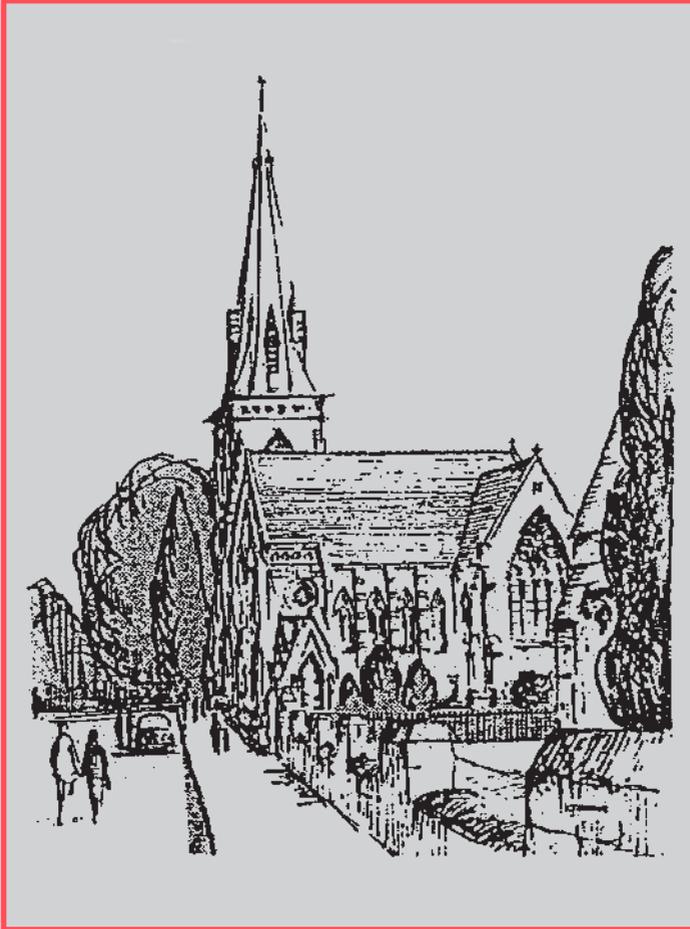
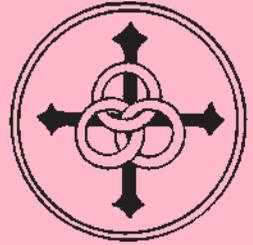


TRINITY TRIANGLE

MAY 2021

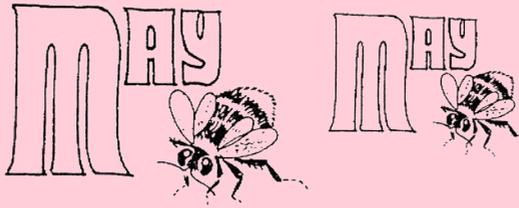


'Serving God, serving each other, serving community'

TRINITY CHURCH

Methodist/United Reformed/Church in Abingdon

Conduit Road, Abingdon



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*Thank you Father,
for all that you have done for us.
For Life,
and the love that flows from you.
May we treasure these gifts,
and be content
to share your Love and Life with others
all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
one God for ever. Amen.*

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

You will have seen a great deal about 'The Methodist Way of Life'. For many of us what is contained within this way of life is little different to how we imagine any Christian would live their life, but perhaps to have it distilled in this way is very helpful. Those who have an interest in the early days of Methodism will most likely say, 'But this is nothing new!' and indeed they would be right. Yet like washing our hands properly, which we have been reminded of by the pandemic, these once core practices and the value of them need to be rediscovered for our current time.

I have no doubt that small groups are an excellent way of exploring our faith, discovering God at work in our lives today, and supporting each other pastorally and prayerfully. Yet they often take time to establish and to build up trust, so that everyone can share confidently with others. I have also experienced the growth in joy and enthusiasm that has come from being part of such a group, and how it has blessed and challenged the wider church in its worship, its ministry and its mission.

In May I look forward to starting a sabbatical. A time to deepen my relationship with God, to think creatively about the use of art and imagery as well as to study further some of the areas that I've only been able to scratch the surface of. Starting in May reminds me of the opening line of a madrigal I used to perform regularly, 'Now is the month of Maying'. It was always a fun piece to play with the recorder ensemble, it was light, it had merriment, but it also said that Now is the month. Now is the time.

Reflecting on the days after Easter and urgency that the Early Church had, thinking that Jesus would return very soon, I cannot help but wonder if that sense of urgency needs to be rekindled in the church of today. We should be sharing our faith and our experience of the risen Lord Jesus and teaching again those wonderful stories and lessons that have kept us rooted in God whatever life may throw at us.

The Methodist Way of Life could sound like some form of monastic discipline, but I believe it is far more positive than that. It is designed in such a way that helps us seek to build each other up. The main question is 'How can we support each other?' It is not an individual exercise, although there will be individual components of it. It is a Way of Life that is about having companions for the journey. I believe it is something that has so much potential for us all, and it is incredibly exciting to seek out what God has in store for us. Who will journey with you, with me?

As we emerge out of lockdown a new chapter begins in our church and in our lives, yet as ever God is with us, and for that we are ever thankful.

Every blessing



Remembering Rosemary

TrinityLearning began in October 2009, when Trinity Church, Abingdon, appointed Rosemary Perrow as their Education & Development Officer. Her remit was to explore ways in which the church could use its time, talents and space to enhance the quality of life for all those working in local schools – both students and staff. Rosemary was central to the formation and development of TrinityLearning from then on. As a teacher, Rosemary was able to use her extensive experience to help young people of all ages get a better start in life. Eve Newton was part of a small support group from Trinity Church which met with Rosemary every few months to listen and help carry out her ideas right from the start. ‘However much there was to organise, however tiring the physical furniture shifting, Rosemary was always enthusiastic, cheerful and unremittingly thoughtful for us who were sometimes quite daunted by what we were letting ourselves in for! But it was clear that the teachers and children responded with interest and enjoyment to what was offered.’

Working from an initial idea by the Diocese of Gloucester, Rosemary developed Experience Easter which still sits at the centre of TrinityLearning’s offer to schools. Volunteer Maurice Tubb remembers how Rosemary:

‘with excitement and imagination, began to bring the words of Experience Easter to reality. The work had many facets, designing tableaux, thinking out simple activities and deciding how Trinity Church would be set out to accommodate them. Risk assessments had to be made, decisions on how children would move round the activities, where they would put their coats, access toilets and many other practical matters.’

Angela Waterhouse adds, ‘I was very much aware of Rosemary’s openness,



and sensitivity to the issue of sharing the Christian story of Easter with children and teachers of different Christian traditions, of different faiths, and of no faith. Starting with that peaceful moment when she calmed the children to begin the storytelling - at the same time calming the nerves of the team of

helpers of all denominations whom she had gathered round her - or sharing the peace in song at the end of the session, she succeeded in opening up the universal themes of love and service, death and loss, hope and commitment, for reflection by such very young children, without proselytising, reaching people wherever they were on their spiritual journey.’

Mary Anderson, another TrinityLearning volunteer remembers:

‘My main memory of Rosemary is that she was so wise. No rush, no shouting

from rooftops, but a steady source of Christian love and inspiration. We had various discussions about the future of TrinityLearning, and she guided me through Experience Easter in 2019, a real privilege.'

Rosemary's work at TrinityLearning is widely recognised and appreciated locally but also achieved national recognition in 2018 when she received the United Reformed Church Award which came with the sum of £2000. This money was used to start 'Thinking Books', a scheme to develop discussion from selected books and designed to help children develop empathy.

Providing work experience for students with low confidence was a high priority for Rosemary. Specially selected pupils worked alongside her for a week in the summer term. Eluned Hallas, Trinity Church's administrator, remembers:

'I worked in the room next door for several of these placements and heard Rosemary's patience, more than I could have managed, and noted the way she worked with the pupils to find what they enjoyed or were good at so they could go back after their week having achieved something positive. However, she was also not afraid to challenge them out of their comfort zone, but always in a way that ensured they succeeded. Her placement reports were a positive affirmation of the pupil's achievements.'

We also remember the joy and peace enjoyed by students and staff in the reflective gardens she brought into being, working with groups of volunteers of all ages in a number of primary schools in the town, including the most recent garden at Kingfisher School which she worked on after her retirement till it was completed. One of these garden projects was recognised as one of the top three Groundwork Community UK Awards in November 2018.

Rosemary retired from leading TrinityLearning in 2019, having helped to secure ongoing funding and overseeing TrinityLearning established as a registered charity. Her retirement was marked by a joyful celebration in Trinity Church, attended by many past and present TrinityLearning volunteers and supporters, as well as the mayor of Abingdon.

It seems right to finish with Rosemary's own words:

'So, what of these last few months? Yes, there has been pain and frustration, but also the cards, the flowers, and 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 was right to say that her job was done and that she could rest in peace. Her work will continue through TrinityLearning and its wonderful volunteers.

A Thanksgiving Service for Rosemary's life will be held at Trinity Church on her birthday, Monday 21st June.



HYACINTHS FROM THE GARDEN

Hyacinths are spring-blooming bulbs with richly coloured flowers and an incredible fragrance that can perfume your entire garden. They bloom in midspring at the same time as daffodils and early tulips, and come in a rainbow of colours including white, cream, pink, rose, apricot, lavender, cobalt blue, deep purple and wine red. Like other spring-flowering bulbs, hyacinths are easy to grow. Just plant the bulbs in fall and enjoy the beautiful flowers the following spring.



The hyacinth appears in the first section of T.S.Eliot's *The Waste Land* during a conversation between the narrator and the "hyacinth girl" that takes place in the spring.

"You gave me hyacinths first a year ago;

"They called me the hyacinth girl."

-- Yet when we came back, late from the Hyacinth garden,
Your arms full, and your hair wet, I could not
Speak, and my eyes failed, I was neither
Living nor dead, and I knew nothing,
Looking into the heart of light, the silence.

In Roman Catholic tradition, the hyacinth represents prudence, constancy, desire of heaven, and peace of mind: and is derived from the story of Hyacinthus, upon whose death the flower sprang forth.

CHRISTIAN AID

10-16 May 2021

This climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day.

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Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives.

Together we stop this climate crisis.

LEISURE

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?—
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows:
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began?
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

W H Davies 1871-1940

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 JUNE TRIANGLE

Sunday 23rd May

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

AND TO

Val Dalby (vadalby17@gmail.com)

The 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want;

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters;

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness

for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me;

Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

Thou anointest my head with oil,

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

A traditional version from the Revised Standard Bible

“

She's my lovely
blue angel

”



Care in your home, just as you like it.

You love your home and you feel safe there. Needing additional care and support shouldn't change that.

You may be in a situation where you need an extra pair of hands, or you may have complex needs that require more dedicated care. Our well-trusted care packages are built around you and your individual needs which means that you and your family can rest assured you'll receive care and support exactly as you need.

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