



Trinity Methodist Church



TRINITY NEWS

**FEBRUARY — MARCH — APRIL
(SPRING) 2025**



Our Mission Statement:

**Our Mission is to proclaim the love of God,
in Jesus to all people by:**

Being a place of welcome, worship & nurture.

Belonging, learning & growing together.

Serving the community in whatever way we can.

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Charity No: 1144617



It is with great sadness we learnt the Doug Hubble passed away on 30th December 2024. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lyn, family and friends.

Trinity has also heard the sad news that Nancy Oldridge, who was a regular attender at Trinity for many years, and always accompanied by the late Jo Woodley, died on the 23rd January at her Care Home in Halstead.

A huge thank you to Mary Stevenson who continues to ensure we have wonderful flower arrangements in church and also extra decorations during 'special' times. Also thanks to the small band of volunteers who help her.

Donations are always welcome for the flower fund. If you are able to spare a little cash please see Mary. Ed



BAPTISM

on 23rd March at Trinity 10.30am for Atticus Craig,
son of Kayleigh (nee McEvoy) and Adam Craig.

From Our Minister... Asif Karam

Contact numbers:

Church Office — 01245 269079

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Dear Trinity Church Family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! As we step into this new year, our hearts are filled with gratitude for God's faithfulness and the privilege of growing together as a Trinity Church family, young and old. The beginning of a new year often brings changes and challenges, including adjustments to new regulations and routines. As your minister-in-charge, I want to encourage and support you during these transitions. Let us remain steadfast in prayer, seeking God's wisdom and strength to adapt with grace and perseverance. Remember, we are here for one another, and our church's unity and teamwork are a powerful source of strength.

Collaboration is a vital aspect of a healthy and thriving church. The Bible reminds us that the Church is not merely a building or an institution but the body of Christ, made up of many members working together in unity (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Just as the physical body needs all its parts to function effectively, the Church needs the collective efforts, listening and loving of its members regardless of their backgrounds to fulfil God's mission. A strong team with smile on face celebrates the diversity of gifts, talents, and perspectives of all that God has given to each individual at Trinity. Romans 12:4-6 explains that we each have different roles and functions, but together we form one body.

Ultimately, teamwork in the church brings glory to God. When we work together in love and humility, we reflect the character of Christ and fulfil His prayer for unity among believers (John 17:21). Our cooperation becomes a testimony of God's transforming power and a witness to the world. Teamwork is not just a practical necessity for the church; it is a spiritual calling. As we embrace our roles within the body of Christ, let us commit to working together with a spirit of humility, love, and service. In doing so, we not only strengthen the church but also bring honour to God and extend His kingdom.

This year, I invite you to renew your commitment to the mission and vision of your church. Your active participation in worship services, small groups, children's ministry, and other opportunities strengthens our fellowship and touches the lives of newcomers and those around us. Let us embrace every opportunity to grow spiritually, serve our neighbours, and share the love of Christ with joyful hearts and big smiles.

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I am deeply grateful for your faithful giving, which enables us to fulfil God's work both within our church and in the broader community. As we embark on this new year, I encourage you to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to the church. Regular offerings are not only an act of worship but also an expression of our trust in God's provision. With your prayers, presence, presents, and participation, we can continue advancing God's kingdom and fulfilling the ministry and mission of Trinity Church. I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to every individual who faithfully serves in Trinity. Whether your efforts are visible to many or done quietly behind the scenes, I must say, your contributions are invaluable and deeply appreciated. You are the unseen hands and feet of Jesus. Your service may not always receive public recognition, but God sees your faithfulness and the heart with which you serve Him and His people.

Let us remain connected and encourage one another in love and good deeds, as Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us. If you have questions, need prayer, or wish to share a testimony of how God is working in your life, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, to the church office or your pastoral leaders.

As we journey through this year, may we do so with faith, hope, and love, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Blessings to you and your family,

Rev Asif Karam

Trinity Methodist Church

Trinity Link Care Club

Sadly the 18th December was our very last session.

We would like to thank all those who have helped us and have contributed to the running of the group over many years.

Trinity link care group was previously run by Crossroads. When the organization closed back in the 80s, Margaret Gannicott took over at the helm with the help of church members including my mum, Margaret Davies. I would help out with the washing up whenever needed.

When my mum (Meg) passed away in 2015 I decided to help at the group every week as it made me feel close to my mum. In 2016, Margaret Gannicott retired from her post and asked me if I would like to run the group, which I gladly agreed to.

Every year our members of the group have collected money for various charities and have raised in excess of £700 over the years.

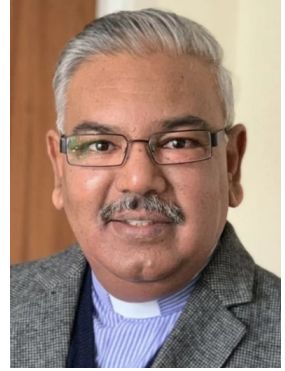
After many years we are able to look back over lots of happy memories and joyous times and remember with love and affection all those who are no longer with us.

Running this group has been a great privilege and I will miss everyone, but now it's time for me to start my next adventure in life.

I would just like to say a big thank you to Doreen Holliday, David Thwaites and the church for all their support over these last 9 years , for I could not have done it without them.

God Bless you all, Stella Kelly

A piece sent by email from Rev Asif for inclusion in this first Quarterly Trinity News. Ed



“The Gate of the Year”



On September 3, 1939, King George VI gave the most important speech of his life. A few months later, with Britain battered by the loss of great warships, and many of its Asian holdings, he also gave the Christmas message of December 25, 1939. The Christmas message tradition had been started by his father, George V in 1932, but it was WWII that embedded it as an annual tradition in British hearts and minds. (The band Genesis noted “we always watch the Queen on Christmas Day” in their song “Blood on the Rooftops”.)

George VI’s famous stuttering problem, mitigated with help from Lionel Logue, was the focus of the 2011 Oscar-winning film *The King’s Speech*. In the 1939 Christmas message, it was only evident at one point in the short address. However, one can certainly hear the measured cadence George VI used to overcome the problem.

George’s wife Elizabeth, mother to Queen Elizabeth II, brought him a poem that had deeply touched her. George VI accepted the first lines of the poem, “God Knows” (aka “The Gate of the Year”) by Minnie Louise Haskins to illuminate the spiritual comfort he believed his subjects might seek as the Axis powers confronted the Allies in the early days of World War II.

God Knows

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

*So heart bestill:
What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.*

God knows. His will
Is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; in Him,
All time hath full provision.

*Then rest: until
God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of lives stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill.*

Trinity Kitchen Lunch Club

We are hoping to run a Lunch Club in
The Link on one Wednesday each
month for Trinity members.

***Come for a healthy two course meal
for £5.00 head at midday.***

All ages welcome

3 Month Trial Period

January 15th

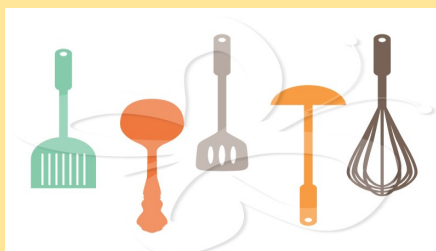
(book by Sunday 12th January)

February 19th

(book by Sunday 16th February)

March 19th

(book by Sunday 16th March)





PEACE



As I write we stand on the brink of a new kind of peace between Israel and Gaza. I am fervently hoping and praying it will be a meaningful and just peace that lasts and allows healing and a better, safer future. Thinking about how devastated Gaza might be rebuilt, not just physically, but in so many other ways, reminds me of the Taizé story:

It was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger Schütz, a Reformed Protestant, who having experienced the horrors of the Second World War, longed to see peace rebuilt across Europe. At the heart of the Christian movement that grew from his vision is ecumenical working together, between Catholics and Protestants. Through the community's ecumenical outlook, they are encouraged to live in a spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation. The community's church, the Church of Reconciliation, was inaugurated on 6 August 1962. It was designed by a Taizé member and architect, Brother Denis. Young Germans from Action Reconciliation Service for Peace, created to promote reconciliation after World War II, took on the work of building it. The Taizé Community is perhaps best known for its music and style of worship, and I have found Taizé inspired worship to be very powerful. The music often involves the repetition of a particular phrase, to help focus on an idea.

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Whenever I think of peace, the words of the Taizé Community song: 'My Peace I give You' often come to mind. The song goes on to say 'My Peace I Leave you'. The person giving and leaving the peace is Christ.

As many of you know this will be my last article for Trinity News, as I am soon to embark on a new chapter of ministry as a chaplain at the Royal United Hospital in Bath. The time that Sheridan and I have had here in Chelmsford has been a real blessing to us despite some considerable challenges, not least the shocking events surrounding the COVID pandemic. I am certain I will never have a more surreal experience in ministry than emailing all my churches to advise them that all worship would cease, as I did in March 2020, after having been here only 7 months. Despite the challenges that the pandemic brought I saw the church adapt and in some respects thrive against all odds. My time here has been moving and rewarding.

My parting words are the words inspired by the ministry of Taizé: *My peace I leave with you*. I pray that in your lives and in our churches the peace of Christ may be known. Now and always.

With sincere thanks to you all for sharing in the journey of faith with Sheridan and I for this time, God's peace be with you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark" with a stylized flourish underneath.

I'm sure all members of Trinity Methodist Church will want to join me in wishing Rev Mark and Sheridan happiness and contentment as they embark on a new phase of Mark's career. We hope your move to Bath will be enjoyable but not too challenging. Moving to the West will bring you closer to your daughters Grace and Megan, son in law, Owen and grandchildren Ety and Tobias. Ed

Thanks to Joy Petts for writing another story for Trinity News.



The Magdalen's Story

To some I was known as a bad lot. I plied my trade wherever I could; used, abused but never loved.

This man was different. There was no condemnation and he made no demands, treating me as a true friend. I loved him for his compassion and the way he mixed-in with everyone, the hierarchy, low-life and all the little children. Yes, he could get angry as I saw when he upset the cheating market traders but somebody needed the courage to confront them.

He had a small band of very close friends but the tide was turning against him and I did not know why. I was horrified that some of his closest companions were to betray him, especially the one in the garden and those in the courtyard of the high priest.

I had no idea what went on at his trial either in the court of the Pharisees or before the Roman governor. I was appalled when he appeared bloodied and tortured with the crowd baying for his death. What had he done?

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My blood ran cold when I saw the cross and knew what he was going to suffer. The Romans were renowned for their cruelty at executions. He was made to carry that terrible cross and I was glad that a young man stepped forward to help him.

Being a coward I could not bear to watch any more but after the terrible deed was done I went and stood at the foot of the cross and tried to comfort his mother. He said many things before his long, lingering death but I remembered “Father forgive them”.

I was glad that he was to have a decent burial in a peaceful place and I was privileged to join the other women when they went to administer the final rituals for his body after the Sabbath had ended.

Nobody can begin to imagine the uproar and commotion when it was discovered that his body had gone! There was so much coming and going and I sank to my knees in utter desolation. I felt rooted to the spot even when everyone had gone, except the gardener. What was he doing here at this unearthly hour and what did he know I asked?

He called my name and suddenly all the doubt and disbelief that we had all been so guilty of swept over me and I ran wanting to throw my arms around him. He shied away and after a while he was gone. In my tears I could not understand all that he was saying to me, but two words kept ringing in my ears, “Go Tell”, and I knew that I had to run and run very fast!

Joy Petts

Trinity Church Membership

If you are worshipping at Trinity Church regularly and feel that this is the place to be, where you belong, as the minister in charge of this church family, I wholeheartedly extend an invitation to you to become a member of Trinity Church.

Why do I encourage church membership? Membership strengthens the bonds of fellowship among believers. The church functions as a spiritual family, offering emotional and practical support during times of need and celebrating milestones and successes together.

Church membership is more than formal affiliation, it is a declaration of your commitment to God and His people. It serves as a foundation for spiritual growth, a means of fellowship, and an opportunity for service, ultimately helping believers fulfil their purpose in God's kingdom. If you have any queries or questions about membership, please do not hesitate to call me or write me an email. I will be more than happy to assist you in becoming a member of Trinity Church.

Trinity Financial Support

As we continue to faithfully dispense the ministries of Trinity Church, we are deeply grateful for the generosity you have shown through your offerings and pledges. Your financial support plays a vital role in sustaining the ongoing work and mission of our church, including mission work, building repairs, and outreach initiatives.

With this in mind, I would like to humbly ask if you might consider a slight increase in your weekly offerings and monthly pledges, if possible. For those of you who are taxpayers, we encourage you to speak with our Church Treasurer, who would be happy to assist you with Gift Aid and online donations.

We also invite everyone to consider paying through direct debit, as this enables us to better plan, budget, and manage the church's resources more effectively and strategically.

As Jesus taught us, giving is not just a financial transaction, but an act of worship that aligns us with God's purposes. We pray that your generosity continues to be a reflection of His love and provision.

Looking forward to hearing from you. *Yours in His service,*

Rev AsifKaram

TOWARDS ONE WORLD



It is with great sadness that I share an update about the children's project in Kenya. Unfortunately, it has come to light that the managers of the home have been acting dishonestly. Please be reassured that no funds from you all were misused, but rather the funds allocated for the running of the home have been mishandled. As a result, Ken and Coral Hart, whom we hold in highest regard have made the difficult decision to terminate their connection with the project. The home which had been outfitted with solar panels has now been closed and the children have been placed in other accommodation.

Throughout this project, we have faithfully sent £4,000 out of the £5,000 originally promised which helped repay the loan Ken and Coral had personally put forward. We currently hold a balance of approximately £900 in our account.

Ken and Coral had generously offered to refund the £4,000 to us. A decision was taken at the Church Council meeting held on 22nd January 2025 not to accept this refund. I hope this decision meets with your approval. The reason Church Council made this decision is that our initial plan to install solar at the children's home was achieved despite what happened after this project was completed.

We now need to determine the future direction of Towards One World. The Council meeting unanimously agree to look for another project that we can embark on immediately. If anyone has any ideas on what we can look at please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Lastly I would like to take this opportunity to thank you profoundly for your continued support towards this noble cause. May God remember your good deeds and richly reward you.

Kind regards, **Sheila Mukumba**



RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

CAROUSEL

Rodgers & Hammerstein's
CAROUSEL

Music by RICHARD RODGERS
Book and Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

Based on Ferenc Molnar's Play "Liliom"
As adapted by Benjamin F. Glazer
Original Choreography by Agnes de Mille

CHELMSFORD
THEATRE

14th-17th May 2025

7:30pm nightly

2:30pm Saturday Matinee

For Tickets Call: 01245 606 505
For More Information Visit www.chelmsfordtheatre.co.uk

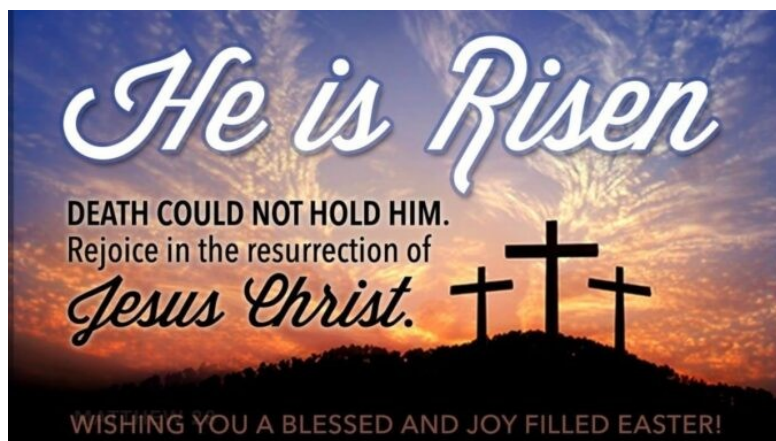


This amateur production of CAROUSEL is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.
on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

APRIL



CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT TRINITY NEWS

MAY—JUNE—JULY 2025 Edition

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