



Trinity Methodist Church



OCTOBER 2024

**NOVEMBER
2024**



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Lest We Forget



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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It is with great sadness Trinity heard that Jo Burton passed away surrounded by her family on Friday 2nd August. Jo had been in hospital for several weeks. Our thoughts and prayers have been with Kay, Russell, her brother David and family. May Jo rest in peace. A Thanksgiving service was held at Trinity on Friday 6th September.

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We have also heard that Doreen Short, who moved to Hitchin almost two years ago, died peacefully on Sunday 1st September surrounded by her family. Prayers have been held for Doreen's family.

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Rev Mark & Sheridan are delighted to announce the arrival on 17th Sept of grandson, Tobias (Toby), a son for Grace & Owen and brother for sister ETTY.



Diane Potter is also delighted to announce she has a new grand daughter, Alana, born on 17th September a sister for Connie. Congratulations to Laura & Ben.



Please note that Hilary Walden does NOT now have a land line. Her mobile number available from the office.



From Our Minister.... Asif Karam

Contact numbers:

Church Office — 01245 269079

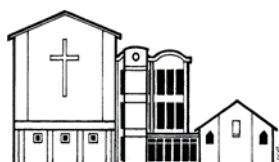
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Dear Friends,

I love the famous dictum of the Archbishop William Temple about the church, “the Church is the only organisation that does not exist for itself but for the benefit of those who live outside of it”. How are we reaching the audiences, outside the Church, who are busy throughout the year? I strongly believe that the Church is a group of people called *from* the world *for* the world. The Church cannot be unrelated, unconnected from our inclusive society, it is tremendously imperative for the Church to stay connected. You might be aware that more than 92% of the UK population are internet users. People are living their lives online and so do we. As a Church, we need to be there where they are. Everything from work, to shopping, to food, fitness, and entertainment has shifted online. Have we done the same with our worship, evangelism, discipleship, mission and ministry? In this post-pandemic world, we are trying to “get back to normal”. But the reality is that there is no more normal, rather a new normal. We ought not to confine our faith to the building. Let’s reach out to our friends, family members and communities, by using our devices, which you have and use regularly. We are in the digital age now, we must embrace it now, or people will assume our gospel is as outdated as our



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methods. If we insist on communicating only in ways that we are familiar with, we will find that fewer and fewer people are willing to listen and join us. Live streaming services are not stopping people from attending in person. The more we reach to the community via online, the more it will result in growth at your physical church. Online church resources will not replace our buildings, but both can flourish together.

I heard the stories where posting about a Church service in a local Facebook community group brought a new person to the Church and online worship has grown church attendance to more than pre-pandemic numbers. Sharing Bible verses, Christians messages and live prayers on social media, has prompted positive messages from friends who have never been to church. There are many reasons we should be engaging online: being relevant to our communities; providing for the housebound; unwell and disabled; meeting the expectations of young and older generations.

You wouldn't believe, Christmas lights, decorations, homeware and gifts are out on display at the beginning of September! The retailers know how to communicate, market and reach out to the world. The Methodist Church again this year is offering Advent and Christmas resources called "Hush the Noise". I love the Christmas season, because it isn't just Jesus' story it is ours too.

Christmas is ostentatious, hectic, hard and busy. There are many terms to describe the business, like the rat race, the daily grind, the hamster cage, the treadmill, the vicious cycle. This time of the year we call it the Christmas rush. Let us make this time for the Christmas hush, contemplative,

meaningful and a quiet time to ponder on the wonderful story of us. So how can we do this when there are so many expectations, so much noise and so many voices? In this season, we are encouraged to hush the noise. It is the perfect time to slow down at least for a night or two, for a day or so. Just lighting a candle, soft music, putting our devices off to read or heed what makes the Christmas season truly meaningful; that is the Christmas hush. As Christians, we are constantly seeking to provide new ways for people to hear the good news of Jesus and to share in Christian fellowship. In the 21st century, that includes online contexts as much as onsite ones and this work will help us to do that better. **I hope you all sign up by clicking the link below to weekly Advent reflection, emails to keep the church and outside audiences spiritually fed throughout this busy time of the year.**

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/christmasresources/>

Yours in His love, Rev'd Asif Karam



Asif Karam's Welcome Service 1st September 2024 at Trinity.

The church was full with many invited guests, including: members from Newham church; members from our Circuit and ecumenical partners; friends from other churches; representatives from our civic community; the Mayor of Chelmsford and Trinity folk. All enjoyed the refreshments afterwards. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed and worked so hard to arrange the evening. **Ed**



Message received from Rev Asif

Hi everyone,

We, the Karam family, wanted to take a moment to express our sincere thanks for the warm, heartfelt welcome and hospitality. The whole service was excellent and very well organised, by inviting civic guests, ecumenical friends, circuit churches and accommodating the friends from Newham circuit. Your kindness and generosity had a meaningful Christian impact. Everyone was evidently impressed and it was expressed at departing. We are deeply grateful to all who have contributed to that service in many ways. Your friendliness and warmth was admired and appreciated by all guests. Please pass this message to everyone. With warmest regards

Joanna Kay Burton 'Jo'

2nd January 1984 — 2nd August 2024

Thanks-giving Service 6th September 2024 at Trinity



Eulogy by Kay Burton

Our lovely daughter Jo was an amazing, unique person who never failed to surprise us. She was loving and generous but sometimes unpredictable and very much her own person with strong views, which she was keen to express. We all loved her so much.

She loved the family especially her nieces Lydia and Rachel; they miss her very much. Time spent with them was very special to her. Family meals and meeting up for special occasions were always greeted with enthusiasm. We have been remembering her enduring quirky comments in recent weeks and crying and laughing at the same time. She would ask for her fizzy drinks with “ice but no lemon” and was very emphatic about “no lemon”.

Jo also loved spending time with her friends, meeting them for snacks, meals and theatre visits.

She had great enthusiasm for life and was excited about trips away to new places and planned for them, making extensive lists of what to take with her, even for family weekends away, much of which never left her bags.

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Jo had a smile for everyone she met; she was always interested in people. Her smile was something so many of you mentioned and was recalled as significant.

Cake making for every possible celebratory occasion and often just for the weekend was a passion, decorating them with all sorts of icing combinations.

Jo and I spent a great deal of time together often on journeys and that is where we had our most meaningful discussions and laughed a lot. We also swam together regularly as Jo had always been happy in water; it was an activity we both really enjoyed. Invariably she was in the water before I had left the changing room. It really isn't the same without her.

In addition, she liked going to Hanningfield Reservoir with Russ and sometimes family, taking her binoculars and her camera with telephoto lens. She had a good eye for photo composition.

Whilst Jo loved situation comedy programmes on tv it was also surprising in that she enjoyed, and was good at, programmes like Only Connect. She will be missed in quiz teams when so often she supplied the answers to the current music scene and tv programmes.

Her passion for Disney films, romantic comedy and box-sets of old comedy programmes was remarkable and we often joked that she could go on Mastermind with Disney films as her specialist subject as she could quote them word for word.

Jo loved shopping and made collections of various items. Her collections of pencil cases, note books and purses are legendary in our family.

Being a member of Trinity's family was something she valued, and in the past she enjoyed being a member of the puppet team, having her own puppet, Holly, and travelling to other churches and venues with the group. We hope you will enjoy some of her favourite songs today.

These are some shared memories of Jo and I am sure you will have others to add when we meet you after the service.

We will always love you Jo.



David, Jo's brother, spoke with heartfelt memories about his dear sister. He might have wanted to 'send her back' when she was born but quickly and thankfully he wasn't able to! Jo dearly loved her nieces, Lydia and Rachel. She also was delighted when donuts, cup cakes, jelly and ice cream were available and the refreshments after her thanksgiving service were just what Jo would have loved; a perfect array of goodies, which many folk enjoyed. Jo will be sorely missed.

Rest in peace. Ed



The Work of God

September 2024

BELIEVE IN THE ONE HE SENT

John 6:28-29

How often do you see mentions of "The Circuit" and wonder what it is and what happens "out there"?

Methodism has traditionally been based on work in circuits, which are, simply, groups of churches in close proximity to each other, working in collaboration, under the guidance of the Superintendent Minister. We, at Trinity, are in the Chelmsford Circuit, (not really a good name, as it extends far beyond Chelmsford), with Rev Mark as the Superintendent Minister.

So, what is happening out there? Quite a lot! Each church in the Circuit contributes annually to a document, "Work of God", which outlines what has been happening there during the last year. The document can be found on the Circuit's website, by Googling Chelmsford Methodist Circuit, then following links to "Newsletter and events" and then to "Our Work of God". There are also a few paper copies available at the church. I would encourage you to seek out one or the other and have a read!

Jeff Green

Doreen Short
17th September 1940
—
1st September 2024



A Thanksgiving Service was held on September 17, 2024 in memory of Doreen Short, a long time valued member of Trinity Church in Chelmsford. Rev'd Asif Karam led the service. Family members and friends delivered moving tributes to Doreen along with hymns, poems, readings and prayers.

Doreen, hailed from County Durham as did Brian and Elizabeth Whitfield, whose tribute was read by Jeff Green. They recalled on arriving at Trinity in 1974 they were warmly welcomed by Doreen and her late husband, Geoff who guided them into the various activities of the church, especially those relating to the younger members. They recalled also that Doreen was an “outdoor person”, active and very competitive in many games and sports. She was also a “regular”, participating in almost anything that was going on at Trinity, whether it be services, concerts, prayer meetings, coffee morning, etc. But behind this activity was a soft voice, beautiful smile accompanied by a caring and thoughtful nature. She held strong views and was forceful if she felt something was wrong. Family, her children and grandchildren, were the touchstones of her life. Underlying all these was her strong faith; there was a certainty in her conviction that she was on a journey with Christ, a belief which supported her especially after the early loss of Geoff.

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Andy Short spoke tenderly of his mother, of her early years in a small mining village in County Durham. She was the eldest of three and reportedly helped her dad, Tommy, with his passion for breeding and showing Airdale Terriers. As a young woman, Doreen and her friends showed typical resolve of that era by making their own dresses and heading off to Durham and Newcastle for dances. These friendships lasted for years and sustained until recently. It was at a dance Doreen met her husband-to-be Geoff; they married in 1961. They were a team, complimented one another and developed a strong bond of love and companionship into which Nickie and Andy were raised. They eventually moved south to Chelmsford in 1971 and found Trinity Church which was to be the focus of Doreen's considerable talents for 50 years.

Together, they became involved with the youth of the church and with them embarked on "walks", better described as hikes, around the country.

When Geoff died unexpectedly, his loss was a devastating blow to Doreen but with support from family and close friends and her own innate courage, she picked herself up and got on with life. She became a globe-trotter travelling with friends to Canada, the USA, Hong Kong, Thailand and New Zealand among other destinations.

With the advent of grandchildren, Doreen threw herself readily into the role of loving grandmother and kept a diary of their achievements, now a source of great interest to the family. But Doreen's focus was widespread: being there for friends and neighbours in need; caring about others who had fallen on hard times; she supported the Chelmsford Food Bank and Big Issue.

In later years, Doreen's health deteriorated, she suffered a series of strokes but bravely got back on her feet and continued facing the challenges of life. In 2022 she moved into a Methodist Residential Home in Hitchin. Her family believe she faced death positively, surrounded by love and the family around her.

She'll be missed by her family and by her many friends, particularly those at Trinity. God bless you Doreen.

Abridged from tributes by Brian and Elizabeth, and Andy.

**THANK
YOU!**

A huge thank you to all the Trinity Family for their kindness, love and support during my 37 days of Radiotherapy treatment and especially those who so generously drove me to Southend Hospital. I am so very grateful.

Graham Parkin



If you wish to see Rev'd Asif Karam he will be in the Vestry Office on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am to 12 noon.



**COFFEE MORNING AT TRINITY
FRIDAY 20th SEPTEMBER
RAISED £600.75.**



Thank you to all who worked hard organising, cake makers and all who supported this worthwhile cause. Ed

Presents and cards

Quality not quantity: How many of us have received a gift that we really don't need or want? It happens! When buying gifts think less but better, putting the time into picking a quality item that will last a long time. This reduces the chances of gifts going to waste and can be better for your wallet!

Gift an experience: Gifting an experience for your loved ones will reduce demand for physical resources. Bring people together by gifting your time or a pre-bought experience. There are lots of options to choose from that will reduce your Christmas footprint. You could buy tickets to shows, concerts or events. Gift a homemade coupon book. Make a restaurant reservation or give a gift card. Why not plan a day out to a National Trust or Wildlife Trust location, or even make a homemade meal. It also means Christmas comes twice for the receiver, when they get to go on the experience!

Think about materials: Look at the materials gifts and cards are made from and keep sustainability in mind. Ensure wood and paper gifts are made from recycled or [Forest Stewardship Council \(FSC\)](#) certified materials. Avoid single-use plastic items that can't be recycled and look for things like Fairtrade or Organic-certified food and clothing. Buying second-hand items saves on resources needed to make new products. Vintage clothes and home furnishings, and refurbished technology can make great sustainable gifts.



Remove packaging: Reduce waste even further by buying gifts with little or no packaging. Sometimes shopping local can help with this, especially if you have a local refill shop. If you must use packaging, use recycled, or recyclable, materials. Avoid plastic where possible, and don't forget your reusable bags to carry all your shopping home!

Wrapping: Look for cards and wrapping paper made from recycled or FSC-certified paper. Avoid plastic ribbon and tape, or foil-backed and glittery wrapping paper. Choose cards that you can recycle (this means no foil or glitter!). Paper tape is available. Check out some tape-free wrapping techniques online such as furoshiki. This is a traditional Japanese method of

using cloth to wrap and transport gifts. It makes for beautiful, unique, and reusable packaging. Or you can create or buy material bags which can be used year after year



[Jenny Spouge](#) makes drawstring bags made from rescued fabric –approx. 13”x10.5”. Suitable for re-usable gift-giving or for packing shoes, travel items, smalls, dirty washing etc when travelling. £3 each or £5 for 2 (plus p&p).

Do contact Jenny for more details.

Give a gift of hope this year: If you’re struggling for a gift idea – why not give a virtual gift. There are many possibilities for such gifts All We Can have their [Extraordinary Gifts](#) Christian Aid have their own [Charity Gifts](#) or you could adopt an animal through the World Wildlife Fund [adoptions](#) Many organisations offer similar virtual gifts.

Food

Cut your food waste: Food production is the biggest cause of tropical deforestation. Try to cut any waste by planning ahead - be realistic about how much food you need and use up leftovers. Instead of clingfilm, use Tupperware, foil and wax cloth covers to keep leftovers nice and fresh!

Know your logos: When shopping for food, look for UK seasonal produce to reduce food miles. Search for sustainability certifications such as RSPO-certified palm oil and MSC-certified seafood.

Use your LOAF: Try to always buy **local**, and where possible buy **organic**. Look for **Animal** friendly products (see logos) and also **Fairtrade** where possible



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Out and about

Dressing for the party season: This year, choose the sustainable option and try to use clothing that you already own! If you can't find anything to wear, ask your friends or family. Or try looking around second-hand shops or using second-hand apps, for your new Christmas party outfit.

Reconnect to nature: The festive season is all about spending time with friends and family. Try making one of your festive activities a walk around your local park or nature reserve. Winter is a great time to spot all sorts of over-wintering birds. Download the [Seek app](#), which lets you identify and discover more about local species. It also helps scientists to track global biodiversity!

Decorations

Table Manners: Seek out recyclable or reuseable crackers. DIY crackers are another great option. Fill them yourself with sustainable options (like chocolates) and personalised festive favours.

Avoid single-use tablecloths and napkins. Instead, use material versions which have a longer lifecycle than their paper equivalents as you can wash and keep them. Cranberry sauce stains? No problem! Washing on a quick wash setting at lower temperatures will help to reduce your environmental footprint. Floral decorations; Oasis is plastic based so avoid if possible [Read more here](#)

Think about your lights: Use LED lights on your Christmas tree, they use less energy, last longer and look just as good! Also, switch off your lights at night - it's safer and won't cost the earth.

Make your own decorations: Save yourself some money by upcycling old decorations. Or make your own using spare material around the house, like turning old paper into paperchains.

Don't forget the tree! If buying a plastic Christmas tree, make sure that you're going to reuse it for at least 10 years. Otherwise, it would have been better to buy a living tree from a sustainable forest. If buying a real tree, make sure it's FSC-certified. Be clear on how to dispose of your tree once the season is over. If it is potted, think about replanting it. Or get it recycled and turned into wood chips. Check your local council website for their sustainable collection services. Purchasing a potted tree is a good solution as you can reuse it each year! Why not go a step further and rent a Christmas tree? This is where you care for a tree over the festive period and return it to be replanted for use again the next year.

This list has been adapted from one from the World Wildlife Fund. With thanks to folk across the Beds Essex and Herts Methodist District for their contributions.



ADVENT SING ALONG ON
SATURDAY 7TH 14TH AND 21ST DECEMBER
AT 10.10.30AM
ON THE CHURCH FORECOURT



CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT TRINITY NEWS
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