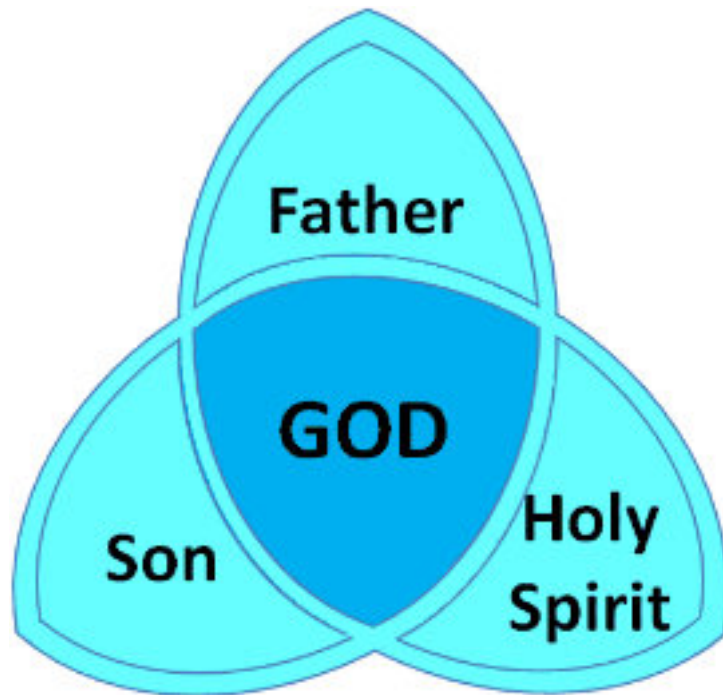


Trinity News



Trinity Sunday June 4th

June 2023

Minsters Muse

Dear Friends,

When did you last change your mind about something?

Sometimes it can be a difficult thing to do, or a difficult thing to admit. Sometimes the culture around us seems to demand constancy and consistency, such that changing our mind is seen as a sign of weakness.

Politicians are lambasted for ‘making a U turn’ when they change their minds about something, and others are lauded for having resolute, unwavering opinions.

However, in reality we change our minds all the time, but most readily on things that will benefit us. We tend to resist changes that may benefit others but feel like a threat to us. We may convince ourselves that this resistance is purely a matter of moral or biblical principle, but sometimes it is more about something that takes us way beyond our comfort zone. (There are, of course, important principles about which we need to hold fast to in the midst of changing times, but history is full of examples of when the church has been sadly mistaken about what is really important!)

In the light of the season of Pentecost, as we read about the coming of the Spirit, and the work of the Spirit, in the book of Acts, I’m struck more and more by the way the Spirit leads to all kinds of changes, that require people to change their minds. Uncomfortable changes, theological changes, controversial changes. Changes which lead to changed lives, and changed communities.

One central character of course is Paul the Apostle. His mind is dramatically changed, from seeing the early Christian church as a threat that must be stamped out by any means necessary, to becoming an Apostle who would not only bring about huge growth in the church, but also help to enable a huge theological shift to take place, a changing of many minds.

Paul writes in his letter to the Romans: “Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.”

This change of mind does not happen once and for all when we decide to follow Christ, but is part of our lifelong journey of discipleship.

Has the Spirit been nudging you to change your mind about something, or someone? What changes are we resisting? Is it time to prayerfully discern if this resistance is what God really wants? It might be – but it might not!

Changing our minds can be a sign of maturity and strength, not weakness. So may God bless us in whatever U turns we need to make!

With love,

Gavin

Bible a Month: Ukraine

“ Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest” Matthew 11, vs 28 (GNB)

Ukraine is a country to the north of the Black Sea in Eastern Europe. It has borders with Russia, Belarus, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. It covers an area of 233,000 sq miles and is two and a half times the size of the UK. The population is 43.5 million; the main languages are Ukrainian and Russian. The literacy rate- people who can read and write – is 99.8 %.

Its more than a year since the war in Ukraine began. With your prayerful support, our colleagues have been working tirelessly to bring the hope of the Bible, along with basic food and medical aid, to stricken communities.

Living close to death has led many Ukrainians (in what is largely a Christian country) to read the Bible. Since the start of the war, our colleagues have distributed more than half a million copies of the Bible across the country. Regular giving through Bible a Month has made this massive outreach possible.

The Bible Society team in Ukraine spends much of their time on the front line handing out bibles and leading impromptu services as artillery fire goes off all around them. Our colleagues also work with churches to support Bible summer camps where children who have lost loved ones are comforted through trauma healing programmes.

Scriptures in Ukrainian and Russian have not only been distributed in Ukraine itself but also to refugees, including here in the UK, where churches have warmly welcomed Ukrainian families.

Prayers for Ukraine.

Heavenly Father, I pray for the people of Ukraine- those who are still living there and their families in foreign countries. Please give them your grace to cope and a welcoming spirit to host families. In Jesus' name, Amen *(Janet, Somerset)*

Everlasting, loving God, we pray for peace in Ukraine , healing for the wounded, comfort for the bereaved, that families who have fled leaving behind loved ones will be reunited. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen *(Allen, Derbyshire)*

The above are two of more than a thousand prayers on the Ukrainian Prayer tree, which you can find on biblesociety.org.uk/bam-ukraine-pray

From the Bible a Month Newsletter, Summer 2023.

Eyewitness Report from Ukraine Miracles that bring you closer to God.

By Rostyslav, who works for the Bible Society in Ukraine. (Not his real name)*

To live a year in a full-scale war wears you down, even if you are not on the front lines. The whole nation has been affected. The whole nation is mobilised, and no one can stay away or take a break from the war. We civilians have never been prepared to withstand this amount of stress, and emotions that fill you daily can ruin you.

But, like when you have your first child, you find strength you never thought you were capable of. In the ministry field, there is no greater motivation than knowing your every effort counts, every Bible given away is capable of changing someone's current condition and future. But it does wear you down, so we all are looking forward to the day when the war is over, and we can all take a break.

The biggest fear for me is that the war lasts for too long, to the point that we all lose our pre-war identities due to the violence and tragedies we experience every day, and that the nation will just go into downfall. To avoid this, there is no other way, I believe, than to stay connected to the source of humaneness and guidance- the Bible. Your support means many Bibles have been provided. Thank you so much.

Witnessing how fragile your life is causes you to turn your thoughts to God, to eternity, to spiritual things. Yet, witnessing those miracles that happen around you is also something that brings you closer to God. Finally, you are thankful for the very basic things: light and warmth in your home, a good nights sleep or a quiet morning without sirens, being with family, fellowship with others and many more things.

I especially appreciate what is related to me and my family: a shot-down rocket fell just 500 metres away from my parents' home, destroying only an old barn; my wife and son have bene welcomed by a great family in a foreign country whom we never met before; my ability to meet them from time to time; even the very fact that God has spared me and many people whom I know from any serious illness since the beginning of the war.

As Bible Society, we are mostly concerned about having enough Bibles. Every time our teams head to the front line and decently liberated areas, the Bibles we take always run out too soon. There is always someone left without the Bible. So thank you for your continuous support.

There are other practical needs: food, basic hygiene things, medicine and warm clothes. In many areas, people need flashlights, power banks and portable stoves.

As Bible Society, we always need more Bibles. The needs exceed our supplies. What's important is that we have an incredible infrastructure of churches and organisations working with the victims of the war, so what we really need is to print more Bibles and they would be distributed in a meaningful way. We are sowing the seed as never before. Millions of people have been exposed to the word of God, who would never have been otherwise.

I have a special selection of Bible passages that help me in moments of discouragement. Philippians 4, vs 6-7 is my number one favourite. It says, "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, 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 minds in Christ Jesus"

Please do pray for peace in Ukraine, for the victims of war, the Church, the Bible Society, and all ministers and volunteers. We know that everything is in God's hands.

Missiles launched during Eurovision hits Christian Aid food warehouse

Russian missiles during the Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday 13th May destroyed a humanitarian site in Ukraine, it has been confirmed.

International development charity, Christian Aid, has reported a Russian missile destroyed a Christian Aid food warehouse in Ternopil - the hometown of Ukraine's Eurovision entrant Tvorchi.

Ivan Hontar, the head of Christian Aid's local partner charity Light of Reformation, explained: "Our warehouse with humanitarian aid, which also served as a hub for inter-church coordination in our region, was completely demolished."

Christian Aid's Ukraine Programme Manager, Lizz Harrison, added: "This latest attack on a non-military target shows the risks taken by our Ukrainian partners every day to ensure humanitarian aid reaches those who need it most."

Thankfully, Christian Aid has confirmed that no warehouse staff were injured. Their partner, Light of Reformation, has also confirmed their work will continue.

The food packages, worth around £12,800, were going to be distributed for Ukraine Mother's Day on Sunday. They will all be replaced by Christian Aid using UK public donations to the DEC Ukraine appeal.

Christian Aid press release, May 2023

Shoppers concerned over climate threat to favourite foods

A Survey for Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 (February) shows that consumers would be 'devastated' to lose their favourite foods to climate change, with many already adapting the way they shop.

60 percent of British people would be 'devastated, annoyed or upset' if chocolate was no longer available to buy in the UK. Over half (54%) would feel the same about losing coffee or bananas.

In new consumer research, conducted by 3Gem Research & Insights for Fairtrade Fortnight 2023, it was revealed that approximately **80 percent** of UK consumers bought at least one bar of chocolate and at least one banana in their weekly supermarket shop, and drank at least one cup of coffee a day.

Yet all of these favourite foods are threatened by climate change – from rising temperatures to more extreme weather – as well as a loss of biodiversity thanks to deforestation and use of pesticides.

In fact, Fairtrade cocoa farmers in Ghana told us, during their last harvest, that **they don't see a future in the crop because it's so difficult to grow.**

However, the research, which polled 2,000 people in the UK, showed many didn't realise the looming threats to our food.

- 40 percent either 'don't care' or 'rarely check' the country of origin for foods like bananas, coffee and cocoa
- 37 percent are either unsure, or don't believe, that climate change will affect their weekly shop

The cost of living crisis is also having an impact, with **43 percent** saying that paying their energy bills is 'a bigger concern to them than climate change and damage being done to the planet'.

Small changes, big impact

But that does not mean that people don't care:

- 38 percent are already making changes to their lifestyle and shopping habits to limit their impact on the planet
- 64 percent either agree or strongly agree that 'buying sustainably sourced food in the supermarket is a lifestyle change you can make to help protect food grown in countries at risk of climate change'.

In fact nearly half (**44 percent**) of people choose products that are sustainably sourced when they go shopping, whether these are Fairtrade, organic, vegan or locally produced. And the good news is, this does not have to be expensive. Fairtrade products such as tea, coffee and bananas are available at affordable prices nationwide including in own-label discount ranges.

Why does choosing Fairtrade make a difference?

With Fairtrade's support – including our Minimum Price, Premium, Standards and Programmes – farmers get better pay. The more money farmers have, the more they can build their resilience to the climate crisis.

Just look at Latin America and the Caribbean – in 2022, producers from more than **100 Fairtrade organisations across 20 countries planted more than 300,000 trees** in six months.

Together we can play our part in safeguarding their livelihoods, the future of the food they grow, and our shared planet.

From the Fairtrade blog online

Danger on the Mission Field

Pius Ogbu Sunday, TLM Nigeria's Operations Manager, shares how his work, home life and church attendance are affected on a daily basis in a country beset by terrorist incidents and religious tensions

“We have a really wonderful church here in Minna, where I live with my wife, Doris and our three children. It's hot today and even hotter in church! As I was worshipping God this morning I thanked Him for the privilege of serving people who have leprosy, and those who are cured, but are permanently disabled by the disease.

Security on the door

I love to come to church to praise God and hear the Word but I also find it sad because we have to have so much security on the door. There are barriers and police who carry out body checks as people come in. Many churches here even use hand-held scanners like they use for airport security. There is always the threat of attack against churches and Christians by extremists and terrorists.

Here in Nigeria, as across the Mission, we serve everyone who is affected by leprosy regardless of their religion or tribal background. But we have to be really careful in some parts of the country where we travel with The Leprosy Mission because of religious tensions. It can be dangerous for Christians here. Sometimes we take an armed escort when travelling to a particularly dangerous area, on the advice of security reports.

Huge potholes

As I leave church my heart is still singing praises to God! Despite all the dangers, my family have been kept safe. Every week I travel from Minna to the office of TLM Nigeria in Abuja – our capital city. The road is mostly in very poor condition, there are huge potholes and craters where it hasn't been maintained. The dust and dirt fly up as I drive and I have to weave in and out to avoid the worst of the potholes which would damage the car. It was on this road a year ago that my family and I were attacked.

Praying for protection

Ahead of the drive I can feel a lurch in my stomach and plead with our dear Lord for His divine protection. The heat of the day is fading and there's a calmness to the evening, unnervingly similar to that of last year's incident. Although my family and I were unharmed, the incident has left us wary and more dependent on God's power; I know that it is only by God's grace that I will arrive safely.

Tragically violence is increasingly becoming part of normal everyday life here; even at home in Minna we are not completely safe. Our home has been robbed at gunpoint twice.

Violence and tragedy

Possessions don't really matter though. What matters are our loved ones. My colleague, Friday, who works tirelessly for The Leprosy Mission, experienced the violence of the militant Islamist group Boko Haram in 2015. His mother was killed by members of the

group, along with his sister-in-law and her precious children. It was a horrendous time for Friday and his brother, who lost his whole family in the attack.

Extreme poverty

Life is far from easy here but people affected by leprosy have so much more to contend with than I do. People often live in extreme poverty, not knowing if they will eat the next day, or if they will be able to feed their children. How can you grow food if your hands and feet are deformed and disabled by leprosy? Doctors and medical care cost money, and people are usually far too poor to afford this. The worst thing though is when I see people with the worse poverty of all, being cast out by their friends, families and communities. I can seriously imagine nothing more devastating than this.

This is why The Leprosy Mission is like a lifeline. I am honoured to be part of a team giving practical help, medical care, love and acceptance to people suffering with so much.

As I depart today, back to Abuja, I will pray for safety. Leprosy Mission staff here always pray before each journey we make and thank our Lord for our safe arrival. We are entirely dependent on His grace. I am ready to go out again to serve God's people."

About TLM's work in Nigeria

3,000 new cases of leprosy are reported each year. Of those, 10 per cent are children and 15 per cent already live with visible disabilities – evidence of ongoing transmission and late diagnosis.

Some Geordie Musical Terms (by Mark Deeks)

Flat – Nee fizz !

Sharp- How that nacked!

Pause- Haad ya horses !

Semibreve rest- EEE I'm shattered !

Minim rest- I'm gan for a lie doon !

Crescendo- A canna hear ye pet !

Decrescendo- Divvent wake the bairns !

Repeat- A think a'l dee that again !

FF (very loud) – Geet massive !

MF (moderately loud) – Wey it could be louder !

PP (very soft) – There's nowt there!

MP (moderately soft) – Canny soft !

Act now to avert food crisis in South Sudan, Christian Aid urges UK and international community

Christian Aid is urging the UK and wider international community to act urgently to avert food crises in South Sudan and the Horn of Africa as the World Food Program launches its Global Report on Food Crises 2023.

The eruption of conflict in Sudan will put further strains on the situation in South Sudan, where the most food-insecure areas are those closest to the border with Sudan, the charity is warning.

Christian Aid is highlighting the persistent flooding and further losses of livestock alongside damage to homes and the displacement of vulnerable communities.

James Wani, Christian Aid's South Sudan country manager, said: 'The disastrous impacts of food shortages and mass loss of livestock have severely affected the resilience of communities.

'In South Sudan, communities are still living in flood waters, and persistent insecurity and conflict have left two-thirds of the population food insecure. Areas in the North and West are at emergency levels of food insecurity and some households may fall into famine.

'We are worried the hunger crisis in South Sudan could escalate to catastrophic levels this year with the recent turn of events in Sudan. The country is already facing severe food deficits due to the climate crisis and conflict induced shocks with three quarters of the population projected to require food aid in 2023.

'With the recent influx of returnees and refugees into the country, the situation on the ground is worsening by the day, exacerbated by the current 'lean season', as humanitarian agencies struggle to assist those in need. Unless the international community shows solidarity, we will witness a humanitarian catastrophe at a level never seen before.'

Lydia Mbogoro, Christian Aid's humanitarian hunger policy and advocacy adviser, added: 'Not enough is being done to avert the crisis, and the upcoming high-level pledging conference on the Horn of Africa in New York this month is an opportunity for the UK and the international community to shore up and scale up support for the region.

'However, there has been a critical oversight in the lack of inclusion of South Sudan as part of the pledging conference. This young country is at a moment where it needs greater support and without its inclusion as part of the conference, we will not see the necessary progress on food security in the region.'

May 2023- from Christian Aid's website

Saving the World

It is quite easy to get a bit depressed when listening to or watching the news. There seems to be trouble everywhere. We wonder just where and when it will all end. I don't know about you but I get a little irritated when I hear Christians saying that we are in the end times and that Jesus will soon be returning and he will put everything right. They wait for him to come out of the clouds, descending from heaven to 'sort out' the world. They expect to be suddenly carried off into the skies and be saved while Jesus destroys what is left of our beloved planet.



They seem to think of him as some sort of superhero that we love to watch on film or television who flies in and with a few strikes, everything is made orderly and perfect. (Perfect being of course what we want to see according to our own particular beliefs) He will zap our enemies like some supernatural destroyer. I can't help thinking that the Jews in the time of Jesus thought the same of the Messiah that they were waiting for and that's why many of them had difficulty in accepting Jesus as the Messiah, the promised deliverer. I wonder if Jesus

returned today, how many Christians would recognise him and accept him maybe for similar reasons.

The thing is that Jesus taught and showed that God is Love. So does all this destruction of those that we consider to be enemies really tally with a loving entity that loves all people equally. Does a parent wish to destroy a child when s/he goes off the rails a bit or makes some erroneous decision. The story of the Prodigal Son tells us otherwise. What Jesus did teach and tell his disciples was that we should go and tell others of his ways of love and be like him. God's spirit living in us is what will change the world. He is not an old man sitting on a throne somewhere in 'the skies'. We are his temple and he is alive on earth in and through us. We think of the skies as up there, out there, over the horizon, beyond us but actually where earth ends is where the skies begin. The horizon is actually the place where earth and sky meet. So wherever we walk 'the skies' are actually at our feet and that's where God is, walking with us. Wherever we are, he is because he is within us. Do we want to save the planet and all its people? Then we don't sit around waiting for his return (however that may or may not happen). We take God with us, in us, through us in everything we do and everywhere we go. We live his inclusive love even towards our enemies. That's what Jesus taught. If Jesus returned tomorrow, what would he do? We need to consider again just what he taught and did on his first visit to earth. His way can change the world for the better.

From the blog of Mavis Andradez.

Prayers of intercession

We lift our prayers before you

Lord God, your Spirit of truth lives with us and in us and guides our prayers which we lift before you.

We pray for all the nations of your world.

For Sudan, where thousands of people are undertaking long, dangerous journeys in a bid to flee to neighbouring countries.

The World Food Programme are finding their resources strained under the growing number of refugees. We pray for all countries facing food shortages and famine.

We pray for Afghanistan where the hospitals lack the necessary equipment and medical supplies. Treatable conditions are proving fatal for many, particularly children.

Lord God, bring peace. Provide sustenance and healing.

Make a way for vital supplies to get through to those in need.

We lift our prayers before you.

We pray for the persecuted.

Throughout the world, Lord God, there are people coming to faith in you and having to worship in secret. People open their hearts to you but in doing so become prey for others to hunt, torture and kill.

North Korea is one such country, where Christians are seen as enemies of society.

If caught they and their families are sent to labour camps or executed.

Lord God, provide strength and safe keeping for all who are in danger because they worship and follow you. ***We lift our prayers before you.***

We pray for our communities.

We pray for all in our communities who give and reach out to others of all ages: in youth groups, luncheon clubs, sports activities, visiting the lonely and many, many other ways. Countless people show your love in practical ways, giving of their time, money, skills and experiences.

We pray you will guide all leaders in our communities. Be with our newly elected councillors. May all serve and make a difference for the better in our communities.

Lord God, we pray for your Spirit to guide, so that our communities will unite, see less crime and grow abundantly richer in you. *We lift our prayers before you.*

We pray for the sick and suffering. We pray for those sick in mind and body. May the stigma some still experience with mental health and behavioural health problems finally be abolished.

Lord, according to Mental Health UK there are over eight million people experiencing an anxiety disorder at any one time. But less than half of these people with generalised anxiety get treatment. Many at this moment in time are stressed, anxious about jobs and making ends meet with the spiralling costs of food and everyday bills. But for some the emotional pressure can have a detrimental effect on their physical health and impact their way of life. We pray these people will reach out for help. We pray these people will reach out to you and feel your reassuring presence.

We pray also for those who care for the sick and the vulnerable; our nurses, doctors and support workers. Our country's GPs are under enormous pressure as their numbers fall, despite the government promising to recruit more.

We pray for pharmacists as they are given greater responsibilities to relieve the strain on surgeries and yet are struggling even now to cope with their own current workload.

Lord God, we pray for more GPs and pharmacists to be recruited and ask that you uphold those already in post.

We pray for your Spirit to guide all those in need of help to access the right treatment. Bring people into their lives who can help restore them by coming alongside,

listening and showing your healing love. *We lift our prayers before you.*

We pray for your church.

We pray for all who minister in your name, Lord God. We pray for all called out of their comfort zones and led by your Spirit into areas unknown. There are many in our own society who still don't know you. May your church be guided to reach out to the lost in a way that does not water down your truth but upholds your values and shows your light of love.

May we Christians, whatever our walk in life, be witnesses to your Living Truth. For in you we live, move and exist. May we shine your light in the darkness.

We lift our prayers before you. Amen.

Roots on the web, May 2023.

Nicaragua News May 2023

Hello dear family and friends. I hope this finds you well and enjoying some spells of decent weather. The rainy season will be upon us soon, but at the moment we are still enjoying beautiful sunshine with temperatures reaching 100 degrees.



In preparation for the rains coming I have bought a very large roll of tarpaulin and cut it into pieces of 9' square.

Pastor Ed



and I went to the rock quarry last week to give these out to the rock breakers who need this tarpaulin constantly for their shelter which they sit under, protecting them from the strong sun's rays and also the heavy rains. I also took coffee and bags of beans for them too. They were so appreciative. I still have some tarpaulin left to give out to those who need cover for their meagre homes. Some have not managed to complete repairs since the hurricane last October.



Also preparing for the rains, something I've wanted to do for a number of years now, is to provide very strong roller blinds for the children's feeding programme at one of the churches. Over 100 children are fed 6 days a week in a strong building, with 8 gaps in the concrete wall, about 5' square, acting as windows. Also the young people use this space when having training sessions. Nothing was ever put up at these gaps to give protection from the

torrential rain, so they often get soaked. It is something that the church could never afford. The blinds have just arrived, so I can't show a picture of how they look, but I know the benefit that they will bring.

The political situation here in Nicaragua is getting worse every week and many people have now left the country seeking asylum and work elsewhere. Some who can't afford the cost of travel or who don't have a passport, are leaving, as we call it, through the back door. Often they are caught and sent straight back, but some make it and find work quite quickly.

Now that the Nicaraguan government is only allowing me to stay for 6 months, my time here is almost half gone. I will be able to celebrate my birthday at home for the first time in 15 years!

It will soon be Nicaragua Mother's Day and I'm in the process of making up 40 bags of gifts for mother and baby in the maternity home with a donation from a charity in the UK. I've also been given a donation to buy another fetal heart doppler, for listening to the unborn babies heart beats. It's always a lovely occasion to meet with women from different communities up river, who have travelled to Bluefields where better facilities are available for giving birth.



The Saturday adult lunch club continues to serve the less fortunate in Bluefields with great joy. Some people don't know when their birthday is so one can be made up for them. In the middle of every month, we have those who have had a birthday that month stand up and we all sing and clap. The treat is that everyone gets a cream bun. I know that is quite trivial for us, but for each of our members they are made to feel special. Some will never have had a birthday cake or been sung to.



The lady here, Sheila, is blind due to an error when the optician gave her the wrong treatment and her eye burst. She has now lost sight in the other eye too. Her daughter brings her to the club and for all she couldn't see the cakes, she enjoyed that fact that we had remembered her birthday.

One of our members, Francisco, only ever comes in wellington boots even though the heat is intense. I noticed the state of them and could see the rain would never protect his feet. I bought him a new pair and the joy on his face was a dream.



I'm sure the majority of you enjoyed watching the King's coronation. I set my alarm for 3am and sat glued to my iPad watching it. I thoroughly enjoyed it from beginning to end and still watch clips even now!

I will close now and keep some other snippets for my next newsletter.

Love *Margaret*

Youth Leaders Wanted

Trinity Youth Group, better known by many as The Meth has now been running for 50 years. It's had many forms. Originally started by Sheila Hamil and Alan Barker it was attended by pupils from Sheila's school but soon expanded and for quite a while had a junior and senior group. Eventually the senior group got too old and drifted off to more adult entertainment, so we decided to concentrate on the current age group of 8 to 11 year olds.

Mainly now a social group with disco, games and tuck shop, with an average of 30+ attending.

Unfortunately some of our leaders are aging and with that becoming less able to look after the group, so we need some new helpers.

It's a reasonably easy job to keep child off child, child off furniture, determine who is doing something they shouldn't behind your back, in the dark with loud music and flashing lights.

But seriously it is rewarding to give young people somewhere to gather and socialise in a safe place.

We meet every Friday night during term time and helpers need to arrive at about 6 as the group starts at 6.30 and finishes at 8.30.

We all have to try to attend as regularly as possible so that we know there will be enough help to open up. All leaders and helpers have to have enhanced DBS checks and do safeguarding training. As a charity of the Methodist Church volunteers get their DBS check for free and the safeguarding training is arranged by the church, sometimes in person or on Zoom.

If you think you can help, please contact me.

Alan Barker

Why English is so hard to learn !

Do you think English is easy? Check out the following....

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was cultivated to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that the workers had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture shown at the store.
5. He could lead if he could get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his tasty dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present to his girlfriend.
8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.

9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object he showed me.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid in his hospital bed.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen about who would row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.
14. The buck does funny things when the does (females) are present.
15. The wind was too strong to wind the sail around the mast.
16. Upon seeing the tear in the painting she shed a tear.
17. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
18. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

The above are all **Heteronymns**. Homonyms or homographs are words of like spelling, but with more than one meaning. When pronounced differently, they are known as heteronymns.

An Offertory Prayer

Worship always involves giving- making the effort to be at church, to attentively listen, to open ourselves to God and our fellow worshippers, to pray for the needs of the world are all forms of giving. The Christian life is all about giving- giving up some of our own needs and desires in order to live as Christ calls us. In the process of giving and receiving we model the life of the Trinity whose self- giving love nurtures, sustains, and inspires us. Through the giving of our financial gifts we give practical expression to God's work in our world and so we pray:

Eternal God, known to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as Majesty, Word, and Flame of eternal love, as one who creates, redeems, and sustains, bless the gifts we offer each Sunday for your glory, and make us into a people who work and yearn for your kingdom to come. Amen

A Prayer for our home.

O God, make the door of my home wide enough to receive all who need human love and friendship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back all evil. God, make the doorway of my home the gateway to thine eternal kingdom. *Amen*

Points to Ponder

- In the end these things matter most: how well did you love ? How fully did you live?
How deeply did you let go? *Buddha*
- Just a reminder in case your mind is playing tricks on you today. You matter. You're important. You're loved. And your presence on this earth makes a difference, whether you see it or not. *Tinybuddha.com*
- Sometimes your worst enemy is your own memory. Let it go.
- I don't think anyone really understands how tiring it is to act okay and always be string when in reality you are close to the edge. *Simple Life*
- Someone said, "I don't know how you do it" . I said, "I wasn't given a choice"
Healing hugs.
- Worrying is like sitting in a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but it doesn't get you anywhere. *Positive Energy*
- And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm is all about.
- Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love. *Mother Teresa*
- Never forget who was with you when no one else was.
- Sometimes life is just hard, and some days are just rough...and sometimes you've just got to cry before you can move forward.....and all of that is okay. *Good Mental Health*
- Don't wait to pray until you need something. Pray and be thankful every day for your blessings!
- A best friend is someone who understands where you've been, believes in where you're going, and loves you for who you are.
- Even if we disagree about everything we can still be kind to each other.
- At the end of the day, what really matters is that your loved ones are well, you've done your best, and that you are thankful for all you have.
- When you get up in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive, to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.
- Taking any animal into your life will inevitably end in heartache, but you don't worry about the hangover when you're at the party. *Paul O'Grady*

All of the above sayings are freely available on the internet.

Smile !

- I asked my son to hand me a phone book. He laughed, called me old, and handed me his cell phone. Well, the spider is dead, the cell phone is broken and my son is mad.
- Nobody told me that when you get a husband, the ears are sold separately.
- I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating grapes. Its all about raisin awareness.
- I've just made a satellite dish out of a dustbin lid, and now all I'm getting on the TV is a load of rubbish.....
- Just saw a farmer put numbers on all the newly born lambs. They're baa codes.
- I've been sacked from my job as a theatre designer. I left without making a scene.
- Been on a training course today learning how to fix two pieces of metal together. Riveting stuff.
- My builder is a very nice man. I forgot to pay him and he still offered to come over and put my windows in.
- "So I knocked on the door at this Bed and breakfast and a lady stuck her head out of the window and said, "What do you want?". I said, "I want to stay here". She said, "Well stay there" and shut the window".
Tommy Cooper
- If its sent by ship then it's a cargo. If it's sent by road then it is a shipment.
Dave Allen
- I went to see UB 40 tribute act called WD 40 last night. They were a bit rusty at first but got better as the evening went on.
- As you get older, have you noticed that your feet are getting further away from your hands when putting socks on ?
- I hate people who use the same word twice in a sentence! Enough is enough !
- My teacher told me not to worry about spelling because in the future there will be auto-correct and for that I am eternally grapefruit.
- My mind still thinks I'm 25. My body thinks my mind is an idiot.
- A captain notices a light in the distance, on a collision course with his ship. He turns on his signal lamp and sends "Change your course, 10 degrees west". The light signals back, "Change yours, 10 degrees east". The captain gets a little annoyed. He signals, "I'm a US Navy captain. You must change your course, sir". The light signals back, "I'm a Seaman First Class. You must change your course, sir". Now the captain is mad. He signals, "I'm an aircraft carrier. I'm not changing my course" The light signals back a final message, "I'm a lighthouse. Your call."

Not Joined Up

We have a fantastic NHS, the staff from the cleaners and service staff to the cleverest of the surgeons all appear to be extremely caring and look after us very well.

You may know that I have recently been in hospital for my eighth operation. Not a planned visit, having just recently fallen over and broken my hip.

Over the years, my operations have ranged from fairly minor to one that stopped me becoming paralysed from the neck down.

As a result I have two metal ankle joints, a metal frame in the top of my spine and now a new hip joint. If I go through an airport security scanner and it doesn't beep it isn't working.

It is amazing what our doctors and surgeons can do these days and with the care of the nursing staff and orderly's they really are our health service.

BUT. It's not joined up. On this last visit this time to the RVI, I was assessed on Thursday to need a frame around the toilet at home to help me get on and off the loo and what they call a perching stool that would allow you to sit in front of a sink to wash etc. Having had both ankles replaced previously I know this is what I need. But it took 4 days before someone rang my wife to arrange delivery.

I was in hospital at least 2 possibly 3 days more than necessary just because of this. The last 2 days I had to be moved to a very nice ensuite single room in a different ward as I was basically bed blocking the ward that deals with all the leg and hip type operations.

I'm led to believe that the equipment supply is now an outsourced part of the NHS. Great administrative decision. 4 hours could be reasonable to expect a phone call, 4 days is ridiculous.

As a retired computer engineer I'm always interested in the equipment around me. Anyone who's been in hospital will know about the regular blood pressure, temperature and oxygen level checks especially following an operation. These days no more writing down the results from the machine. On the usual wheel around stand is a modern version of the testing unit and above it a computerised touch screen that the nurse uses to key in the results. BUT Not joined up. All this clever technology but someone must have thought it cheaper to use two separate units than one so that the nurses time could be better spent in caring. I wonder how big a pat on the back that administrator got.

There must be many many more not joined up things in the administration of our wonderful NHS and until they get back to it being run by the doctors and nurses that do the real work and get rid of all the unnecessary administrators they will not be able to pay proper salaries and recruit the required staff.

It's time for our wonderful NHS to get all its administration pruned and its branches reconnected to the vine.

Alan Barker

What's On at Trinity (June 2023)

Day	Event	Contact	What Age
Sunday	10.45 Worship Service in church	alan@trinitymethodist.church	All Ages
	11 a.m. Forward in Faith Worship in the hall.	tchawana82@gmail.com	All Ages
Monday	Bloom Baby Classes	jennifer@bloombabyclasses.com https://www.bloombabyclasses.com/bloomnorthtyneside	New-born to Walking (15 months approx.)
	1p.m. Trinity Tea Dance	alan@trinitymethodist.church	Any but mostly 50+
Tuesday	12 noon. Hand in Hand	wallsend@handinhandproject.org.uk	65 +
	5.15 – 8.30 Girls Brigade	pam_9@outlook.com N:vestigate - Reception to Year 2 and N:gage - Year 3 to Year 5 @ 5.15 - 6.45 N:counta - Year 6 to Year 8 and N:spire Year 9 + @ 7 - 8.30	Reception to Year 9 5 to 14 years
Wednesday	12.30 Shine a Light Carers	vaoliver58@mail.com	
	5 - 9 p.m. Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.	Gemma.milbanke@northumberlandscouts.org.uk	4-14
	Bloom Toddler Classes	northtyneside@bloomtoddlerclasses.com	
Friday	2 p.m. Line Dancing	stephencmp@aol.com	Any but mostly 50+
	6.30 Trinity Youth Club	alan@trinitymethodist.church	8 to 10s
	Blue Door Drop In 10 to 12 noon	alan@trinitymethodist.church	All Ages
Saturday			

Sunday Rotas

Sunday	Door Steward	Flower Rota	Audio/Visual Desk
June 4 th	Maureen Mills	Lorna Morgan	Alan Barker
June 11 th	Derek Ormston		Alan Barker
June 18 th	Howard Hedley		Alan Barker
June 25 th	Sylvia Aston		Alan Barker
July 2 nd	Doreen Kirtley		

Sunday	Preachers	Church Steward
June 4 th	Mr Keith Jones	Alan Barker
June 11 th	Rev Gavin Hume & Deacon Gail Morgan. Communion Service	Mark Burdon
June 18 th	Rev Paul Cleever-Thorpe	Susan Bewley
June 25 th	Deacon Gail Morgan	Alan Barker
July 2 nd	Miss Sam Cree	Mark Burdon