

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

Annual Report of Trustees
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

Call and induction of a new Minister – Trinity's previous Minister, the Revd D S Grant, left the pastorate in October 2020. A Vacancy Team, convened by Sandy McLeish, was appointed to lead 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 when he was replaced by the Revd Dr Andrew Prasad (retired Minister and former Moderator of Thames North Synod). Trinity's vacancy was formally declared at the end of 2022.

In the early part of 2023, the Vacancy Team considered applications from prospective Ministers. They agreed to invite the Revd Jacob Bali to interview and then subsequently to visit Trinity on the weekend of Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 June to preach with a view to becoming the new Minister.

A Church Meeting on the afternoon of 25 June voted overwhelmingly to call the Revd Jacob Bali to be the next Minister of Trinity. He was inducted to serve at a celebratory service on Saturday 14 October.

The Eldership Elections were held in early 2023 to call Elders to serve on Elders' Council. May Nicol was elected, ordained to the Eldership and inducted to serve on Sunday 23 April. Andrew Melrose and Kwame Sarpong stood down.

Membership The number on the roll on 31 December 2023 was 138. Three church members died during the year. Two of Trinity's young people were confirmed as new members on Easter Day.

Worship & Faith Development For most of the year, 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.

General Assembly-recognised lay preacher and Trinity Elder Mark Dennis gave a series of sermons on the Psalms.

In March, the Revd Fiona Bennett, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, visited Trinity to lead worship.

In April, a large contingent of Trinity folk joined with others from around the denomination at Methodist Central Hall for a Service of Thanksgiving & Celebration on the occasion of the URC's 50th anniversary.

Since October services have been led by the Revd Jacob Bali. We are indebted to the Director of Music, Andrew Davies, and the Choir for the part they play in our worship.

Chinese language worship is held most weeks and led by the Revd Ernest Yu and the Chinese Group is a thriving community within Trinity.

A group of Elders have continued 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.

Church Meetings Six Church Meetings were held in February, March, May, June, September and November.

Children's & Youth Work Junior Church met throughout the year, along with a regular YP group offering worship and study for teenagers in the congregation.

Property matters No major projects were carried out during 2023, 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 during the first part of the year. Fundraising efforts focussed on the URC's Commitment for Life, Christian Aid week, and Trinity's annual Gift Day 'For Others'.

The work of Merton's Faith in Action for the homeless, the Wimbledon Foodbank, Christian Care, and Merton Citizens were supported by the church.

Trinity is working towards the A Rocha Eco Church 'Gold' award, and a successful Eco Day was again held in December supporting local 'Sustainable Merton'.

Mansel Road Centre The Mansel Road Centre lets its facilities throughout the year to a range of community organisations, charities, businesses and cultural groups.

Fellowship Trinity members met regularly in fellowship, with receptions held to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, and the induction of the Revd Jacob Bali.