

Trinity News



December 2020
January 2021



Dear Friends

Advent Hope

Now is the season of hope unfolding,
the dark winter season,
when hope waits to be born.

Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.
May our souls magnify God's name, and our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour.

Now is the time of watching and waiting a time pregnant with hope a time to watch and pray.

Christ our advent hope,
bare brown trees,
etched dark across the sky,
leaves fallen, rustling, ground hard and cold,
remind us to prepare for your coming;
remind us to prepare for the time when the soles of your feet will touch the ground,
when you will become one of us to be at one with us.

May we watch for the signs,
listen for the messenger,
wait for the good news to slip into our world, our lives.
Christ our advent hope, help us clear the way for you; to clear the clutter from our minds; to
sift from our hearts,
to move the boulders that prevent us meeting you.

Written by Kate McIlhagga and extracted from The Green Heart of the Snowdrop

I came across these poems in an old Magnet magazine a few weeks ago and it really spoke to me in this season where absolutely nothing is the same. We could be miserable and negative about this year or we can choose to have hope. Choosing hope, looking forward in a different way to celebrating the most important time of the year ... Jesus' birth will I believe help us to have a new perspective on our faith a new beginning full of hope.

There was nothing cosy about Jesus' birth. He was born into a messy world, born where the animals lived because 'there was no room at the inn.' Yet, people like Anna and Simeon had been watching and waiting for this day. *Luke 2: 25, 'At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel.'* *Luke 2: 38, '..... She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.'*

So the world is very different this year but the greatest story ever told is no different to that very first Christmas knowing Jesus in your own life is transformative. We know such love within our heart. As followers of Jesus we have a story that many people are seeking in this pandemic hope is something people are wanting to hear and see.

With this in mind we will have huge prayer boards outside Trinity. There will be the Christmas story told in a nativity scene. Richardson Dees Primary School will receive Christmas packs for every child in the school.

We will not be in our church building rather we'll be at home. Each week there will be a paper service posted through your letter box or delivered by hand or emailed to you. We have our own YouTube channel: Trinity Methodist Church Wallsend. All these ways are open not only to you but your friends and family if you share them. Hopefully we will be able to see more people at Christmas why not ask a family member or friend to show you our YouTube channel and watch together. We have a story to tell, a story of hope through knowing Jesus.... let's share it.

Friends, for many of us these months have been really tough and we've all had our ups and our downs. This Advent and Christmas will for some be full of pain so we need to look out for those whom we know will struggle. Let's encourage one another to watch and wait with hope and celebrate and share the good news of Jesus. He's amazing!

Loving God

In this season of goodwill to all help us to reach out to those in need.

In this season may we be surprised by the ways we meet with you.

In this season will you fill us to overflowing with hope.

In this season may we know such love, joy and peace. Amen.

With love and prayers,

Deacon Gail

Ministers Muse for January

Dear Friends,

How many of you make New Year's resolutions? And how many have you forgotten or can't live up to?

After many failed attempts I gave up making New Year's Resolutions some years ago now. Each new year I would spend time absorbed in thoughts about the past and the future. These thoughts prevented me from really experiencing the present.

Every day of his life my Grandad used to say, "this is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it". He said this when times were good and when times were difficult. He even said it when he was very ill and dying of cancer.

Psalm 118:24 tells us to enjoy life, to enjoy the day that God has given us. We must forget the errors of the past, although of course we must learn from them. And we must not worry about the future; we can place that in God's hands. God has forgiven our past and he will take care of us in the future. We should enjoy 'this day' and every new day because it has been given to us by God.

Matthew has Jesus saying "do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today. (Matthew 6.34, NRSV). Trusting God with our past and with our future allows us to live each day to his glory.

That may be hard in these trying times but we must try to live life to the full, thanking God at all times and in all circumstances, and letting him guide us today because "this is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it", as we look to a new year of uncertainty yes, but also a year of promise.

Your friend and minister,

Janet.

Rev Janet P Jackson

Virtual Great North Run - Action for Children

I wanted to write to each Church to say a very big thank you for the support for me entering the virtual Great North Run - an amazing £4,000 has been raised in sponsorship for Action For Children!

This year continues to be so very different and with you all pulling out the stops to help AfC I know that many more children will be supported - the rounding up to £4,000 was made possible by someone who said - "you are almost there, so I will top it up!"

You may have read the appeals being made by AfC in the papers and on the Metro as voluntary income has reduced during the last few months - so your support is all the more important.

David Stabler

Bible a Month: Open the Book

By Martha Flavell, Regional Training and Development Officer- Open the Book.

When lockdown started, I expected that would be the end of Open the Book volunteers going into schools and leading Bible story assemblies for the remainder of the school year. I thought I'd finally be getting some time to go through that "someday" pile that had accumulated on my desk. How wrong I was!

Instead of putting things on hold, Open the Book Storytellers were inspired to find new ways in which they could follow government guidance and still deliver assemblies to children in schools. They contacted our office and shared ideas on how to continue this ministry even if we couldn't be at schools in person.

One Storyteller told me that initially she was intimidated by the technology. But now, she is recording Bible stories with her team and "Zooming" them into schools, using the online platform that's become the buzz word of 2020.

Our storytelling teams throughout the country might be the ones on the front line, delivering the stories to the children, but if it wasn't for the generosity and prayers of Bible a Month supporters this amazing mission to reach out to schools would not be possible. It is continued giving that lays the foundation for Open the Book to thrive.

The wonderful end result is that the pandemic has failed to derail Open the Book, with Storytellers up and down England and Wales finding ways to connect with their schools. And the schools keep asking for more.

In one school, the staff wrote and asked, "Could you send us written resources to go with the Open the Book assembly stories? This was the first time we'd been asked to do this, so I was excited. I set to work writing resources that provided fun and interactive ways for children to go deeper into the bible stories with games, maps, maths, crafts and things for the whole family to discuss about the stories. These were made available to storytelling teams to send to schools and on to parents who were home schooling. Suddenly these stories were going in to homes and reaching not just the children, but parents too. These resources were downloaded more than a thousand times in June and July.

Open the Book started in 1999 with just one school in Bedfordshire and by 2019, nearly 18,000 Storytellers were visiting over 3000 schools.

At the time of writing the future is uncertain. But with all the uncertainty in life right now, there is one thing I know: God has made a way for the children (and now their parents too) to continue to hear these stories. Please pray for these children and also the Storytellers, that they will receive God-given inspiration and strength to continue this wonderful part of Bible mission.

For more information on how to get involved, visit the website:

www.biblesociety.org.uk/open-the-book

Bible a Month: England and Wales

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” Matthew 5.16. (ESV)

England and Wales cover an area of 58,300 sq miles and has a population of 56 million (England) and 3.3 million (Wales). Languages are English and Welsh and the literacy rate is 99.9.%

Your support is helping people go deeper into God’s word across England and Wales. The Good News Bible- the Youth Edition- recently won the Christian Resources Together Bible of the Year award, acknowledging the amazing impact this Bible is having.

Your kind giving is also enabling Bible Society to be a mission partner with more than 500 churches throughout England and Wales. A series of interactive webinars has been held this autumn for church leaders to discuss how best to connect with local communities during and beyond the pandemic. Please look at the website www.biblesociety.org.uk to find out more about what your amazing support achieves.

Prayer Pointers

- Pray that needy souls in England and Wales will turn from the difficulties and darkness brought by the pandemic and turn to the light of Christ.
- Ask God that church leaders will be granted wisdom, courage and inspiration to engage with local communities.
- Thank God for the regular giving of our supporters, which enables long-term plans for Bible mission to be drawn up for maximum impact.
- Pray that support for the Bible Society will increase in England and Wales and more people will engage with the word of God.

Lockdown Diary

Day 1: I can do this! Got enough food and wine to last a month!

Day 2: Opening my 8th bottle of wine. I fear wine supplies might not last.

Day 3: Strawberries. Some have 210 seeds, some have 235 seeds. Who knew?

Day 4: 8pm. Removed my Day Pyjamas and put on my Night Pyjamas.

Day 5: I get to take the rubbish out. I’m so excited. I can’t decide what to wear.

Day 6: Went to a new restaurant called “The Kitchen”. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.

Day 7: Isolation is hard. I swear my fridge just said, “What do you want now?”

Day 8: I realised why dogs get so excited about something moving outside, going for walks or car rides. I think I just barked at a squirrel.

Day 9: If you keep a glass of wine in each hand you can’t accidentally touch your face.

Day 10: I’m laughing way too much at my own jokes!

With thanks to LIVERNEWS, the Liver Patient Support Newsletter, Autumn 2020.

Kit Kat no longer Fairtrade

As the new cocoa harvest season kicked off in Côte d'Ivoire in late October, it also marked the sad moment when KitKats are no longer Fairtrade, a few months after Nestlé announced that KitKats would no longer contain Fairtrade cocoa and sugar.

As the announcement was made, we shared our concerns that the new arrangement could leave farmers and their co-operatives worse off. A lack of transparency raised serious concerns about the potential impact on farmers, at a time when they are already facing huge challenges and uncertainty posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

MILLIONS WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

Over the summer, as you may have seen, the news seemed to strike a chord with the UK public's deep-rooted sense of fairness and justice. We saw a strong response from the public, civil society and politicians unfold, raising their concerns and calling on Nestlé to reconsider their decision. Over 300,000 signed petitions, MPs spoke out in Parliament and numerous charities stood up for the affected farmers.

This independent spirit of grassroots action has a long history in UK society, no doubt rooted in the often talked about British sense of fair play. From the early consumer campaigns to boycott slave-grown sugar in the 1790s, to huge movements calling for trade justice in the 2000s, there's a rich history of regular people making their values known and taking action into their own hands to tackle the roots of unfairness in international trade.

Fairtrade itself was launched in the UK 26 years ago thanks to civil society organisations and their supporters sharing a vision of connecting producers and consumers that puts more humanity, dignity and respect into international trade structures marked by deep power imbalances and shocking levels of poverty.

That vision, and simple action of choosing Fairtrade products, captured the public imagination as thousands of independent community groups and millions of ethical consumers have rallied behind the Fairtrade vision establishing justice in trade as a public conversation. It remains at the core of Fairtrade's position in UK society today, with nine out of ten UK consumers recognising the Fairtrade Mark, and over seven out of ten people choosing Fairtrade products when they shop. These everyday choices are critical in forcing a fairer deal for farmers and workers around the world on the agendas of governments and large companies.

WHAT'S IT ALL MEAN FOR FARMERS?

Back to the matter in hand, despite the groundswell of concern over the changes, raised independently by so many people in recent months, the decision for KitKat to leave Fairtrade didn't change. It would appear though, that the strong public reaction and the many questions asked since the initial announcement in June has helped to bring about more transparency and commitments over the package that cocoa farmers will now receive in place of Fairtrade. We've written more details about what this all means for farmers and what more we now know compared to when the decision was first announced.

Although the degree of further information and increased commitments shared are welcome, and are an improvement on what was initially announced, we remain concerned about the potential impact the change will have on thousands of farmers and their co-ops. Short-term mitigation funds will offer some extra protection for farmers but they won't replace the full benefits of the Fairtrade Premium, with farmers having to adapt to a 50% drop in the amount of Premium under their control under the new arrangement. The outlook is even more uncertain after the next two years, when the short-term initiatives currently proposed, and Nestlé's commitment to match the Fairtrade Minimum Price safety net, come to an end.

This is a hugely disappointing moment, first and foremost for the cocoa farmers who have expressed their desire to keep selling on Fairtrade terms, and the sugar farmers who have lost a valuable Fairtrade market for their produce. It's also an important reminder of the benefits that Fairtrade delivers for producers, the financial security, and the greater power it puts in the hands of farmers to decide how to develop their co-ops and communities.

IT'S CLEARER THAN EVER – WE NEED MORE POWER IN THE HANDS OF FARMERS

Atse Ossey Francis, Chair of the Ivorian Fair Trade Network (RICE), represents hundreds of cocoa co-operatives and spoke out about the changes in an open letter back in July. He recently told us:

'It means a lot to have seen so many people in the UK and elsewhere support us in these difficult times. In supporting Fairtrade, you're choosing to put more power in the hands of producers like us. With the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change which are making the lives of producers more difficult, it's more important than ever. Let's use this moment to step up our efforts to make the cocoa industry fairer, which respects the producers and gives us the financial security that we need. Together we can make that a reality.'

The public reaction to the KitKat news in recent months shows just how important values of fairness and justice are to people of the UK, and it's clear this authentic and passionate support for farmers wherever they may be is needed more than ever. So we may be disappointed, but we're not disheartened in our quest to make trade work for those which it currently discriminates against – the farmers and workers across the globe we rely on for many of our favourite products.

By choosing Fairtrade, everyone can play a part in bringing about the world we all want to see. A world where farmers and workers in the global south have the power, rights and resources to shape their future.

To all the chocolate lovers, fans of fairness, and friends of farmers – choose Fairtrade and choose the world we all want!

From the Fairtrade blog, October/November 2020

Bluefields update.

Hello dear friends!

This is rather a difficult update to give because I realise, with this magazine being a double issue, when some of you are reading this, things could have changed greatly.

So I can only tell you as it is of now - 21st November.

In three weeks here in Bluefields, we escaped two strong hurricanes , but we got the effects. We had heavy rains, strong winds, flooding, some houses collapsed, trees fell and we lost power on a number of days. The worst day was when we had no power for over 15 hours. I felt totally cut off from the rest of the world!

Thankfully God protected us and in Bluefields there were no deaths. Sadly that wasn't the case for other parts of Nicaragua. There was great devastation and 80% of one city was destroyed. In the capital, where they were forecast not to be hit, the storm took a quick turn and a horrendous storm caused mud slides and in one of these, 30 families were totally wiped out.



We were also relieved that a third hurricane that was forecast as a possibility, didn't happen, but we were told to expect worse weather. As I write the rain storm has arrived, but I'm sure we can cope with that.

As for my travel plans this is where things could have changed by the time you are reading this - and I sincerely hope they have. The SIFT audit is still not complete which the government are requiring, so until that is so and they have their licence renewed to allow them to continue working in

Nicaragua, then they can't issue me with my visa which gets stamped onto my passport . So my passport is held up in the capital waiting for this to happen. So without a passport, I cannot get home.

The next problem is that my flight has been cancelled and rescheduled so many times, but now its been announced that the airline I travel with are not intending to start flying until January.

SIFT are looking into any other possibility to see if I could get home by other routes, but that can only happen once I've got my passport and visa back.

Disappointed though I am, I've handed it all over to the Lord and in His time, He'll get me home - even if it is straight into lockdown, I'll still be content!

God bless you all, keep well, be happy even in these difficult days and believe there are better days to come.

Love Margaret



Thanks to Trinity folk for another new well.

Margaret.

(Editor) Margaret has been told to keep away from it !!!

Very Sad News

Zoe

We were all very upset to hear that Zoe, dear wife of Mick and mother of Emma, passed away suddenly on 18th November.

Zoe was a very active member of our church. She had been one of the leaders of our youth group for many years and loved running the tuck shop and chatting with the children.

For a few years before she had a stroke, Zoe looked after the store room of gifts for the Samaritans Purse Christmas Child Shoe Boxes. Zoe had it running like clockwork, all items kept in their relevant boxes so that when the time came to pack the shoe boxes it was much quicker and easier to do.

Along with Mick, Zoe was on the Coffee Morning rota and even after her stroke would still come and help where possible and chat to the other regulars.

Zoe helped with many things at Trinity and I can only describe her as a very happy person, always willing to give a hand, and always with a smile.

Zoe will be sorely missed by all of us.

Please keep Mick and Emma and all Zoes family in your prayers.

The funeral is on Wednesday 2nd December, 2.15 p.m. at West Road crematorium.

Alan

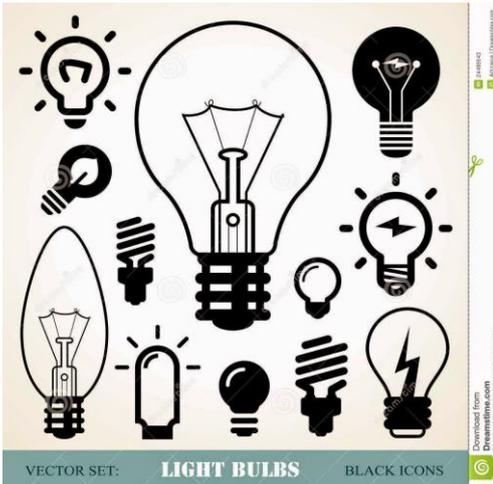
Dorothy Michaelson

Dorothy also passed away on 18th November. She will be remembered by many of our members as a Local Preacher and area secretary for Womens Network (now MWiB).

Dorothy was a very well know figure in the old Heaton and Wallsend Circuit and will have many friends in our church.

There is a family only funeral at 9.30 a.m. on 1st November.

Not Here



Have you ever needed to buy a particular item, known exactly where to get it but when you get there, they haven't got the specific item you're looking for? That happened to me this week. One of the spotlights in the kitchen had gone off. No problem, I thought. I always keep spare light bulbs in a cupboard. I had just about every type of light bulb except the one I wanted. Typical! Still not a great problem. I knew exactly where to go to get one. When I got there I looked along all the shelves of light bulbs. The one I wanted was nowhere to be seen. So I had to traipse the town looking for shops where I could buy a light bulb for the kitchen. I eventually did get one but after quite a search. I wasn't very amused. I had better things to do with my time.

Everything but the one I want!

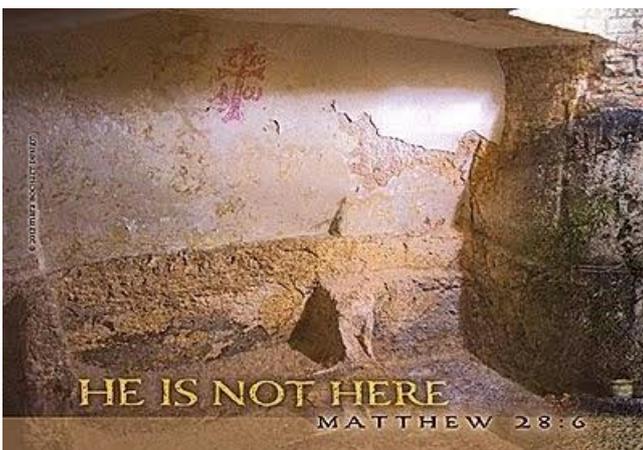
But the searching did remind me of this time of year and when the Wise Men went in search of the new baby king they knew had been born. They went straight to the obvious place. A future king would be in a palace, right? Wrong! They left the palace and had to continue their search until they found Jesus in the most unlikely place for someone of his greatness. The whole experience was nothing like they expected.



Searching for the baby in the palace.

From birth to death (and beyond) God on earth was nothing like people had expected or were looking for. He spent so many years working just like any

other man, earning a living and caring for his mother and family. During his years of ministry he was known more for his 'unsavoury' friends than his religious ones. He refused to show his power as God in human flesh in order to convince people of his message. After his death he was not in the tomb where his followers had expected to find his dead body. Even after being disowned by his followers and killed, he was then seen cooking them supper by the lakeside. He was not where people expected him to be.



It begs the question - where are we looking to find him? He possibly and, dare I say, following on from the way he lived on earth, probably won't be in what we think is the most obvious place. He'll probably turn up where and when we least expect. Be prepared to be surprised by his presence in the most unlikely of situations.

The Blog of Mavis Andradez

A Quiz to test your brain power.....

All answers include the word “ring”. The first one is done for you. Answers later in the magazine - no peeking till you’ve had a go!

1. Curl of hair (7) (**ringlet**)
2. Open area in a woodland (8)
3. One of the Fab Four (5,5)
4. Symbol of marriage(7,4)
5. Getting closer (7)
6. By-pass encircling a town. (4,4)
7. South African antelope ((9)
8. Mangle (7)
9. Town close to the New Forest (8)
10. One of the senses, or a trial (7)
11. Series of four operas by Richard Wagner (3,4,5)
12. Short hair over the forehead. (6)
13. Malaysian currency (7)
14. Exact copy or doppelganger (4,6)
15. Orchestral suite by Aaron Copland (11, 6)
16. Shopping centre in Birmingham (3,4,4,)
17. Tedious (6)
18. Gavin Maxwell’s book about living with otters(4,2,6,5)
19. Jewellery usually worn in pairs on either side of the head (7)
20. V shaped pattern in cloth or flooring (11)

TWELVE COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS

- Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
- "In Style" are the clothes that still fit.
- You don't need anger management. You need people to stop irritating you.
- The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
- "On time" is when you get there.
- It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller.
- Lately, You've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
- Growing old should have taken longer.
- Ageing has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
- You still haven't learned to act your age, and hope you never will.
- WD 40 to make things go and duct tape to make them stop
- "One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house

Advent- a time to prepare

A reflection on a carol associated with this time of year, and the Biblical story it relates to. In these times, music can certainly help to lift our spirits.

While shepherds watched- written by Nahum Tate c1700

This carol is a paraphrase of the Gospel account of the angels and the shepherds. Many tunes have been used for this- Winchester New is the most common one, and has an appropriately churchy feel to it.

Luke 2, v 15-20.

“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us” . So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”

Now look at the words for the carol, While shepherds watched.

Reflection

Wait, what is that? Can you see it? Can you hear it? Surely it isn't for us? It's so bright it fills the whole sky, its so loud it echoes across the valley. It's too glorious for people like us, it must be meant for someone else.

Yet the angels didn't appear to the great and the good in nearby Jerusalem, barely 6 miles away. They deliberately sought out people who were among the lowliest in society.

Shepherding wasn't a career choice for the brightest and best, it didn't demand skills or brainpower. Whoever heard of a good shepherd?

So here was a group of unimportant shepherds on the hillside above an insignificant town on the edge of the world. Maybe the angels were lost on their way to somewhere else. Their celestial sat nav had sent them the wrong way.

But there was no mistake, this was the place, this was the time and these were the people who got the invitation to witness the arrival of a baby born to shepherd many sheep. Imagine for a moment that Jesus had been born in a palace and that the witnesses were royalty, high Priests and political leaders- how could that baby become our saviour.? Jesus was destined to be born in an outbuilding.

It's easy to be distracted at Christmas by the sparkly, impressive, expensive and seemingly important things. All of the pomp and ceremony. Let's not miss the greatest gift, tucked away in a corner and wrapped cheaply. The stable and the shepherds prove that this baby is for everyone. **So let there be glory to God on high!**

Prayer.

Loving God, help us to remember how vulnerable you became at Christmas. You came then as you come now to a world that is broken and in need of healing. You came without power, but with love; without might but with hope; into the darkness you brought light. Amen

Sam Goodman, Derby

A Prayer of Intercession

Dear Lord,

We pray today for all those who are finding their faith growing dim, for the lonely who have no one to share the joy of Advent and Christmas with: may they feel the care and love of Jesus in the friendship of others.

We pray for the hungry who are unable to feed themselves and their families. We give thanks for the help of many, for the foodbanks and charities. We pray that they receive the help and support available.

We pray for the homeless who are lucky if they find a doorway to shelter in. We give thanks for the people providing support around the streets of our towns and cities, for the homeless shelters and the support of charities.

Lord, we pray for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one at this time- distraught and empty, full of confusion. Help them to feel your arms around them offering support and love.

We pray for those who are coping with illness and disease, separated from the love and care of their families as they receive treatment. Allow them to grow stronger in the knowledge that you are with them.

We hold all emergency workers in our thoughts and prayers, and we pray for those who are working long hours to provide support for the most vulnerable. Provide them with the strength and resources to cope with the stresses of this time.

We pray for the leaders throughout our world; provide them with guidance and patience; allow them to make the best decisions for the many and not the few; remind them that they are responsible for the care of their people.

We also hold in our hearts those who are close to us but feel far away; those who are hurting and lost to your light; those who have lost their way and are struggling to find your path. We bring them to you now in this time of silence.....

Strengthen our faith and resilience that we may help others in need; enhance our hope and allow us to shine your light for all to see; fill us with joy that we may share the joy of Jesus's birth with all we meet; allow our souls to be at peace, as we hold the fragile earth in our hearts today. In your name we pray, Amen.

Author unknown

Points to Ponder

- Gentle reminder that not every day “has to count”. Some days are about just making it to the next one. That counts too. *Good Mental Health*
- It’s all about taking a deep breath and telling yourself it’ll be okay, because eventually it will. *Good Mental Health*
- Leadership is not about being the best. Leadership is about making everyone else better. *Clergy Coaching Network*
- I will never forget who helped me in difficult times, who put me in difficult times, and who left me in difficult times. *Good Mental Health*
- Funny thing about getting older. Your eyesight may weaken, but you can see through people much better.
- What is the most important thing you’ve done this year? Survived .
- Lord, help me to be grateful for what I have, remember that I don’t need most of what I want, and that joy is found in simplicity and generosity.
- As we step into the unknown, we discover we can be fragile, and strong, and terrified and brave all at the same time.
- Some people want material things. Me? I just want peace, happy times and people who love me. *Good Mental Health*
- Give. But don’t allow yourself to be used. Love. But don’t allow your heart to be abused. Trust. But don’t be naïve. Listen. But don’t lose your own voice. *Good Mental Health.*
- Love your life, take chances, be crazy. Don’t wait. Because right now is the oldest you’ve ever been and the youngest you will ever be again. *Power of Positivity.*
- As a parent, there will be many times in your life that you hug your child, knowing you needed that hug more than they did.
- Some of the most generous people have no money. Some of the wisest people have no education. Some of the kindest people were hurt the most. *Good Mental Health*
- Remember to turn everything off at least once a week, including your brain. Then sit somewhere quiet and just chill out. *Clergy Coaching Network*

Christmas Groan Time – some jokes, some old, some new. (You have been warned!)

- Which cereal do snowmen have for breakfast? *Frosties.*
- What do hungry snowmen put on their ice- burgers? *Chilly sauce.*
- What sort of cakes do snowmen like? *The ones with thick icing .*
- What do you call a snowman on rollerblades? *A snowmobile.*
- What do you call an old snowman? *Water.*
- What do you call a snowman in the summer? *A puddle*
- What is for lunch on Christmas Day for snowmen? *Iceburgers*
- How do snowmen travel around? *By icicle*
- How do snowmen greet one another? *Ice to meet you.*
- What is the favourite Mexican food of snowmen? *Brrrrr-itos*
- What kind of money do snowmen use in the North Pole? *Cold cash.*
- How would you scare a snowman? *Get a hairdryer.*

And there's more.....

Why didn't Roy Hodgson go to visit Santa at the North Pole?
He couldn't get past Iceland

What was David Cameron's favourite Christmas song?
All I want for Christmas is EU

How did the ornament get addicted to Christmas?
He was hooked on trees his whole life

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?
A rebel without a Claus

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?
Nothing. It was on the house!

What do you call an elf wearing ear muffs?
Anything you want. He can't hear you.

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?
Frostbite.

What did Adam say to his wife on Christmas?
It's finally Christmas, Eve.

What is every parent's favourite Christmas Carol?
Silent Night

What's a good Christmas tip?
Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until all the birds have gone south for the winter.

An Advent journey using words of scripture and hymns as we pray, watch and wait in hope

29 th November	Isaiah 64: 4 - 5	No one has ever seen or heard of a God like you, who does such deeds for those who put their hope in him. You welcome those who find joy in doing what is right, those who remember how you want them to live.
30 th November	Psalms 80: 1 - 3	Shepherd of Israel, listen to us. You lead your people like sheep. You sit on your throne above the Cherub angels. Let us see you. Shepherd of Israel, show your greatness to the tribes of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Come and save your people. God, accept us again. Smile down on us and save us!
1 st December	Psalms 80: 4 - 7	LORD God All-Powerful, when will you listen to our prayers? How long will you be angry with us? Instead of bread and water, you gave your people tears. You made us the target of everyone's hatred. Our enemies make fun of us. God All-Powerful, accept us again. Smile down on us and save us!
2 nd December	Psalms 80: 17 - 19	Reach out and help your chosen one. Reach out to the people you raised up. Then we will never leave you. Let us live, and we will worship you. LORD God All-Powerful, accept us again. Smile down on us and save us!
3 rd December	1 Corinthians 1: 3 - 6	Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God for you because of the grace that he has given you through Christ Jesus. In him you have been blessed in every way. You have been blessed in all your speaking and all your knowledge. This proves that what we told you about Christ is true.
4 th December	1 Corinthians 1: 7 - 9	Now you have every gift from God while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to come again. He will keep you strong until the end so that on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ comes, you will be free from all blame. God is faithful. He is the one who has chosen you to share life with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
5 th December	Love divine, all loves excelling	Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesu, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.
6 th December	Mark 1: 1 - 2	This is the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It began as the prophet Isaiah had written: "God said, 'I will send my messenger ahead of you to open the way for you.'
7 th December	Psalms 43: 5b	Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.
8 th December	Psalms 85: 1 - 2	LORD, you have been so kind to your land. You have brought success again to the people of Jacob. You have forgiven the bad things your people did. You have taken away the guilt of their sins!
9 th December	2 Peter 3: 8	But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.
10 th December	2 Peter 3: 9	The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.
11 th December	Isaiah 40: 1	Your God says, 'Comfort, comfort my people.'

12 th December	STF 242	A new commandment I give unto you: that you love one another as I have loved you, that you love one another as I have loved you. By this the world shall know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another.
13 th December	Isaiah 61: 1	The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
14 th December	Isaiah 61: 2	He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,
15 th December	Psalms 126: 1 - 2	It will be like a dream when the LORD comes back with the captives of Zion. We will laugh and sing happy songs! Then the other nations will say, "The LORD did a great thing for Zion!"
16 th December	Psalms 126: 3	Yes, we will be happy because the LORD did a great thing for us.
17 th December	1 Thessalonians 5: 16 - 18	Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
18 th December	John 1: 6 - 8	There was a man named John, who was sent by God. He came to tell people about the light. Through him all people could hear about the light and believe. John was not the light. But he came to tell people about the light.
19 th December	STF 210	O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the King of angels: <i>O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!</i>
20 th December	Luke 1: 26 - 28	In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'
21 st December	Luke 1: 29 - 33	Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.'
22 nd December	Luke 1: 34	'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'
23 rd December	Luke 1: 35 - 37	The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.'
24 th December	Luke 1: 38	'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her.

Smile !

- My body is a temple. Ancient and crumbling.
- The only thing I take seriously in the newspapers nowadays is Fish and Chips. And even that I take with a pinch of salt.
- I love to make lists. I also like to leave them on the kitchen table and then guess what's on the list while at the shops.
- Teacher: "Where is your homework?"

Student: " I lost it fighting some kid who said you weren't the best teacher in our school"

- I had a happy childhood. My dad used to put me in tyres and roll me down hills. Those were the Goodyears.....
- I'm not adding this year to my age. I did not use it.
- Everyone told Sam not to sing. But Samsung anyway.
- Do you know how weird it is being the same age as old people?
- What inspires you to get out of bed every morning?
Me: my bladder mostly
- I thought the dryer made my clothes shrink. Turns out it was the refrigerator.
- Wouldn't it be nice if you read a medicine bottle that says, Warning: May cause permanent weight loss, remove wrinkles and increase energy.
- There are 2 ways of arguing with a woman. Neither one works.
- A wife, being a romantic soul, sent her hubby a text. "If you are sleeping, send me your dreams. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking, send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears. I love you". The husband typically non- romantic, replied, "I am on the toilet. Please advise."
- Because of Covid, for the first time since 1945, the National Spelling Bee is cancel....cancel....cansel.... It's been called off.
- What do you call a story about a broken pencil? Pointless.
- I was wondering why music was coming from my printer. Apparently the paper was jamming.

Where does the money go?

The finances of our church.

To simplify this all figures are PER DAY.

Figures before COVID restrictions.

Expenditure per day	£65
Income from rents	£25
Income from Offering and Gift Aid	£44

This is all without any major repairs or other expenditure a profit of £4 per day.

Half of the expenditure (£32) goes to the circuit to help towards ministerial provision and other staff.

About £11 is for heating and lighting.

Figures during COVID restrictions

Expenditure per day still at least £65 Considering the need for extra cleaning, COVID requirements etc. expenditure will rise.

Income from rents £0, £3 or £11, depending on the lockdown level.

Income from Offering and Gift Aid. Unknown but drastically reduced at the moment.

How can we help.

If you still have need to give your weekly offering from lockdown please contact our treasurer Bill Filmer on 0191 262 7123.

You could possibly post a cheque to him. (made out to Trinity Methodist Church)

If you have internet banking you can put your offering directly into our bank account – Trinity Methodist Church – Acc. No. 01780514 Sort Code 30 96 15.

This could also be done at your bank branch.

Please email Bill bill@trinitymethodist.co.uk to tell him how much you have deposited and how many weeks it covers. This enables Gift Aid to be claimed from the government.

In these uncertain times when we are unable to open our church building due to Government guidelines, the church (that is the people) has been and remains very active. Pastorally we are caring for each other. There have been paper copies of services posted through letter boxes or emailed. We made a decision to make sure that the magazine kept going. This is posted out or emailed. The outside of the building has prayer boards which have been read by many in the community.

As followers of Jesus we give of ourselves and our resources part of which is a gift of money.

This may be a good time to think about creating a Standing Order for your offering. It's quite easy to set up a monthly order using the bank account details above. Again, please let Bill know how much and when the payments will be made.

A Prayer for the New Year: Grasping the Future

Loving God, at the turn of another year, and the start of another chapter in the life of our church, we come to you, seeking your guidance and committing ourselves once again to your service. Take what we are, **and direct what we shall be.**

We come to share with you and one another, to offer our thanks and confession, to bring you our hopes and fears for the future, and to learn more of your purpose for our lives. Take what we are, **and direct what we shall be.**

Help us to make the most of the days ahead- to use them to the full, enjoying each one, celebrating your many blessings, and bringing honour to you through the way we live. Take what we are, **and direct what we shall be.**

Help us to make proper time for ourselves- time to work, rest, play and reflect. Take what we are, **and direct what we shall be.**

Help us to make time for our loved ones- to give them the love, support and care they deserve. Take what we are, **and direct what we shall be.**

Help us to make time for others- to listen, encourage, serve, and share. Take what we are, **and direct what we shall be.**

Help us to make time for you- to read your word, offer our prayers, seek your will and respond to your calling. Take what we are **and direct what we shall be.**

Loving God, we come at the start of another year. Speak to us now, and help us to hear your voice. Lead us, and help us to see your hand. Teach us and help us to know your will. Send us out, and help us to walk by faith, in the knowledge that, as you have been with us in the years gone by so you will continue to guide and bless us in the days ahead.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Nick Fawcett

“Ring” Quiz Answer

Answers:

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ringle | 7. Springbok | 14. Dead ringer |
| 2. Clearing | 8. Wringer | 15. Appalachian Spring |
| 3. Ringo Starr. | 9. Ringwood | 16. The Bull Ring |
| 4. Wedding ring | 10. Hearing | 17. Tiring |
| 5. Nearing | 11. The Ring Cycle | 18. Ring of Bright Water |
| 6. Ring road | 12. Fringe | 19. Earring |
| | 13. Ringget | 20. Herringbone |

With thanks to LIVErNEWS, the Liver Patient Support Newsletter