



TRINITY TRIANGLE

APRIL 2021



Easter Blessings



'Serving God, serving each other, serving community'

TRINITY CHURCH

Methodist/United Reformed/Church in Abingdon
Conduit Road, Abingdon

TRINITY'S WEEK (*Currently suspended*)

Sunday Services at 10.30 am and 6.30pm, occasionally 4.00pm.

JAM (Jesus and Me) normally meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday morning during the Church Service. It is designed for children who are aged 3+ and parents may stay with their children if they wish.

Communion is normally on third Sunday of the month at 10.30am and as announced in the Calendar.

- Monday** 2.00 pm Evergreen Club: 3rd Monday in month.
2.00 pm The Stroke Club: 2nd & 4th Mondays in month.
5.30 pm Beavers
6.45 pm Cubs.
7.15 pm Scouts.
- Tuesday** 7.30 pm Abingdon Operatic Society.
- Wednesday** 5.00 pm Brownies.
7.00 pm Guides.
- Thursday** 9.30 am Toddler Group.
7.30 pm Thursday Group. Ladies' Monthly Meeting.
- Friday** 10.00 am Prayer Support Group Meeting in the Garden Room.
- Monthly** 7.30 pm Friendship Group - see calendar.

Conduit Centre, Conduit Road, Abingdon OX14 1DB

Church Office Manager: Eluned Hallas, Tel 520282

e-mail: trinity.abingdon@gmail.com

Office open : Thurs and Fri 9.30am -4.30pm. Closed Mon, Tues, Wed



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CHRIST HERE IN OUR MIDST

*Christ Jesus is here – here as on the first day;
Here among us eternally, as on Easter morning;
Here with us for ever as fully as the first day;
Here in our midst through all the days of his eternity;
For He is risen! Alleluia!*

Triangle Joint Editors:

Cynthia Bartlett, Valerie Dalby, Barbara Deakin,
Carolyn Hawkes, Gloria Sandford.

Advertisements

Mr John Prout
Tel. 07836 599255

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Office

The editors reserve the right to edit articles.

Trinity Website: www.trinityabingdon.org.uk

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

I used to sing in the church choir of my home church and in April we would often sing the anthem “All in the April evening”. It’s a lovely little anthem and the choir always enjoyed singing it. Perhaps the imagery of sheep and lambs and Easter together painted a picture of joy and serenity after the awful crucifixion.

There are of course two images in this piece: the sacrificial lamb of God together with the joy, wonder and indeed bounce of new lambs. Its refrain is this: “All in the April evening I thought on the lamb of God.” Perhaps after the long days we are enduring we would be wise to do the same: to think on the lamb of God and of our knowledge and experience of Him. Then we might turn to another hymn and think about counting our blessings.

This year April 1st lands on Maundy Thursday. Was there something foolish about Jesus inviting Judas to the meal – or indeed, including Judas among his friends from the first? I think it’s profoundly significant that Jesus knew his betrayal would happen, yet he still included Judas to the end.

For his part, Judas was conflicted, wanting Jesus to be someone or something that he was never meant to be. Jesus always knew that there were going to be people who would not like his message or purpose, and those people included even the friends he had chosen. Yet this did not stop Him, and he continued to love all of them as he made that journey to the cross.

This April I encourage you to “think on the lamb of God”, for the story we rehearse cannot be contained within the services we attend (whether in person or online) or in our favourite Easter hymns. As this gentle anthem recommends, take time on an April evening to let the story of Holy Week and Easter rest in you and in your thoughts, and let it seep into the depths of your being. For then we can glimpse the deeply profound power of Easter, and allow God to transform our lives.

Wishing you all Easter blessings



Sabbatical

Dear friends,

The Church has given me the gift of a Sabbatical this year and so for the months of May, June and July I will be taking that Sabbath break.

What does this mean? Is it an extended holiday? No. The Church gives Sabbaticals in every 7th year of ministry, reflecting the Sabbath established by God. Part of the purpose of sabbaticals is to give ministers an extended period free from normal duties, to dig a little deeper into things that will resource ministry.

On my last Sabbatical, just before I came to this Circuit, I did some study on Celtic Christianity, both historical and contemporary. I reflected on ministry and changing appointments by looking at Pastoral and Practical Theologies and I investigated sustaining communities of discipleship by looking at some research done on youth ministries.

On this Sabbatical there are other things I want to focus on. I plan to do some study around mental ill health and theology/ministry, and also on patterns of sustainable ministry. My phased return to ministry after ill health taught me a lot and those lessons need to be established more firmly, even during sabbatical. I also intend to write up and find opportunities to use my artwork in mission/ministry/worship.

In addition to all of this, I hope to allow time and space for a short retreat, to deepen my relationship with God and spend some time with family and friends. So, there is quite a lot to fit in, but I hope that this will lead to some reflective writing and will support and resource aspects of my ministry, both now and in the future.

During this time Deacon Selina and Revd Keith will be covering pastoral concerns and feeding into the life of Trinity & All Saints as the Circuit moves forward and looks to the future.

So, I thank you in advance for the gift of this Sabbatical time and I know I leave you in more than capable hands.

Blessings to you all

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be the initials 'Lam'.

THY KINGDOM COME PRAYER WALK AROUND ABINGDON



What is prayer walking? Prayer walking is as simple as it sounds - praying as you walk. When we prayer walk we are stepping into our authority as God's children to bless people and places in Jesus' name. This simple task is a great way to bring transformation to your local community by asking God to break in. As you pray and walk, be aware of your surroundings: what you see, smell, hear and touch. But also be aware of what God is saying to you as you move around your community; if any Bible verses pop into your head or if you have any pictures, visions or words of knowledge. If walking is difficult, why not find a quiet space at home and journey around the town in your mind, praying as you go.

1. Trinity Church (Pray for ourselves as we journey) *Luke 10* "After this, the Lord chose 72 more followers. He sent them out in groups of two. He sent them ahead of him into every town and place where he planned to go. He said to them, "There is such a big harvest of people to bring in. But there are only a few workers to help harvest them. God owns the harvest. Ask him to send more workers to help bring in his harvest." **Consider your commitment to bringing in the Lord's harvest and pray for discernment for all the churches as they grapple with the impact of covid on them. Thy Kingdom come thy will be done.**

2. St Michael's Church (Pray for all faith communities especially the work of the CiA) *John 13* "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." **Pray for those who serve in our communities in so many different ways, especially during lock down. Consider how you serve Christ and give thanks for opportunities given to serve. Thy Kingdom come thy will be done.**

3. Carswell school (Pray for our children and young people to become aware of God's love for them) *Deuteronomy 4* "be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them." **Consider the commitment to ministry with children within all our churches and pray for teachers**

and all those involved in the leadership which focuses upon children and young people. **Thy Kingdom come thy will be done.**

4. Number 35 Ock Street (Pray for No 35 and its ministry of hospitality) *Genesis 18* “The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. Do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way.” **Pray for the places of hospitality that have suffered so badly during the pandemic and reflect upon the hospitality of Christ. Thy Kingdom come thy will be done.**

5. War Memorial (Pray for our armed services, police and all who have sacrificed themselves for others) *John 15* “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” **Give thanks for those called to public service and those who have lost their lives in fulfilling their calling. Consider the impact upon the families of those called to serve and pray for them. Thy Kingdom come thy will be done.**

6. Masons shop (Give thanks for those who use their creativity to share their faith with others) *Psalms 139* “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.” **Pray that we may use the gift of creativity to build bridges where there is brokenness and bring more people to Christ. Thy Kingdom come thy will be done.**

7. Library (We pray for authors, academics and those employed in research that they might use their wisdom to transform the world) *Titus 2* “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity.” **Give thanks for the researchers who have enabled a vaccine for Covid; give thanks too for the literature that has fed people during lockdown and consider how you may share the word of God with others. Thy Kingdom come thy will be done.**

8. Malthouse surgery (We pray for all who work in the health and caring professions, paramedics, all who work in hospitals and hospices, hospital chaplains and those we know who are in sick in body, mind and spirit) *Matthew 9* “Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing

every disease and sickness.” **Pray for those known to you who are ill or suffering, and give thanks for those who are endeavouring to roll the covid vaccine out in our community. Thy Kingdom come thy will be done.**

9. Job centre (We pray for those who are marginalised in society; the unemployed, those on zero contract hours, those who are furloughed and have lost hope, and all who struggle to make ends meet) *Leviticus 23* “ *When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the LORD your God.*” **Pray for the businesses in our town and for those whose financial situations have left them and their families in precarious circumstances. Thy Kingdom come thy will be done.**

10. St Nicolas Church - FINAL PRAYER - I pray that those for whom I have prayed, may come to know and love Jesus; that as his disciple, I may be given new confidence and encouragement to share the gospel with others, by the power of the Holy Spirit. God of our salvation, we pray, that the world may know Jesus Christ as the Prince of Peace, that we may be bold to speak the word of God and that the Church may be generous in giving, faithful in serving, and bold in proclaiming. Amen

Our Father who art in heaven.

Hallowed be thy name

Thy Kingdom Come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us,

And lead us not into temptation,

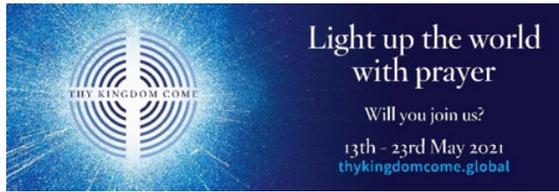
But deliver us from evil

For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory

Forever and ever

Amen





Thy Kingdom Come - 13th - 23rd May

“Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.”

If someone asked me why my relationship with Jesus mattered, I would probably say this:

“Knowing Christ gives me a sense of wholeness and healing in my life. It is a transformative, sustaining and liberating relationship, which compels me to live with great joy, even in the bleakest of time, and urges me to share with others, the huge benefits of the sense of hope that I carry deep within me.”

I wonder how you might describe your relationship with Christ and how it helps you in your day-to-day life? Take some time for reflection and perhaps have a go at writing it down somewhere.

There are many people today, who sadly do not have this precious relationship that we are so very blessed with, and “Thy Kingdom Come” is a perfect opportunity

- *to deepen our own relationship with Jesus*
- *to earnestly pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*
- *and to pray for the empowerment and guidance of the Holy Spirit that we might become more effective in the way witness to our faith in Jesus.*

In Matthew 28 Jesus commanded his disciples (even those who doubted!) to “Go and make new disciples of all nations” and I have pledged to do this on the on-line map via the Thy Kingdom Come website- you might even see the star on the map, so why not join with me?

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/lightuptheworld?id=32267>

Resources will be coming your way shortly to enable you in your prayer and discernment, which you are invited to use. Please do feed-back after the event, and maybe share your experiences of God’s leading.

With love and blessings to you all

Dcn. Selina Nisbett



A lovely Mothering Sunday Surprise!

A big Thank You to those who prepared and distributed daffodils to Trinity members and friends!

‘Thank you for the flowers kindly brought to me for Mothering Sunday from Trinity.’

Angie Goodman

'With Sighs Too Deep for Words'

I hear the Spirit sounding in my life
when I see the blossom
before the storms
in Palmer Place;
when I stand with a father
in a Chapel of Rest
where his daughter,
who has died,
is laid;
when I am with -
even virtually -
people I love
more than myself;
when I am moved
to anger
by violence against the weak,
to frustration
by inaction in face of need,
to action
to counteract the paralysis of helplessness.



I hear the Spirit sounding in my life
when poetry and its images
offer insights into
how God calls us,
bringing together
that which is beyond words
and that which we know,
to invite our commitment to faith,
knowing the graciousness of God.

Malcolm Newton

Rosemary Perrow

September 2020

My life: I was born at home in Bristol on June 21st 1955. Right from the start I caused problems! - Dad had to be despatched to retrieve the doctor from a dinner-dance; a ten-year old June was left waiting for the new baby on the eve of her 11-plus and then I was born jaundiced. Having a little one after a 10 year-gap must have been quite a shock to my family, and throughout my childhood June was more like a second Mum than a big sister. I remember my early years as quite lonely in some ways, I spent many happy hours playing in the garden - eating redcurrants from the bushes (did Mum really not guess it wasn't the birds?) and telling long imaginative stories using a variety of toys and china ornaments.

In those non-PC days I loved to watch The Black and White Minstrel Show and Mum once found me in the flower-bed totally naked and covered in mud "I'm a black and white minstrel" I proudly boasted. Then there was the time I nearly set myself and the house on fire by dressing up as The Holy Ghost near an open fire! I loved school, and despite seeming to catch almost every possible childhood illness and having to attend weekly physiotherapy sessions at The Children's Hospital, did quite well. Geography was always my favourite subject, fuelled by TV documentaries and vivid correspondence from Mum's best-friend in India.

Mum & Dad hadn't expected me to pass the entrance exam into the newly independent Colston's Girls' School and even with a bursary, it was a struggle on a plumber's wage. A combination of bullying and Mum being ill made it a difficult time for me too, but I loved the learning - so much so that the staff encouraged me to apply for Cambridge. When I got the offer, I told the Head I had no intention of accepting - then she went straight into assembly and announced proudly to the whole school that I was going! Unethical, probably, psychologically risky, definitely, successful, yes, as this opened up a whole new world for me.

My introduction to Cambridge life began in summer 1973, when I was invited to join an undergraduate group doing fieldwork in the Alps. Rough camping across Europe was a real adventure for someone whose holidays were mainly day trips or short breaks in Devon, so June was drafted in to chaperone and provide safe transport. It was there I met Catriona, who's remained my best friend ever since. Cambridge offered many new opportunities. MethSoc provided a safe base, while Ecumenical Fellowship Groups, including everyone from Quakers to Catholic Nuns, allowed me to explore my new-found faith.

I found myself leading a group, then leading services, and have been a strong advocate of ecumenism ever since. The first ten years of our marriage were spent in Dronfield, just south of Sheffield. David worked for the University while I taught at Henry Fanshawe School - a delightful comprehensive upper school. GCSE Geology proved quite a challenge, with a (still rather naïve) probationary teacher wondering why the 14 year-old lads sniggered at the mention of "rocks" and "schist". I really enjoyed the progressive A level teaching there and quickly became a 6th Form Tutor.

We joined the town's Christian Aid Committee, where I organised my first Fashion Show, and I was active on the Ecumenical Church Council. Of course, it was also at Cambridge that I met David, the love of my life. We were an odd pair - him tall dark and silent, me short and chatty; me disorganised, him tidy - but, strengthened by our shared faith and desire for social justice, it's been a winning combination through thick and thin for over 40 years. Not that we haven't had our ups and downs - from our first rented home, the miners cottage with pigeons in the loft and a waterfall in the bedroom, to negative equity in the 90's and job insecurity in the millennium.

Abigail was born in Sheffield in 1984. Her disability came as a total shock, but as with so many difficult times, the support of family and church friends lifted us up and we soon realised that she'd cope fine. I took up a role as a Traidcraft rep, filling the guest room with bulk orders of toilet rolls and coffee and taking

Abigail with me to talks and coffee mornings, while settling into a routine of one day's supply teaching each week and marking GCSE exams. In my spare time, I contributed to The Geographical Association, on the local steering group, and by helping compile a national careers resource-pack.

David's job brought us to Abingdon in 1989. Joining All Saints was almost a given, as we bought our new home from members of the congregation, whose children rapidly became Abi's best friends. I joined Abingdon Christian Aid Committee, where I was church rep., press officer and chair and organised a Traidcraft Fashion Show. Between ferrying Abigail to gymnastics and band, I took up teaching at Abingdon College, where the more adult atmosphere and support of Ray Strugnell gave me the happiest years of my teaching career. I also found myself leading Abingdon Woodcraft Folk.

In 1995 David's job took us to Newcastle upon Tyne. Thanks to a tip-off from Paul Williams, we joined a very lively LEP where I quickly got involved in The Ecumenical Church Council and Christian Aid (including fashion show number 3!) I started teaching in a huge 11 - 18 comprehensive school - a shock to the system after F.E. (especially as it included Year 9 sex education!) and worked my way up to Head of Department within five years. We loved Newcastle, the countryside and coast, its people and lifestyle, but it was a long way north and family brought us back south, to Abingdon, in 2000. I found a job at Cherwell School in Oxford, where again I gradually worked my way up to Head of Department, running the annual Japan Day, which led to an all-expenses paid trip to Japan in 1997. But in 2009 things all got too much for me. A combination of admin overload, family concerns and health problems resulted in stress and discipline issues and I left suddenly, vowing never to return to the classroom. It was a bleak time, even as my confidence slowly recovered, for all my skills were teaching-related. I was a lost soul.

Dreadful as it was at the time, looking back, that breakdown was probably the best thing that could have happened. It took me off a treadmill that was going ever faster and led me to

TrinityLearning. I will for ever be thankful to Richard Bittleston and the congregation at Trinity for the opportunities this opened up. I was able to use all my experience to help others avoid the pitfalls I had met, to help young people of all ages get a better start in life. I re-gained confidence and discovered new skills as Trinity encouraged me with their trust, love and support, such that I felt able to offer to undertake the challenging role of Senior Steward at All Saints. It was a privilege to work closely alongside Peter Bennett and Ian Griffiths, and the rewards these roles offered made those years the best of my life. As if this wasn't enough, part-time work allowed me extra time with David, including time to travel.

A committed francophile, I was delighted to join The Church in Abingdon's Twinning Group, which developed casual holiday friendships into bonds of deep Christian fellowship, travelling to Argentan, St Nikolas and Colmar. So what of these last few months? Yes, there has been pain and frustration, but also the cards, the flowers, but most of all time to be with David, and an overwhelming sense that the job is done and I can truly now rest in peace.

Rosemary Perrow
February 2021

Donations to Christian Aid, TrinityLearning (or both) can be made as you leave the Church. Alternatively you can give to Christian Aid via their website at <https://donate.christianaid.org.uk/Donate/Step/1> or direct to TrinityLearning via the address at <https://trinitylearning.org.uk/>

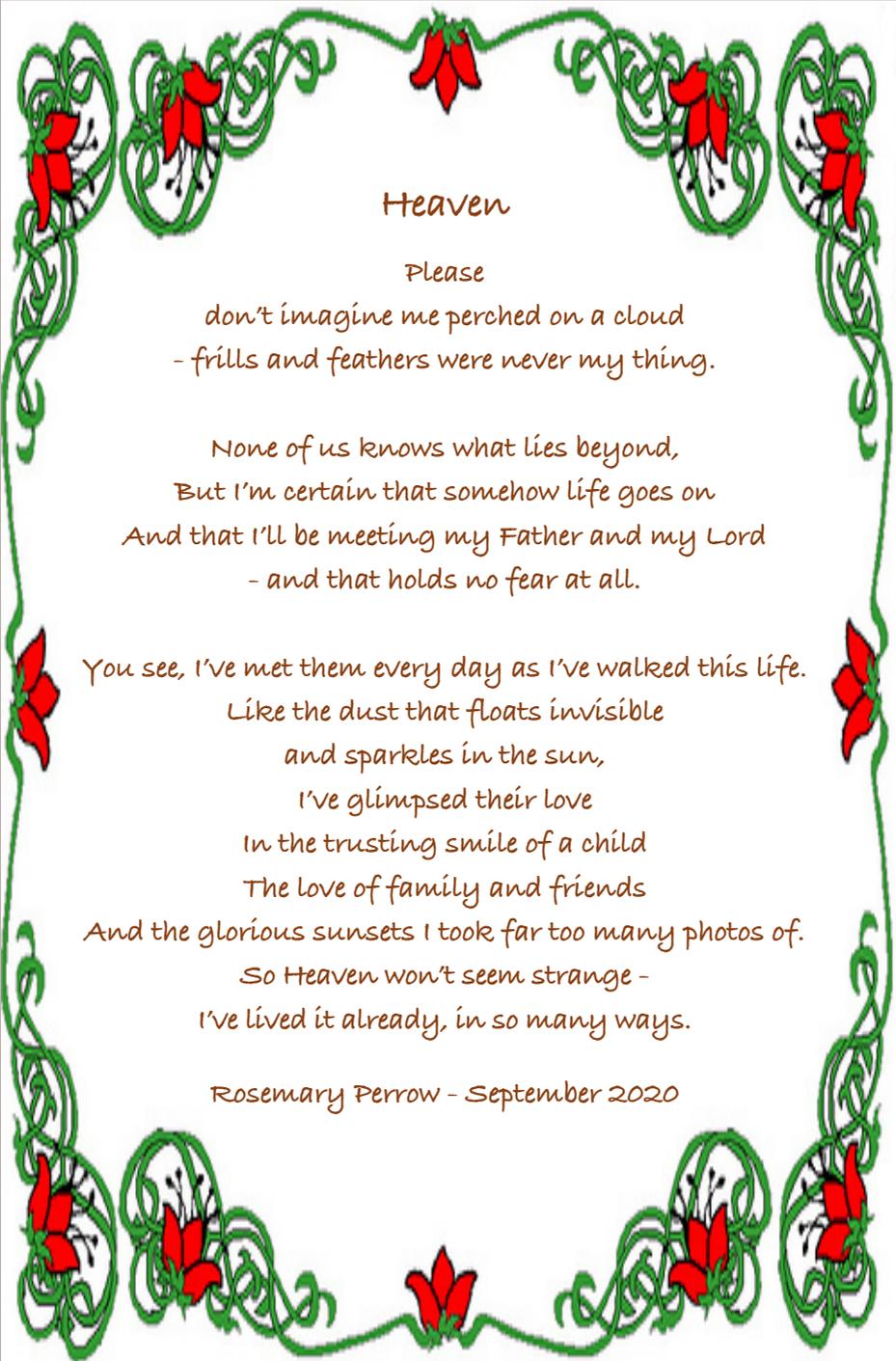
Thank you for coming and helping us to remember Rosemary's life.

David Perrow

Link to the Rosemary's service

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo3ZOtzZ6i8>





Heaven

Please

don't imagine me perched on a cloud
- frills and feathers were never my thing.

None of us knows what lies beyond,
But I'm certain that somehow life goes on
And that I'll be meeting my Father and my Lord
- and that holds no fear at all.

You see, I've met them every day as I've walked this life.
Like the dust that floats invisible
and sparkles in the sun,
I've glimpsed their love
In the trusting smile of a child
The love of family and friends
And the glorious sunsets I took far too many photos of.
So Heaven won't seem strange -
I've lived it already, in so many ways.

Rosemary Perrow - September 2020

Best foot forward

The Christian Aid Zimbabwe programme is continuing to respond to the changing situation in the country including emergencies like drought and cyclones, adapting to Covid -19 challenges as well as supporting its ongoing work with long-term partners.

Christian Aid partners have been working on a project to help build resilience and earn income in different ways. With unemployment high for young people, one of the aspects of the project has been giving young people vocational skills to help them earn money and connect with one another.

Chipo Kadogo is 26 and part of a a leather working group which received training and help to start a small business. Chipo's community were struggling with youth unemployment leading to early marriage but Chipo feels this opportunity to train in vocational skills has changed things - 'the training received from this project has equipped me for life; it is clearly a change from nobody to somebody in my community.'



Chipo is now able to make shoes, bags, belts, wallets and other kinds of leather products which she sells as part of a leatherworking group, but she has also learned how to service and repair sewing machines.

Chipo has also learned leadership skills and business management and had become Chairperson of the New Life leatherwork group. As someone who was previously very confrontational, Chipo appreciates the groupwork and co-operation training which has allowed her to learn to handle conflict and become a trusted leader.

The income from the enterprise makes a huge difference to all the members, especially now they can afford school fees and uniforms and take part in savings and loans groups.

From URC Commitment for Life Spring Update

Lockdown Musings on the Lord's Prayer.

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN

But where and what is Heaven? Is it really a different place, part of a parallel universe, or is it all around us here and now?

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

This is more easily understood. You are to be revered, but not put on a pedestal so that we cannot communicate with you.

THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH. AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

Here we go again, Heaven and Earth, is there really such a gap between them? Or is Earth something we can touch and Heaven somewhere in our minds?

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

Yes please. But some of us have ample food and others dying of hunger. That can't be right ! So, perhaps you are telling us that it is WE who have to feed the hungry.

FORGIVE US OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.

We may think our own sins are trivial- a bit of tax avoidance, perhaps, - unkind thoughts about other people, - being smug, - eating too much and too little exercise. But we do find it hard to forgive people who physically hurt us, swindle us out of money, exploit children or the vulnerable, or defame us on social media.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION AND DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

Yes, we need you to protect us from sneaky temptations that come our way, and to protect us when life is dangerous as in wars, plagues and famines.

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

You can have all of them Lord. I don't begrudge you ruling over us. It's a hard job. The power of Kingship can be misused, so it's safe in your hands The glory, our thanks and praise are all you deserve.

FOR EVER AND EVER

Amen to that !

From Margaret Langsford

THE TRIANGLE – printed copies

We are aware that some people would like to receive a printed copy of the Triangle each month, as in previous years.

We are now able to print these for those who would like them.

The cost for the year (10 copies) would be:

Black and White: £10

Colour: £15

If you would like to receive printed copies, please email or telephone Cynthia Bartlett or Val Dalby, stating whether you would prefer black and white or colour copies.

Cynthia: cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk 01235 525924

Val: vadalby17@gmail.com 01235 848633

(The Triangle will be available for collection or may be delivered by hand locally, but if copies need to be posted, there would be additional postage charges.)

DEADLINE FOR MAY TRIANGLE

Sunday 18th April

Please send to Cynthia Bartlett (cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk)

AND TO

Val Dalby (vadalby17@gmail.com)

Church Skylines

ANSWERS

1. St Helens's,
2. The Society of Friends,
3. All Saints,
4. Christ Church Long Furlongs,
5. Abingdon Baptist Church,
6. Trinity,
7. Our Lady and St Edmund,
8. St Michael and All Angels,
9. Christ Church,
10. St Nicolas.

Books of the Bible Wordsearch

ANSWERS

Deuteronomy, Esther, Ezra, Genesis, Hebrews, Joel, John, Jonah, Joshua, Lamentations, Leviticus, Luke, Malachi, Mark, Micah, Peter, Philippians, Psalms, Ruth, Samuel.



CALENDAR APRIL 2021

Please note – services are subject to Covid restrictions and places need to be booked on line or through Trinity Office

Sun 4th	10.30am	Easter Sunday Service led by Revd. Ian Griffiths
Sun 11th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
Sun 18th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
Tue 20th		Trustees Meeting by Zoom
Sun 25th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 28th	7.30pm	Church Meeting by Zoom

For details see weekly news sheets from The Trinity Office.

Deadline Sunday April 18th

CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday 28th April 2021 7.30pm

Many thanks to all who attended the last Church Meeting via Zoom, held on 23rd February. Our next Church Meeting will be on 28th April and the Trustees look forward to seeing people again on this occasion.

Details of the Zoom meeting will be available nearer the time – in the Church Notices and via the Church Office.



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