

TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS



*“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his
steadfast love endures for ever.”*

September 2024 Issue 64

A message from Revd Dr Paul Glass

TNV went to print shortly after Rev Sam's surgery. As we pray for her continued recovery I am grateful to our Superintendent Minister, Rev Dr Paul Glass for contributing the following message for this issue.

Paul picks up on the theme of 'Time to Reflect' from the image on the cover. The photograph is of one of over 100 pieces on display at the Dorset Sculpture Park near Dorchester. Set in 26 acres around two former fishing lakes it is an inspiring and tranquil place to visit. The verse is from Psalm 107 [Ed.]

Time to Reflect

Goodness there's a lot to reflect on as we enter this new Methodist year. First, of course, there's the news about Sam. We love her dearly and the news of her recent operation has certainly had me reflecting on the things that can suddenly come completely out of the blue which have the capacity to change life significantly.

Then there's Anna starting her new work as a probationer minister of the Methodist Church in Cheshire and Shaun Sanders coming to join us in this Circuit.



Then there are things in the life of our Church (and Circuit) that need much care, thought and reflection as we move forward.

Over the past few days I have been very aware of being held and cherished. As people have said lovely and caring words and offered help of various kinds - I have been very aware of the presence of God in that outpouring of love. I know that Sam has felt that too. All this has meant that the buffeting that comes with difficult or troubling news comes also with a renewed sense of being cherished and held.

And for me what that means is that whatever we have to reflect on together - whatever this year holds for us as individuals, a Church or a Circuit there are extraordinary resources of love, care and kindness that we are surrounded by and can draw on. And in that holding, caring and resourcing I very much find the presence of God in the middle of all that happens

I am not a great fan of the phrase (that is sometimes used at times of difficulty) that talks about the fact we are never sent more than we can deal with. In my experience of dealing with pastoral situations I don't find that to be true. What I do reflect on is that in the midst of the things that happen - be they good or bad - there are resources of kindness, prayer, grace, hope and love that are there to be called on and to be used to sustain me and others throughout whatever is going on. And that is where I find peace and God.

Peace be the journey,

Paul



Dates for your diary

In addition to our usual Sunday services and other activities at Trinity please note the following special events taking place over the coming months.

Saturday 5 th October	Church Family Tea for Harvest (4pm)
Sunday 6 th October	Harvest Festival
Saturday 12 th October	Neighbourhood Party (see opposite page)
Friday 24 th October	ROC Conversation (see page 9)
Sunday 3 rd November	All Souls Service (4pm)
Saturday 16 th November	Tearfund Big Quiz (7.30pm)
Christmas plans	See page 14
Sunday 5 th January	Covenant Service



NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTY

SATURDAY
12TH OCTOBER 2024
4:00 - 6:00pm
Trinity Methodist Church
Brewery Road, Woking



There will be high tea, entertainment and a fun quiz.
Invitations will be sent out soon.



If you know someone who'd appreciate an **invitation**

CONTACT Marian (07749 094064)
Pauline (07729 301713)



Volunteers would be welcome to...
Help on the day or bake a cake

CONTACT Pauline (07729 301713)



To give someone a **lift** or sponsor a **taxi**

CONTACT David Reeve (01483 715462)
Hugh Bowerman

Thank you for your continued support.

The Neighbourhood Party Team



The Methodist Church



Update from the Church office

Kay and I are busy preparing for Autumn. She has prepared the publicity material for the Neighbourhood Party on 12 October, and the Panto 'It's A Boy' on 7 December. If you can help with either, please let us know (*see details on page 4 and 14*). Kay's degree is in Graphic Communication, which is why the quality of the publicity you see for our events and Services has improved. She is also bilingual in English and Cantonese.

I am updating the licence agreements and booking forms for our tenants and building users. We are then adding them to the Booking System (Churchsuite). I also use ChurchSuite to manage the church database and send communications out to you.

Soon I will be writing to tenants and building users about the increase in all our utility costs and what that might mean for what we charge them, from January. I'm also working with the Stewards (and Hugh) on what changes to practical support the tenants might get from us in the future. How we communicate this to them is very important.

I'm working with Jean on keeping the safeguarding (SG) records up to date. Thank you to everyone who has worked with us on getting their DBS renewed, or attended their SG training. I also keep an eye on data protection and GDPR.

I set up the livestream link on Youtube for Sunday Services, and edit the weekly newsletter. Many of you will have noticed that Lottie has been helping me with this

over the last 12 months. She has now finished her placement with us and it's unlikely we will be offering a placement to another student this term.

Kay and I work closely with all the operational volunteers, and many of the building users and tenants, on a daily basis. We answer queries, help set up and take down rooms, make teas and coffees, do some printing, offer first aid (more often than you might think but very rarely serious), help people who are sad or distressed (sadly this too happens more often than one might think), and generally represent the Church to everyone who comes through the doors during the 'working' week. If you think you can help us by being a Welcoming presence for a few hours during the week, please let me know.

Dan WS

Woking People of Faith have marked **International Peace Day** again this year with words and music in the Town Square, including a Peace Statement shared aloud by all the different faiths in the town (see next page).





Working People of Faith

Peace Statement 2024

Speaker: Have you ever thought about peace? About what it means and what it could look like in this world? And who should be involved? We urge you to think about it and begin to act on it.

Speaker: Peace is about working together on issues that cause pain and suffering. Part of that is learning to understand each other, so we can cooperate to solve difficult problems. This helps to build a peaceful world.

Each of us speaking here is from a different Faith, but we all work together – we cooperate so we can understand each other better and help each other more. This contributes to a peaceful world.

Speaker: Everyone in this event today, whether we are from different traditions, with different customs and different skin colours, we are all here to think about, talk about and behave in peaceful ways. We affirm that we are united by our common humanity. This makes for a more peaceful world.

Speaker: By helping people in need who are suffering in poverty, fear, persecution, hunger, no matter from wherever they are in the world, whatever they look like and whatever is their Faith creates a more peaceful world.

Speaker(s): Today we pray for the spirit of peace to move in our communities, that those who are targets of hate might be safe and that people of good will might work together in love and respect.

We pray for the spirit of healing, that those who grieve might be comforted and those who are injured might be made well.

We pray for the spirit of hope that those who despair might see a way ahead and those who live in fear might find sanctuary and freedom. Soften the hearts of those motivated by hate and help us all to love our neighbours.

All: Let us all commit to peace in our own individual and collective ways.

Minute silence for reflection/prayer.

From the Methodist Conference

The 2024 Methodist Conference was held in Leeds at the end of June. The Conference elected Revd Helen Cameron as President for the year 2024-25 and Mrs Carolyn Godfrey as Vice-President.



Helen is currently Chair of the Northampton District and the Nottingham and Derby District. Among her other hats she is Moderator of the Free Churches Group (FCG) and President of Churches Together in England. Her face may be familiar to those

who watched the funeral service of Her Majesty the Queen. She represented the FCG and read prayers, subsequently also attending the King's coronation.

Carolyn Godfrey is a local preacher with a background in pastoral care and child protection. She is currently District Safeguarding Officer for both the Darlington and Newcastle Districts.



ROC Woking - Second Big Conversation

On Thursday 24th October 7.30pm at Trinity Methodist church, Woking we will be holding a follow up conversation to the one we held in March 2020 as part of our outreach work.

The aim of the evening is to find out what the key issues facing people in Woking are, and where organisations can offer help.

All from Trinity are welcome and we will also be grateful for help in both setting up for the evening, table hosting, moving furniture, praying, serving refreshments, car parking, publicity etc.

You can sign up for the event here:

[https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/roc-woking.](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/roc-woking)

What is a ROC Conversation?

A ROC Conversation is a 2 hour structured community engagement event that invites members of the community and voluntary organisations to gather and discuss their specific needs, leading to an exploration of practical ways of meeting those needs.

Who will be invited?

All members of the local community: school and youth representatives, church & faith groups, police and fire services, social services, health services, local councillors, MPs, local volunteer groups - anyone with a desire to positively impact the community they live in.

What are the main objectives?

- To connect and engage local community members, volunteers and statutory agencies
- To celebrate all the good things taking place in the community
- To raise awareness of the needs of the community
- To explore possible solutions and resources required to meet current & future needs
- To create a network of people passionate about improving the community they live in
- To identify specific skillsets and resources already in the community
- To reinvigorate the work of the three Action Teams (Youth, Loneliness & Isolation and Mental Health) and develop new projects in the community

Why is it unique?

By bringing together a diverse network of people who care about their community and are passionate about working together to improve their local area, we create something very unique and powerful.

Ruth Taylor (Chair of ROC)

(ROC Woking has an excellent website which is well worth looking at [Ed.] See www.rocwoking.org.uk.)



Trinity's Eco Service

On July 14th Allison Jackson and I led a Local Arrangement service themed around our environment (*See also page 31 [Ed.]*).

As part of the service we calculated our carbon footprint using WWF footprint calculator <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>.

The highest carbon footprint was 20 tonnes of carbon and the lowest 6.5 tonnes of carbon. The biggest part of my carbon footprint was contributed by travel. WWF tell us that the UK average carbon footprint for 2024 is 8.8 tonnes and the World average 6.3 tonnes.

We looked at ways we could reduce our carbon footprint individually and as a church. Some suggestions were:

As individuals

- Turn the thermostat down
- Use less plastic and plastic packaging
- Re-use and recycle paper and plastic bags
- Change jobs to be more local, commute less and use public transport
- Car pooling
- Downsize house once children have left home
- Do not replace things prematurely
- Recycle 'old' things
- Offset flights
- Don't heat unused rooms

As a church

- Shut doors, turn off lights, review heating and hot water systems
- Use low energy lights
- No church heating – wear warmer clothes in winter!

Local initiatives to reduce waste and carbon release include

- The Repair Café once a month on a Saturday in local churches. Upcoming dates are shown in the box below. More information can be found at <https://wokingenvironmentaction.com/woking-repair-cafe/>.
- Local Community fridges are working to reduce food waste. We have one in St John's West Byfleet on a Saturday morning, others run at Knaphill Monday- Friday and Canalside Monday and Wednesday mornings. Free food getting near its sell by date is available to anyone to pick up.

Ruth Taylor

September 14th – Trinity Methodist Church,
Brewery Road, GU21 4LH

October 12th – Andy's Cafe, St Andrew's Church,
Goldsworth Park Centre, GU21 3LG

November 9th – St Mary's Community Centre,
Stream Close, Byfleet, KT14 7LZ

December 7th – Old Woking Community Centre,
Sundridge Road, GU22 9AT



WEAct

Woking Environment Action

Christian Aid Week 2024

Our annual plant sale was held on 11th May. It was a glorious sunny day and whilst the plants were being sold outside, refreshments were served in the sanctuary where the monthly Woking Repair Café was happening.



The following day Hugh Bowerman led our morning service on the theme of 'Extraordinary Love'. Through the service we followed the story of Aline Nibogora from Burundi, one of the poorest countries in the world. Aline is a truly remarkable woman who, having experienced years of abuse, poverty and homelessness was able – with financial and other assistance from Christian Aid – not only to rebuild her own life but to become a respected leader in her community. Through all the challenges that they continue to face Aline says: "God comforts you through troubled times and gives you hope for a better future."



In all we were able to send £1600 to Christian Aid from the weekend, plus £140 from the May charity of the month.

Christmas at Trinity

Friday 29 th November	Christingle
Saturday 7 th December	
Sunday 8 th December	Nativity Service
Sunday 15 th December	Joint Carol Service with our Chinese Congregation (6pm)
Tuesday 24 th December	Christmas Eve Midnight Communion Service (11.15pm)
Wednesday 25 th December	Christmas Day Service (10am)

Faiths in Harmony

Faiths in Harmony has been an annual event organised by Woking People of Faith. As its title suggests it brings together people of different faiths to perform music in their own traditions. This year's concert was held at Parkview Community Centre on Sheerwater during Refugee Week in June.

'All religions. All this singing. One song. The differences are just illusion and vanity.'
(Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī – 13th century Islamic poet and scholar)

There were contributions from Christian groups, from Imam Hashmi and family from the Shah Jahan Mosque, from representatives of Baha'i, Hindu and Jewish communities, and instrumental items on the Tabla and the Syrian Oud. After the concert the audience and performers were treated to an enjoyable meal provided by Chenai Dosa restaurant.



Angie Ng, Graham Kirby-Smith and Mike Cope (Trinity), Adejoke Popoola (Nigerian Redemption Church), Micky Singh (Tabla), Louise Morales (Mayor of Woking)

Daphne Lander

Ten Ways to Love

There are various versions of this, not surprisingly given the significance of 'love' as a theme in the Bible. This one seems particularly helpful.

1. Give without expecting anything in return
(Proverbs 21:26)
2. Trust without wavering
(1 Corinthians 13:7)
3. Forgive without punishing
(Colossians 3:13-14)
4. Listen without interrupting
(Proverbs 18:2)
5. Enjoy without complaint
(Philippians 2:14)
6. Answer without arguing
(Proverbs 17:1)
7. Keep promises
(Psalm 89:34)
8. Speak without accusing
(James 1:19)
9. Be patient in all things
(1 Corinthians 13:4)
10. Learn to let it go
(Ephesians 4:31-32)

Breakthrough – You and Me (from our Chinese congregation)

The first ever Youth Summer Camp by Chinese Congregation was held from July 22-24, 2024 and took place at Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development Centre located at High

Ashurst near Dorking. The theme was “Breakthrough – You and Me” whereby “You” may imply GOD / peers.



Our mentors focused on the de-briefing of each camp activity in which we learned to trust God who is always with us and/or reply to our peers who encourage and cheer for us.

The followings are the participants’ sharing and views.

Isaac Leung: This was my first experience in a church camp and I had no idea what was going to happen. However, I was pleasantly surprised by how exciting and enriching every activity was. I learned a lot.

One of the most memorable activities for me was the rope activity on the first day. My friend and I had to climb up a 12 metre platform and then jump forward to grab onto a trapeze. I was initially scared and hesitant, which made it difficult for me to grab onto the trapeze. However, I learned from experience and on the second day, I decided to push myself out of my comfort zone and attempt to climb to the top of the rock wall. With incessant encouragement from my mentors and friends, I was able

to reach the top. This experience taught me that with faith in myself, I can achieve the impossible.

You may think that each activity at the camp was done alone, but the truth is, there were many people silently supporting and protecting me. This reminded me of how God guides and supports us in our daily lives, especially when we face challenges that seem impossible to overcome. Just like the people holding onto the ropes during the rope activity, God is always there to help and protect us.

On the last day of the camp, we played a game called "Death Judge". I was chosen to be the one who was "sinful" and the others were the "crowd" who attempted to punish me by throwing paper "stones". Through this game, I learned that we all make mistakes and instead of criticizing others, we should understand and forgive them.

The group sharing afterwards was profound, as the mentors shared their most unforgettable childhood memories. This made me realize that even the most lighthearted person can have a deep emotion side. From their sharing, I learned the importance of treasuring our friends and family.

At the camp, I experienced the true meaning of Philippians 4:13, *"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."* Despite facing challenges and limitations, I was able to overcome them with the help of God. This experience has strengthened my faith and before the end of the camp, I decided to give my heart to Jesus.



Before the camp, we had many worries and concerns, but by the end, we were all reluctant to leave. We started off as strangers, but in the end, we had become close friends who would unfailingly support and encourage one another. I am grateful for this unforgettable and special experience this summer. I would like to thank the dedicated group of mentors for their guidance and encouragement. The Lord's words will continue to motivate me in my faith and life. I would also like to thank my fellow campers for their constant support and encouragement. With the love of the Lord, I hope we can all become good friends rendering mutual support at all times as we move forward together.

Hymn Tsang: Hello everyone, I believe that we all have a lot of difficulties and challenges in our lives. You may think that some problems are easy, but in fact, we learned from the camp that there are many problems in life that we need to break through. For example, in the camp we could experience rock climbing; we tried to reach the top more than 10 metres high. Although I have some experience in rock climbing, many of us have no experience or have not done it for a long time. Therefore, rock climbing is difficult for us as a team, and it is an activity that calls for courage and determination. In the process of rock climbing, I have seen many people break through their boundaries and try to break through themselves.

In life, I wonder if there are any problems that we need to break through and break out of our comfort zone? In Joshua 1:9, the LORD said to Joshua, *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."* In this verse, the LORD encouraged Joshua to remember that he is with you in times of trouble. As long as you put your faith in the LORD, you can be strong and courageous no matter what the situation is. In rock climbing, we all rely on our faith and

courage to overcome our fears and climb to the highest point as far as possible.

Some people may think that breaking through is something you do on your own, without the help of others, and that rock climbing is indeed a personal sport, where you have to rely on your physical strength to enable you to reach the top. However, when you are climbing on the rocks, someone below you will pull a safety rope so that you will not fall. That person has to have the courage and strength to keep hold of the rope. Therefore, rock climbing can be regarded as a group sport. It is the same with breakthroughs. You may feel that you are capable to cope with all the problems in life, and you do not need other people's help.

Galatians 6:2 says *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ"*, telling believers

to help each other in all kinds of difficulties and to share their anxieties. This shows that we should help and support each other in our lives so that the church family can grow in love. I hope that in the



future we will remind ourselves to help each other when we face difficulties.

Skeye To: I am very happy to have this opportunity to share with you what I did and what I learned at the camp. On the first day, the first activity was called "High Altitude Challenge." The game involved climbing a ladder to reach a platform about 12 metres high, where there was a wooden board, and then I had to jump like an acrobat to a triangular handrail about 1 metre away to complete the task. At that time, I was very scared. The first reason was

that I have a fear of heights, the second was that I didn't trust the safety rope, and the last but not the least was that I had no confidence in the people below to have enough strength to pull me up. After struggling for a while, I decided not to participate.

Then, I played a second game called "Rope Net." Before starting this game, I felt quite confident because I had played it when I was younger. As I began to climb up, I kept hearing encouraging voices and cheers from below, and these helped me feel less nervous with every step I took up, even making me feel quite relaxed. When I climbed to about 8 or 9 metres, I stopped because I was very tired and sat down on a wooden platform to rest. At that moment, my first reaction was to look down at the ground and I thought to myself, "Wow, I've climbed so high." I could feel my hands and feet shaking. Then, the coach asked me to come down. At that moment, I still didn't fully trust the safety rope, but I thought seriously about the challenge; every person was safely brought down with the help from that safety rope. Why couldn't I trust this rope? So, I gathered my courage and let go of the hand I was holding onto the platform. As I descended, I realized that the rope lowered me slowly, so I wasn't scared at all. In fact, I found the experience quite fun.

When I reached the ground, I came to realise that this rope net was like our lives. If this rope net represents the difficulties in life, then the safety rope must be our Heavenly Father. Even when we accidentally slip or make mistakes, He will protect us and ensure our safety. The people below, like my family, friends, and fellow brothers and sisters, are always there to support us in facing challenges. Their encouraging voices help us to be more confident in dealing with difficulties.

On my way home, I reflected on this experience and thought of a verse from Corinthians 12:9-10 *"But he said*

to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

I hope that this verse can help everyone understand more about facing difficulties, especially for us Hong Kong



people who have come to the UK, as we might often encounter challenges, whether they are economic pressures, family discord, or language barriers at work. But I hope everyone can remember that when we face difficulties, we are not alone; our Heavenly Father is with us, helping us face all challenges.

Huko Chan: I am very happy and honoured to have participated in the Holy Trinity Summer Youth Life Camp this year. At this camp, I deeply felt God's guidance and His wonderful works upon us. The four instructors, along with the eight participants, have relied on God to live out His teachings and truth. Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."



May God bless our young people to follow Christ for the rest of their lives. **Amen**

'All kinds of everything remind me of you'

I wonder what memories and thoughts those words bring to mind. I suspect...Dana...Eurovision Song Contest. For me it has a double meaning. When I was a month old I was dedicated in the Salvation Army to 'God and the War' to the sound of singing, clapping, a brass band and tambourines. I didn't know then how relevant Brian Hoare's words in StF 21 would be, for I was literally '*Born in Song!*'

Apart from Nursery Rhymes the first significant memories of singing that I have were when I attended Sunday School and we always finished with the Prayer Chorus – '*A little star peeped over the hill, the woods were quiet, the birds were still, the children clasped their hands in prayer, for the love of God is everywhere.*' That sentiment has never left me and when I look at the stars, it is in my mind.

When I was a young teenager in Dorset, we lived next to the Congregational Chapel where my Mum and Dad were caretakers, and we attended 'Chapel' three times every Sunday; Morning Worship, Afternoon Sunday School and Evening Worship. For pumping the bellows of the organ, I was paid 17 shillings and sixpence a year (a princely sum then). We didn't have a TV, but I did have a transistor radio and on a Sunday evening I would sit in the front room listening to '*Sunday Half Hour*' on Radio 2, a programme of hymn singing, and then the wonderful hour of '*Your 100 Best Tunes*' - a cornucopia of relatively light classical music. It totally absorbed me. I learned so much about music and loved many of the pieces.

One Saturday, as members of the Methodist Youth Club, we were invited to Salisbury theatre to take part in the

presentation of the National Children's Home collection through the 'Sunny Smiles' annual fund-raising project. The guest performers were the *Luton Girls Choir* (as they were called then). I was so impressed I bought a copy of their latest record. It was superb and I played it a lot (it recently wore out). There were many songs I learnt and one I discovered which was to have a significant effect on my life ten years later when I met Christine - '*You are my Hearts Delight*' from '*The Land of Smiles*' by Franz Lehar, sung by Richard Tauber. It was significant because it became mine and Christine's song. We always used to reference the song in birthday and wedding anniversary cards to each other.

We were engaged in 1973 when another significant song was very popular. It had recently won what was then called the Eurovision Song Contest and is now simply known as 'Eurovision'. This was '*All kinds of everything, remind me of you*' sung by Dana. It quickly became another 'our song' which was especially important when we only saw each other once a month whilst I trained as a teacher. We were married on Saturday 10 August 1974 at the Lutheran church in the village of Landiswil in the Emmental region of Switzerland. We chose two hymns that could be sung in German and English - '*Praise to the Lord the Almighty, the King of creation*', (StF 88) and '*Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices*', (StF 81). These two hymns are so meaningful to me in two ways; as a reminder of my life with Christine, and as a deep foundation of my faith in God, and I always sing them from the bottom of my heart.

This year, on Saturday 10 August, 50 years to the day since our wedding, the family and I returned to the church, to celebrate, reflect and remember, as part of our holiday together on Lake Brienz, Bernese Oberland.



Exterior & Interior Kirche Landiswil. Reviewing the wedding album in the shade! Photos: Warr Family

We had a truly wonderful family day, with lots of love and happiness. I felt Christine was with me in spirit that weekend, and as always, in my heart. In a quiet moment as I sat where we had sat fifty years ago, I thanked my Lord for our family love and the joy that had been with us, and my loving Lord who had been with me over the good times and more especially in those sad and difficult times since I lost her.

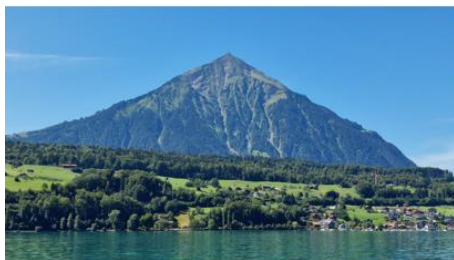
During the rest of the week we enjoyed the holiday individually and together. After waiting for fifty years since my first visit to Switzerland I finally went to visit the Rheinfalls. They were spectacular!



Rheinfalls from the Swiss side. Photo G Warr

I love the song, 'How great Thou art!' (Stf 82) particularly verse two – 'When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to you: how great you are!

And this was very much in my mind when on one evening in the week, the night before my Birthday, we all went up the Niesen (2394m), the 'house mountain' for the region we stay in, and had an evening meal together in the Berg Restaurant, as the sun set around us. Poignant memories but profoundly significant to my love for my wife and her homeland, my family – Dan & Paul, Bern, Jess, Isobel & Clara, and my God!



The Niesen, Lakes Thun and Brienz from the Summit, booking for the Niesen Buffet! Photos: Warr Family

When I look back there is a deeper meaning to those two songs: 'All kinds of everything, remind me of you' and 'You are my hearts delight'. They have a greater resonance with my Faith in my Lord, Father/Mother God, Jesus my Saviour and the Holy Spirit, who have been with me from the day I was born, through 77 years of life, in good and tough times, when I have been at my lowest, my highest and long periods in between. What a great, powerful and

wonderful Holy Trinity we have for: *'The Eternal God is our dwelling place and underneath are the everlasting arms'* (From Deuteronomy 33:27 AV).

Yes, *all kinds of everything* constantly remind me of those words I learned over 70 years ago – *'for the love of God is everywhere'*.



*Bernhard, Jessica, Clara, myself, Isobel, Paul and Daniela at Kirche Landiswil
10 August 2024*

Graham Warr

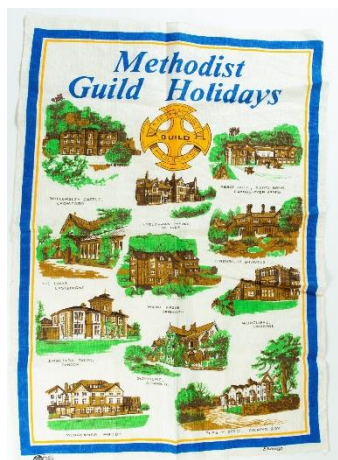
A Hymn and a holiday

Some time ago, Rev Sam wrote an article in TNV, and quoted a hymn. A short time later, I received a letter from a friend, who quoted the same hymn. This brought back memories of an interesting period.

Before starting my nurse training, I did a 2 year catering course at Huddersfield Tech. During previous holidays, and on Saturdays, I had worked in many shops and Market

locker for coffee, and wandering round the shops in town. Joining in the guest activities off duty was encouraged. We were introduced to the guests on the Saturday night welcome, and joined in the games tournaments, socials, etc. If there was a spare seat on the excursion on our day off, we could go.

On Sunday mornings, the house staff and guests went to the morning service, and I stayed to care for the Sunday lunch. Another holiday girl stayed behind to complete anything required out in the general house. Looking back, it was quite risky leaving 2 youngsters like that. The main advantage of staying "at home" on Sunday morning was having an extra half day in the afternoon. (There was the occasional phone call from a chap...) Sunday tea was salad, etc, which was sorted out by the other staff.



Sunday nights were spent in reflective mood, with the singing of favourite hymns, guests reciting poems and readings. At 9.45pm, the Guild Hymn was sung in every Guild House – that had been chosen by Guild House staff or associates. There was also a collection made on behalf of the Methodist Clinic in The Gambia. At Mount Argus, we went out onto the lawn overlooking the estuary, at 10pm, and sang the hymn I mentioned. "This, this is the God we adore" – both verses.

I never found out why this hymn was chosen, not having an obvious Wesley connection, although it sums up the Christian thinking. I have heard mention of it being the Methodist "national" anthem – could anybody enlighten me on this, too?

Prayers for a suffering world

[These are two of a number of helpful prayers available to download from the Methodist Church website]

“Loving God, I see the news and I am afraid. Violence is spiralling out of control. I don’t know what to think or feel. The temptation to fall into hatred, or despair feels very close at hand. Help me to remember that nothing in all creation can separate me from your love that I know in Jesus. May your perfect love for me cast out my fear and free me to discern what is mine to do amidst the chaos of this suffering world. **Amen**”

“In a world that God made good, let us pray for people seeing things no human being should see; for people seized by terror no human being should experience; for people whose depths of suffering no human being should know. God of unquenchable hope confirm our belief that this is not how things should be. Affirm our belief that things can and will be different. Strengthen our belief in Jesus who opens the way from death to resurrection, and help us, as his disciples, to be your agents for change in our broken world. **Amen**”



The Beatitudes made Local

(From our morning service on 14th July (see page 11), the theme of which was God's creation, our part in it and living sustainably)



Blessed are the waters of the canal, which looks cool even on a scorching day.

Blessed are the unseen networks of fungi which connect root to root, tree to tree, on the Common.

Blessed are the caterpillars which change into fluttering bright winged butterflies and moths.

Blessed are the sticky lime trees which give shade to humans and sap-fluid to the greenfly, who in turn provide honeydew to ants.

Blessed is the rain which falls on our gardens and streets, and is sculpted into living shapes by the plants.



Blessed are the pots of plants around the Church, bursting into blossom all through the year.

Blessed are the moss and weeds which push through the cracks in the paving, they provide life for the creatures we cannot see.

Blessed is the wood of the seats, which once fountained high with sap, and now provide rest for weary bodies.

Blessed is the community of insects, birds and animals, who find homes and food in our gardens, our parks, our pots and our verges and our canal.



Amen

A Riddle

My garden was very crowded.

There were some sheep in it and the ministers had left their congregations there. There were beds with flowers in them, but also stuffed mattresses and rolls of wallpaper.

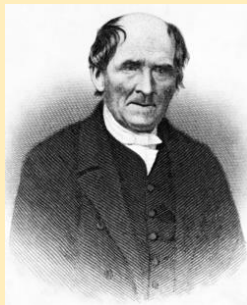
But now the students have left there is just one animal left.

What is it? *[answer on page 34]*

Back in the 1960s Harold Wilson was invited to describe the way he approached his speech-making. In reply he quoted the (perhaps apocryphal) words of a West Country non-conformist preacher from Victorian times. Said preacher will no doubt have been a Methodist (very probably Bible Christian) and his approach as expressed by Harold Wilson was as follows: "*First I explanifies; next I arguifies; then I puts in the arousements.*"

Perhaps the sermons we hear these days are generally more genteel. But no doubt many of us can recall sermons delivered in the old style – including the 'arousements', for which purpose the Bible would be closed with dramatic emphasis and the preacher would lean forward across the pulpit to make sure he (as it then would have been) had our full attention for the final minutes!

Someone who no doubt deployed 'arousements' in his preaching was Billy Bray, the early 19th century Cornish evangelist and Bible Christian.



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.

The Riddle: A fox (*Flocks/Phlox; Students = Learners (L); thus Focks = Fox*)

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 a Christmas/Winter edition. Articles should be submitted by **Friday 22nd November 2024**

David Lander



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

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