



Trinity Methodist Church



Trinity News

FEBRUARY 2022



MARCH 2022

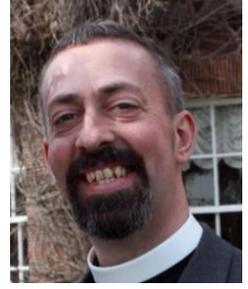


Mission Statement:

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

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From the Manse.....



Conditional Love?

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

(Matthew 22:36-40)

Now that we're several weeks into the new year I guess it's quite likely that many new year's resolutions have been abandoned, or even forgotten?! I think I gave up making such calendar-based pledges a few years back when I realised that the new year wasn't enough of an inspiration to strengthen my resolve! Rather I was perhaps reminded of my human frailty. New year resolutions remind us of the fact that there are many areas of our life that we can find we want to change, because we're not satisfied with how things are.....

Failing to keep the resolutions that we wish to in our heart is a painful reminder of the paradox of the liberation that the gospel ('good news') speaks of. It's the unconditional love of God which allows us to know the liberation of forgiveness and salvation ("*life in all its fullness*"), but that very encounter always means transformation, because understanding what God's love can bring us cannot leave us unaffected.

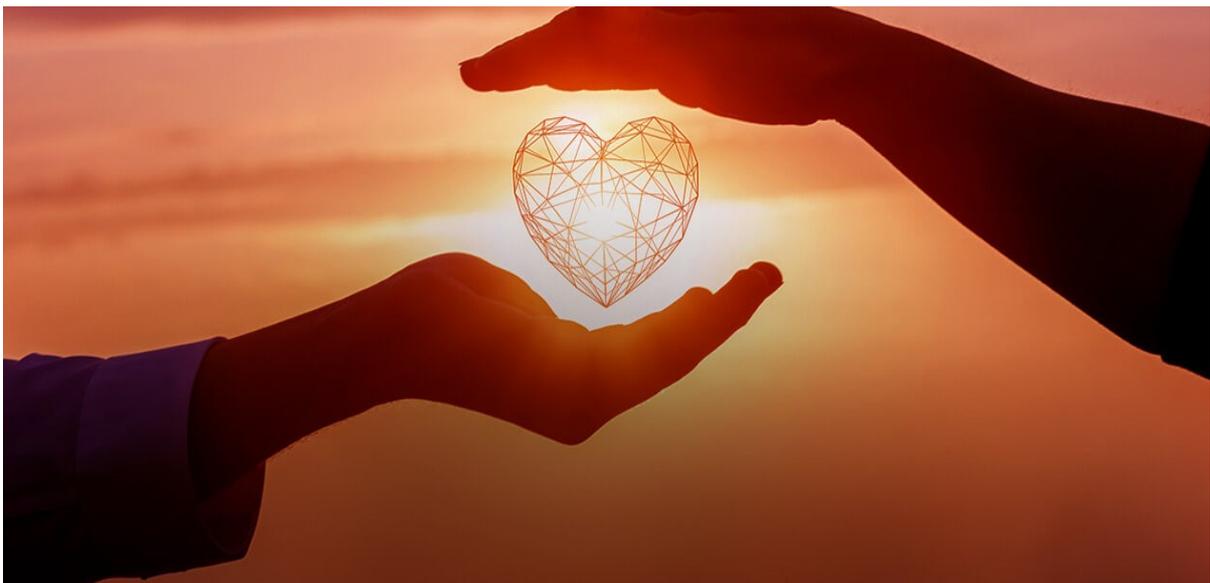
As Jesus presented this revolutionary love, time and again we see that it was declared as an unacceptable message about the way in which God might deal with us. For the religious authorities that Jesus clashed with, it was essential to maintain that God had standards which must be observed - to be acceptable to God, conditions must be met and these were the essence of The Law.

Notice, though, what Jesus said about the law in the Matthew passage above, all of The Law hangs on loving God, and loving our neighbour as we love ourselves. Jeremy Young * suggests that the challenge of accepting the unconditional love of God for ourselves is often not easy . He says that this is because all too often, deep down, we find it difficult to love ourselves, and perhaps believe that God couldn't love us either.

Loving ourselves as we love our neighbour is no mere appendage to the command of Christ. It's essential if we are to not present God's love as conditional. This is an essential understanding as we seek to truly share Good News. The love of God can truly set us and our world, free. Now that is truly good news to resolve, to share!

Blessings and peace,

Mark
~





"It made a difference to that one!"

TOWARDS ONE WORLD

In the last Trinity News, I reported that we were shortly to close the then current project and launch the new one. This duly happened in the 9.30am service on 12th December and, especially for those who were unable to be present, I should like to recap on the presentation.

Firstly, enormous thanks were given to everyone who had supported the closing project. We had aimed to raise £4000, over two years, to support rural communities facing challenging land management conditions in Ethiopia. (You may recall that the project was launched at Mark's first service with us here, so it has run for a little over the two years). Covid and lockdowns somewhat derailed us but it is praiseworthy that the donations kept coming in and I am so pleased to tell you that the eventual total raised and sent off to All We Can was £4225. An additional £900 was given direct to All We Can by a close friend of Trinity, to be added to our total, giving a grand total of £5125. We must, of course, keep those communities in Ethiopia in our thoughts and prayers as we now move on.



Then, Mark, aided by Sheila Mukumba, talked of the situation for Methodist ministers in Zimbabwe. Many of them live and work in poverty, often abject poverty, and yet, faithfully minister to congregations which are spaced over huge distances. Travelling to do their work involves very long journeys, often on foot and over difficult terrain. *At this point in the service, we had a first for Trinity, a live link, by Zoom (albeit a precarious one!), with some of these ministers in Zimbabwe. It was so good to get this brief tenuous contact with them.* Sheila has been working, with other like-minded people, on a project called "Seed of Grace", to give much needed support and our new Towards One World project will work alongside Seed of Grace.



Seed of Grace

So.....

You may recall that, many years ago, we bought two motorbikes for leprosy workers to use in Nigeria. This time, we are aiming to buy twenty bicycles for the Zimbabwe ministers to use! It is reckoned that this will cost around £4000, so this is our target. Optimistically, we will aim for a two year commitment again but we will continue until the funds are raised, if necessary. As the project runs, we may be able to develop other strands to it, e.g. individual families may wish to sponsor individual ministers. I am sure Sheila will prompt us in this!

Recent Church notices have given details of how to donate and I look forward to working with regular supporters, and new ones, on this venture. Please have a word with me if you need any further information. Many thanks, in anticipation of keen support!

Jeff Green



*Our wonderful sign outside
Trinity for all to see.*

On a Sunday afternoon in December 2021 we had a special service at Trinity, based on **HOPE**.

The atmosphere was amazing and the silences were particularly powerful. Rev Mark led us as we lit candles, remembering loved ones we have lost but never forgetting we always have **HOPE**.

On thinking about this afterwards one aspect is, never to underestimate the gifts we have been given.

When we have a gift, however small, we should always use it. It's all about sharing with others. We should always remember that it gives everyone **HOPE**.

God's Blessings on everybody.

Anne Ward

Trinity Care Club

Trinity Care Club resumed last Autumn meeting fortnightly. As well as enjoyable social activities the group has continued its successful fund raising. £100 has been donated to Age Concern, £100 to the Samaritans and £100 to the Third World Vaccination programme. £250 has been donated to Trinity for the use of the church's facilities. Meeting dates for early 2022 are 9th/23rd February, 9th/23rd March and 6th/20th April.

Stella Kelly

SINGLES LUNCHES



It has been so difficult to accept that due to the ongoing pandemic it has not been possible to provide singles lunches, knowing how much our friends look forward to meeting together, chat and enjoy a meal. Luckily just before Omicron struck we were able to enjoy a Christmas Lunch together and after a few anxious weeks, discussion with Revd Mark and phoning round to assess feelings, we were met with a resounding 'yes please'. I am delighted to say they were able to re-commence in January. Grateful thanks to Shirley Durgan for agreeing to go ahead.

As always, finding volunteers to cook is not easy and I am very grateful to our loyal band of helpers that so far I have been able to fill all but two spaces on the 2022 calendar. Sadly, some of our cooks can no longer help due to health problems and the fact that none of us is getting any younger! I want to say a very big thank you for the many years of service they have given and I know our friends enjoying singles lunches would be delighted to welcome them to join them for lunch one day.

I am urgently seeking volunteers to provide lunches in July and August. If anyone feels they may be able to help or would like to join in with the team on one of the Sundays on the Rota to see exactly what is involved, then please contact me. I will be providing Rotas to all our diners at the lunch in February but meanwhile please note that the dates for the next three singles lunches are: February 20th, hosted by Keith and I and assisted by Anne Routledge; March 20th, hosted by Hilary and Diane April 24th hosted by Ian and Barbara Armstrong. All we ask is that you phone them by the previous Wednesday if you will be there for lunch. I am also very grateful to Mark who is aiming to arrange a short service after the meal, when possible.

In conclusion may I ask, please, everyone give some thought to whether they may be able to help with lunches, either as cooks or helpers. All are welcome. It would be very sad if we reach the stage when we have to reduce the number of months our diners are able to meet together.

Jenne Essam

Trinity Methodist Music and Drama
are proud to present

The Sound of Music

Music by **Richard Rodgers**

Lyrics by **Oscar Hammerstein II**

Book by **Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse**

Suggested by "The Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta Trapp

Director **David James**

Musical Director **Gerald Hinde**

Civic Theatre Chelmsford

18th to 21st May 2022 Nightly 7.30pm

Saturday matinee 2.30pm

Box Office 01245 606505

www.chelmsford.gov.uk

noda
Be inspired by amateur theatre

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

We are busy rehearsing for Sound of Music. We have a double set of very excited children just itching to perform as well as a full cast of very talented performers. Concessions are on Wednesday evening and Saturday matinee performances. Please come and support us. *Janet Wintle*



WHITECHAPEL MISSION

Following our delivery to Whitechapel the week before Christmas, Jenne and I, as Trinity contacts, have received a letter of thanks and a Certificate of Appreciation from Tony Miller and his team. I will hand this in to the Church Office for display in The Link.

As with all projects, the pandemic has had a severe effect on donations to the Mission, but their client base has increased and they have served over 350,000 breakfasts, between 250 and 350 every day, including weekends. Their donation bases such as Trinity have decreased by over 30, so our efforts are very welcome and very much looked forward to. Needed at this time of year are Rucksacks, Backpacks, Socks, Vests, Underpants, Shirts, Woolly Hats, Gloves, Towels and of course Toiletries, Stout Shoes, etc.

Talking of Woolly Hats and Gloves, one of the Mission's loyal supporters is our own member, Jean Plush. Jean spends many hours knitting hats and gloves which are always so gratefully received at Whitechapel and we and some of her friends are always looking out for and supplying her with double knitting wool which people may have left over or have donated. Should any of our members have any wool, oddments or full balls which she can use please let us know and we are happy to collect. Even small leftovers can always be used on the turn backs of hats, etc. We are always amazed by the bags of beautifully knitted items we collect from her.

If you have any Whitechapel donations but cannot deliver to Trinity please give us a ring. We have an answer machine so if we're not in please leave a message and we will be happy to arrange a collection.

Many thanks for your continuing support for this very deserving cause.

Keith, Jenne and John Essam

THE ALTERNATIVE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Thou shalt not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all Human activities
2. Thou shalt not be fearful, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.
3. Thou shalt not cross bridges before you get to them, for no one yet has succeeded in accomplishing this.
4. Thou shalt face each problem as it comes, You can handle only one at a time anyway.
5. Thou shalt not take problems to bed with you, for they make very poor bedfellows.
6. Thou shalt not borrow other peoples problems, they can take better care of them than you can.
7. Thou shalt not try to relive yesterday for good or ill - it is gone, concentrate on what is happening in your life today.
8. Thou shalt count thy blessings, never overlooking the small ones, for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.
9. Thou shalt be a good listener, for only when you listen do you hear ideas different from your own. Its hard to learn something new when your always talking.
10. Thou shalt not become bogged down by frustration, for 90% of it is rooted in self- pity and it will only interfere with positive action,

Something Anne Ward found in her archives.



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or give a hard copy to the Church Office.

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