

Trinity News



Fairtrade Fortnight
February 27th to March 12th

February 2023

Ministers Muse

Dear Friends

It's the end of January as I sit to write this letter to you. The days are lengthening and we are seeing signs of new growth, my Mum's snowdrops are growing in the pots ... I hope like me it makes your heart sing as we come out of the darkness of the days into a new light with its spectacular sunrises and sunsets.

Our journey in January began with Epiphany and the story of the Wise Men as they met Jesus as a baby with each having their own revelation as they really recognised Jesus for who he was, the King of Kings.

I suggested and invited us all to think about this word **revelation** as a word we might travel with this year. What might we discover about God that will enable our relationship to grow and be transformed?

Our readings on Sunday have enabled us to discover what happened to disciples when Jesus gave them an invitation to 'Come and see,' and 'Come and follow me.' For us as followers of Jesus we each learn more about Jesus in different ways, but the stories we've heard so far have shown how the good news is spread through the disciples who saw Jesus and then invited others to 'Come and see.'

Wallsend Churches Working Together have been telling Bible stories in primary schools across Wallsend for a few years. We have a team of 16. With the covid epidemic we obviously had to stop going into schools. It has been with great joy that we are once again able to go into schools with 'Open the Book.' This is a way of telling Bible stories to primary school children that is interactive using The Lion Storytelling Bible written by Bob Hartman. It's an invitation to 'Come and see.' We have fun telling the stories and it's wonderful to see children taking part and enjoying themselves whilst learning.

Our Girls Brigade helps young people explore and engage with real life and Christian faith in fun, informative and hopeful ways. We are so thankful for Pamela, Jean and Joanne who faithfully lead, week by week and along with Allan offer a weeks summer camp plus other events. This is where relationships deepen and the girls are able to engage in activities that help them to grow. The invitation to 'Come and see' is fun and relevant.

I love being in nature whether that is sitting at home and looking out or walking and so I invite you to 'Come and see' God's creation around you in this month of February as bulbs are springing up through the ground, birds are singing, buds appear on the trees and the sky is ever changing. What would be lovely is if you would share your stories of what you have seen with others in a way that is natural to you.

For 2023 I'd like us to journey through Lent together. We're going to have materials that you can use at home or for those who are able we will meet weekly on Tuesdays from 2 pm until 3.30 pm ... the dates would be 28th February; 7th March; 14th March; 21st March; 28th March. We're going to be using materials from All we can. Each week, we'll hear a new story, accompanied by a Bible study. There will also be a chance to make tangible commitments and challenge yourself.

May God richly bless you in this season with all your needs. May you know God's deep love for you and may you be open to hearing and seeing God in all things.

With every blessing, Gail

New report: Top 10 climate disasters cost the world billions in 2022

A new report by Christian Aid, *Counting the Cost 2022: a year of climate breakdown* identifies 20 of the most destructive climate disasters of the year.

The ten most financially costly events all had an impact of \$3 billion or more. Most of these estimates are based only on insured losses, meaning the true financial costs are likely to be even higher, while the human costs are often uncounted. Among them is Hurricane Ian which struck the US and Cuba in September costing \$100 billion and displacing 40,000 people. The drought in Europe heatwave in Europe cost \$20 billion while floods in Pakistan killed more than 1,700 people, displaced a further 7 million, and according to World Bank estimates caused \$30 billion in economic damage. Due to the difficulty of obtaining insurance, only \$5.6 billion of these losses were covered.

While the report focuses on financial costs, which are usually higher in richer countries because they have higher property values and can afford insurance, some of the most devastating extreme weather events in 2022 hit poorer nations, which have contributed little to causing the climate crisis and have the fewest buffers with which to withstand shocks. In the report a second list of 10 climate disasters highlights some of these other climate events of 2022 which don't make the list of insured losses but were just as damaging to communities or posed worrying future threats such as the Arctic and Antarctic heatwaves.

Christian Aid says these extreme events highlight the need for more urgent climate action. They underline the importance of the loss and damage fund recently agreed at COP27 to provide financial support to people in developing countries who have suffered huge losses due to a climate crisis they have not caused. The international development charity is calling on world leaders to decide how the fund is managed and get money flowing into it.

The extreme weather events caused severe human suffering from food insecurity, drought, mass displacements and loss of life. A devastating drought has affected more than 36 million people in East Africa, pushing many to the brink of famine. Whilst people in East Africa have been suffering from drought, in West Africa 1.3 million people were displaced by floods which killed more than 600 people in Nigeria, Cameroon, Mali and Niger. Some of the disasters in 2022 hit rapidly, like February's Storm Eunice, which set a new UK wind speed record of 122mph and Hurricane Fiona which struck the Caribbean and Canada in September and caused losses valued at more than \$3 billion in just a few days. Other events took months to unfold, like the droughts in Brazil and China which lasted all year and cost \$4 billion and \$8.4 billion respectively.

No corner of the globe was spared from the costliest climate impacts in 2022 with all six populated continents represented in the top 10.

These impacts were also felt by some of the biggest fossil fuel polluters. Hurricane Ian in the USA, Hurricane Fiona in Canada, and floods in Eastern Australia in February costing \$7.5 billion all struck countries with some of the biggest per person carbon emissions. Elsewhere floods in South Africa, and droughts and floods in China hit two of the world's biggest coal producers.

Europe, battered by Storm Eunice and baked by the summer drought, is responsible for around 18% of human caused greenhouse gasses. It has pledged to go Net Zero by 2050 but according to Climate Action Tracker their current plans are deemed 'insufficient'.

The Paris Agreement set the goal of keeping temperature rise to below 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels, yet the outcome from the COP27 climate summit in Egypt does not currently leave the world on track to meet this goal which is why much more urgent action is required.

Christian Aid CEO, Patrick Watt, said:

“Having ten separate climate disasters in the last year that each cost more than \$3 billion points to the financial cost of inaction on the climate crisis. But behind the dollar figures lie millions of stories of human loss and suffering. Without major cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, this human and financial toll will only increase.

“The human cost of climate change is seen in the homes washed away by floods, loved ones killed by storms and livelihoods destroyed by drought. This year was a devastating one if you happened to live on the front line of the climate crisis.

“Some of these catastrophes hit with blinding speed, others unfolded - such as the terrible drought in East Africa - over many months.

“The UK did not escape the ravages of climate change in 2022 with both Storm Eunice and the summer heatwave taking their toll. These set both a new UK windspeed record and highest temperature record. This underlines the need for policies to accelerate the transition to net zero and the folly of the decision to open a new coal mine in Cumbria.”

Nushrat Chowdhury, Christian Aid Climate Justice Policy Advisor in Bangladesh, said:

“The creation of the loss and damage fund at the COP27 climate summit was a huge breakthrough for people living on the front lines of this crisis. This report shows just how badly it is needed and the urgency with which we need to see it up and running. The people flooded in Pakistan or victims of Cyclone Sitrang in my country of Bangladesh need this support to rebuild their lives.

“Many people in the global south dealing with these disasters cannot afford insurance to cover their losses and they often can't rely on the state to act as a safety net. The fact they have done almost nothing to cause the climate emergency is why it is so unfair they are left to suffer without support. *We must see that change in 2023.*”

Christian Aid Press release, 27th Dec 2022.

Bible a Month : Ghana

“I will still be the same when you are old and grey, and I will take care of you. I created you. I will carry you and always keep you safe” Isaiah 46, vs 4 (CEV)

Ghana is a country in West Africa, and is about the same size as the UK- 92,000 sq miles. It has a population of 33.1 million and the literacy rate- people who can read and write- is 79%. Languages include English, Akan and many other local languages.

The benches in the classroom are packed at Bishop Girls School in Accra, the capital of Ghana. Girls even sit on the laps of friends. A Bible Storyteller shouts, “Open!” and the children shout back “The Book!”.

Bible Society’s Open the book ministry in Ghana, which began seven years ago as a pilot project after its success here at home, goes from strength to strength. Children just love their Bible stories, especially when dramatized by teams of volunteer Story tellers.

At another school in Accra, the Apostolic Church Academy, children in scary lion masks chase others who roar with laughter. The children are asked what they learned from Daniel’s story. “Be brave” “Pray”. “Faithful to God”.

Thanks to your support, teams of Bible Storytellers are now being trained in other countries as well as Ghana. This means more children and young people will become grounded in the Scriptures.

Prayer Pointers

- Thank God that Open the book in Ghana is thriving.
- Pray that many more children will acquire biblical values that will shape their lives- and as a result that of their communities- in the future.
- Ask God to give strength and wisdom to the organisers and Storytellers of Open the Book in Ghana.
- Pray that Open the Book teams will be welcomed into more and more schools.

From the Bible a Month newsletter, Winter 2022/23.

Church Council

Our Church Council Meeting is on Thursday 9th March at 7 p.m.

Anyone can attend the meeting but only members can vote.

Please try and come to the meeting and help to support your church.

Mission update from Pakistan: you are empowering women in Pakistan with the word of God.

Beena is a 76 year old Christian woman living at the mouth of the Khyber region of Pakistan. She is a cheerful lady with eight children and 27 grandchildren, but until recently she lived in terrible fear. Gun-toting Islamists controlled and terrorised the area her family lives in just 20 miles from the border with Afghanistan. The kidnapping and killing of children and young people was common and women were banned from leaving the home alone.

The Pakistani Army wrested control from the Islamist extremists in 2014 and now, thanks to your generosity through Bible a Month, Beena and 11 women from her family are not only able to read Scriptures but are holding Bible study classes. The women began attending Bible-based literacy classes to learn to read and write in February last year. The classes, open to all women, are now flourishing thanks to your regular giving and more and more illiterate women from villages and slums are receiving education for the first time. “Before, there was not a single school for girls in this region. Education for girls was considered immoral” said Beena, a former hospital cleaner. She said there are few Christians in the area but a pastor who visits once a month told them that Bible Society were starting the classes at a church. The pastors wife was the teacher.

“Now we have started a Bible study group in the family and every day we read two or three chapters. We started with the New Testament and we hope very soon we will be able to read the Old Testament”.

The literacy rate in Pakistan is 58% but among Christian women it is estimated to be just 34 %. The plan of the Bible Society literacy programme supported by you is to educate 3500 women, which will develop their leadership skills and help them become active and confident members of society. Beena prays and thanks the Lord for the generosity of Bible Society supporters who made these classes possible.

Prayer Pointers

- Ask God to bless Beena and other women who are benefitting from the Bible-based literacy programme in Pakistan.
- Pray that the women benefitting from the literacy classes will use their newfound writing and reading skills to lead others to the peace and hope found in Jesus Christ alone.
- Pray that churches in this region will work with Bible Society to encourage more believers to join the classes.
- Ask God to give strength and courage to all the Christians in this region. Pray for protection for pastors and literacy teachers.

From the Bible Society's Newsletter, Winter 22/23.

Fairtrade announces Cocoa Standard update expanding requirements on human rights and deforestation

BONN, Germany – In an effort to deepen its impact for farmers and strengthen sustainable supply chains around the world, Fairtrade has updated its Cocoa Standard with a reinforced focus on human rights, the fight against deforestation, traceability, and living incomes, the social justice organization today confirmed.

The update, which was approved by the Fairtrade Standards Committee and is the result of a rigorous consultation process, combines specific sustainability priorities with progress on living incomes and support for producers. In addition, it aims to strike a balance between robust mandates, regional priorities, and a shared responsibility of compliance between farmers and involved commercial operators.

“This latest update to our Cocoa Standard reflects Fairtrade’s continuing commitment to progress and its dedication to the shared goals of producers, businesses, and consumers in preventing child labour and fighting deforestation,” explained Sam Dormer, Fairtrade Foundation’s Global Product Manager for Cocoa. “At the same time, the updated Standard strengthens Fairtrade’s mission to promote farmers’ right to decent livelihoods and enable their potential as leaders of a fairer, more sustainable future for all.”

Fairtrade Standards are reviewed and regularly updated through an inclusive and consultative process initiated and led by Fairtrade International’s Standards Unit, with the participation of key stakeholders in the Fairtrade system, including farmers and farm workers, and then decided upon by the Fairtrade International Standards Committee. The Committee, the composition of which is 50 percent producer and worker representatives, ensures that any decisions take into account the views of all the relevant stakeholders and are in line with Fairtrade International’s mission and policy statements.

The latest registered changes to Fairtrade’s Cocoa Standard, which will take effect in phases over the next two years, raise the bar for the product’s Standard with additional requirements on deforestation; Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence (HREDD); and traceability and transparency. The update also spreads responsibility of compliance between producer organizations and commercial actors, with the latter called on to support producer organizations in prevention of child labour and deforestation where requirements have been strengthened. Many of the current changes are focused on cocoa from Africa, Asia, and, in some cases, specifically Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, and seek to support producers in tackling the known risks in these areas, as well as prepare for other expected requirements, such as through the upcoming African Regional Standard for cocoa, and European Union legislation.

On deforestation, for instance, in addition to prevention and mitigation plan requirements, the adjusted Standard now requires farm geolocation mapping and for prevention and mitigation data to be collected by producer organizations for their own use, and reported to Fairtrade. Moreover, producer organizations are required to prepare measures that include awareness campaigns for their members and apply production practices that have a positive environmental impact.

For its part, the new HREDD requirements position farmers as partners in the process of implementing human rights and environmental due diligence, drawing specific attention to the prevention of child labour in cocoa production. In this regard, the updated Standard calls on producer organizations to implement monitoring and remediation systems more effectively. Sharecroppers and caretaker farmers are also included in the revised Standard with required written contracts now providing them with tangible benefits and greater visibility. In fact, producer organizations will now be required to report back to Fairtrade on their sharecropper and tenant farmers once they reach their third year of certification. Finally, the human rights focus of the update also calls for additional equal opportunity requirements for women, including equal access to training.

Meanwhile, on traceability and transparency, the updated Standard will now require producers to implement product tracing solutions and clear documentation, enabling ‘first-mile’ traceability. This will allow them to map their members’ farms and trace what they buy from each farmer – an increasingly important capability for cocoa producers as they seek greater oversight of their businesses as well as the possibility of assuring buyers on how and where their cocoa is grown, particularly in relation to human rights issues.

“During the consultation process many stakeholders made clear the need for further support for producer organizations on human rights issues,” continued Ms. Dormer. “That is why Fairtrade is also announcing the creation of Fairtrade’s Programme for Child Labour and Forced Labour Prevention and Remediation. The programme will provide contributions to Ivorian and Ghanaian cocoa producer organizations implementing quality prevention and remediation interventions that are now required in the Cocoa Standard.”

Ms. Dormer added that the programme will be launched with €450,000 of Fairtrade funding and has the potential to grow through contributions by commercial operators and other stakeholders.

Fairtrade press release, Dec 2022

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 is taking place 27 February – 12 March 2023

This Fairtrade Fortnight, join us in spreading a simple message: choose Fairtrade now and help save our favourite foods.

Did you know cocoa, bananas and coffee could soon be much more difficult to find on our shelves?

Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink.

But here’s the good news.

More of us choosing Fairtrade means extra income, power, and support for those communities, as they work to build sustainable and prosperous futures.

So not only is choosing Fairtrade best for people and planet, it could help save everyday treats like chocolate, bananas and a hot cuppa!

The Café Quiz (time to get the grey cells working!)

1. In which English county is Chesil Beach?
2. Bottle nose, spinner and white-beaked are species of which aquatic animal?
3. Which disease was formerly called consumption?
4. Which Australian state capital is named after a woman?
5. The spice saffron is obtained from the flowers of which plant?
6. Peter Mandelson was MP for which North East town from 1992 to 2004?
7. Where is the Unknown Warrior buried.?
8. Which island is known as the George Cross Island?
9. What nickname was given to American prisoner Robert Stroud due to his ornithological hobby while in prison?
10. What is Hansard?
11. What is the common name for the plant known as Heartsease?
12. What famous mausoleum is to be found at Agra?
13. In pre-decimal money, how many shillings were in a guinea?
14. Which is the largest loch in Scotland?
15. Who was the first president of the United States?
16. What is the capital of the Isle of Man?
17. Here is the first line of a poem. "I wandered lonely as a cloud". What is it called and who wrote it?
18. Can you give another name for the Royal Botanical Gardens in London?
19. Last year, who broke all records to become the oldest woman to have a UK number 1 single?
20. The following are varieties of which vegetable? Durham Early, Hispy, and Greyhound.

With thanks to LIVERNEWS, the Live Patient Support Newsletter.

Answers at back.

Alans Rant !!!!

Is it just me? Or is politics getting in the way of running the country?

And secondly, who is running the country? Elected politicians or sensation seeking journalists?

Am I alone in being absolutely sick of hearing – usually on Saturday evening or Sunday morning – that some news paper has reported that someone in the cabinet has made a mistake and the opposition party immediately say they should be sacked.

It doesn't seem to matter which party is in power, they have to spend most of their time defending the mistakes, whether major or minor, instead of doing the job that we, the public, put them there to do.

I find it absolutely ridiculous that TV broadcasters seem to think it's OK for their journalists to stand outside No 10 or anywhere politicians go and shout stupid questions at them which of course no one answers. It's so sad and childish and another distraction from the work that the politicians should be doing.

I referred to “we, the public put them there”. Did we? Personally I've never voted Tory, but the democratic vote elected Boris as Prime Minister. Not everyone's cup of tea but doing a reasonable job, especially through COVID. Then the press seemed to turn against him and started to scrutinise his every move. Of course the opposition parties jumped on the band wagon and soon Boris had to step down.

We then get the disaster of Liz Truss and now Rishi Sunak and of course complete cabinet shuffles at each change and smaller changes in between. All these “Amateurs” running the country. No wonder we're in the middle of another winter of discontent. Strikes just about every day, a broken NHS and many people in real financial difficulty.

You can't help to wonder if those in charge really care or have any answers. Most of them seem to be very rich and living in a different world to the rest of the country. Are they only there to feather their own nests?

A little while ago someone worked out that a 1% increase in income tax could provide enough money to fix the NHS but none of the political parties seem to want to go down that route as they probably think it would stop them winning the next election.

Eventually someone has to bite the bullet and find the money and expertise to solve these problems that have been created over the years by all political parties underfunding instead of being truthful with the public.

Alan Barker.

I hope my crazy thoughts have stirred you up. I would love Trinity News to contain more “Trinity News” !!!

So reply to my article with your thoughts. Am I talking rubbish? Or do you agree?

Get the laptop/pen out and send me your thoughts or articles about Trinity Life.

Alan

The Season of Lent Begins

I don't know about you, but Lent seems to have crept up suddenly. It only seems like yesterday since we were looking forward to Advent and now it is nearly Lent. Lent begins on Wednesday 22nd February this year.

In Lent we remember Jesus' temptations in the Wilderness (**Matthew 4: 1-11**) and reflect upon our own temptations, often the tendency to eat the wrong things. I guess those who've put on weight over the past 2 years might find that exercise useful, but resisting temptation won't be easy when there is less to divert attention from our longings. It will involve, as it did for Jesus, a wrestling with the temptation.

At a recent Bible Study group, I, and others, were looking at the passage about Jacob wrestling at the ford over the River Jabbok (**Genesis 32:22-31**). Returning to his homeland and preparing to meet his wronged elder brother, Esau, Jacob had sent everyone across the river ahead of him and was alone when his way was barred by a man with whom he wrestled all night.

As we discussed it, the question came up, "Who won?" And from that came the thought that so much language today is about fighting and beating whatever it is – we fight illness, we fight depression, we fight - and I wonder, is it wrestling, not fighting, that we really need to be doing?

When we are faced with something that bars our way forward – illness, bereavement, Covid, – we can choose to run from it, to fight against it, or to wrestle with it, understand it, see its strengths and weaknesses, and finally come to an accommodation with it. This latter option isn't easy, as it means living with uncertainty for longer than is altogether comfortable, but it can enable us to live more fully.

My mother's father had a serious heart condition that had led to him take early retirement. After my grandmother died, he returned to his hometown of Pickering where he lived a long and active life, walking (20 plus miles) or cycling, often alone. If his heart played up, he would lie by the roadside until he felt better and then continue. Over the years, he had come to understand and live with his heart's limitations and strengths and with that knowledge, lived into his eighties.

Neither side conceded when Jacob wrestled, and he was injured but then given a blessing by his opponent, and a new name, Israel. Then Jacob realised "I have seen God face to face yet my life is spared." He left the confrontation with new insight but also with pain: as we wrestle with whatever lies before us – illness, loss of many kinds including loss of hope, or maybe we face difficult people, or a change of direction – we can be given new insight.

Perhaps this Lent might be an opportunity to wrestle with where we are and, indeed, who we are now: how the Pandemic might have changed us, our hopes and fears for the future, our attitudes and above all, where God is in all of this. Remember, it was through the wrestling that Jacob realised the presence of God. It's worth the struggle for, although we may come out of it limping, like Jacob, we will be blessed.

One way to tackle temptation is to look ahead to where we want to be and how we want to be.

Then you ask, will what you're doing or are tempted to do help or hinder you?

A Prayer:

Lord, it is hard, this wrestling.

We want to walk away – run, even – from hard things that face us, or we want to beat them back so that they vanish, but deep within, we know this isn't the way.

Thank you that Jesus faced temptation to do and be something you didn't want of him; the temptation to take the easy way out, to go the powerful, popular route:

he wrestled with these temptations and overcame them.

May we, in his name and in his strength, overcome our own temptations and problems.

We pray for all those who are in any kind of position of authority and who have to struggle with the temptation to seize personal power rather than seeking the good of all people, and we ask a special insight and strength for those who challenge such grasping of power especially where it is done with subtlety and craftiness.

We pray for all who are wrestling today with their own temptations, great and small, asking for them the wisdom to know when they are struggling for right ways forward, and strength to persevere. May your Spirit guide and the love of Christ motivate.

Thank you for the reminder, Lord, that after he had wrestled with temptation, in the midst of the wilderness angels ministered to Jesus.

Thank you that your messengers minister to us when we are deeply in need, giving us an inner strength and peace when both seem so unlikely, bringing to us people who will help by their words and action and by just being there, firm and settled, when we need to rely on their strength and calm.

Thank you especially at this time for nurses, doctors and all working in our hospitals, clinics and surgeries; district nurses, midwives, and paramedics, health workers and carers who come into our homes, sometimes facing awful situations with a quiet efficiency.

Be with them, we pray, and may they find others who will give them the love and understanding they need when their minds and hearts are full of troubles.

We bring to mind those who wrestle today with great issues relating to Covid which is still with us, those seeking to understand it and find ways of dealing with it, and those who are ill, and low; those fearful for loved ones, those bereaved.

Surround them, we pray, with your wisdom and love and peace.

Thank you, too, that Jacob emerged from the night of wrestling with a new name, and blessed.

May we be aware of the blessing and new beginning you give us, even within the darkest times. May our minds and hearts be open today to that blessing, as we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

Blessings, Ruth

(Written by the late URC minister, Rev'd Ruth Crofton)

A Lent Prayer

Wonderful God, as we enter this season of Lent,
this time of preparation for the mystery of Easter,
help us to ready ourselves,
so that we can journey with Jesus through the wilderness,
to meet with him in resurrection joy.

Make us ready to fast from criticism
and feast on the good we see in others.

Make us ready to fast from inactivity
and feast on action for justice.

Make us ready to fast from greed
and feast on giving.

Make us ready to fast from conflict
and feast on peace making.

Make us ready to fast from selfishness
and feast on Christ-likeness

so that we might be changed to become more like your Son. **Amen.**

Hope and faith for the new year

As 2023 begins, CEO of the Leprosy Mission, Peter Waddup reflects on the past year and the challenges ahead of us:

New Year is time for rebirth and optimism. A time to set aside what doesn't work and look to new ways of living and being. With the first days of 2023 bringing crisp winter sunshine, it's been a welcome prompt to look above the day to day to limitless blue sky thinking! Ring out the old, ring in the new!

There's little doubt that 2022 showed us what a broken world we live in. Just as we experienced the freedom to really start living again after the pandemic, came the shackles of war and rising poverty for so many. It's been almost a year since Russia's war in Ukraine began, causing the biggest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. 2022 saw the lives of millions of people we serve across Asia and Africa blighted by political unrest, famine and climatic disasters. From the worst famine in Ethiopia since the days of Live Aid to brutal conflict in Myanmar and Sudan, there remains little freedom for so many.

No society is immune from pain. The aftermath of the pandemic and soaring energy costs have caused indescribable hardship here in the UK. Who would have thought that thousands of families would face a 'choice' between heating or eating? Or that our NHS nurses, who selflessly cared for us throughout the pandemic, would be relying on foodbanks for their next meal.

Leaving no-one behind

The impact of the pandemic on the UK economy means that restoring the overseas aid budget to its rightful 0.7 per cent of GDI is unlikely to happen for many years. The shrinking pot is being taken away from the world's poorest with British interests overseas an increased priority. As a result, the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which pledge to end global poverty by 2030, are increasingly looking like a pipedream. As ever, it is the world's poorest and those living on the fringes of society, that will undoubtedly be left behind.

Speaking to my colleagues around the world and just turning on the TV news reduced me to tears too many times in 2022. But, as is so often the case, it is during the hardest times of our lives that we experience breathtaking kindness and the beauty lying in the brokenness.

Giving to people living on the fringes of society in the developing world is a ministry. It changes lives and enables us to play a part in bringing about God's purposes for the world. Giving is in fact the highest form of love as it allows us to mirror God's unique and selfless love to us! I have been humbled, overwhelmed and amazed by God moving hearts so many times.

Sometimes it can be a timely donation needed to plug a shortfall in a project budget in Africa, often almost to the penny. Or members of a charitable trust being moved to take over funding a life-changing project in Nepal following UK Aid cuts. Witnessing such a passion for lives in Nepal to flourish is an overwhelming privilege, as is relaying to a supporter the fruit of their heart for people distanced and marginalised from society. They are unlikely to ever meet one another but, through them, God has joined the dots!

Faith and kindness

It takes faith too! We hear on the news that there are times of uncertainty ahead, further rising costs and job insecurity. It would be easy to justify squirreling away any spare pounds. But it is testament to the human heart that so many of our incredible supporters continue to give. At a risk to their own security they steadily continue to overturn some the many injustices of this fractured world. This is truly humbling.

There is good and kindness all around us and it is my promise to do all we can in 2023 to nurture this passion to bring about God's purposes on earth. It is so heartening to see the impact of kindness multiply. I have so many stories of people who have suffered the worst hardships and discrimination. Forever changed by the kindness of a stranger they will never meet, they have then gone on to set up orphanages, schools and change countless lives. Kindness is never wasted!

Prayers of concern

O Lord our God, as we bring our prayers for others to you now, we are aware of our inadequacies to help more and do more. We come to you, none the less, trusting in your power and your love. We see the needs around us and for them we pray.

For all those who are struggling with decisions as to whether to strike or work, seek more pay, better conditions or go with the flow that we all face at present. For Union leaders, those on the front line, politicians and all involved in deciding what is right and affordable and just and fair. Lord, our God; **hear our prayer.**

For countries in deep poverty where there is no extra support, no pay, let alone pay rises, no good conditions let alone better conditions. Lord, our God: **hear our prayer.**

For an end to the political unrest around the world where stable lives are being unsteadied and futures being made more uncertain. In countries where one party seems no better than another. Where political unrest seems to be escalating more and more. For Iran, Brazil, Ukraine. Lord, our God: **hear our prayer.**

For those in our own government seeking to resolve the Northern Ireland protocol and all the red tape involved, all the differing views, hopes and aspirations. Help all to come to see the needs, the realities and the way forward. Lord, our God: **hear our prayer.**

For those areas of the world where storms and floods and fires are still wreaking havoc. May those who are seeking resolutions for the climate come together, listen to each other, see the need and move towards sustainable action. Lord, our God: **hear our prayer.**

For the frightened and the fearful and the voiceless in societies who have no good news to tell, no stories to encourage, no history they of worth to repeat to other generations. For the rootless and the lost who see no path ahead and no point to the future. Lord, our God: **hear our prayer.**

For the ill and the suffering whose pain overwhelms them, physical or mental, bring them you comfort your love, your word of truth, your light in dark days. Lord, our God: **hear our prayer.**

For those who we know personally who need our prayers and your love... May we tell them of your love, your promises and life eternal. Lord, our God: **hear our prayer.**

All our prayers we offer in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Roots on the Web, Jan 12th 2023

Special Circuit Service

There is a special Circuit Service at Coxlodge Methodist Church on Saturday 25th February at 2.30 p.m.

This will be the final service for the closure of this church.

We urge you to support the folk at Coxlodge and Rev. Gavin Hulme at this special service.

Prayers of Intercession

Father, we pray for those who have no roots to their lives or their living; for refugees and victims of war; for the homeless and those who feel rejected and unwanted; for those who have lost the roots of family and friends in the turmoil of their lives. We pray, Give them hope in the strength of your love.

Father, we pray for those who are uprooted, for those traumatised by all they have faced and are facing in this troubled world; for those deeply hurt by violence, injustice and self-interest, for those facing misery and despair, and for those crushed by the pain and sorrow that breaks many hearts. We pray for those who feel uprooted from all they have cherished. Give them a new sense of belonging in the love of Christ.

Father, we pray for those whose whole way of life is rooted in the wrong things, for those whose whole way of life springs from violence, bitterness and greed; for those caught up in the effects of wrong decisions; for those whose words and deeds spoil life not only for themselves but also for others; for those who traffic in drugs; and for those who even now are being tempted to abuse a child. May the strength of Christ transform their lives.

Father, we pray for those whose lives are rooted in pain, for those who face the pain of loneliness, of fear and separation, for those who face the pain of body, mind or spirit. We pray for anyone we know to be facing the pain of anxiety, depression or bereavement. We pray especially for those whose pain is caused by sin- their own or someone else's. May the love and the joy of Christ be their source of peace.

Father, we pray for ourselves and our own roots. We ask you to teach us and enable us to remember that our faith is rooted in what you did and what you are doing in history. Help us to be so rooted in the power of the Holy Spirit that we may be ready to face opposition in our obedience to you. Keep our hearts so fixed upon Christ that, being rooted in him, we may be rooted in those things that count for all eternity.

In the name of Christ, who came that we might be rooted in his love. Amen

The Lord hears our prayers. Thanks be to God.

David Clowes- from "500 More prayers for all occasions"

Christmas Angels

Thank you very much to those of you who knitted Christmas angels. We managed the wonderful amount of 191. After they were blessed in church at the carol service, four of us distributed them the following day at 7.30 a.m. around Wallsend town centre. Each Angel had a greeting on it letting the people know it was a gift from the congregation at Trinity.

Please keep knitting throughout the year and see if we can increase the number for next Christmas. If you need wool or needles please ask as we have plenty of both.

Margaret Storey.

Points to Ponder

- Some talk to you in their free time, and some free their time to talk to you. Learn the difference.
- Your journey is not the same as mine, and my journey is not yours, but if we meet on a certain path, may we encourage each other. *The Simplicity Habit*
- Gratitude helps us to see what is there instead of what isn't.
- Never ever underestimate how powerful it is to pause, notice someone and ask, "How are you doing, really?" We need to practice seeing each other more.
- Everyone has gone through something that has changed them in a way that they would never go back to the person they once were.
- True friends aren't the ones who make your problems disappear. They are the ones who won't disappear when you are facing problems.
- Every morning you have a new opportunity to become a happier version of yourself.
- Remind yourself that it is okay not to be perfect. *Good Mental Health*
- There is no shame in getting help *Good Mental Health*
- To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing. *Martin Luther*
- In a world where you can be anything, be kind.
- Looking behind, I am filled with gratitude; looking forward I am filled with vision; looking upward I am filled with strength; looking within I discover peace. *Healing Hugs*
- It is not the mistake that matters, it's how you interpret the lessons. *Lessons Taught by Life.*
- God can handle your doubts, anger, fears, grief, confusion and questions. You can bring everything to him in prayer.
- To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees. *Billy Graham*
- To those I have wronged, I ask for forgiveness: to those I may have helped, I wish I did more: to those I neglected to help, I ask for understanding: to those who helped me, I thank you with all my heart. *Healing Hugs.*

The above quotes are freely available on the internet. Some are attributable to individuals.

Smile !

- I accidentally swallowed a bottle of invisible ink. I'm at the doctors now waiting to be seen.
- Friend: I thought you were dieting? **Me:** I am. Friend: you just had 3 donuts **Me:** But I wanted 4. See- I'm dieting !
- **Me:** my memory is so bad. Friend: How bad is it? **Me:** How bad is what?
- Just been to the hospital A & E, told the nurse I had been bitten by a wolf. She said, "Where?" I said, "no, just a normal one".
- My wife has been a victim of a scam. A woman called Anna contacted her and told her she was running a snake rescue charity and needed donations. My wife sent £100 and never heard another thing. We found out that Anna is using the money to buy things for herself, and there is no snake rescue charity. Anna conned her.
- There are three types of people in the world: Those who can count and those who can't.
- A cowboy walks into a car dealership says to the salesman, "Audi".
- Did I ever tell you I met my current wife in a travel agents? She was looking for a holiday and I was the last resort.
- Just to let you know, even if a bear wears socks and shoes, he still has bear feet!
- I know they say that money talks, but all mine says is "goodbye"
- When life gives you melons, you might be dyslexic.
- Winter: the season when we try to keep the house as hot as it was in the summer, when we complained about the heat!
- Moses had the first tablet that could connect to the cloud.
- My 3 favourite things are eating my family and not using commas.
- Grandma's been staring through the window ever since it started to snow. If it gets any worse I'll have to let her in.
- I went to the doc about my short term memory problems - the first thing he did was to make me pay in advance.
- What do you call a parade of rabbits hopping backwards? A receding hare line.
- My wife found out that I replaced our bed with a trampoline . She hit the roof.
- Why do seagulls fly over the sea? Because if they flew over the bay, they'd be bagels.
- Hey dad, can you explain what a solar eclipse is? No sun.



Dear friends,

On behalf of Wallsend Salvation Army Corps and our partners in Shiremoor and North Shields I want to say a big thank you for your support of last year's Christmas Present Appeal.

As a result of your generosity, and the marvellous help received by our hard-working volunteers we were able to support over 400 children in North Tyneside.

We are sure that your donations helped to brighten up many families' Christmases this year. Without your gifts, there will have been many children who might have received little or nothing on Christmas morning and on their behalf we would like to say a big thank you.

May God bless you in this new year.

Lieutenant Luke Cozens

The Salvation Army

Trinity Climate and Finance Help

One way to cut electricity use and also reduce emissions that help to create our problems with the world climate emergency is to use LED bulbs.

LED (Light Emitting Diode) bulbs use about 60% less electricity for the same amount of illumination. They used to be quite expensive but are now much more affordable and they last much longer than conventional lamps. LED tubes are expected to have a 30 year life.

With this in mind the Youth Group have financed the purchase of LED tubes, lamps and necessary fittings. These have been fitted with DIY labour to our hall, toilets, porch, lounge, kitchen and office/vestry.

Along with previously fitted lights in the church sanctuary etc; this means that all regularly used areas are now fitted with LED lights.

Hopefully this will go a little way to offset the rise in energy costs to the church and make our premises brighter and more efficient for all our users.

Sunday Rotas

Sunday	Door Steward	Flower Rota	Audio/Visual Desk
February 5 th	Mick Watson	Bill & Shirley Filmer	Leroy Lawson
February 12 th	Doreen Kirtley	Doreen Kirtley	Mark Burdon
February 19 th	Lorna Morgan	Joan Keltie	Alan Barker
February 26 th	Leroy Lawson	Sylvia Aston	Jean Trewick
March 5 th	Maureen Mills	No donor at time of print	Mark Burton

Sunday	Preachers	Church Steward
February 5 th	Rev Alison Wilkinson & Deacon Gail Morgan. Sacrament.	Alan Barker
February 12 th	Deacon Gail Morgan	Mark Burdon
February 19 th	Mrs Margaret Storey	Susan Bewley
February 26 th	Rev Gavin Hume	Leroy Lawson
March 5 th		Alan Barker

Café Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dorset. 2. Dolphin 3. TB or tuberculosis 4. Adelaide 5. Crocus 6. Hartlepool 7. Westminster Abbey 8. Malta 9. The Bird Man of Alcatraz | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. The printed, official reports of everything that is said in Parliament. 11. Pansy 12. Taj Mahal 13. 21 14. Loch Lomond 15. George Washington in 1789. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Douglas 17. Daffodils by William Wordsworth 18. Kew Gardens 19. Kate Bush 20. They are all varieties of cabbage . |
|---|--|---|

What's On at Trinity

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	10-11 a.m. WW (Weight Watchers)	smoore@ww.com	
	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
Thursday	Little Movers Classes	northtyneside@littlemovers.net	
Friday	Bloom Toddler Classes	northtyneside@bloomtoddlerclasses.com	
	2 p.m. Line Dancing	stephencmp@aol.com	Any but mostly 50+
	6.30 Trinity Youth Club	alan@trinitymethodist.church	8 to 10s
Saturday	Blue Door Drop In 10 to 12 noon	alan@trinitymethodist.church	All Ages