



Trinity Methodist Church



FEBRUARY MARCH 2024

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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We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Gwen Mumby on 24th November 2023. Gwen's family have been remembered in our prayers.

Gwen's Thanksgiving service was held at Trinity on January 8th 2024. Please see page 6



See below folk who and left messages on the Action for Children Christmas Tree. Over £100 was raised. Thank you to all who contributed.



Mark & Sheridan

Russell, Kay & Jo

Jackie Andrease

Sue & Graham

Margaret Gannicott

Val P.

Hilary W.

Janet C.

Doreen Holliday

Pam F.

Anthea & Tony

David Thwaites

John & Geraldine Cullum

Maureen & Alex

Julia

Joy & David Petts

Diane

Carol K.

Tony B.

Ian and Barbara

The Trinity family were pleased to Welcome Olive (from Hall Street) on Sunday 21st. Mark also said we would be welcoming one or two more folk in the weeks to come. We hope you will all feel very much 'at home' very soon.

Welcome



On the 16th February to two of our members.

Brenda Parker, celebrating her 100th birthday and Margaret Gannicott her 90th birthday.

Very happy birthday wishes to both.

From the Manse.....

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Magazine article for the New Year

Because of the itinerant nature of our lives we have always been one of those annoying families who've included a 'round robin' Christmas letter in with Christmas cards, mainly to keep friends and relatives who aren't on social media vaguely abreast with what's happening in our lives. As is mandatory this has included shameless bragging about the fact that Sheridan and I have raised two geniuses, toured the Seychelles, etc, etc; although we always went the extra smug mile by doing so very much tongue-in-cheek!

This year, however, we didn't really feel like writing such a letter; it's been a hard year, with the death of my Mum and 3 other significant bereavements of close friends. When I say 'we', I didn't feel like writing it, that is of course the royal 'we'! It's invariably Sheridan who gets landed with the job. However after reflection she did write a shorter version of the letter which had a somewhat less jocular tone to it than normal.

Perhaps you'll be looking back on this year and hoping that 2024 has less challenges as well? Whether it's been a good year or not, our letter writing challenge was a reminder that through thick and thin, through good and bad we are still, in our different ways, in relationship with those we are connected with (our card recipients in my example). Those who surround us with love and care as friends or family, want to be there for the rough as well as the smooth.

My faith sees this as a human echo of the heart of God's love. May that loving heartbeat help keep you moving along in this coming year.

For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

Romans 8: 38

Blessings, 

Sadly, received too late for our Dec/Jan edition Ed

Brenda Jean Hindes

August 4, 1933 – 10 November 2023



Brenda was born in Walthamstow to Arthur and Nellie Yelland; and had a brother Stanley. Aged eight, at the outbreak of war, she was evacuated to Cornwall; on her initial visit Brenda's mother was so unhappy with the conditions there that she brought her daughter straight back to London. Later in the war, Brenda was evacuated to Norfolk and then to Finchingfield in North Essex, a much happier place that she loved to visit later in life.

After leaving school. Brenda followed a professional career as a nursery teacher and loved every minute working with young children. She married Peter Hindes in April 1953 and started a family two years later. At this time, they lived in Ongar where Brenda took on a part-time job working with children while also raising three sons. In the late 1970s, they moved to Chelmsford; where besides being a wife, mother, guide and supporter, Brenda found time to work in the planning department of Essex County Council where, among other duties, drove around the county looking at properties and land.

Her son Gerald recalled that supporting the family was very important to Brenda. She was always in attendance when Peter performed on the piano or organ and never missed any of the Trinity Music and Drama events particularly when Gerald was musical director. Very often Brenda attended the same show more than once and was never short of praise (as Gerald observed, whether the performance warranted it or not).....

Away from family activities, Brenda with Peter was a staunch supporter of Trinity Church and its associated activities including the bowls club. Friends recall the welcome they received from Brenda when first taking up bowls. She was keenly competitive, a stickler for bowls etiquette and was always willing to guide novices on the correct way to deliver their woods and the rules of play.

After Peter passed away in 2019, Brenda's philosophy of life was to carry on. After all, as a young girl she had survived the Luftwaffe's bombs, evacuation around the country, observed her growing family – a grandmother of eight, a great grandmother of seven -- and a cancer diagnosis. She enjoyed her life, was grateful for what she had and encouraged everyone around her to make the most of their opportunities.

At the Celebration for her Life service held at Trinity, members of her family and friend spoke warmly of Brenda. She was a very special lady and will be sadly missed by all. God bless you Brenda. Rest in peace.

January 2024 Abridged from Gerald's notes.



Gwen Marjorie Mumby

1st November 1935—23rd November 2023



Gwen was born in South Woodham Ferrers in November 1935 and, despite her youth, well recalled the war-time threat of air raids as the enemy planes headed for London and the docks. Evidently, the family sought protection under a large concrete table when raids were on.

After the war, Gwen and her family moved to Chelmsford. It was here that, while at school in Rainsford, her talent for needlework came to the fore when she organised an exhibition of lace making for which she received a commendation. When she left school Gwen joined the RAF where she met Gordon; they married in 1958 and were subsequently blessed with four children. On leaving the forces she returned to Chelmsford and took on new career challenges including bus-driving. However, her enthusiasm for needle work directed her towards a seven-year apprenticeship as a tailoress at Bolingbroke and Wenley, at the time renowned purveyors of fine apparel. Following this, Gwen worked for Sketchley for 25 years, using her needleworking skills in clothing repairs.

When sadly Gordon died, Gwen was resolved to make best use of her time in retirement and devoted her attention to her family and to her Church. She committed herself to using her sewing gifts and talents by helping others. Over the next few years Gwen travelled extensively, initially to India in 2001 supporting the Cathedral Relief Service in Kolkata where she taught sewing skills to women who lived in impoverished conditions, At the conclusion of her trip, Gwen left a miniature model of a vintage Singer Sewing machine, a legacy item which is awarded annually within the community. Two years later, Gwen visited China working with teenagers in an orphanage and in 2005 she volunteered with another Christian charity, Smile International, supporting refugees and others in war-torn Kosovo. And then in 2007 Gwen joined other Christian volunteers from Chelmsford working with the Hand in Hand Charity supporting orphans and vulnerable young people in Kenya and elsewhere in East Africa.

At Trinity, Gwen was an active volunteer: over the years she was a Church and Circuit steward; part of the Church pastoral team; president of the Ladies Group; a competitive member of the Bowls Club; collector for the JMA; supporter of the Care Group and last but not least, a driver of the Trini-bus (deploying those bus driving skills of yesteryear).

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Gwen did not stop; she put her sewing machine to work again making scrubs for the NHS. Yet a further example of Gwen's selfless service.

In all this work, Gwen was sure that God led and guided her; "...it just seemed to happen" she said. Gwen had found a way of employing her skills, knowledge and talents acquired through her earlier life for the good of others in places she had probably never dreamed of encountering.

As a young Girl Guide, Gwen met and had been inspired by Robert Baden-Powell. Maybe Gwen has similarly inspired others through her Christian work. In later life she was blessed with seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. They and the congregation at Trinity Methodist Church mourn her passing. God bless you, Gwen.

From notes taken by Rev. Mark Pengelly

January 2024.



CHANCELLOR PARK METHODIST BOWLS CLUB



It is several months since the 2023 outdoor bowling season ended and it will soon be time to start planning for the new season. A few thoughts on how our new venture worked out.....

You may recall that it was decided to merge the former Trinity and Hall Street Methodist Bowls Clubs before the 2023 season began, each having had reducing membership numbers over recent years. We agreed from the outset that the merger would be one of equal partners and so it turned out. We were able to take part in local Tuesday evening league matches against other clubs and, indeed, at the half way point in the season, we were top of our division. Sadly, we slumped somewhat over the next three games, but finished in a creditable third position, only two points behind the promotion places.

It was generally agreed that the new venture was very successful and fellowship was enjoyed by all. As well as playing in the league, we had lots of friendly matches against other clubs and also internal competitions. We are always pleased to welcome new members so, if you are wondering whether you might like the chance to roll a few woods, have a word with me or with one of the other members. We will be more than happy to see you at one of our "roll ups"!

Jeff Green



Towards One World

“ Let there be Light” Update 7th January 2024



“**Let there be Light**” is the new Towards One World Project that Trinity Methodist Church in Chelmsford has undertaken to provide solar power to an orphanage in Kenya.

As you are all aware the project has been front funded by Ken and Coral while we continue to put our contributions together. Apparently the initial installation of the solar power system has now been completed providing lighting to the Orphanage, with the capacity for additional equipment later as more funds become available.

The orphanage has five houses, a kitchen, two outside toilet blocks and a block where the older girls wash. The panels which have been installed will provide lightening for the five houses and the kitchen. Security lighting has also been installed outside the toilets, on the main gate and on a couple of pathways which lead to the toilets

The system can run on solar alone or alongside power from the grid. The current system has additional capacity to run some equipment in the kitchen e.g. fridge and water heater. However, there are some issues which need to be addressed, namely on cloudy days the system may not produce sufficient power to keep both the kitchen equipment and general lighting operating day and night. But we understand that this issue can be solved by additional solar panels without the need to carry out further electrical work.

Due to our generosity, the orphanage and staff are rejoicing at God’s goodness to them. These children have never experienced lights before and this comes as an amazing gift to them .

The outside lighting will provide a greater sense of security and protection as crime is a huge problem in Kenya.

Ken and Coral continue to send their gratitude to all the members of Trinity Methodist Church in Chelmsford through the Towards One World initiative.

Let’s continue with our contributions. Please remember to bring your envelope on the first Sunday of each month. **Sheila Mukumba**

Otacho Christian Children's Home – "Let There Be Light"

Impact Statement

Greetings to Coral and Ken,

On behalf of the Otacho board members, I am writing to express our deepest joy to the two Churches who donated the funds towards the Solar system which has provided powerful lighting system to the Orphanage. Please, we can't thank you enough for this act of good work which you have done to the children who have been living in very good houses without light, we thank God and give Him glory for using you as a conduit of answer to our long term prayers.

Today the home for children has been impacted by wonderful lights in every house and even to the field, children can now have wonderful time to study at night something which they could not do. Children can now use the lights to walk easily at home. The Solar lighting system has brought great joy and even to the community.

The Solar system of light has also enhanced security and children are now much safer than they were, even our 2 watchmen, who are our security officers, are now managing the home with ease, this has brought great hope to everyone who help us with work at the orphanage. We have no words to describe what the Lord has done just in mere words, but we say a big thank you for this great support may God bless as you continue to stand with us in prayers.

God bless you all, Judith



Lights on main gate & on toilets



Tikvah House & Kitchen outside lights



Pathway lighting

Keith Byatt's memories of HALL STREET



It is a sad time for the Methodist Church in Chelmsford with the closure of the former Primitive Methodist Church in Hall Street. In particular, I have strong memories of this Church; my paternal grandparents were members; my parents were married there; I was baptised and I attended there regularly as a child. When I was 10 or 11 my parents transferred membership to the High Street Methodist Church (formerly Wesleyan) where they hoped I would meet and mix with "older" young people of which there were few at Hall Street.

My membership continued there until the early 1950s when it proved necessary for several reasons to close and demolish the building. There followed the union with the former Primitive Methodist Church in Rainsford Road and the opening of Trinity. Originally it was hoped that Hall Street would close and the congregation unite with Trinity but that was not to be! I must pay tribute to Peter Batey who worked long and hard to keep the Church open.

Keith Byatt

LOOKING AHEAD



Sunday 24th March — Joint Palm Sunday service at Broomfield



Thursday 28th March — Tenebrae service at Trinity

Friday 29th March — Gather at Trinity ready to walk and join Procession of Witness.



Sunday 31st March — Easter Sunday AAW and communion at Trinity



**Closing Date for April / May 2024 edition of
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**31st March
EASTER DAY**



Articles to be sent to Anthea Tayler **AND** the Church Office or give a hard copy to the Church Office.

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