

**TRINITY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, WIMBLEDON**  
**“Rooted in Christ; growing in faith; sharing and serving in love”**

**Church Secretaries’ Annual Review**  
**For the year to 31 December 2022**

This annual review reflects on a year of resilience for Trinity as we navigated through another year of ministerial vacancy and continued to offer support and worship opportunities for all.

**Ministerial vacancy**

Trinity has been without a minister since the departure of the Revd D S Grant in October 2020. A Vacancy Team, convened by Sandy McLeish, led the process to call a new minister. The Revd Stephen Lewis (Minister of Twickenham and Hampton Hill URCs) served as Interim Moderator until November 2022, after which the Revd Dr Andrew Prasad, retired minister and former Moderator of Thames North Synod, assumed the role. Trinity’s vacancy was formally declared at the end of 2022, and the church is hopeful of being able to call a new Minister during 2023.

**Joint Church Secretaries**

Sam Elliot and Catherine Paul continued to serve as Joint Church Secretaries.

**The Eldership**

Elections were held in early 2022 to call Elders to serve on Elders’ Council. Sarah Elliot and Grace De Grouchy were ordained as Elders and inducted to serve at Trinity. Existing Elders Alison Trehearn and Mike Tulloch were also elected.

**Trustees**

The Elders’ Council (minister and elected elders) acting as the Trustees of Trinity United Reformed Church (Wimbledon) Charity, were responsible for the general oversight of all Church objectives and activities and specifically for the financial administration of the Church, together with the care and maintenance of the Church premises and manse.

**Membership**

The number on the roll at 31 December 2022 was 137. We record with sadness the death during the year of four members, Mrs Carolyn Nowell, Mrs Margaret Noble (Elder), Ivor Rice-Jones (Elder) and Mrs Vera Broadbridge.

**Worship & Faith Development**

In the absence of our own Minister, services were led by a mix of visiting preachers and Trinity’s own Elders, with participation from members in reading the Bible and leading prayers.

We were pleased to welcome the Revds Simon Asquith, Bill Bowman, Adrian Bulley, Lesley Charlton, Alistair Cumming, Roger Jones, Stephen Lewis, David Marshall-Jones, Jenny Mills, Geoffrey Roper, David Skitt, Bruce Stuart, and Andy Twilley to lead our worship, as well as Dr Stephen Tomkins, Mr John Ellis and Mrs Gillian Thick. Services were also led by Trinity Elders and members.

Chinese language worship is held most weeks and led by the Revd Ernest Yu. The Chinese Group is a growing community, bolstered especially by recent arrivals from Hong Kong. As well as leading and supporting the Group, the Revd Ernest Yu also led Sunday worship for the whole congregation on one occasion.

We are indebted to the Director of Music, Andrew Davies, and the Choir for the part they play in our worship.

General Assembly-recognised lay preacher and Trinity Elder, Mark Dennis, gave a series of six sermons on questions in the Old Testament, and worship was also led by Synod-accredited Lay Preacher and Trinity Elder, Katrina Clifford.

A group of Elders have been participating in the Southern Synod Learning Hub, a two-year programme led by the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity to nurture discipleship in the church.

The Queens Road House Group met regularly for Bible study and mutual support, studying the books of Ezekiel and Ruth. Lent (on the subject of 1 Peter) and Advent (on Christmas Hymns and Carols) Study Groups were held online.

At Christmas Trinity hosted an "upside down Nativity", with adults playing the traditional parts and children acting as narrators. Carols and Readings by Candlelight, a Christingle service, midnight Communion on Christmas Eve, and a Christmas Day celebration service were all part of our festive worship and celebrations.

### **Church Meetings**

Four Church Meetings were held in February, March, September and November.

### **Children's & Youth Work**

Junior Church met throughout the year, with a new regular YP group offering worship and study for teenagers in the congregation. Film Club continued to meet on Friday nights. Messy Church continued with an online session for Epiphany.

### **Property matters**

No major projects were carried out during 2022, but a considerable amount of maintenance of the church premises and manse continued, with the manse being let to tenants during the Vacancy.

### **Communications**

The church uses its website, Facebook and Twitter accounts, and regular update emails to communicate with the congregation and wider community. The church magazine *Trinity News* is published throughout the year.

### **Outreach & Witness**

Trinity participates in the Merton Winter Night Shelter homelessness project, and hosted guests over the Christmas/New Year period at the Mansel Road Centre. Fundraising efforts focussed on the URC's Commitment for Life, Christian Aid week, and Trinity's annual Gift Day 'For Others', while the work of Merton's Faith in Action for the homeless, the Wimbledon Foodbank, Christian Care, and Merton Citizens were also supported by the church.

A well-attended Eco Fair held in December, supporting local 'Sustainable Merton', was organised by Elizabeth Scharinger who also runs a Traidcraft stall most Sundays.

At the end of 2022 Trinity was successful in achieving the A Rocha Eco Church 'Silver' award.

### **Mansel Road Centre**

The Mansel Road Centre once again let its facilities throughout the year to a range of community organisations, charities, businesses and cultural groups, after two years heavily disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Fellowship**

With COVID-19 restrictions a memory of previous years, the Trinity community was able to meet in fellowship, with a Summer afternoon tea, a church picnic, a URC Jubilee quiz, Christmas tea and carols, and a celebration for the Queen's platinum jubilee enjoyed through the year.

In September 2022, Trinity joined the nation in mourning and sorrow after the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, marking the event in worship and in Church Meeting.

It is with a sense of gratitude and anticipation that we look forward to the future. Amidst changes and challenges in 2022, we remained anchored in our faith and commitment to our community. In 2023, we look forward to calling a new Minister and continuing to nurture discipleship, explore new opportunities for growth and further enrich the spiritual life of our congregation and community.

We extend our deepest thanks to all, volunteers and staff, who have given their time and talents to Trinity throughout this past year.

Sam Elliot & Catherine Paul  
May 2023