

Trinity News



September 2024

No.542



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org

SEPTEMBER

All September services will be led by the Revd Jacob Bali (the minister).

1	SUN	10:30 11:00	Elders' meeting Morning worship with Holy Communion
3	Tue	20:00	Queens Road House Group
4	Wed	20:00	Elders' Council
5	Thu	20:00	Finance Team
8	SUN	11:00	Morning worship
12	Thu	20:00 20:00	Children and Youth Work Team Property Team
14	Sat	11:00- 14:30	Abundance Fruit Day at St Mark's church hall
15	SUN	11:00	Morning worship <i>Baptism of Stella Pearson</i>
22	SUN	11:00	Morning worship
26	Thu	20:00	Church Meeting in the Mansel Road Centre for all church members and friends
28	Sat	10:00	Work party 'spring clean' in the church
29	SUN	11:00	Morning worship for Harvest Thanksgiving





The Minister is on holiday so there is no 'Reflection' this month.

However, as we go to print the September issue of 'Reform magazine' contains a full- page article by Jacob on his experience of injury in 2014 and call to ministry. You will find a copy of this article enclosed with this edition of Trinity News.

Church Family News

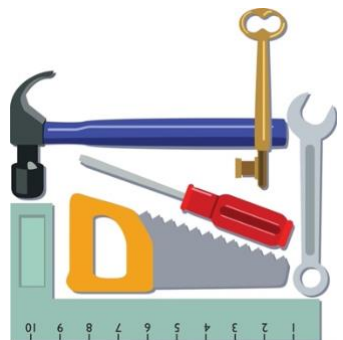
September birthdays

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Lydia Khurshid, Elizabeth McLeish, Deon Nunoo, Kwame Sarpong jnr, Margaret Tulloch and Winz Woo.



Team Leader appointment

Following Dodie Khurshid's appointment as Joint Church Secretary he has stepped down as Property Team Leader. Our thanks to Dodie for all he has brought to this role since 2021, especially his involvement in the manse renovation and installation of solar panels at the manse and Mansel Road Centre.



We are delighted that Grace de Grouchy has agreed to take on the position of Property Team Leader, and look forward to her stewardship of our buildings.....along with the support of the Team members!

Refurbishment of the church wood floor

The Property Team have been considering some projects to ensure the church building is looking as good as possible. It is some time since it had much of a facelift, and it seemed to us a little 'tired' in places. One suggestion was to renovate the original wood block flooring which dates from 1890/91 when the church was built but was now looking somewhat grubby and uninspiring.

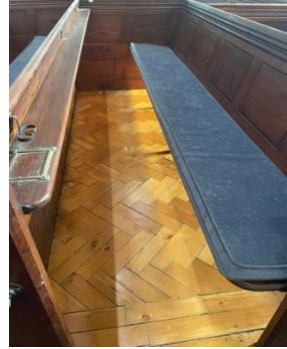
The proposition was made to Church Meeting in May that the floor should be sanded to bring it back to the original. This was approved by the Meeting and work began at the end of July and continued throughout August.

More than 130 years of dust and dirt were removed by sanding. Those who have been in church recently will have noticed the gradual improvement - and dust! The carpets were taken up and the wood floor of the aisles was also sanded. Finally, the floor was sealed and is now looking wonderful, as none of us have ever seen it previously.

Our thanks to all those who have moved furniture, cleaned and dusted in order that our services could continue relatively normally. A work party to do a thorough clean is planned for the morning of Saturday 28 September - please come along to help make our church look as smart as possible once again.



View of the sanded aisle floor, and with carpet replaced



In June, solar panels were installed on the Mansel Road Centre roof (see below) and to the manse roof.



**Thursday 26 September
at 8pm**

**in the Mansel Road Centre
for all church members and friends**

Church Picnic

On Sunday 14 July a group of Trinity members gathered at South Park Gardens in Wimbledon for a picnic organized by our Junior Church. We enjoyed delicious ice cream from the local café alongside our own tasty treats. A variety of games was on offer, from skittles to hoopla and cricket.



One of the highlights was our adventurous attempt to retrieve a frisbee that got stuck in a tree, which was humorously followed by a ball that also found its way into the branches. Thankfully, with the help of the Ors, we successfully rescued both!

Children and adults alike enjoyed the bubble wand, especially Iwan, who loved it so much that we plan to incorporate it into our Junior Church sessions for 'bubble prayers' this term.

Overall, it was a wonderful opportunity to connect and celebrate another year of fun and learning at Trinity. Looking ahead, we are excited to announce plans for an afternoon tea this Autumn, with details to be shared by Sarah Elliot soon.



Queens Road House Group

The Housegroup's September meeting will be on Tuesday 3 September (8pm), as usual at 217 Queens Road.

We will continue our study of St Matthew's Gospel at chapter 12 verse 34. As always, all are invited to join us!

Stamps for the RNIB



Here's a way you can help the RNIB (Royal National Institute for Blind People) at no cost to yourself!

We collect used stamps for the charity who receive £20 per kilogramme of stamps they collect. New and used stamps, first or second class, foreign, first day covers, presentation packs and albums - all are gratefully received.

We have boxes for donations in the church vestibule and the entrance to the Mansel Road Centre. Ideally, we are asked to cut about one centimetre around each stamp.

Reform magazine



Perhaps this is an ideal time to sign up for a subscription to the URC's magazine. It has a new-look this month and is packed with features, columns, the Church Life Review and regulars (including letters; book, TV and film reviews; crossword.....).

To subscribe go to www.reformsubs.co.uk.

A Christian Aid update

Lent Commitment for Life collection

The C for L funds we donate in Lent go to Christian Aid work in three different areas: Israel and the Occupied Territories, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh. This year we donated the excellent sum of £1,337.50. Thank you

Christian Aid Car Boot Sale

As in many years, this was a sunny morning. We are grateful for the support of donations to sell for Christian Aid and for Trinity people who came along. The Sale raised £1,800.57. Next year's sale is on 10 May.

Christian Aid week

As last year, we did not collect but just delivered envelopes to local homes. We covered all our area. The envelopes had a sticker with a QR code which led to an online donation envelope on the Trinity website (which closed on 30 June) or encouraged direct online donations or dropping in the envelope to Trinity. Including Gift Aid the total donations online were £671.25. Donations and envelopes delivered to Trinity including Gift Aid amounted to £315. So the total to Christian Aid via Trinity was £986.25.

So all in all an excellent year. Thank you to everyone for your support.

And if you would like to support Christian Aid by walking eight or four miles there will be a Richmond Riverside Walk on Saturday 28 September. We should have details soon.



Mike and Margaret Tulloch



Trinity Toddlersa possible return!

Many of you will know that for over twenty years Trinity ran, on a Friday morning, a very successful parent and toddler group – known as Trinity Toddlers. Started by Claire Wood in January 1996, it quickly became one of the most popular toddler groups in the area. Over the years it continued to go from strength to strength and we had to operate a waiting list such was the demand. Many Trinity members were involved in leading the group. It became one of Trinity's key pieces of outreach into our community.

But sadly, when the country went into lockdown in March 2020, all such activity had to stop. During this period, we also lost some of our key leaders, due to moving away from Wimbledon, new work demands and the 'retirement' of some who had well and truly done their time!

With no obvious leadership team available at that point, we reluctantly had to take the decision in January 2021 to temporarily close Trinity Toddlers until such time as a new leadership team could be found.

Having retired from full-time headship in August 2023 and taken a year to adapt to her new life, Claire Wood is now keen to explore re-opening Trinity Toddlers – in January 2025, once again on a Friday morning.

There is some important preparation work to do, including refreshing the resources. However, what is most needed before we can commit to restarting is a solid team of people willing to support. Whilst Claire will lead the group, she cannot commit to being there every Friday, so we will need someone willing and able to deputise in her absence. We will need others who are happy to help (on a rota basis) with the practical tasks such as providing tea and coffee for the parents/carers, setting up and clearing away and, in general, to make our visitors feel welcome.

But it is crucial that we have someone willing to take on the leadership role alongside Claire – without that, we cannot consider re-starting.

More about Trinity Toddlers

We use the Old Hall, which comfortably can accommodate about twenty-two children with their parents, carers or childminders.

The session lasts an hour and a half, includes a story, playdough resources and/or a craft activity and a singing session.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are available throughout the morning.



There is a small weekly charge to cover costs of tea and coffee, craft materials etc and any profit is donated to charity.

Finally, we must mention one thing and that is that helping to run Trinity Toddlers is great fun! It is, also, for local mums, dads, carers and childminders an absolute lifeline so a great group to be involved in.

So, if you think you would like to get involved in Trinity Toddlers, either as a helper, or hopefully as a leader, please contact Claire, either via email claire1592@aol.com, message her on 07745 869521 or have a chat on a Sunday morning.



Sunday 29 September





More and more people are turning to Foodbanks for support. Unfortunately, gifts are not keeping pace with the demand.

If everybody brought ONE item for the trolley whenever they came to church we would be able to support local people in a much more meaningful way!

The items most needed at the moment are

Tinned tomatoes
Squash/long-life juice
Sweet/savoury treats
Sweet/savoury biscuits
Jams/sandwich spreads (not chilled)
Coffee

(They have plenty of pasta and noodles.)

Thank you for your support!



Merton Citizens

Autumn update

Citizens UK and London Citizens, of which Merton Citizens is part, were particularly active during the spring and summer in relation to the London Mayoral Election and the General Election.

The Mayoral Election Assembly, attended by Sadiq Khan, the Labour candidate for re-election as Mayor of London, took place on 25 April, at the Methodist Central Hall. Susan Hall, Conservative candidate, was also invited but decided not to attend. Over 2,000 people came from London Citizens' member organisations, made up of faith groups, educational institutions and charities. From those groups over 100 people, including priests, imams, rabbis and primary school students, stood shoulder to shoulder to share their hopes and fears about the future of London. About 100 people from Merton, including twelve from Trinity, were present.

Sadiq Khan described the experience of being at the assembly as 'electric'. Comments from attendees afterwards praised the impressive presentations and the outstandingly good children's choirs.

After the General Election was called, Citizens UK moved rapidly to issue its manifesto and to call a National Assembly, again at the Methodist Central Hall in London. Despite the short notice, and a last-minute change of date, 1,800 representatives of member institutions from all over England and Wales came together on the 1 July. Angela Rayner, representing the Labour Party, Lord Newby, representing the Liberal Democrats, and Sara Gezdari representing the Conservative Party, were challenged with Citizens' manifesto priorities.

A good number attended from Merton, including five from Trinity, and all were impressed by the quality of the presentations made by Citizens' members and the responses received from the party representatives.

Locally we met the Labour and Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidates for the Wimbledon and the Maldens seat, Eleanor Stringer and Paul Kohler, to develop relationships and discuss their and our priorities, and we arranged to meet Siobhan McDonagh, the Labour

candidate for Mitcham and Morden during the Autumn. Unfortunately, we were unable to meet the Conservative candidate from Wimbledon.

On 4 July Paul Kohler was elected as the Member of Parliament for Wimbledon and the Maldens, and Eleanor Stringer continues as Deputy Leader of Merton Council. Siobhain McDonagh was re-elected as Member for Mitcham and Morden. Merton Citizens will be continuing to keep in touch with and challenge them all on Citizens' priorities.

Mike Tulloch



**Coming
Next Month**

**Saturday 5 October
- Elders Conference**

**Sunday 6 October
- Rededication Sunday**



Final copy date for the October edition of *Trinity News* is Sunday 22 September. Please send items to catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com



Delicious jams, chutneys, cakes and pies will be on sale, along with a plant stall and local honey. There will be fun for all the family with plenty of activities for all ages including apple pressing, apple pie-making for children, competitions and some prize draws.

You can also find out more about local organisations including Sustainable Merton and GirlGuiding UK.

Entertainment will be provided by the wonderful Colliers Wood International Ukelele Orchestra.

An African adventure

On 12 July, I left school on a coach and headed to Heathrow airport to go to Zambia.

After travelling for 17 hours, we finally arrived in Lusaka. We were greeted by some of the National television crew, and a couple of people were interviewed. When we arrived at Eureka campsite, where we were staying, we were all very tired and went straight to bed.

For the next couple of days, we visited multiple churches and schools. It was amazing but also very sad to see how little they have in both places. We also visited an elephant orphanage and adopted one!

On the third day we began what we went there to do, which was to teach local school children tag rugby. I didn't know many rules, which wasn't very helpful, but I picked most of them up eventually. All the children were so enthusiastic which was amazing.



After a couple more days of teaching, we had two tournaments - one for the school children, and one for the local community groups. Both tournaments went very well, and we had four winning teams by the end of them.

After this, we headed to Zimbabwe, where, again, we taught school children tag rugby. However, as well as this, we did a lot of community work such as painting, building and litter picking, in an old people's home. We also met an 111 year old woman! On the final day there, we had another tournament, which was very successful and lots of fun.

We then headed to the final place, Livingstone, back in Zambia. Here, we did one final tournament and then did more touristy things for the last couple of days. The first thing we did was a boat trip along the Zambezi River, and we saw loads of hippos, crocodiles and elephants on the bank. The second thing we did was go and see Victoria Falls,

which was incredible to see in person! The final thing we did, on our last day there, was a safari, where we saw many animals, including the last ten white rhinos in Zambia!



The next day, we left to go to the airport, which was very upsetting, and made our way back home. After another long two days of travelling, we made it back and were greeted by our family and friends at the airport!

Zambia 2024 was the most amazing thing I've ever done and I would do it again in a heartbeat.

Olivia Scharinger

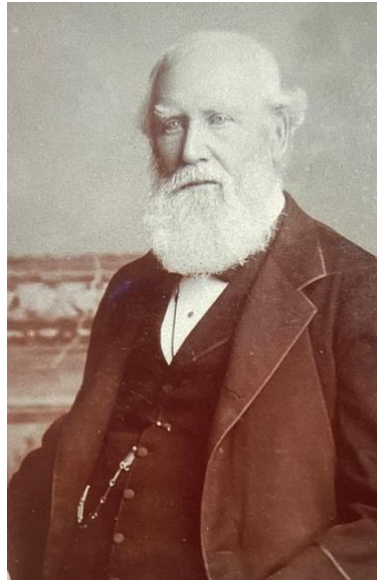




David Thomson: Wimbledon Nurseryman and Trinity founding member

One of Trinity's founder members was David Stewart Thomson. Well known in Wimbledon as proprietor of Thomson's Nurseries, he joined the infant Trinity at the Church's foundation in 1884 and was one of the first Deacons, ordained and inducted in 1889. He served as a Deacon until his death, aged 88, in 1905. Highly regarded and respected in the community, he was, as the *Wimbledon News* recorded, "Quiet, unassuming and unostentatious", "upright in all his dealings, commercial and otherwise".

David Thomson



Born at St Ninians, Stirlingshire in 1816 Thomson came south when he was about 22 and worked as a gardener for the Wimbledon Park estate. When the estate was sold off after 1846 Thomson leased 12 acres of the land between what is now St Mark's Place and Woodside, covering what later became Compton and Alwyne Roads (named, incidentally, after the Dean of Worcester and, later, Bishop of Ely, Lord Alwyne Compton).

Thomson established a nursery and landscape gardening business to serve the growing town of Wimbledon. He lived with his wife Elizabeth and eleven children in Woodside, close to the Hill Road corner.



*The back of the Thomson's house in Woodside, viewed from Hill Road.
Notice the flock of sheep in the main road!*

In the 1880s the lease ran out and the land was sold for development. Apart from housing, the new buildings included the public library, which was designed by the same architect as Trinity, the Congregational church and the main Post Office. Thomson retained a shop on the Hill Road, entered through an impressive conservatory. He leased 50 acres of land west of Merton Hall Road and remained active in his nurseries until his death.



*The corner of Woodside and Hill Road showing the Thomson's house
and the entrance to the nursery.*

Several of Thomson's children continued to live locally and two of his sons, Robert and William continued to run the nursery business until it was taken over by Luff & Sons in 1927. One of his daughters, Louisa, lived in a flat on Wimbledon Hill and, in her eighties, died, probably of a heart attack, during an air raid in 1940 - she is commemorated on the Trinity War memorial.

Rt Revd Timothy Dudley-Smith



Acknowledgement Church Times

The celebrated hymn-writer the Rt Revd Timothy Dudley-Smith died on 12 August in Cambridge, aged 97.

Bishop Dudley-Smith wrote the lyrics of about 400 hymns, among the most familiar of which are "Lord, for the years" (1967) and "Tell out, my soul" (1962) - both found in *Rejoice & Sing* (along with three more of his hymns), and often sung at Trinity. John Betjeman described the latter as "one of the few modern hymns that will truly last".

The Rt Revd Timothy Dudley-Smith was Suffragan Bishop of Thetford in Norwich diocese from 1981 to 1993 and before that spent eight years as Archdeacon of Norwich. However, he was more widely known as one of the outstanding hymn-writers of our generation. Hymns written by him are to be found in books of every denomination and tradition throughout the English-speaking world, and translated into a dozen other languages. His compositions focused mainly on the central doctrines of the Christian faith, offered insight and encouraged devotion. Provision for all the seasons of the Christian year increased their usefulness.

"Although deeply rooted in the evangelic tradition, Dudley-Smith's commitment to it was of the thoughtful, inclusive sort which enabled him to minister easily in other traditions as well. His preaching was valued everywhere, as was the quality of his pastoral work."

Besides hymns, he wrote many short books on the Christian faith and a major two-volume biography of his friend John Stott, the most influential Anglican evangelic leader of the 20th century.

Dudley-Smith was awarded a Lambeth MLitt, a Durham University DD, and appointed OBE in 2003.