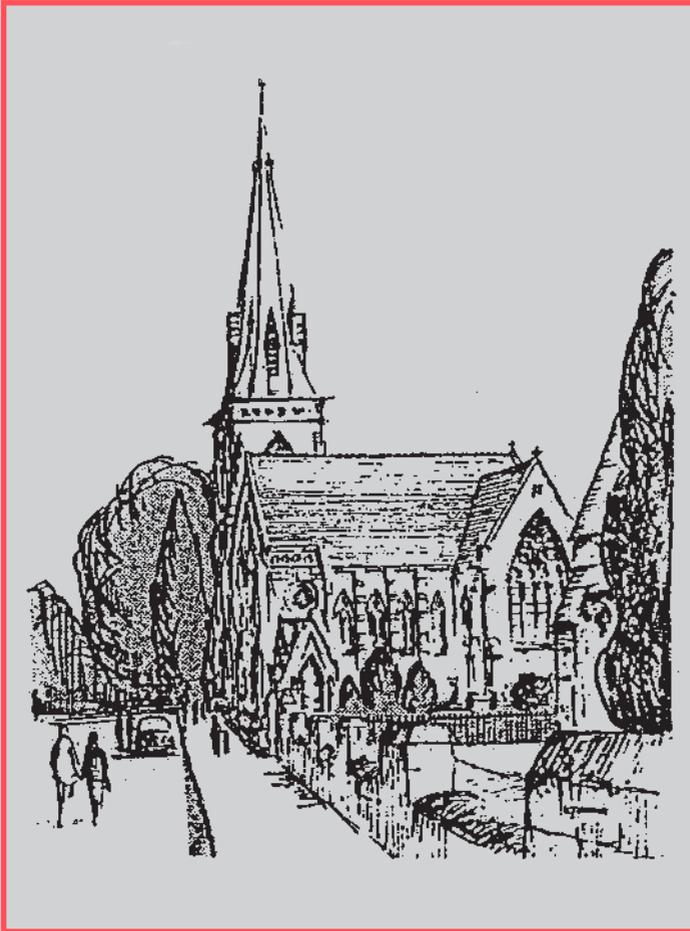


TRINITY TRIANGLE

MAY 2022



'Serving God, serving each other, serving community'

TRINITY CHURCH

Methodist/United Reformed/Church in Abingdon

Conduit Road, Abingdon



CONTENTS

Minister's letter	4
Church Family News	5
Pope Francis' Address	6
Christian Aid	9
Calender and deadline	12
Selina's Address	14

Pippa's Song

*The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearl'd;
The lark's on the thorn;
God's in his Heaven-
All's right with his world!*

Robert Browning

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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends 'Now is the month of Maying' was a popular tune arranged in different ways for the recorder ensemble I used to be part of. The 'Fa-la-la-la-la' lyrics would often amuse us. Yet the joyful, playful tune was infectious. It nearly always lightened our spirits and once the tune was in our heads, it was often difficult to budge.

As I write on a gloriously sunny day, with a refreshing breeze, that lightness of spirit seems so appropriate to accompany Eastertide as we continue to celebrate our Risen Lord Jesus. It is also a season where baptism requests are coming in and the planning for weddings is coming together. All of a sudden, these parts of our ministry at Trinity seem to be coming all at once. It is a great privilege and a joy to be part of them. There is sadness too of course, deaths and funerals remain part of our lives. Yet even in these, it is good to hear laughter and a desire, perhaps stronger than ever, to celebrate life.

Perhaps May is one of those months, where the joy of living is echoed in nature as much as it is in our lives. The sound of lawn mowers becoming more familiar again after winter months. As many of you know, I would never describe myself as a gardener, but I do enjoy being surprised and delighted in some of the complexities of colour and design that I see in the world around me. I'm reminded of the hymn, "Jesus is Lord, creation's voice proclaims it." and indeed it does seem as if creation really does shout it out as loud and as vibrantly as it can. Just take some time to look around the garden at Trinity – a feast for the eyes!

We know that there are testing times ahead of us as a Church, and we are facing these with as much care and prayer as we can. We also know there is much in the news that can dampen our mood, not least the horrific stories from Ukraine. Yet, despite these more depressing things, the image that comes to my mind is taken from another hymn, it talks about the Spirit of God dancing through the ordinariness of our lives.

My prayer is that we will know and experience the dancing of God's Holy Spirit in our lives that we, with all creation, can proclaim to the world, 'Christ is alive! And the universe must celebrate!'. May we be God's people, full of his peace, full of his joy and full of his compassion. May God bless us, that we might bless others.

Every blessing

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be the name 'Iain', written in black ink.

URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS EASTER 2022

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!

Jesus, the Crucified One, is risen! He stands in the midst of those who mourned him, locked behind closed doors and full of fear and anguish. He comes to them and says: “Peace be with you!” (Jn 20:19). He shows the wounds in his hands and feet, and the wound in his side. He is no ghost; it is truly Jesus, the same Jesus who died on the cross and was laid in the tomb. Before the incredulous eyes of the disciples, he repeats: “Peace be with you!” (v. 21).

Our eyes, too, are incredulous on this Easter of war. We have seen all too much blood, all too much violence. Our hearts, too, have been filled with fear and anguish, as so many of our brothers and sisters have had to lock themselves away in order to be safe from bombing. We struggle to believe that Jesus is truly risen, that he has truly triumphed over death. Could it be an illusion? A figment of our imagination?

No, it is not an illusion! Today, more than ever, we hear echoing the Easter proclamation so dear to the Christian East: “Christ is risen! He is truly risen!” Today, more than ever, we need him, at the end of a Lent that has seemed endless. We emerged from two years of pandemic, which took a heavy toll. It was time to come out of the tunnel together, hand in hand, pooling our strengths and resources... Instead, we are showing that we do not yet have within us the spirit of Jesus but the spirit of Cain, who saw Abel not as a brother, but as a rival, and thought about how to eliminate him. We need the crucified and risen Lord so that we can believe in the victory of love, and hope for reconciliation. Today, more than ever, we need him to stand in our midst and repeat to us: “Peace be with you!”

Only he can do it. Today, he alone has the right to speak to us of peace. Jesus alone, for he bears wounds... our wounds. His wounds are indeed ours, for two reasons. They are ours because we inflicted them upon him by our sins, by our hardness of heart, by our fratricidal hatred. They are also ours because he bore them for our sake; he did not cancel them from his glorified body; he chose to keep them forever. They are the indelible seal of his love for us, a perennial act of intercession, so that the heavenly Father, in seeing them, will have mercy upon us and upon the whole world. The wounds on the body of the risen Jesus are the sign of

the battle he fought and won for us, won with the weapons of love, so that we might have peace and remain in peace.

As we contemplate those glorious wounds, our incredulous eyes open wide; our hardened hearts break open and we welcome the Easter message: "Peace be with you!"

Brothers and sisters, let us allow the peace of Christ to enter our lives, our homes, our countries!

May there be peace for war-torn Ukraine, so sorely tried by the violence and destruction of the cruel and senseless war into which it was dragged. In this terrible night of suffering and death, may a new dawn of hope soon appear! Let there be a decision for peace. May there be an end to the flexing of muscles while people are suffering. Please, please, let us not get used to war! Let us all commit ourselves to imploring peace, from our balconies and in our streets! Peace! May the leaders of nations hear people's plea for peace. May they listen to that troubling question posed by scientists almost seventy years ago: "Shall we put an end to the human race, or shall mankind renounce war?" (Russell-Einstein Manifesto, 9 July 1955).

I hold in my heart all the many Ukrainian victims, the millions of refugees and internally displaced persons, the divided families, the elderly left to themselves, the lives broken and the cities razed to the ground. I see the faces of the orphaned children fleeing from the war. As we look at them, we cannot help but hear their cry of pain, along with that of all those other children who suffer throughout our world: those dying of hunger or lack of medical care, those who are victims of abuse and violence, and those denied the right to be born.

Amid the pain of the war, there are also encouraging signs, such as the open doors of all those families and communities that are welcoming migrants and refugees throughout Europe. May these numerous acts of charity become a blessing for our societies, at times debased by selfishness and individualism, and help to make them welcoming to all.

May the conflict in Europe also make us more concerned about other situations of conflict, suffering and sorrow, situations that affect all too many areas of our world, situations that we cannot overlook and do not want to forget.

May there be peace for the Middle East, racked by years of conflict and division. On this glorious day, let us ask for peace upon Jerusalem and peace upon all those who love her (cf. Ps 121 [122]), Christians, Jews and Muslims alike. May Israelis, Palestinians and all who dwell in the Holy

City, together with the pilgrims, experience the beauty of peace, dwell in fraternity and enjoy free access to the Holy Places in mutual respect for the rights of each.

May there be peace and reconciliation for the peoples of Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, and in particular for all the Christian communities of the Middle East.

May there be peace also for Libya, so that it may find stability after years of tensions, and for Yemen, which suffers from a conflict forgotten by all, with continuous victims: may the truce signed in recent days restore hope to its people.

We ask the risen Lord for the gift of reconciliation for Myanmar, where a dramatic scenario of hatred and violence persists, and for Afghanistan, where dangerous social tensions are not easing and a tragic humanitarian crisis is bringing great suffering to its people.

May there be peace for the entire African continent, so that the exploitation it suffers and the hemorrhaging caused by terrorist attacks – particularly in the Sahel region – may cease, and that it may find concrete support in the fraternity of the peoples. May the path of dialogue and reconciliation be undertaken anew in Ethiopia, affected by a serious humanitarian crisis, and may there be an end to violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. May prayer and solidarity not be lacking for the people in the eastern part of South Africa, struck by devastating floods.

May the risen Christ accompany and assist the people of Latin America, who in some cases have seen their social conditions worsen in these difficult times of pandemic, exacerbated as well by instances of crime, violence, corruption and drug trafficking.

Let us ask the risen Lord to accompany the journey of reconciliation that the Catholic Church in Canada is making with the indigenous peoples. May the Spirit of the risen Christ heal the wounds of the past and dispose hearts to seek truth and fraternity.

Dear brothers and sisters, every war brings in its wake consequences that affect the entire human family: from grief and mourning to the drama of refugees, and to the economic and food crisis, the signs of which we are already seeing. Faced with the continuing signs of war, as well as the many painful setbacks to life, Jesus Christ, the victor over sin, fear and death, exhorts us not to surrender to evil and violence. Brothers and sisters, may we be won over by the peace of Christ! Peace is possible; peace is a duty; peace is everyone's primary responsibility!

Christian Aid in Ukraine and Abingdon

Ever wanted to know what happens to the money you give to the Disaster Appeals? At our last Christian Aid Meeting in early April we were told the following:

DEC brings together a number of leading Aid charities in the UK and the money it raises is shared between them. Christian Aid normally received about 7% of the income. At the date of reporting the fund for Ukraine had received £200m, and had passed £14m to Christian Aid.

What does a charity do with such a large sum, especially when it has no work in the relevant place? Christian Aid always works through other agencies who are active in the relevant country so it has in turn worked with Hungarian Inter Church Action, Act Alliance, and HEKS (Swiss Church Aid) all charities it works regularly with, which it knows and trusts to operate quickly when required.

One of the major items already delivered into Ukraine are Trauma Packs, medical packs for the use of emergency workers. It is good to hear how the charity bodies co-operate so closely to ensure that our gifts are used efficiently and effectively.

There will be more opportunities to give to Christian Aid work elsewhere in the world during Christian Aid week 15th to 22nd May, when we shall have a delivery only envelope collection with collection points in churches and in the Market Place on Saturday 21st May. There will also be stalls there and we would welcome contributions of cakes, plants and books for those on the day.

Ruth Sillitoe

Abingdon Community Larder at Trinity

Trinity Church hall hosts the Abingdon Community Larder every Friday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm. Membership is open to all and is £3.50 a week for individuals or £7 a week for families (plus a one-off £10 joining fee). So, what exactly is the Community Larder?

Through Didcot-based SOFEA we take supermarket surplus food which would otherwise end up in landfill. Often the food is well within date but is excess to what the supermarkets can sell, or it's a seasonal line (such as Christmas-branded Pringles tubs in January!). Membership gets you 10 or 20 ambient items such as bread, breakfast cereals, cooking sauces, pasta, tinned veg, soup and, in addition, a selection of fresh fruit and veg. We get different stock every week and you should get food to the value of 3-4 times your weekly subscription. With ever-rising bills this can help the household budget stretch further and supply is scaled up as membership increases so you don't have to be concerned that you're taking food from someone with greater need. We're not a food bank – we provide great value food but also tackle food waste too and money generated from the larders is directed back into SOFEA which provides support and education for young people and adults.

If all that isn't enough to convince you to join then we've just started serving teas and coffees so members can stay around for a chat after they've finished shopping.

To find out more or sign up then please see SOFEA's website: <https://www.sofea.uk.com/purpose-projects/community-larder/> (S. Oxon. Food and Education Alliance)



Modern Beatitudes

Blessed are those who can doubt, for they shall know.

Blessed are those who can dream, for they shall see.

Blessed are those who can give, for they shall receive.

*Blessed are those who can read between the lines,
for they shall understand.*

*Blessed are those who know how to run risks,
for they shall be secure.*

*Blessed are those who know how to listen,
for they shall be listened to.*

*Blessed are those who do not give way to fear,
for nothing can happen to them.*

*Blessed are those who read foreign newspapers,
for they shall know what is happening.*

*Blessed are those who know how to lose a little time,
for they shall have all the time in the world*

Blessed are those who want to be useful, for they are.

*Blessed are those who get to know their neighbours,
for they shall be called human beings.*

From an Oxford Methodist Church newsletter in 1962.





Sun 1st	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ian
Mon 2nd		Bank Holiday
Wed 4th	5.00pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 5th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Fri 6th		Virtual Prayer Group
Sun 8th	10.30am	Morning Worship, with JaM, led by Helen Carter
Thurs 12th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
	7.30pm	Thursday Group - Treasures
Fri 13th		Virtual Prayer Group
Sat 14th	2.00pm	Floral Extravaganza at St. Michael's Church <i>see p13</i>
Sun 15th – 21st		Christian Aid Week <i>see p13</i>
Sun 15th	10.30am	Morning Worship, with Communion, led by Ian And talk about Trinity Learning <i>see p13</i>
Mon 16th	2.00pm	Evergreen Club: Talk from The Hands on Oxfordshire Heritage Team
Thurs 19th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Fri 20th		Virtual Prayer Group
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Morning Worship, with JaM, led by Revd. Pauline Main
Thurs 26th		Ascension Day
	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Sun 29th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ian

JUNE

Thurs 2nd		Bank Holiday – The Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday
Fri 3rd		Church Jubilee Celebration Event

DEADLINE FOR JUNE TRIANGLE

Friday 20th May

Please send to Cynthia Bartlett (cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk)
AND TO Val Dalby (vadalby17@gmail.com)

Saturday 14 May, 2pm, Floral Extravaganza at St Michael & All Angel's Park Road. Anna Steven, Chelsea gold medallist and NAFAS judge creates spectacular flower arrangements to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Followed by refreshments. Tickets £10 available from the Bookstore, Abingdon from 18 April.



There will be a short talk about TrinityLearning on Sunday 15th May during the service. Nicola will tell us how Experience Easter was delivered to the schools last term and the plans for the term ahead.



Christian Aid Week 15 -21 May 2022: Christian Aid works in over 29 countries around the world, helping to save lives and support people in the long term - we have the opportunity to help make this work possible. By delivering collection envelopes we are spreading the understanding

of how & where Christian Aid works, and giving the residents of Abingdon a chance to become supporters of this ongoing work. If you would like to help with this you would only be asked to deliver the Christian Aid collection envelopes to one street in Trinity's area of Abingdon, at a time to suit you between the dates shown above. There is no need to knock or collect, the 'deliver only' method of collection aims to reach more homes and boost donations, so we need lots of volunteers. Please speak to Adam Hager to find out more. email adamhager@tiscali.co.uk



Trinity Evergreen

On Monday 16th May and we are having a Talk and Demonstration given by a member from The Hands on Oxfordshire's Heritage Team.

We understand that we will all be able to look and touch things from bygone days. This promises to be great fun.

As always Refreshments and Raffle - normal start time of 2.0 pm

Tricia Cook

Selina's Letter

Dear Friends,

One of the things that I really treasure about being part of a Religious Order within the Methodist Church, is that I belong to a community of sisters and brothers, for whom we pray daily, each of us having several prayer days throughout the year when Ministers in the Order and those related to the Order, are prayed for by name in an intentional manner.



As part of our discipline, we are fully committed to meeting regularly in our area groups, during the year; sometimes we are called to meet in regional groups and once a year we are required to attend Convocation, which during the pandemic, had to be on-line, and we have felt the loss of meeting together most acutely.

Convocation always happens in May, and this year we are hoping and praying that it will be in person once again. We have really, REALLY missed that part of our discipline! When we come together as a community, we mourn and give thanks for our Ministers who have died; we come to pray and sing our faith together and deepen our discipleship; we joyously welcome new student deacons, and celebrate with those recently ordained; we undertake the business of the Community by conferring together; we share ideas and are inspired, challenged and encouraged by one another; we often seek out particular sisters or brothers to rekindle friendships, and we will often pray together; all this we do to share the bonds of love that we have for one another, and that coming together strengthens and grows our community.

Dispensations are given by the Warden for the over 80s, otherwise, you have to have a very valid reason for a dispensation such as illness. However, it really IS such a joy to be with one another, that we LONG to be there in person because we know just how essential it is to maintaining a vibrant, vital and healthy community.

Many church communities, have, in spite of the reduction of restrictions, seen a significant drop in church attendance on a Sunday. For a small number of people, concerns about covid and its effects remain a very real and substantial threat to health, and of course some people work when we gather, or care for loved ones, but that does not account for all of the decline in numbers.

Some have found other preferences more favourable to gathering for worship, which undermines the cohesion and results in a loss of vibrancy and vitality, and Trinity is no exception to this trend. The most lamentable aspect of coming out of lockdown for me, has been the lack of children returning to JAM. It can be an exceedingly daunting prospect for some children to come along, only to find that they are the only ones in JAM, and so this is relevant for all ages!

In 2018, I wrote about the “ministry of turning up,” a phrase coined by Tony Payne in his book “How to Walk into Church,” and he said this; “In reality, what really stops many of us from turning up more frequently to church is a failure to grasp just how vital the ‘ministry of turning up’ really is. One of the most important acts of love and encouragement we can all engage in is the powerful encouragement of just being there—because every time I walk into church, I am wearing a metaphorical t-shirt that says, “God is important to me, and you are important to me”. And on the back it says, “And that’s why I wouldn’t dream of missing this.”

About being absent he goes on to say, “ We can’t love people; we can’t talk to them and encourage them; we can’t gather with them to listen together to God’s word. All of this hangs on the rather simple prerequisite of actually being there.”

St Paul in Hebrews 10 vs24-25 urges the communities to meet together; “ let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” It goes without saying that from those very small early Christian communities arose “the church universal”, which today numbers approximately 2.39 billion Christians world-wide!

Coming together is a vital element of our calling as disciples of Christ, in deepening our living faith and in strengthening and growing our communities. We come to church not only to be loved and blessed by God, but also to love and bless others around us. We come not to spectate or consume, nor even to have our own personal encounter with God, but we come to love and to serve one another and to be life givers in community. So if you haven’t been for a while, or have stopped coming each week, please do reconsider just how vital you are!

With love and blessings

Deacon Selina

Thursday Group

Our April meeting was planned for a flower arranging demonstration but unluckily Judith Payne has had a broken arm so we decided to 'have a go' ourselves assisted by some more expert flower arrangers in our group. These are the results!



*Lord we pray for the world of your creating,
Where the misery and tragedy of wrong choices
grieves Your heart of love..*

*Let there be wisdom and compassion
in all negotiations and decisions;
let there be humility in leadership
and responsibility for right action shared by all.
Through our lives and by our prayers, your kingdom come.*





TRINITY JUNE FAIR

Saturday June 18th 2022

Just a reminder that the June Fair will include cakes, socks, jewellery, toiletries, toys, books and plant stalls and a Bottle Raffle and a Hamper Raffle. All contributions to these stalls will be greatly appreciated.

We hope for Games from the Uniformed organisations, or other groups, as well as Ice Cream. If you can, please invite shops or your neighbours to donate. There will NOT be a Bric-a-Brac stall as people are getting rid of unwanted goods and so will not really want to buy any more.

If you have, at home, watches or jewellery, even if they are broken, be assured that they will be properly valued by a jeweller and the Church will then be offered a fair price for them. This has worked well for some years now.

WANTED Lots of NEW SOX! Not for a Giant Centipede with cold feet! But for our gift stall. New socks for adults, children, babies, toddlers, any colour or pattern, all will be gratefully received. Please pop them into the box in the vestibule in the Church or give them to Doreen Keaney or Eve Newton.

Many thanks!





Trinity Learning

New volunteering opportunities—volunteer with us in school or from home!

The Essential Trustee
6 main duties



Trustees - We're currently looking for new Trustees from a range of backgrounds to join our current Board of Trustees. We welcome Trustees from a wide range of backgrounds with an equally wide variety of skills and experiences, and we support all our new Trustees with a thorough induction and relevant ongoing learning

opportunities. To find out more about what Trustees do and our Trustee roles visit our website: <https://trinitylearning.org.uk/trustees/>

Volunteering Opportunities - We have volunteering opportunities which are more socially distanced, such as helping to tidy up school gardens, or can be done from home, such as crocheting tiny teddy bears to include in our child bereavement packs for adults working with bereaved children. Our in-school volunteering opportunities are now fully up and running again!



Thinking Books - involves volunteer mentors sharing a carefully chosen book with a child or small group of children over 10 sessions. The focus is on discussing characters' feelings to help children think about other's feelings and develop empathy. There are notes to accompany each of the books, and volunteers receive initial training and regular follow up sessions. We are now recruiting for Thinking Books volunteers for the next school year and will be running training in the summer term and September. If you are looking for a rewarding regular volunteer activity and can offer to volunteer for around an hour a week please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com to find out more.



Kingfisher Singing Group -

This group meets weekly at Kingfisher school to sing nursery rhymes and other simple, fun songs with children who have serious disabilities. Our volunteers describe the sessions as extremely rewarding and the group is met with huge enthusiasm

and appreciation from both children and staff. If you can sing with enthusiasm and

could volunteer for an hour a week on Wednesday mornings please let us know!

If you are interested in volunteering for TrinityLearning, either in a socially distanced capacity, or in a school-based role, such as through the Kingfisher Singing Group, please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com. TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding. We provide full training and support volunteers through the application process and DBS checks.

Dates for your diary:

Nicola Williams will be sharing a quick overview of TrinityLearning's Covid activities and plans for the future at the Trinity Church service on 15th May.

It is time for all child-facing volunteers to update their Safeguarding Training ready for the next school year. We will be running Safeguarding Training on 16th June 12:30- 3:30pm, 27th June 9:30 -12:30am and 15th September 3:30-6:30pm. Please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com to let us know which session you would prefer.

Stay in the know: Our TrinityLearning Facebook page has new posts added regularly, so it's a great place to keep up to date with news in between our volunteer newsletters. Join us at www.facebook.com/TrinityLearning-108933674177652/



Bible Birds

1. What birds did Noah send out from the ark to see if the floods had gone down?
2. Elijah was fed by what birds while he lived in the desert?
3. Mary and Joseph made an offering of what birds when they took the baby Jesus to the temple?
4. When Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist, the Spirit of God descended like what bird?
5. What five birds are sold for two copper coins?
6. The psalmist longed for its wings.
7. This one 'leaveth her eggs in the earth and warmeth them in dust.
8. Twice in the Wilderness God provided the Israelites with this bird for food.



May - Day Song

The moon shines bright, the stars give a light
A little before 'tis day:
So God bless you all, both great and small,
And send you a joyful May

We have been rambling all the night,
And almost all the day:
And now, returning back again,
We have brought you a bunch of May.

A branch of May we have brought you,
And at your door it stands;
It is but a sprout, but it's well budded out
By the work of our Lord's hands.

The hedges and trees they are so green,
As green as any leek:
Our heavenly Father, He watered them
With his heavenly dew so sweet.

The Heavenly gates are open wide,
Our paths are beaten plain:
And if a man be not too far gone,
He may return again.

The moon shines bright, the stars give a light
A little before 'tis day:
So God bless you all, both great and small,
And send you a joyful May

Anon



Answers to 'Birds in the Bible' Quiz

1. A raven and a dove (Genesis 8:7 - 8)
2. Ravens (1 Kings 17:6)
3. A pair of Turtle Doves or 2 young pigeons (Luke 2, v24)
4. A dove (Matthew 3:16)
5. 5 sparrows (Luke 12, V 6)
6. A dove (Psalm 55, 6)
7. An ostrich (Job 39:13,14)
8. Quail (Exodus 16,13)



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