

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

East Grinstead

01342 302862

www.trinitymethodist.org.uk

September 2009



**The storms of life
no more indicate the absence of God
than clouds indicate the absence of the sun.**

If you have any queries concerning
Trinity activities, please contact me,
your Pastoral Visitor, and if I do not know
the answer I will find someone who does.

Name..... Tel.....



Never Enough Time

I was hoping August would be a quiet month for me; a time when I would have a chance to catch up, have a rest & even think ahead, but I have to say I'm still waiting for that to happen.

On top of my work in the church I had a pretty hectic & exhausting holiday, walking the Cornish coastal paths & camping in a wet field! (Barcelona next year – oh no! I hear you cry).

There really wasn't enough time to fully rest. I'm not complaining, but simply observing how hard it is to find time just to stop & be still, even when on holiday in August.

Most of us say that we haven't enough time. We run through life hurried, jostled, overburdened, frantic & yet we still never seem to get there. In spite of all our efforts to save time we are still short of time. We often act as if the Lord must have made a mistake in His calculations, for the hours & the days are too short. I don't think it's God that's making the mistake here, do you? I think we've got it all wrong.

If the week has seven days, & each day has twenty four hours with each hour having sixty minutes – are we seriously suggesting God got it wrong & left us short? God has given us all the time in the world but we don't think we have enough time because we look at our lives from a human perspective. There's always enough time to do what God wants us to do; putting ourselves completely into each moment, not losing time, wasting or killing time, but spending time seeking Him & His will for us. It's just a matter of priorities.

***“Seek first the Kingdom of God, & His righteousness,
& all these things will be given to you”***

May the Lord who is beyond time help us to recognise that we have plenty of time; the years of our lives, the days of our years, the hours of our days. They are all ours - to fill, quietly, calmly, completely, up to the brim. And when offered to Him, these breathtaking torrents of water (our busy lives) may become rich renewing wine.

With love & peace - **Geoff**



The Appointment of a Lay Assistant to the Minister

I am delighted to be able to inform you that Simon has been offered, and has accepted, the position of Lay Assistant.

We had five prospective candidates involved in what was a very thorough and time consuming recruitment process. Each had gifts, skills and experience to offer - some more than others of course - but in the end we felt that Simon stood out as the best suited to our needs.

Simon is very honoured and excited about being offered this position, believing it to be God's calling upon his life. We also believe this and are convinced that he will be a great asset to the work and life of Trinity.

Certain things still need to be done. Simon has given his notice in at The Meads School but the length of time still to work is yet to be agreed. It is hoped that Simon will be able to take up the position at the beginning of September, but this is by no means certain at the moment. Approval of this scheme has yet to be officially ratified at District & Circuit levels. A management team will need to be set up to support him in the work and a line manager appointed. A contract of employment and a more detailed customised job description are in the process of being compiled.

Please continue to pray for this project, and for Simon & Carrie at this time, and for all that still needs to be done.

We thank God for bringing us to this point and trust Him for all that's to come.

Geoff – on behalf of the Interviewing Panel*

*Gerry R, Geoff B, Maggie B, June C,
John S, Quentin P

Digging Deeper on Vision

Over the last six months the Church Stewards have been looking at the whole concept of Vision & putting into place a renewed view of our Vision for Trinity for the next five years. Many of you would have contributed to this at the ACM in April & since then in various ways. We will be sharing where we have got to with this at a special “Digging Deeper” style service on

**Sunday 6th September – 4pm –
followed by a Bring & Share Tea.**

The next five years are going to be quite significant for us all here at Trinity. God has given us a Vision & He will guide us in it. Come & hear about it - it's very exciting!

This is an event for the whole church family – old & young alike. The children will have their own special fun-filled group session.

Next Home Group Course

Our next series of Sunday preaching & mid-week teaching sessions in the Home Groups will start on

Sunday 13th September, the working title of which is

“Evangelism – sharing our faith with others”

Circuit Service of Welcome

for the New Circuit Superintendent - The Rev Thurairajah Samuel

Redhill Methodist Church - Monday 7th September - 7.30pm

If you would like to come & need a lift please ask Geoff or any of the Church Stewards.

**“Harvest of the Heart”
10am on Sunday 4th October**

TRINITY NEW BUILD EXHIBITION AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION WEEKEND

SATURDAY 19th - SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER



AN EXHIBITION OF THE NEW BUILDING PLANS
FOR TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR IDEAS AND COMMENTS

At: TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

**Corner of London Road & Lingfield Road, East Grinstead RH19 2HA
01342 302862**

Exhibition in the Crawley Down Hall

**GRAND EXHIBITION OPENING BY
THE MAYOR OF EAST GRINSTEAD
ON SATURDAY 19th SEPT. AT 1.00PM
BBQ LUNCH AVAILABLE**

EXHIBITION OPENING TIMES:

**Saturday 19th. Sept: 10.00am to 6.00pm (*BBQ lunch* 1.00 - 2.30pm)
Sunday 20th. Sept: 12.30pm to 5.00pm**

***TRINITY NEW BUILD TEAM MEMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE
FOR COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION***

ALL WELCOME - BRING FRIENDS AND FAMILY!

TRINITY NEW BUILD EXHIBITION AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION WEEKEND *SATURDAY 19th - SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER*

The Trinity New Build team has been hard at work over the summer and we are delighted to announce that Trinity will host a public exhibition and consultation on the new plans for our church re-building project on the weekend of September 19th-20th. We are delighted to be having the Mayor of East Grinstead formally open our exhibition on Saturday 19th at 1pm. There will then be a fundraising BBQ lunch available!

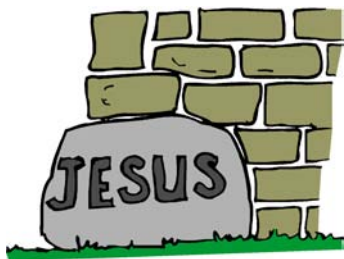
This exhibition will actually be open in the Crawley Down Hall from 10am to 6pm on Saturday 19th., and also from after the 10.45am service on Sunday 20th. until 5pm, so you will have plenty of opportunity to have a good look around. Trinity New Build team members will be on hand to explain the designs, answer any questions and record any comments. This is the next stage in our design development and consultation process, and we are keen to involve our local community now, especially as we will then be entering our second year of fundraising. So please plan to come along, and bring your family, friends and your neighbours too. We hope especially that many of you will be able to attend the formal opening on Saturday at 1pm, and will join us for the BBQ lunch!

This weekend will also see the launch of our new fundraising brochure, which we have also been working on over the summer. Copies of the brochure will be available for all, and this brochure will form a key part of our approach to local and national charities or grant-awarding bodies, as we now begin to expand our funding appeal externally. By this weekend we also plan to have a new section of our church web site operating, dedicated to our Trinity New Build project.

Other recent news from the team includes an encouraging pre-planning consultation meeting with MSDC Planning Dept., generally confirming the acceptability of our intentions and draft planning so far. Following this we are now clear to start the detailed building planning phase, leading towards our eventual planning permission submission, so we

have now instructed our architect to start working towards this next aim. The first outcomes of this are the plans we are now showing at our exhibition and consultation.

Church fundraising is continuing steadily, and a report on progress will be given in October. Please remember to continue to support all of our various fundraising events for our Trinity New Build project. We are still looking for additional team members especially to help with fundraising, if you are interested please speak to me or Shane Hannam.



Thank you!

Simon B - *Team Leader, Trinity New Build Team*

Congratulations to Rebecca Jeyaraj and Prathees Kumar. They were married in Sri Lanka on 27 June.

During the trip Gwenda Webb presented monetary gifts from Trinity to two charities that the Jeyaraj family have connections with. One was to the Holy Ascension Church Nazareth in South India to help their work in the villages.

The other was to the Welcome Home Foundation, They run a boys orphanage in Sri Lanka. The picture below shows Stanley & Elizabeth Jeyaraj, and Gwenda Webb, with Paster Anton and some of his boys,



MY GREETING

I thought to wish that God might truly bless you;
But that, I see, He's clearly bound to do:
He is Himself the fountain of all blessing,-
And loves to bless His children - therefore you!

I thought to wish that for your earthly journey
God would supply your need: (could He forget?):
But now I see that He has clearly promised to meet all need -
And so it shall be met!

Then I might ask that God Himself would guide you;
But this is needless, - since He is your guide:
Since He has promised constantly to guide us
Until we reach, at last, the Other Side.

What shall I ask then, - what indeed is left me;
What say to gladden as you journey here;
How can I help to comfort, strengthen, hearten,
As you tread nobly through each passing year?

How can I - save that, gently, I remind you
Being His child you are supremely blest:
And that whatever may come - of joy or sorrow -
All that He gives or sends is aye the BEST.

J. Danson Smith

Book Recommendation

Rev Julia Peaty of St Swithins has recommended

'Jesus' People - What the Church Should Do Next'.

An exciting back-to-basics call for today's Church to return to its original core vision - to being followers of Jesus Christ.

Written by Steven Croft, former Team Leader of Fresh Expressions and now the Bishop of Sheffield, Jesus' People encourages us to take on the character of Jesus Christ and in doing so, be transformed forever.

Available from The Light House

Church Building Fund
(collection)

“Morning Concert”
(short)

A Tribute to G. F. Handel
(composer of the “Messiah”)

Arranged by Marion S

Saturday 31st October

11am

At Trinity Methodist Church
East Grinstead

**Alpha
is coming to**

Trinity Methodist Church

**starting on
Thursday 24th September 2009
7.30-9.30pm
in the Welcome Cafe**

Alpha is a basic Christianity course designed specifically to enable non-believers to find some answers to their questions about God and faith. It is also very useful for new-comers to the church as a way of getting to know people and drawing closer to God. It can also help established Christians deepen their belief and re-affirm their faith.

Each evening starts with a light supper at 7.30pm. Followed by a short talk on the chosen subject for that week, finishing at about 9.30pm.

A Taster:- for anyone interested in finding out more
Thursday 24th September 7.30pm

Then every Thursday until
December 3rd

Also

Saturday October 31st 10am-4pm

Alpha Away Day

At Pilgrim Hall

Please fill in a registration form or speak to Geoff Bell or Ruth Windsor if you are interested in coming.

Youth Activities

Wacky Worship has moved to the third Sunday in each month, when Watch This Space is scheduled, this will take the place of Wacky Worship.

Sunday provision for children from September 12th, for a trial period until the New Year:

Children will come into church with their family for the first 20 minutes of worship and then go to their own groups, returning to the worship about 11.45am.

During the week.

RU Free on a Tuesday evening from 7.30 - 9.00p.m for all aged 14-18yrs

Rock Solid will welcome those aged between 8-13yrs on a Wednesday evening from 7.30 - 9.00p.m. (Live Wires has ceased to meet on a Tuesday evening.)

Adventurers on a Wednesday afternoon from 4.00 - 5.00p.m. for those aged 5-8yrs

Family Fun on a Tuesday morning and **Family Focus** on a Friday from 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. for preschool children and their carers.

The Big Shout for babies under one year old and their carers meet on a Thursday morning 9.30-11.30am.

Suzy B is bringing a group of 11-14yr olds to stay on the premises for the week end 25-27th September. Any 11-14 year olds from Trinity are welcome to join them. See John S for an application form.

During the 10.45 service on Sunday 13th September we will say goodbye to Students who are off to college. This will include John H who has been the Year out Volunteer for the past year.

Men @Trinity

Ellell Ministries are holding a Ministry to Men weekend on 9 - 11 th October at Glydnley Manor

Details from www.ellelministries.org/uk

Saturday 7th November will be our big event this year when our theme will be

‘Arise, be Men of God’

With Simon Allaby from 6:16 Trust

Details will be published in the weekly news and the October magazine.

On **Saturday 21 November**, The Diocese of Chichester with Christian Vision for Men (CVM) , are holding a Regional Day for men at the Kings Church, Eastbourne, the day has been titled

" Stepping Up - Living life to the Max"

and will cost £15.00 per delegate. Booking forms will be available on Sunday 6th September from Mike B

Church Autumn Work Party - 26th September.

Please note the date and come along ready to work and get mucky!!!
Jobs that need to be done are gutter clearing, soak away clearing, pressure hosing the soft play area. If you know of something that needs to be done, please let me know.

Douglas B

STOP PRESS: New Date – Saturday 10th October

Welcome Cafe

Help!

**We are very short of helpers in the Welcome Cafe.
Is this something you feel you could help us with?**

Please consider if this is something you can offer -
it would be so appreciated.

Phone June B for more information. Thanks - Geoff.

Who is Jean Baptiste?

From time to time the name “Jean Baptiste (JB)” is mentioned at Trinity, most recently when prayers was requested for his wife who was having an operation and in the list of donations made by the church. But most of you will not know who he is.

JB is now the Senior Pastor at a church in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso is a sub Saharan country just north of Ghana. It is one of the poorest countries in the world with a GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of just \$1,200.

My son Jonathan met JB when he visited Burkina with Horizons whilst he was at university. At that time the bread winner in the family would have one meal a day but the rest might only eat every other day. That would be just rice, with an occasional egg added for the whole family. The next year (1987) JB was studying at a Bible College in Belgium and asked to come over for a month to help his English (at least his third language). It was a difficult visit as the way we treated food (including feeding our pets) caused him distress. He spoke to the church about the situation in his country and a group of us decided to give a sum on money monthly to send out to him to help him support his family. This we have been doing ever since.

Originally the money was intended for his family, particularly to educate them, but it soon became clear that he was using the money to support his extended family.

The church has also sent money from time to time, one time to buy a motor cycle to help him get around to his churches. Apart from being the pastor of a church he also teaches in Bible School in Lomo, the country next to Ghana. I asked him about holidays and he said he cannot remember when he last had a vacation.

Whilst the needs of his own family have decreased (his eldest daughter is now married and expecting her fist baby next month, the next daughter completed her education in Ghana and now has a job and his son is just finishing school) he uses the money we send to help others in need.

When we recently sent some money he replied and said that his wife was waiting for an operation, when they had the money. I suggested that the money we sent could be used for this and he replied *'I do understand that is primarily for me and my family but as a minister, I have to respond to some situations that come in. Here the level of poverty is so high that some people can hardly feed themselves. Even this morning before I get up,*

a young woman with a baby less than a year came to ask for help because for 3 days she has not been able to feed her other 3 kids.'

Trinity then sent a second gift specifically for the operation, which has been a success.

That is Jean Baptiste. Our news is often very sketchy as writing chatty letters is not in the African tradition.

If anyone would like to know more, please have a word with me.

Douglas B

New Build Fundraising

I am currently investing Trinity's £10 in trading in CDs on eBay, with all profits going to the New Building Fund. If anyone would like to see what is currently available then visit www.eBay.co.uk and search for "mrdubbing" as a seller. I will personally deliver to any local purchasers and waive postage costs. CDs available will hopefully vary from week to week.

I'll be carrying on through to the book/CD sale in September, when any items then unsold will be donated to the sale.

Clive W



We're with you all the way!...

..was the encouraging greeting from the Methodist President, the Rev David Gamble, when he welcomed Traidcraft to the 2009 Methodist conference, in Wolverhampton.

He recalled how 20 years ago members of Methodist youth clubs were encouraged to campaign for fair trade.

“Now, thanks to your achievements, people have a much more obvious and on-going way of being involved.”

Earlier, Traidcraft Chief Executive Paul Chandler spoke to 100 people about the role the Methodist church has played in the success of Traidcraft:

“Traidcraft was founded as a Christian response to poverty and we have been a prophetic voice in the world of business, bringing to the fore a Christian understanding of the true place of people within trade.

In this 30th anniversary year, we need to reinvigorate church support for Traidcraft's work, so we can continue to grow and develop our particular contribution towards the church's commitment to trade justice and fulfilling the Millennium Development goals.”

A note from Paul Chandler, Traidcraft Chief Executive:

As we mark thirty years of fighting poverty through trade I wanted to send a very special and heartfelt thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to support Traidcraft.

Every action - whether it is selling products, donating to the charity, spreading the message or offering prayers - has a positive impact on the lives of our producers.

Please accept this special anniversary card - embroidered by Swajan with handmade paper from Prokritee in Bangladesh - as a token of our gratitude and a small reminder of the big difference that you make.

The passionate commitment, energy and dedication of the Traidcraft network is a real inspiration. On behalf of everyone at Traidcraft and the millions of producers and their families who have a better life because of the support you give, thank you.

Dance and flags in worship - an explanation and invitation to join in:

You may have noticed the new flag stand and the use of flags in worship recently.

Standards /Flags and Banners are seen in the Old Testament being used as signals, markers of government/tribe, in war, in rejoicing, as a symbol for the Messiah and the word Banner/ standard is sometimes used as one of the names of the Lord...

Exodus 17:15 “And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-Lord-Is-My- Banner; “ The Hebrew word for this is Yahweh Nici .

We will shout for joy when you succeed, we will raise a flag in the name of our God. Psalm 20:5

*My beloved is mine and I am His and His banner over me is love.
Song of Songs 2:4*

Flags used in worship elevate praise and exalt God; they are used as signs of rejoicing, as a tool for spiritual warfare, for glorifying God and for reinforcing and declaring God’s word. They can be joined with dance as an added form of worship.

*David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, drums and cymbals. ... David – danced before the Lord with all his might, and the whole house of Israel - with shouts and the sounds of trumpets.
2 Samuel 6: 5 & 14*

When using just one flag hold it in your right hand. When the Bible talks about the right hand it is talking about the authority of God, His power and His deliverance. So when we use our right hand we are symbolically asking for the Lord to move on our behalf and we are asking His authority over things that would come against us.

A flag can be a simple piece of material or it can be a streamer. In ancient times women would often tie scarves or large ribbons to tambourines and use them for worship. We can read about women dancing with

tambourines in Exodus when the Prophetess Miriam leads the women in dance after they crossed the red sea.

The use of different coloured flags reflect what significance or connotations are found in the bible connected with that colour. God delights in all the colours – He created them for our enjoyment. Here is a list of what some colours can symbolize Biblically:

Red: Blood of Jesus, salvation, mercy, God's heart, love...

Blue: Splendour of the Heavens, Refreshing water, or peace

Purple: Royalty; Grace; priesthood

Green: Healing and new life; creation, growth

Brown (like sack cloth): Repentance; truth, justice, judgement

Silver: Refinement, God's gifts of the Holy Spirit

Gold: Kingship, Majesty, Glory of the Lord

Rainbow: God's covenant – the full character of God, all his colours become one.

Orange: Represent God's refining fire, Power.

White: Represents purity and righteousness; Holiness

See Through White: Represents the Holy Spirit

Black: Sin

Pink: Healing, health; happiness

Yellow: Light, joy, celebration, faith

We hope the congregation will be encouraged to enter into expressive, exultant praise and powerful worship – to exalt God and gain a closer experience of Him – as it says:

**The Lord inhabits the praises
of His people.**

Psalm 22:3



Services for September 2009

Mid-week Communion -Wednesdays 11.30am

Sunday 6th

9am	Dr Stanley Jeyeraj
10.45am	Mrs Sue Shortman
4.00pm	Rev Geoff Bell - Digging Deeper into Vision & tea

Sunday 13th

9am	Rev Geoff Bell
10.45am	Rev Geoff Bell
6.30pm	Mr Brian Lanstone - Quiet Service

Sunday 20th

9am	Mr Eddie Newton
10.45am	Rev Geoff Bell
6.30pm	Rev Geoff Bell - Cafe Worship

Sunday 27th

9am	Rev Geoff Bell
10.45am	Rev Geoff Bell
6.30pm	Mrs Diane Collins

*For Trinity Youth Groups, please see details in
Welcome Area*