

Trinity News



January 2025

No.546



Trinity United Reformed Church

Mansel Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AA

www.trinitywimbledon.org



JANUARY 2025

1	Wed	<i>New Years Day</i> 11:00	Walk for all in Richmond Park
5	Sun	<i>Epiphany Sunday</i> 10.30 11:00	Elders Meeting Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Mr Sandy McLeish
10	Fri	10:00	Trinity Toddlers
12	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship led by the Revd Bill Bowman (retired URC minister)
16	Thurs	19:30	Outreach & Witness Team
17	Fri	10:00	Trinity Toddlers
19	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship
21	Tues	20:00	Worship Team
23	Thurs	20:00	Finance Team
24	Fri	10:00	Trinity Toddlers
26	Sun	11:00	Morning Worship
28	Tues	19:30	Major Projects Group
31	Fri	10:00	Trinity Toddlers

January Reflection

Greetings Friends,

As we bid farewell to 2024 and embrace the New Year, we are presented with a canvas of endless possibilities for personal growth. Whether it is overcoming a stubborn habit or embarking on a new journey, our shared aspiration is to evolve and transform.

Heraclitus of Ephesus aptly said, 'The only constant in life *is change*'.

Indeed, just as the gyms and health clubs witness a surge of enthusiastic individuals in January, our community too stands ready to support and encourage each other in our personal growth journeys. Despite our diverse goals, we all share the anticipation of positive change, a collective hope that fuels our journey towards transformation.

The Bible is replete with stories of individuals who embraced change and reaped its rewards. Abram became Abraham, Sarai became Sarah, Jacob became Israel, Simon became Peter, and Saul became Paul. Each of them was called by God to start anew, to release their past and embrace God's plan for them.

Yet, change is not always easy or simple, and we need to ask ourselves, is there something that we are holding on to that we should let go of? Are we hesitant to start something new because of fear or pessimism?

The Bible gives us this word of encouragement, '*If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*' (1 Corinthians 5:12).

Likewise, God reminds us, '*See, I am making all things new*' (Revelation 21:5).

By surrendering to God's will and trusting in God's plan, we can experience the transformative power of God's love and grace.

This year, 2025, we are being invited to start afresh and step out in faith. This invitation is extended to each one of us, regardless of our past or present circumstances. Not dismissing the memories but allowing the memories to push us forward in Christ. This year, may we

be willing to let go of our fears, doubts, pessimism, and past mistakes, and let God guide us to a new beginning.

With every blessing,

Jacob Bali

Revd Dr Jacob Bali
Minister

The Minister's usual day off is Monday

Happy New Year ♡ *Happy New Year* ♡ *Happy New Year*

Church Family News



Our warmest congratulations to our Minister who celebrated his Graduation Day last month at Twickenham Stadium for his doctorate (PhD). Jacob reports that the Graduation ceremony went exceptionally well, and it was a wonderful experience.

The University awarded him a doctorate in recognition of his thesis, "*The Impact of COVID-19 on the Practice of Pastoral Care Practitioners in a Religious Setting in the UK.*"

January birthdays

A very happy birthday to those celebrating this month, including Norman Angus (Senior Elder), Ann Bremner, Katy Collins, Susan Collins, Emma Lee, May Nicol, Adashe Siva, Mike Tulloch and Madeline Vary.



Christmas 'thank you' to all

Our thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to our Christmas services this year. Our special thanks go to:

- those who sponsored and decorated the beautiful Christmas trees, and created the advent wreath and other arrangements, which made the church look so festive;
- Director of Music, Andrew Davies, and Christmas organist Vanessa Tsui;
- all those behind the scenes who worked so hard to ensure everything ran smoothly.

And, not least, to our Minister, Jacob, for his leadership of all our wonderful Christmas services.





New Year's Day Walk

Begin the year with a walk in Richmond Park starting at 11:00. The meeting point is Broomfield Hill car park, by the Isabella Plantation between Kingston and Robin Hood



Gates (note: access only via Kingston Gate). Hot and cold snacks and beverages will be available from the kiosk in the car park. All very welcome on 1 January - including children and dogs....! - Catherine Paul



Queens Road House Group

We will not be meeting during January and the Group's next meeting will be on Tuesday 4 February when we will be looking at Matthew chapter 16. You will be very welcome if you would like to join us - please make a note in your diary now!

Stamps for the RNIB



A reminder to leave your used stamps in support of the RNIB (Royal National Institute for Blind People) in one of the boxes for donations in the church vestibule and the entrance to the Mansel Road Centre. Ideally, we are asked to cut about 1cm around each stamp. New and used stamps, 1st or 2nd class, foreign, first day covers, presentation packs and albums - all are gratefully received.

Election of Elders 2025

This month we begin the important process of electing Elders to serve at Trinity. We currently face a significant challenge with up to eight vacancies to fill on Elders' Council - three current Elders will be standing down after completing their terms of service, three are eligible for re-election, and we have two existing vacancies. Without new Elders coming forward, our Council could be reduced to just five serving Elders, which would make it difficult to fulfil all the responsibilities of leadership and support that are so vital to our church life.



The role of Elder is a crucial one in our tradition. Elders share with the Minister in providing spiritual leadership and pastoral care to the congregation. Together, they oversee Trinity's worship, mission and witness. Being an Elder is both a privilege and a responsibility - a calling to serve God and our church community.



Nomination papers will be available from Sunday 12 January. We ask you to prayerfully consider whether you know of someone with the gifts and calling to serve as an Elder. Each nomination requires the support of five church members, and nominees must themselves be church members. The election of new Elders will take place at a special Church Meeting after morning worship on Sunday 23 March.

If you would like to know more about what being an Elder involves before considering who you might nominate, please speak with any current Elder or with Jacob. They would be very happy to share their experience and answer any questions you may have.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37-38)



New Cradle Roll

Have you seen Trinity's new Cradle Roll? It is displayed in the vestry corridor, alongside the previous three editions. The rolls record every baptism that takes place at Trinity.



The new artwork represents the tree of life and features Trinity's rose window, a dove of peace and the words of the blessing which is always sung at baptisms. It was created by Elizabeth Reid, the local artist who also painted the watercolour of Trinity in 2003. Do take a look.



Final copy date for the February edition of *Trinity News* is Sunday 19 January. Please send items to catherine.f.paul@btinternet.com

Our Gift Day donations



'You've done something very special'

I'm writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for raising an incredible £500 for Alzheimer's Research UK.

Thanks to you and your amazing fundraising efforts we will change the lives of people affected by dementia. With your support, we are revolutionising the way we treat, diagnose, and prevent dementia, and this will bring us closer to a cure. That's something you can be really proud of!

You can find out more about the research that is only possible because of people like you at www.alzheimersresearchuk.org.

We hope you will continue to stand with us as we strive for a cure.



Thank you for your donation of £500 in support of Médecins Sans Frontières.

Gifts such as this makes our work possible as it allows us to remain independent from political, religious and economic interests, thereby ensuring our freedom to provide medical assistance whenever and wherever it is needed.

Your support enables us to reach those most forgotten and at risk and means that we can offer treatment to people who struggle to get even the most basic medical care, due to conflict, exclusion, or poverty.

On behalf of our staff and patients around the world, thank you very much for your support.



We have safely received the generous donations to the Foodbank. The whole Foodbank team is extremely grateful to you and the entire congregation at Trinity URC for your continuing commitment and generosity.



On behalf of everyone here at Cancer Research UK, thank you so much for your generous donation of £500.00.

Over our 120-year history, we've been at the forefront in the fight against cancer by investing in the highest quality research. But our fundraising income isn't enough to fund all the excellent research that comes through our doors. We're having to say no to incredible research that has the potential to save lives.

The more money we raise, the faster we can change the outlook on cancer – and that's why we're so grateful for your support. By investing in our scientists and their vital research, we can prevent, detect and treat cancer so that everybody can live longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer.

Your donation of £500 could fund an international trial aiming to improve treatment for brain tumours in children, for one day. Professor Richard Grundy in Birmingham is leading a major European trial to improve survival for children with a rare type of brain tumour known as ependymoma. They want to see if having chemotherapy, as well as radiotherapy, after surgery improves survival.

Together we are beating cancer.



FAITH IN ACTION
helping with homelessness

This is to acknowledge receipt, with sincere thanks, of the kind donation from the United Reformed Church of £500 for the winter night shelter.



'What is the United Reformed Church?' - 1990



Back in 1990 when our then minister, Revd Ceri Lewis, was Chair of the Faith and Life Department, he was involved in the making of a short film about the United Reformed Church. On it are several scenes of Trinity - including a baptism and the reception of Barry and Lilian

Gilbert into membership. There are also several faces you may recognise!

The film can still be viewed on YouTube by searching for *What is the United Reformed Church 1990*
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3D92QQ1LcU>)

There is also a more recent film about the United Reformed Church, issued at the beginning of Advent.
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cee0NbrYtvE>)



Trinity United Reformed Church Wimbledon

Trinity Toddlers Restarts
10th January 2025

The very popular Parent and Toddler group returns to Trinity URC's Mansel Road Centre in Mansel Road, Wimbledon on Friday mornings (term time only) from 10am to 11.30am.

Enjoy play, stories, singing, craft, and the opportunity to meet other parents and carers.

For further information, contact office@trinitywimbledon.org

"In the beginning...."

A beginning of the year Quiz



- 1) On which day of the creation did God create the Sun, Moon, and stars? (Genesis 1:14-19)
- 2) On the fifth day of creation, what did God create along with the creatures of the sea? (Genesis 1:20-23)
(a) birds (b) animals (c) vegetation
- 3) On which day of creation did God "rest" from his work? (Genesis 2:1-2)
- 4) In the middle of the garden of Eden were two trees. One was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. What was the other tree? (Genesis 2:7-8)
- 5) The river flowing out of Eden divided into four branches: Pishon, Gihon and Tigris. What was the fourth branch? (Genesis 2:10-11)
- 6) Who named all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air? (Genesis 2:19-20)
- 7) Which creature was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made? (Genesis 3:1)
- 8) What time of day did the man and woman walk in the garden? (Genesis 3:8)
- 9) Why did the man name the woman Eve? (Genesis 3:20)
- 10) The Lord God sent the man out of the garden. What did the Lord God place at the east of the garden? (Genesis 3:24)



The early days of Trinity's Sunday School - and the Shorter Catechism

Just five months after the first services of 'Trinity Presbyterian Church' it was realised that 'the most important of all organisations connected with a Church is the Sunday School'.

So it was that on a May Sunday afternoon in 1884 'a few members of the Church and one boy' met in the Drill Hall in St George's Road, the very first meeting of Trinity's Sunday School. The Drill Hall was Trinity's home until the Mansel Road site was acquired.

It was decided not to 'canvass' for children, anxious to avoid competition with other churches but the School grew steadily, and by 1887 the average attendance was twenty-seven.



Some of the Trinity children a few years after the Sunday School was started.

Quite what a Sunday School session in 1884 was like we can now only imagine, but all the children were encouraged to learn the Shorter Catechism by heart. If you don't know the Catechism do look it up on Google. It contains 107 sections and it takes time to read, let alone learn and recite. (Not to be confused with the Larger Catechism which contains 196 questions!). Yet in 1886:

'The teaching of the Shorter Catechism is a prominent feature in the lesson system of the School and it is very satisfactory to the teachers that Eliza Moore, a child of seven years old, repeated the Catechism and was awarded the Bible given by the 'Committee of the Higher Instruction of Youth'.'



The Moore family - that's Eliza (Lizzie) in the middle of the back row - several years older than when she learned the Catechism

Eliza, or Lizzie as she was known, was just the first of many Trinity children - usually one or two a year - who learned the Catechism in those early days. They had to be word perfect to win the Bible - one boy made one mistake and had to start all over again. How different Sunday School, or Junior Church as it became, must have been then.

