

Trinity Methodist Church Felixstowe, Annual Reports 2018

MINISTERS NOTES FOR ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Circuit Information:

Both Martin Dawes and I have offered to extend our time in the Ipswich Circuit. The next few weeks sees the consultation process. Martin has offered a five year extension and I have offered a two year extension which will take me through to August 2021. The decision whether to accept or reject these offers is the responsibility of the whole Circuit. Thank you for your participation in the process.

A new Circuit Administrator has been appointed in addition to Carol. They will be assisting Ministers with Statistics for Mission to begin with and other items as and when they arise.

All Circuit Ministers will be undertaking extra supervision under the new scheme currently being rolled out by the Methodist Church. This will entail 90 minutes of supervision, six times a year. Ministers will be responsible for raising with the designated Supervisor (Rev'd Derek Grimshaw) issues that are significant and worthy of reflection from across the range of Ministerial practice.

Ecumenical Work;

Much planning is currently taking place concerning our Ecumenical Fun and Faith Event during Felixstowe Carnival weekend on 28th and 29th of July. This involves teams of people sharing in "Open the Book Stories." People are required to help with crafts and welcome visitors into our Fun and Faith Marquee. Please do have a word with me if you are able to help in any way.

See also below re Messy Church

Joint Mission Area Services;

These continue to be well received. The next Mission Area Service will take place at Kirton Chapel on 19th August. The Service will be at 4pm **not** 11am as stated in the plan. We hope to have Holy Communion in the garden and our Speaker will be Marion Coates from the Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal. Our thanks to both David and Fran Keeble for organising the above for us.

Messy Church:

Weekly Messy Church at Wadgate Road continues with more use of Godly Play in recent weeks.

The next Messy Church at Trinity will take place on Saturday 23rd of June; we will be looking at the Story of Creation.

Circuit Work;

I take the opportunity to thank both Debbie Peck and Dawn Bone for their ongoing work in Circuit. I would also like to thank Sue Hockenhull for her much appreciated work as Senior Steward at Seaton Road. Sue will be stepping down as Senior Steward later in the year. Many thanks to Carol Lockett for her vision and hard work in starting the Saturday Coffee morning at Trinity. Carol continues to cook at the Day Centre.

A number of individuals have been assisting at Seaton Road in this time of Prayerful transition. Sue France as Circuit Enabler and a number of Supernumerary Ministers. The Rev Jo Jacobs has been offering Fellowship Meals followed by a time of Reflection and Prayer. We have found her contributions most helpful.

Our thanks to Revs Jane & Mike Cassidy for leading us with such insight during Holy Week. "Broken" proved to be very challenging and thought provoking material.

Schools Work; Thanks to the continuing work of the Open the Book team, Kids Club Holiday clubs and the Godly Play after School Club. There is a good deal of outreach work in these activities.

Future Circuit events:

Circuit Quiet Day at Kirton Chapel on 21st July from 10am -4pm.

Light Refreshments provided please bring a packed lunch. The format will include Godly Play in the Morning and the option of Arts and Crafts or Silent Prayer in the afternoon. There will also be the opportunity to share in Holy Communion at the end of the day. No charge but donations are requested for the Kirton Redevelopment project.

Circuit Weekend away;

Derek has asked me to look into the possibility of organising a Circuit weekend away, more details to follow.....

Fundraising at the Manse;

Earlier in the year it was a real joy to host the buffet to raise funds for the Missionary work currently being carried out by Steve and Catriona.

On Saturday 11th August there will be a Buffet at the Manse from 2pm -4pm for the work of The Bible Society.

On Saturday 29th of September 2pm -4pm. there will be a Buffet at the Manse in aid of Walton Parish Nursing.

Other Events; 30th June. Lucy Moore well known for her work with Messy Church will be leading a morning Session with breakfast starting at 9am at Capel St. Mary Methodist Church. Some places are still available. Andy Kelso (Rev Elvis) returns on the evening of the same day to Trinity, 7.30pm start tickets from Jean and John Clarke or on the door.

New Developments;

The Rev Yvonne Hay and I have just started a once a month Bible Study at Landseer Road Methodist; No Labels and The Hobbies club at Seaton Road have been recent developments; Thank you to John Gilet & Daryl Reed and all the team. This work has highlighted for us all, the great need of good Mental Health Support Services.

Costa Coffee, Hamilton Road, Felixstowe. As I write we are in negotiations with Costa Coffee & CAP (Christians Against Poverty). We hope to offer one night a month at the Coffee Shop offering friendship and informal Christian Witness.

Seaton Road plan to offer a once a month Sunday service at 4pm in the Afternoon. This would consist of a Godly Play session, tea and cake. We hope to start this in the New Year.

Prayer Meetings;

Silent Prayer at Trinity 12.30 -1.30pm every Monday.

10am Trimley Methodist every Tuesday

10.30am Seaton Road every Thursday.

Church Membership

At close of the connexional year we would have received five new members.

As we continue to seek God's guidance and blessing and look for new ways of making disciples, may I take this opportunity of thanking you all for your Christian Commitment and dedication.

Rev Diane Smith June 2018.

Stewards Report June 2018

The stewards have supported the regular services and a number of additional services and events to provide the maximum help in maintaining the very lively church that we enjoy today. There is an ongoing planned need for fund raising for our church via coffee mornings and, recently, a successful Table Top sale which need the presence of stewards to help set up and clear down. We have also been blessed with three new members joining with their membership services supported by the stewards helping to make the events a special and memorable day.

We are also thankful for, and help support, the healing services held every 2 months which provide much needed calm and help for those suffering sickness or stressed by sickness of a close individual.

In addition, there is always unfailing help (not just from stewards) from those operating the sound desk and image projection that enhances the services plus the welcome at the door for those arriving for services, the support of refreshments at the end of services, the setting up and clearing away of the drop-in Open4U facilities each week (during term time), the planning and support of the bible readings at the regular services, and the event accommodation bookings. Largely these things just 'happen' without being formally acknowledged.

We are pleased also with the success of the coat rail initiative set up by one of our stewards.

John Adams -Senior Steward

Action for children

This is the Methodist Children's charity. We support it most years with our "Cash Cascade" – we collect small (and large!) coins and run a cake stall. Last year due to illness and busyness we did not hold this event. I hope I will get my act together to hold one this year.

Alison Davies

All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development Fund)

All We Can (formerly MRDF) exists to bring about significant and long term change in some of the world's most marginalised communities, and to empower people to change structures that are oppressive and unjust.

To achieve this, All We Can has three core priorities:

- Contribute to the eradication of poverty, through transformative long-term development, and disaster relief
- Increase the effectiveness of overseas partner organisations to contribute to the eradication of poverty
- Challenge the causes of poverty and injustice through education and advocacy, both in the UK and overseas

The vision of All We Can is for a world where people living in marginalised communities have the resources, opportunities and skills to take control of their own development, and to challenge unjust structures.

Trinity Methodist Church donated £352 to All We Can this year.

Graham Thompson -Trinity Methodist Church's All-We-Can Co-ordinator

Baptisms

Since the last Annual Meeting we have held one baptism. Cameron Parsons came to be baptised and was supported by his family and many friends. We look forward to offering more families the opportunities to be part of our church.

Alison Davies

Bible study group

This group continues to meet each week. The meeting time has been changed to Monday afternoons, starting at 2pm at the request of several group members. We have been studying the gospel reading set for the following Sunday, except during Advent and Lent when we joined people from other churches in short courses.

From September we are planning to study the 'Discipleship' course which lasts 34 weeks and will take us through to next summer. This course involves daily readings covering most of the Bible, together with weekly meetings to discuss the issues raised. If you would like to join us, please talk to Val Jinks or Michael Peck.

Mike Peck

Book Stall

We set Trinity's book stall up in March 2016 to raise funds for the church along with CDs & DVDs. Anna makes greeting cards and we have been given knitted items to sell. It has grown in popularity for not only our congregation but people that come to the coffee mornings. It is also a community table with people chatting about books they have read. Barry Harding made a book case on wheels so we can wheel the books out of the church when needed. This has been a great asset. Since April 2017 – 27th May 2018 we have raised £426.23. Thank to everyone that has contributed or bought items from the book stall.

Jean and John Clarke

Christian Aid

Christian Aid is an agency of the churches in Britain and Ireland which works for relief and development in the poorest countries of the world. Founded on Christian faith, Christian Aid seeks to change an unjust world and show practical love and care by working in partnership to eradicate the causes of poverty and striving to achieve equality and dignity for all, regardless of faith or nationality.

In the financial year to June 2017 the Felixstowe Christian Aid Group raised £7969 through street and house-to-house collections and other events. In the most recent Christian Aid Week (May 2018) Trinity collectors and individual donors raised nearly £800 of which more than half was gift aided.

A big thank you to all who gave of their time, money and prayerful support, especially to Pat who took part in the house to house collection for the first time. However, our band of collectors is dwindling and we need more volunteers to be able to keep up this work.

After 3 years serving as Chair of the group, Edna Collins stood down this year and we have gratefully welcomed Jacobs to succeed her.

Stephen Wyatt -Christian Aid Week organiser, Felixstowe

Coat Rail - Need a Coat??

In December 2016 my daughter pointed me in the direction of a new initiative going on in Colchester. It involved the distribution of donated coats to anyone who needed one. I contacted the person who started the coat-rail in Colchester and she happily gave me her story. She had heard of it from a friend in Yorkshire so it seemed right it had found its way to me!

I took it to God in prayer, made a few phone calls and put out a plea for unwanted coats on Facebook. I was inundated with offers of coats and my partner and I started collecting. We had all sorts of coats, including children's, and before long my coat rail was at breaking point. As fast as we put them out more came in, fortunately Basics Charity came to my rescue with a large retail-type rail. We started at the beginning of January 2017 and have not looked back.

Of course, we had doubters! How could we be sure that we were not being taken advantage of? Our mantra was that if we could help just one person be warm then we had done our job. One of our first recipients told us how he had only had one coat for four years! We sent him on his way with two! One warm and one waterproof. Our story was picked up by BBC Radio Suffolk and I was interviewed on the James Hazell show. It became a full time commitment and I was very grateful to friends who helped out. When we finished in April last year we had estimated the distribution of 200 coats! I was asked to "man" a stall at Synod and several other churches expressed an interest.

As winter approached last year we started preparing to launch "the rail" in the new year. However, the weather changed rapidly and we put the coats out at the end of November. More coats came in along with scarves, hats and gloves. I was contacted by an former colleague with a request for unwanted fleeces to go, via his church, to

an Anglican Church in Nairobi, who help in one of the biggest slums in Northern Nairobi and a girls school in Meru. We had a considerable number of fleeces so have been happy to share the load. I have been so grateful for the help I've received during the last five months, I could not have done it on my own. We have now closed down, as the warm weather arrives, and estimate this years total number of coats given out is around 300! Of course, this does mean a big commitment to put the rail out and bring it in each day. Several groups helped me but it would be so much better if we had a gazebo-type structure to protect the coats so they could be left out at night. Can you help with this or in any other way? We'll be back in the Autumn so if you have any coats we will put out a plea in September/October.

Madeleine Ellis

Fairtrade Report

The Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum has secured Fairtrade town status for Felixstowe since 2009 and this was renewed again in 2017. This means that the Town Council actively supports Fairtrade, that a significant number of shops, cafes and businesses sell or use Fairtrade products, that a number of community organisations (such as schools and churches) have committed to Fairtrade and that there is a continuing campaign to raise public awareness.

The Forum organised several successful activities during Fairtrade Fortnight in February, including coffee mornings, health walk, youth event, displays and competitions. See the website of the Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum for details of our activities including a list of shops and cafes selling Fairtrade goods.

www.felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk

A Suffolk Association of Fairtrade Towns has been formed and will be holding its annual event on Saturday June 30th here at Trinity when the Chief Executive of the national Fairtrade Foundation will speak at an open meeting at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.

Trinity is a Fairtrade church and uses Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar. The Fairtrade Forum Steering Group meets on Trinity's premises.

The Fairtrade stall is now managed by Iris Allsop from the URC and items can be ordered from her. See Stephen Wyatt in the first instance. Fairtrade goods are readily available in many shops. The widest range is in the Solar Co-op store. Please continue to buy Fairtrade products when you can.

Trinity has also invested a small sum in Shared Interest which provides capital loans to small businesses in developing countries.

You may remember Patrick, the Kenyan Fairtrade tea farmer, who visited in 2016. Recent severe flooding has badly damaged the subsistence crops on which communities in his neighbourhood rely. We are exploring setting up a hardship fund to be administered through the local Methodist Church. Please see me for more details if you are interested.

Stephen Wyatt -Secretary Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum

Finance Report

God has been good to us and we are a very fortunate church in many ways! The financial summary comparing this year with the same period over the past two years - 1st September to 8th May:

Under our heading of General Fund:

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Income (Offering & donations):	£24903.06	£19179.81	£17561.04
Saturday coffee *			£3385.87
Expenditure: Assessment:	£16312.00	£14518.00	£13542
Worship	£ 2259.66	£ 1692.63	£1395.46

*The income from Saturday Coffee morning has been allocated to the General Fund from September as instructed by the Church Council. Previously it was categorised as Efforts and therefore allocated to the Property Fund- an error in understanding by me. This has resulted in the marked decrease in the fortunes of the Property Fund

Our Property Fund:

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Income (Lettings and Efforts):	£13251.55	£14421.02	£8791.86
Expenses:	£13411.17	£12833.30	£15610.32

A detailed breakdown of the accounts is submitted to the October Church Council. If anyone would like to have sight of last year's accounts I can provide a copy.

As many of you are aware I can claim tax back on donations to church under two different schemes – Gift Aid and GASDs (Gift Aid Small Donations.). The Gift Aid scheme allows people who are tax payers to register and I can claim 25% of any traceable donations to church. So a £10 donation means the church can get an extra

£2.50. If you have not signed up for this scheme and are a tax payer, please contact me for details. The GASDs scheme is more complex for me to administer but does not require people to register. I can claim back 25% of any **DONATIONS** made to church. Monies raised as part of specific fund raising events cannot be claimed. Thank you for all you are doing to support our church financially.
Alison Davies

Flower Rota

The Rota is running very smoothly every Sunday is covered by the people who donate and those who arrange the flowers for that person in memory of a loved one.

The total money I have in the flower float at the moment is £154.39 I have had donations of money throughout the year. As I have quite a good float I am donating £50.00 to Alison Davies for the church gardens account which I hope everyone agrees too.

Obviously the amount will change when I have to replenish the things that are needed to help the arrangers with their task.

I would like to thank everyone who helped or donated the daffodils at Easter as the church looked amazing.

I would also like to thank everyone who give their time and money to have flowers arranged in the church every Sunday, as they always look so lovely.

Gina Folksman

Healing and Wholeness

Every two months on a Sunday evening at 6pm in Trinity Methodist Church Rev. Jo Jacobs holds a service of Healing and Wholeness. She is assisted by Elizabeth Storey and Neil Hepplethwaite. These services are a quiet and peaceful time of prayer and reflection. Names of those we wish to pray for are recorded and candles may be lit. We share a time of worship and there is always a short address. There is a time for Laying on of Hands for prayer. Some people who come just like to sit quietly and take comfort from the ambience in the church and in knowing that someone cares. The recorded names will all be prayed for and Elizabeth will continue to pray for them between the services. At the end of the meeting Communion is offered to those who want to partake of this sacrament. This act in itself many find reassuring and healing.

Elizabeth and Neil are willing to meet on a one to one basis with anyone who wanted or needed continued pray between the services.

I always come home from these services feeling very uplifted and we would warmly welcome anyone who wanted to attend.

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 Peter5:7

Anna Porter

Holiday Club 2017 - Watt-a-Lott Castle

Our Holiday club was a great fun filled week for the children and adults alike. We all learned about being knights and how the "armour of God" helps us in our lives. Ratty and Stinky our two puppet friends visited and were as popular as ever with the children. We always have a great time finding out what adventure the Watt family will have and this year was no exception. The week is an opportunity for us to share God's love with the children and families who come. It is a lot of hard work but great fun too. This year's theme is Psalm Tree Island and all the usual suspects will be there. We are hoping that the children and families will understand from the teaching that God is with us at all different times of our lives through the good times and the bad. All the church family can be involved in the week by coming and helping during the week, helping with preparation of resources or supporting us in your prayers.

Alison Davies

Holy Week

Holy Week 2018 was, by request, led by Mike & Jane Cassidy and venues across the four Felixstowe Methodist Churches were used from Monday to Maundy Thursday (evenings).

This year we based our conversations on the very moving and challenging BBC drama entitled "Broken" (written and directed by Jimmy McGovern) where the actor, Sean Bean, brilliantly plays a (personally) 'troubled' but extremely caring Roman Catholic priest called Father Michael Kerrigan whose parish is located in an inner city area and whose congregation face various individual life challenges from raising a family amid very significant financial constraints to deciding that suicide is the only answer to years of embezzlement that is about to be made public (and a whole host of other issues in between).

The groups watched four of the six episodes and tried to make connections between the

issues of the individual people's stories and 'what was going on' in Holy Week.
It was a very interesting and challenging four days, culminating in Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday.

Mike and Jane Cassidy

Knit and Chat

The group continues to meet at Thursday coffee mornings throughout the year.

Over the past year the group have been very productive. It has donated knitted items to different charities and made items to sell, raising money for the 'John Le Vay' Centre.

At Christmas, Trinity displayed a nativity scene, commissioned by Emma and knitted by one of the more talented members.

The group has been on a number of outings. Reverend Diane Smith arranged a visit to the Port and also accompanied the group when they attended a meeting with some refugees currently living in Ipswich. This was an opportunity to meet some of the recipients of the knitted items and also to hear some of their experiences. Plans for the future include a sponsored walk, an outing to Snape and of course more knitting and sewing. Members of the group appreciate the opportunity to meet, offer each support and doing something which benefits others. They also appreciate the warm welcome they receive from Trinity folk. *Debbie Peck*

Messy Church

We had a good turn out for Messy Church on 17 March, So our messy theme was on St Patrick Patron Saint of Ireland. Plenty of green on the day, from table clothes, balloons, paints and icing. Story telling and Godly Play. Children had lovely time with plenty of items they had made to take home. A 'feast' enjoyed by the children and their parents.

We had a good few helpers on the day to help things go smoothly. Look forward to their help again for the next Messy Church.

Emma Elwell

Methodist Fund for World Mission

The Methodist Fund for World Mission works with partner churches overseas in a wide variety of evangelistic and social activities in some of the world's poorest communities. It gives co-operative aid and funding to education, medical, urban, agricultural and development projects, bringing hope and healing through our partner churches.

We no longer have a World Mission collection box scheme, but donations are still welcome and can be handed to Alison Davies. The annual contribution made by Trinity Church remains at £500.

I'd like to thank everyone at Trinity who has contributed to the Methodist Fund for World Mission in any way over the years. *Graham Thompson - Church Secretary for World Mission*

Mission in Britain

Home Mission was a bit of a non-event. I sent to the office £200 as a donation from Trinity and £30 as a donation from Trimley. There was another £51 - 88 from Trinity but it didn't go off until May 14th so I think that will have to go into next year's total. Something similar is going to happen this year I am afraid. I apologise for this, put it down to old age.

Margaret Powell

Monday Coffee Mornings

Monday coffee mornings in the church have been running for fifteen years now and continue to be well supported and appreciated by members of our church family and visitors alike. It is pleasing to see people enjoying themselves on a day when there are few functions taking place in our town.

We do not charge for the refreshments we serve, but ask for donations which are donated to charities. The donations received for the church year 2016/2017 were donated to the Alzheimer's Society, Felixstowe Opportunity Playgroup, and our Church Funds, with each receiving £494.

This current church year, the donations will support the work of our local Macmillan Cancer Support and ABCD (Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability). ABCD promotes the relief and rehabilitation of children with a physical and/or mental disability from the West Bank and The Gaza Strip by the establishment of residential facilities, vocational training and the provision of other services and equipment to help the children and their families.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years.

Graham Thompson -On behalf of the Monday Coffee Morning Team

Open 4 U

Open 4 U has continued to thrive. This term we have averaged 70 children accompanied by their carers on the premises each Wednesday during term time. The volunteers who facilitate the session are people from our congregation and from outside the church. It is amazing how faithful the volunteers have been to our outreach and I am very grateful for their support.

Each week we plan a "make" which the children can take home, there are quiet things to do, activities to promote the children's fine motor control and lots of things to race around on!!!!

It is lovely to see that quite a few of our families have joined the activities at Messy Church, and Holiday Club.

Alison Davies

Open the Book

Members of the Open the Book group continue to go in to Colneis and Fairfield schools approximately every three weeks during term time. We present stories during Assembly taken from The Lion Storyteller Bible written by Bob Hartman. There are speaking parts, non-speaking parts and occasionally we act as props. At times a small number of children help out as extras. It is easier to find ways for the children to participate in some of the stories than in others but the pupils are always eager to act out their parts. They mostly listen carefully and seeing how they react is very rewarding for the group. Unfortunately this year we have lost Robin who has gone back to work full-time. We need new members to join as some times it is difficult to cover all the assemblies. Please prayerfully consider whether you would like to make this commitment to helping in this enjoyable work.

Anna Porter

Pastoral Group

Trinity's Pastoral Team of 11 Visitors is responsible for liaising with some 90 individuals and their families within the church. We meet quarterly to add members of the congregation to our list and sadly sometimes it is inevitable that we will lose loved and respected members. Our role is to take on the responsibility of keeping in touch with the people on our list by maintaining regular contact, keeping them updated of church events, visiting if they are unwell or being a 'listening ear,' should they wish to share a problem or worry. On occasions there may be a need to share information with our Minister but we would only take this course of action with the person's permission, respecting confidentiality.

In my experience, people newly attending Trinity Church are happy to share their contact details, in order to be added to our Pastoral list, stating that they find it very comforting to know someone will be particularly looking out and caring for them. With the introduction of the new European Law GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), from the 25th May 2018, we will only be able to hold personal contact details for those who have given us permission by completing and signing the form.

The Sunday Morning steward will make every attempt to talk to visitors and people newly attending Trinity, but I would urge you all to be on the lookout for an unfamiliar face or someone who appears a little less than confident. Please introduce yourself, because a smile or a friendly word could make all the difference. As a church, I think we pride ourselves on offering a very warm welcome to all who set foot over the threshold.

We are all Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Heather Carpenter - Pastoral Group Co-ordinator Tel: 01394 278239

Property Report

Our buildings and facilities are in constant need of upkeep and repair.

This is a resume of the work carried out since the last Annual Meeting:

- The skylight in the small hall has been painted on the inside
- A start has been made on the cleaning of the window bars
- An automatic tap in the South Porch has been installed.
- A new water heater installed in the vestry toilet
- The tiles have been replaced in the accessible toilet in the main hall
- Minor roof repairs made
- The sink waste in the kitchen has been replaced
- Various patches of damp investigated and the down pipes causing them have been replaced and re-secured
- Water seal has been applied some walls and repointing carried out
- The side gate has been mended
- The concrete path behind the oil tank has been repaired
- The urinals in the men's' toilet have been unblocked – involving digging up part of the floor
- A new hob has been installed in the kitchen

In the not too distant future we will be hiring a cherry picker to replace slates on the main hall roof. At the same time the top windows of the church could be decorated so that we make best use of the equipment whilst it is on-site.

Please can all who use the premises be asked to respect it? Including making sure taps and heaters are turned off. It is vital that anyone noticing any damage, or causing accidental damage, reports it to me or a Steward. If you are organising a service or event it would be really good if you could return all furniture to its rightful place – not leave it for someone else to do, unless you know it is to be used for an event immediately following. I plead with anyone organising a service or event where candles are used to make sure the flames are extinguished promptly at the end of the service/event. A candle was left burning from one Sunday Morning Service until I went into church the following morning at found it. The saving grace, and possibly the reason it was not noticed, was that the candle was in a pot. We were very fortunate this time but as I know from home, candles cause fires all too easily. It costs a lot of time and money to keep our premises safe and in good order. A book in which jobs needing attention can be found in the small meeting room.

Our premises are used extensively for activities related to the church but also many and varied other activities. Regular users include:

- The Hamilton School of Dancing
- Scottish Dancing
- CD and Record fairs – in aid of The Crohn's and Colitis Society
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Bereavement Service

Ian Davies

Saturday Coffee Mornings

Saturday Coffee Mornings in Trinity are generally very busy with the usual attendance being between 70-90 people. The excellent range of food provided is donated so money raised goes to church funds. From 1-6-17 to 26-5-18 £4539.87 was donated with a further £1134.97 claimed back by Ali. (£5674.84 in total) This is an excellent amount but recently we have come to realise that some folk are taking a lot of food and donating little or nothing for it. Sometimes we have only biscuits left for the late comers. This is distressing those working and providing on Saturday mornings and also the visitors who are telling us about the lack of donations. At the recent Stewards meeting all those present agreed that we need to suggest a donation (£1.50 for a drink and an item of food) so that there is a more even and fair distribution of the food.

We are very aware that there are people who come to our coffee morning who cannot afford to give very much. We would like to assure them that the food will still be available for them and no one will be turned away or refused a drink. We still continue our Outreach as we are able. We might not have as long as we would like to speak to our visitors but we hope the warmth of our welcome will compensate somewhat.

Finally we would like to thank Carol for her hard work over the years and also to say Well Done as it was her idea a in the first place to start these fund raising mornings.

We look forward to seeing you all and thank you for your continued generosity.

Anna Porter

Safeguarding

There have been no safeguarding incidents reported to the Safeguarding Officer at Trinity in the last year. One Care Plan is in place.

The Safeguarding Policy is attached as a reminder. Added to our policy is some information from Circuit that is on the notice board. Safeguarding training has been organised by the Circuit.

Although I have been unable to attend Methodist Church training I have completed two Safeguarding training course run by Community Action Suffolk in the past year.

Stephen Wyatt - Church Safeguarding Officer

Silent Prayer

Our church is open for silent prayer each Monday lunchtime from 12.30 until 1.30. We have a regular attendance of 6-8 people, not all Trinity folk, who are grateful for the opportunity to be still in God's presence, to pray for others and situations in need of God's healing, assurance, wisdom and guidance. You are very welcome to join us on any Monday, it is not necessary to stay for the whole hour, you may come and go as you wish.

Mike Peck

Sunday Club

With regard to children, since last Autumn our numbers have been extremely disappointing. However, we do need to remind ourselves that quality family time is so important, especially when both parents are at work all week. We are also in competition with children being involved in sporting activities. Sunday Club leaders will continue on a rota until Sunday 22nd July and recommence on Sunday 2nd September.

Looking on the positive side, Messy Church and Holiday Club continues to attract children.

I am indebted to our leaders: Stephen Medway and Heather Prince, lesson preparation and forward planning is still necessary. In order to comply with Child Protection regulations, we are required to have two people on duty each Sunday session, so a big thank you to our helpers: Debbie Peck, Michelle Medway and Jenny Mellor, They answer our plea for help as much as they possibly can.

I remain indebted to Reverend Diane who has continued her 'All Age Worship' services, when she is scheduled to preach at Trinity.

If anyone would like to be part of our team, please contact me.

Heather Carpenter -Tel: 01394 278239

Sunday Evening Services

We continue to offer these services, with congregation size varying from 3 to 40.

Feedback from those attending is positive; the variety of services enables us to explore our faith in different ways.

We are grateful to Reverend Jo Jacobs, Elizabeth Storey and Neil Hephlethwaite for the Healing services, which offer the opportunity to have prayers for healing, to pray in silence, to light a candle and to share in Holy Communion.

We have recently started Contemporary Worship services; these are led by Elizabeth and Neil along with Anne and Ian Clarke. These attract a congregation from around the Circuit.

We thank all those who lead the services and to Michael Peck for ensuring that they happen.

Debbie Peck

Thursday Coffee Mornings

These are continuing on a weekly basis. Numbers vary but there is a core of regular attenders and we continue to welcome a number of people who have never been to Trinity before. Our position opening onto Hamilton Road attracts visitors. Many thanks go to the band of helpers who each give up one morning a month and make sure that everything runs smoothly. Thank you to Martha who has joined us this year and to Anna who helps out on the "fifth" Thursday of the month. If you would like to volunteer to help, please see me. *Stephen Wyatt*

Town Pastors

At time of writing, last night we had our AGM for Town Pastors.

Nowadays Felixstowe is the registered residence for the 'umbrella' body for all town pastors' schemes which to avoid confusion we call 'Town Pastors Central' (TPC), as well as for our local Felixstowe Town Pastors (FTP).

Behind the scenes activities of TP Central include representing all the schemes at 'Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner Accountability Panels', manage and distribute central grants, and dynamically develop TP core values, training, and policies such as safeguarding.

Predominantly, Town Pastors appear to 'change the atmosphere' in the areas they patrol. Of some of the measurable items we record, here are a few statistics. Across all 10 of the Suffolk schemes, y/e 31st March 2017 13,938 people were provided with water / refreshment, there were 1543 recorded encounters with homeless / rough sleepers, 55 recorded situations of domestic tension or violence, 470 people cared for who were 'drunk and incapable', and 554 occasions where pastoral care was given, an increase of 67 on the previous year, also indicating increased numbers of people presenting with mental health problems. TP's alerted CCTV and / or police of 222 incidents and persons of note, and on 193 occasions potentially aggressive situations were calmed reducing risk of personal injury / police intervention or arrests. 4714 dangerous items (mostly glasses / bottles) were removed.

Another year has passed already, and in the past 12 months Jan Bedford our coordinator retired, and the baton was handed over to our new coordinator, Clare Jessup, whilst John Pilborough joined us as treasurer. As always, we could do with more pastors, base prayers and home prayers.

We give thanks for all the practical and prayerful support from Trinity Methodist Church. Prayer is at the heart of all we do, and we value the prayers of our church family as we continue to minister to our town in the wee small hours. FTP work in collaboration with the emergency services, proprietors, local authorities, please do hold them in your prayers also.

Coming up in July, we have Latitude Festival – where we change from yellow to pink hi-viz and become 'Festival Pastors. This year we have just short of 100 Christian volunteers from across the Town Pastor schemes working at this secular event.

Festival goer numbers are expected to exceed 40,000 this year. We run a café in our marquee within the festival village and provide patrols around the site in the day and at night. This year we have artists painting, and two Christian musicians providing music in the café. For the first time we are on

The Sunday evening permitted to have a Sunday Service, praise be! Many of you will be aware that there have been several fatalities already this year at festivals due to drugs. Please do cover this event in prayer, and for the safety of all those at the event, as well as for encounters which point the way to Jesus.

If anyone would like to know more about Town Pastors or speak at your church, please contact Clare on 07799 692997, or drop me a line.

Every Blessing

Peter Livey, Email;

peter.livey@townpastors.org.uk

Tel; 01394 212482



2 Corinthians 5:20 New International Version (NIV)

²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were

making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

John 1:14 The Message (MSG)

14 The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighbourhood.

We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,

Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish.

Trinity Players

Our main activity in 2018 was the production of "Silhouette" by Simon Brett which we performed in the church in March. This was something completely different for us – a straightforward whodunit, although it proved to be anything but straightforward! The play itself was topsy-turvy, and we had a few logistical difficulties (but with tolerance and humour we succeeded). We were delighted to be joined for the first time by Honor Dines and Pat George and another new member promised for next year! Audiences were good and we were able to make donations of £800 to the Salvation Army Homeless Project as well as £200 to Trinity church to cover expenses. To quote from the play "a good job jobbed"!

Trinity Players have been performing publicly since 1992 and during that period we have been able to donate over £10000 to charity as well as having great fun ourselves.

As an amateur Christian Drama group, Trinity Players aim through our work to be part of the church's witness to the community. We are indebted to the Minister and members of Trinity for their continuing support and encouragement and also to Julia Middleton, our director, for her patience and wise guidance.

We welcome new people to act, help with lights, sound, stage building, refreshments, costumes etc. If you are interested, please let us know.

Stephen Wyatt and Julia Middleton

Websites Report - June 2018

Trinity Church maintains a number of websites. There are several on Facebook plus a main website.

The main website, maintained by Ian Clarke, continues to provide the list of upcoming services and events at Trinity and beyond. It also includes a regular Ministers Message from Diane.

The main Facebook Trinity Group page now has 117 members from all over the world. This was a somewhat surprising yet welcome consequence of putting our Facebook website open to and visible to all of the billions of Facebook members. Beyond the 117 members are at least another 150 who choose to read the posts but not become members. Membership entitles a person to post their own contributions to our site.

We provide daily bible readings (following the same order as in the Methodist Prayer Handbook) and a reflection on each reading and, additionally every Sunday, a hymn (usually the one chosen in the Prayer Handbook,

otherwise one recommended in StF Plus for that Sunday). And some prayers chosen from the Methodist Church Prayer of the Day website. An addition is a short write-up on the hymn writer of the chosen hymn each Sunday. We also maintain separate pages for general news from members covering anything they like but with particularly helpful updates from Graham Thompson on products on sale that are unsafe. There is also a history page and a Trinity drama page.

The FB site also provides a noticeboard of posters and news, including messages from the President and Vice President, and initiatives such as the recent Thy Kingdom Come prayer period.

We have also set up and maintain a site for worshippers in Meru, Kenya. A person in Meru (Glorie) had the idea to set up a FB group site there. She wanted it to be identical to ours, after having joined and liked the way our FB Felixstowe site runs. She asked for my help on this. I have just received a report from Glorie's employer which is very pleasing and I add this to the bottom of the report here.

In Meru, Kenya there are many suffering from leprosy with no previous possibility of worship. Following the development of our Trinity Meru Facebook site they now have an actual building and we have helped to buy them some bibles. This email arrived describing the situation...

From : seebitgirlchild@gmail.com

Date : 21/05/2018 - 13:11 (GMTDT)

To : j.l.adams1@btinternet.com

Subject : Re: Glorie

hello Mr John! I really thank God for you , Glorie is now settled , yesterday I attended a church service at the trinity church of Meru and it is so nice well organized and with very vulnerable members . It was a good thought for you all, the community members there are now settled .

I asked Glorie to ensure it get registered by the Kenya social services. Can you please ensure it is registered? Secondly did they tell you they tell you they started by worshiping under a tree and they now have a semi permanent room they worship and pay a rent of Ksh 500?

The rent for the church is very ok for them because they always give tithes!

John Adams

Site Admin

WWDP 2018

Theme: "All God's Creation is Very Good"

This year the service was held at St John's Church on a very cold and snowy Friday 2nd March. In spite of the weather it was well received and enjoyed. There were 42 people in attendance and the theme was very topical in the light of David Attenborough's programme "Blue Planet" which was shown over Christmas and this service has been in the making for the last 2-3 years by the women of Suriname !!! £203 + Gift Aid was banked for the WWDP and £97.59p was raised at the lunch for Christian Aid. Here at Trinity we were able to use the service again for our April Cafe Worship, when it was very well received. There is a motion to change the WWDP into the World Day of Prayer. This was voted on locally and passed unanimously. Next year the service will be held at St Felix RC Church on Friday 1st March at 11.00am and we will of course keep you posted .

Margaret Powell and Jill Tempest

Trinity Methodist Church

Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding Officer: Stephen Wyatt 01394 671033

Minister: Rev Diane Smith 01394 282023

Statement:

The church is committed to safeguarding the rights of children, young people and vulnerable adults to be free from any form of harassment or abuse, regardless of age or gender.

Aims The church will:

- Provide a safe place for people to worship God and learn about God's love, Jesus and the Christian life.

Objectives: The church will:

- Provide a nominated person to whom any reports of abuse should be reported and whose responsibility it is to inform the minister and the relevant authorities.
- Set in place procedures which should ensure people are safe and comply with statutory requirements and Methodist Church guidelines.

Procedures to be employed to promote the safeguarding of people:

1. All adults should be aware of the identity and contact details of the Safeguarding Officer (SO). If the SO cannot be contacted and the matter cannot wait, it should be referred to the Minister.
2. The Minister has a responsibility to ensure that the Methodist Church's policy is followed in relation to Safeguarding. Any complaint about the SO should be referred to the Minister.
3. All groups within the church should have a nominated Safeguarding person whose responsibility is to ensure the group carries out safeguarding procedures.
4. All adults working with children, young people or vulnerable adults should have a DBS check (including the provision of references) and be given appropriate training in safeguarding procedures.
5. Any disclosure made by a child should not be investigated by the person to whom the disclosure is made. The information should be given verbally and in writing to the SO.
6. As far as possible, no adult, engaged in youth work, should be left alone with a child or young person
7. If a child or young person needs to be transported in a car, there should as far as possible be more than one passenger. If this is not possible the young person should be seated in the back of the car regardless of age. Appropriate child restraints should be used.
8. Personal care should be carried out by the parent/carer or a nominated person by them.
9. The use of photographs of children should follow Felixstowe Mission Area policy. Parents should be advised by letter of their right to stop photographs of their children being used. Any photos should only be long shots of children.
10. The Methodist Church website contains further guidance about Safeguarding.
Policy first agreed by Church Council on 28th October 2009.
Last reviewed July 2017
Next review date: June 2018