

Trinity Church Meeting
Sunday 23rd March 2025
After the morning service, 12 noon.

Present: Revd. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson (Chair), Rebecca Brawn, Lindsay Busby, Val Dalby, Ruth Dams, Barbara Deakin, Katie Doney, Alastair Fear, Judith Fear, Griff Fellows, Scilla Fellows, Sarah Gibson, Margaret Greaney, Carolyn Hawkes, John Hutton, Tom Jarratt, Margaret Langsford, Pauline Main, Eve Newton, Malcolm Newton, Dcn. Selina Nisbett, Neil Oastler, David Perrow, John Prout, Rosemary Richards, Lynnette Seymour-Jackson, Ruth Sillitoe, Gordon Skidmore (Circuit steward), Heather Townsend, Stuart Townsend, Olive Vaughan, Reg Williams.

Apologies for absence: Cynthia Bartlett, Ian Brawn, Clare James, Elizabeth Oastler, Judith Payne, Nigel Payne, Leif Rasmussen, Petronella Rasmussen.

Opening prayer: Georgina

1. Approval of the minutes of 13th October 2024:

These minutes were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising:

The defibrillator would cost about £2000 plus fitting, so Alastair and Reg are awaiting the next round of URC grants in order to apply for funding.

3. -

4. Property:

Neil reported that the internet in the Conduit Centre is working, but that he and Alastair are working on the internet in the church. Neil reported that progress is continuing with the necessary minor repairs.

Thanks are due to Malcolm who has overseen the plastering in the church.

5. Finance:

Tom presented an update on our finances as at the end of February, which is halfway through our financial year, with reference to the initial budget in September 2024.

Interest rates are down compared with last year. Income stands at £87k rather than the £97k. budget.

Expenditure on repairs has been £9.9K already, compared with the £10k budgeted for the whole year.

QR codes are now on the notice boards. A card reader will follow once the internet is available in the church to enable us and visitors to donate to church funds.

Tom was thanked for all the work he does on our church finances.

6. Conversation on Prayer: Building each other up.

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing".

(1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Give us each day our daily bread (Luke 11:3)

Give us today our daily bread (Matthew 6:11)

We were, in small groups, asked (for just a few minutes) to consider 4 questions:

Question 1: How do you understand this phrase? Responses were...

"Who do we mean by 'us'?", "Our prayers should include those who do not have bread", "praying in church, led by someone better than us", "those who depend on us for daily bread - we need it too", "trusting God for what we need for a day", "Daily bread is a symbol for everything we need in life"

Question 2: What does it tell you about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit? Responses were...

"God already knows our needs and what is good for us", "Examples of this are the manna from heaven, the last supper, the feeding of the 5000", "the key word is TRUST - we know it will be provided", "a way of keeping in contact with each other", "Faith in God in all we do".

Question 3: What bible stories do the attributes from Qu 2 remind you of? Responses were...

"Cast your nets on the other side of the boat", "Elijah", "Jesus is the bread of life", "Eat this bread (in communion)", "Judas - how we approach those who we find difficult", "Joseph and the Pharaoh through the lean years".

Question 4: How could you live this out? Responses were...

"We need to be aware thankfully every day", "By giving to food banks, and by the spiritual nourishment of going to church, resources in ways of coping, supporting each other and giving to others - not just food", "Receiving graciously", "Passing on bread and faith in word and deed, as in communion - the bread of life", "It is why we go to church...".

7. GDPR.

The trustees studied the current GDPR papers at their recent meeting (General Data Protection Regulations). Alastair pointed out that anyone holding lists of people's contact details (eg elders, group organisers etc) must comply with the regulations and keep contact details secure and updated. It is about managing risks.

Photographs can only be published (Trinity website, Triangle etc) with the permission of the person photographed.

8. Future Events

A list of Holy Week services was distributed in the notices. In addition there will be a special Toddlers Easter service on April 3rd. Join the Walk of Witness on Good Friday, 11.45 from the library to the market Square where a very short service is held. All Saints invite members of Trinity to join them for their Easter Sunday breakfast at 9.15am.

Our Church Anniversary on Sunday afternoon, June 1st:

Plans are underway! Visiting preachers etc may need accommodation hosts.

Signing up lists for the catered afternoon tea are in the Welcome area.

Carolyn suggested a possible "guided tour" of some of the interesting features of the building. Lynnette thought there may be a past one in the archives.

Georgina thanked Neil and the team who are organising the event.

9. Can You Help?

Georgina asked for people interested in becoming a trustee to ask for more information.

JAM, which meets only every fortnight, needs to have a new team of volunteers to lead the children on a rota basis, once a month for example.

Selina mentioned a leaflet about Pastoral services.

Whereas the Conduit centre is well used, the same cannot be said for the church building. Georgina asks us to think how we can promote the use of the church building itself. In the 150th anniversary year of completion of the building this is a worthy aim.

Judith suggested we promote the church building over the Heritage weekend in September. "Ride and Stride" encourages visitors, also in September.

Georgina thanked Gordon Skidmore for coming to join us this morning.

Selina closed the meeting with a prayer, after which, at Georgina's suggestion, we sang "Let Love Come Among Us", holding hands with those near us.

The meeting ended at 1pm.