a real creature or animal existing in the world among the other eleven counterparts. Dragons have long, snake-like bodies covered with scales which are like those of fish or reptiles, with strong claws like eagles or tigers. Some dragons have horns like deer or oxen, and their eyes can be wise like a rabbit or fierce like a tiger. Their whiskers and a beard, like a cat or a goat, make them look very grand and wise. In both Eastern and Western culture, the dragon holds significant symbolism, but its interpretations diverge greatly. In the West, dragons are often associated with darkness and evil, whereas in Chinese culture, they stand for power, luck, and authority.

In ancient China mythology, emperors were thought to have descended from dragons, and such belief empowered their divine right to rule. As a result, only the emperor was allowed to use the dragon as a symbol or pattern on their robe. Individuals born in the year of the dragon are believed to inherit the creature's traits. They are often described as charismatic, intelligent, confident, and naturally lucky. Therefore, the birth rate in the year of the dragon is comparatively higher than the other zodiac signs in the Chinese community.



If the dragon is a representative of East or Chinese culture, then it could be easily found in different contexts. The British lion and Chinese dragon were put together on the coat of arms of Hong Kong for the fourth colonial flag which was used from 1959 – 1997. It symbolizes that Hong Kong is a place called “East meets West”, the coexistence of the spirit and tradition of two different cultures. Bruce Lee was the internationally renowned Hong Kong Kung Fu master and film maker. His Chinese stage name, 李小龍 (Lee Siu Lung), also represents the East, as 龍 (Lung) is the Chinese character for dragon.



The importance of Lunar New Year in Chinese culture is the same as Christmas in Western culture. Both cultures also obtain their significant elements as the celebration and custom practice over the generations. Christmas tree,



Santa Claus, and wreath commonly represent the Christmas season and custom nowadays in the West. What are those for the Chinese culture? Peach blossoms, God of Fortune, and Chinese banners are the parallel matches. The use of peach blossoms (see image) during Lunar New Year celebration is believed to bring luck and prosperity to the household and business. The significance of colourful attire further illustrates the rich tapestry of Chinese culture. In the West, Santa Claus originates from Saint Nicholas, representing the spirit of giving and generosity. In Chinese culture, the God of Fortune is a figure representing good luck and prosperity that will be brought from his arrival.

Furthermore, wreaths made of evergreens symbolize continuity and eternity of life, while the red banners adorned with wishes for health, luck, and fortune serve as decorative elements during celebrations, enriching the festive atmosphere.

No matter which festivals we celebrate, whether from Western or Eastern culture, we all believe in the Almighty God who created the world and provided us with diversity to live in harmony. Though we may be different, we are all children of God.

May the good Lord bless our church family with faith, wisdom, and courage in the Year of the Dragon and beyond.

Indy Lee

Plant Sale

christian aid

11 May • 10am to 12 noon

Trinity Methodist Church
Brewery Road, Woking

A range of quality plants include annual and perennial flowers, indoor and conservatory plants, vegetables and more!

There will be volunteers to help with advice if needed.

Coffee, tea and home-made cake will also be available.
Cash and card payments are accepted.

Circuit appointments

The Wey Valley Circuit, and Trinity in particular, have been very fortunate to have **Anna Carrington** with us as a student minister for the past two years. Anna has involved herself enthusiastically with worship and many other activities and she with Paul and Elishama have become part of our family. In August they will be moving to Holmes Chapel in Cheshire in the Dane and Trent Circuit where Anna will be a Probationer Presbyter. Anna has sent this message:

Dear all. We would like to thank everyone at Trinity for their welcome and support over these past two years. We are excited for our next adventure, but will be very sad to leave. I feel privileged to have spent time in this Circuit and to get to know so many of you. Sending our love and blessings. Anna, Paul & Elishama.

Also this August **Rev Sydney Samuel Lake** will be moving on after five years in the Circuit. He has been stationed to the Leicester West Circuit. He is to be replaced by **Rev Shaun Sanders** who will have pastoral charge of Walton-on-Thames, Weybridge, Addlestone and Byfleet churches. Originally from Cornwall, Shaun came to London to study in the 1980s and worked initially in NHS finance. After commencing his ministry in Milton Keynes Shaun has held appointments in the London area and comes to Wey Valley from the Barnet & Queensbury Circuit.



Each week we are asked to pray for the various organisations that use our premises through the week. Some are one-off or occasional bookings but others are regular and the list of these is extensive. Please pray for them and our office team who handle all the arrangements and who look after the (literally) hundreds of people each week when they are in the building.

Badminton	Martial Arts/Judo
Beavers, Scouts,	Mayford Lace
Cubs	Pilates
Brownies	Rayner Karate
Bible Study	Richmond
Fellowship	Fellowship
Catalyst Support	Shifa Network
Chair Yoga	The Jam
Coffee & Chat	Trinity Toddlers
Cremona Dance	Woking Ladies
Dot Sign	Choir
Language	Woking Music
Epworth Choir	Woodham Ladies
Guides	Badminton Club
HALOW	Yoga with Julie

"Faith is not knowing what the future holds, but knowing who holds the future"



Unlock

Unlock is a small, inter-denominational charity that works to support Christian mission within inner city areas to make the messages of the Gospel relevant to those who may not otherwise attend a church or read the Bible. Unlock supports and funds project workers working in deprived urban areas across the UK. These projects have been shown to make a real difference, bringing the gospel to people whom the churches haven't been able to reach.

The **annual sponsored Unlock Walk** is the main fundraising event for the charity and raises essential funds towards the running costs of the organisation. It has always been difficult for Unlock to secure funding from charitable trusts, because very few will support Christian Mission and in the current climate this is more difficult than ever.

The 7.5 mile circular walk follows a prescribed route in an area of London, and over the years has allowed walkers to learn more about parts of our capital city which might be less than familiar.

THE 41ST UNLOCK LONDON WALK, 27 APRIL 2024

This year will be the 41st walk - on April 27th. The route will be in the wider White City and Notting Hill Gate area of London, and one of our stops will be at the Notting Hill Methodist Church. We will also see part of the Grand Union Canal and for the shopaholics, pass very close to Westfield shopping centre.

The area became all too familiar via our TV screens - would you believe, it is now

**'Our journey continues -
please walk with us'**

seven years ago that Grenfell Tower caught fire. It will also evoke memories of times past for Jenny, but you will have to ask her why! The route passes close to several Underground stations, so it is easy to shorten the walk at several points on the way.

The work of Unlock is usually showcased at one of the churches featured on the walk. We hope to take part and would be delighted if anyone else would like to join us? If you don't fancy the walk, there is always the option to sponsor us!



It will be a full day's walk and we will walk whatever the weather. Comfortable walking shoes and waterproof jackets are essential, and it is a good idea to bring some light refreshments - although some of the churches on the route may provide refreshments. You are also encouraged to bring some small change for donations towards costs in the churches visited.

Arrangements will be finalised closer to the time, but we aim to meet around 8.45 - 9am to travel by train from Woking via Waterloo - and then onto the Underground to a convenient station to start the walk.

Wendy and Jenny



Give your heart a fresh start

[In this piece Ildi looks back to the start of the year and reflects on that annual challenge – new year's resolutions.]

The attitude and approach of individuals to New Year's resolutions differ. Some of us refuse to make a fresh start; point blank. Some cannot be bothered. Some might feel under pressure from the heavy weight of society's expectation to actually have a new goal for the upcoming year. Some are super enthusiastic to face the excitement of leaving their ancient and weary habits, behaviours, perceptions behind, and they're eager to lay down a clean slate. But some, do not make a New Year's resolution. They choose not to choose their destination. They choose to be led.....



One of our most astonishing attributes is being different from others, hence our journeys and destinations differ too. But one thing is for certain! We all sail through tailor-made storms, some of which are so overwhelming that they feel like the canvas of our happiness is destroyed forever. We are filled with anxieties, worries, and cannot see a single streak of light in the midst of uncertainty. So, what do we do? Do we remain stationary under the storm, waiting for the sunlight to magically appear? Or do we take a leap of faith, start trusting, giving up the control, accepting to be led to the destination? The choice is yours!

But think about this first. Which one is more important for you, your JOURNEY or your DESTINATION? God gave you free will, allowing you to choose your direction, controlled

by your expectations, wishes and desires. In which case, who is in control? You or God? Again, it's a choice you make as you waddle along your journey. And although, you have liberty to choose the changes you want to achieve in your life, how can you be absolutely sure you're heading in the right direction? Do you have control over your future?

I say do not get fixated on your destination but accept your journey willingly! Your journey often takes longer to complete than anticipated, so you might as well enjoy the ups and downs, the twists and turns. It is a process and not a race! It's like a game of chess where all pieces on the chess board are set and controlled by the mighty hands of God! So embrace your journey. After all, the destination itself might turn out not to be as appealing as it looked from the distance. If so, what will you be left with? A burdensome bag of regrets that you didn't enjoy the journey along the way, but instead were chasing a pot of fake gold at the end of the non-existing rainbow.



I say trust God and let Him dust away all the dirty tricks of Satan, who constantly tries to push you; to rush, confuse, discourage, or frighten you. And let God sit in the driver's seat! So, I say don't wait for a certain day, like New Year's Eve, to make a fresh start. Every day is a new day, a new beginning. Before you roll out of bed each day make a choice to choose God to be your Shepherd; let Him lead your journey to the destination He designed; find delight throughout your journey by the counsel of Jesus Christ; pray for guidance but most of all, trust the Lord wholeheartedly! This way, you will never be the prisoner of your own expectations, wishes, desires, wrong-doings, and future! Choose to have a fresh start with God each and every day!

Ildi Johnson

Seek and You Shall Find – A Sheep Seeking Adventure on Christmas Eve

Christmas celebration has now become a universal event among Christians and most non-Christians. Re-enactment of the Nativity depicting the birth of Jesus Christ in a manger is a common practice in the church. Why does the church retell this well-known story every year? Is it to commemorate, uphold tradition, or remind? Nowadays, secular individuals often associate Christmas with miracles and dreams. The so-called "Dreams Come True" are quite practical; couples desire romance, singles seek companionship, and families wish to enjoy a meal together. Returning to tradition, biblical stories have served as a medium to understand the world. Of course, without drama, a play would be dull. The characters therein contend with God, oppose others, experience ups and downs in life, receive grace, mercy, and blessings. In the story of Christmas, Mary conceives to give birth to the Son of God, Joseph becomes Jesus' earthly father, shepherds witness the birth of the new king, and miracles occur, all involving humble and modest individuals.

"A Sheep Seeking Adventure on Christmas Eve" is not a "pure" Nativity play; it tells the story of two shepherds, Ah Da (Elder Brother) and Ah Sai (Younger Brother), entrusted by their father to take care of the sheep named Snowy, who discover that the sheep has been stolen by a thief named Ah Sing. In the search for the lost sheep, Ah Sai encounters Mary, Joseph, and cavalymen ordered by King Herod to capture the infant. Guided by the star of Bethlehem, each person embarks on the journey to find and, in the end, what they discover is... The content draws from the Gospels and

Miracle Plays, incorporating characters and plots such as the sheep thief. The story conveys the message of "Seek and You Shall Find." Believers' dreams come true not only through action and effort but also through faith in God. When you act with faith, what you find surpasses your expectations.



Performances were held during the Christmas Service of Trinity on the evening of December 16 and the Chinese Congregation on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023. Special thanks to Helen Lo for her excellent English translation, which engaged Trinity parishioners even during Cantonese-speaking performances.

Once again, heartfelt thanks to all the participating actors, including Winkie Lai, Alais Vong, Akili Yip, Elim Koo, Jadey Kwong, Anson Lam, Colin Kong, Ian Kong, and Charis Leung. All of them showed their creativity and energy

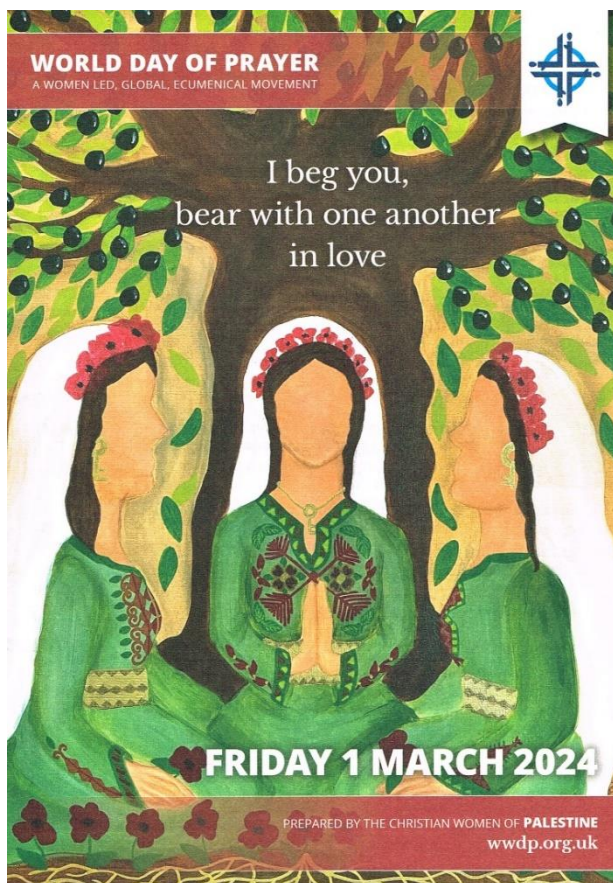


through the rehearsal and engaged the audience when they performed on stage. Special thanks to Cyrus Yeung, Sue, and Hugh for coordinating

the performance, Erica Kwok for playing live music, Ken Lai for operating subtitles, Vanessa Chow, and Brenda Chan for their behind-the-scenes support.

Indy Lee

The annual World Day of Prayer service was held at St Dunstons RC church this year. Particularly poignant, the service was prepared (many months ago) by the Christian Women of Palestine. The following day we heard at first-hand about conditions in Palestine at the Circuit Mission Supper (*see page 14*).



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 late Summer. 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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