

# Trinity Methodist Church Felixstowe, Annual Reports 2019

## Minister's Overview

The Annual Church Council Meeting is an ideal opportunity to thank lay members for all the continued hard work and commitment. Thank you to so many of you who gladly and courageously give much time to the Mission Area and Landseer Road.

It is excellent news that the Rev Joan Pell will be joining the Ipswich Circuit in September. Having another full time member of staff will impact us all for good.

Do please come along to Joan's welcome service at 6.30pm for 7pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August at Museum Street, Methodist Church where the preacher will be our Chair of District Julian Pursehouse.

On our agenda for the Annual Church Meeting will include Safeguarding issues. Thank you to all those who attended the recent training at Seaton Road Methodist Church.

Following current data protection requirements we have been asked to look at the Seven Golden Rules (Safeguarding The Methodist Church Policy April 2019.). The rules cover Pastoral care and visiting, as well as online and website instruction. Of most importance is that information about someone should not be passed to a third party without the first persons consent. I will ensure that the relevant part of this document is made available to you all at the meeting.

Current and future outreach work;

Seaton Road are currently hosting an Alpha course. At the time of writing we have been running for a few weeks and on average around 12 people are attending. Thank you to all involved in this work.

Seaton Road will be hosting another Big Breakfast and the numbers at the Time4you worship continue to be good and consistent.

At Trinity, we are indebted to both Val Jinks and Mike Peck for leading the Disciple course with such enthusiasm and skill. When Disciple is completed, I would like to offer a Bible Study on Paul.

Worship continues to be varied in the Mission area with the wonderful Healing Services offered by Rev Jo Jacobs Neil and Elizabeth and we are also thank those who regularly lead the 6pm Reflective Service at Trinity.

Silent Prayer continues to run at Trinity and I will be offering another "Quiet Day at Kirton" on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July - poster to follow. Pam Dawes, Mary Greening and myself continue to offer the After School Club at Trimley School and we have on average nine children per week. Thanks also to Debbie Peck, and Sue France who has also helped us out on occasions. Soon we hope to welcome Dawn Bone back onto the team, which we are looking forward too. Ecumenical Messy Church continues at St.Phillips each Tuesday in term time.

We will soon be losing Charlotte Cook who is the Curate at St.Marys; it has been a real joy to work alongside Charlotte and she will be greatly missed by many, when she is required to move on by the Church of England within the next few months.

We are as ever now looking forward to the two Summer Holiday clubs being run in the Mission Area.

Our thanks to Robin and Mary Pattinson, Heather Carpenter and Alison Davis who head up the two teams and all the many volunteers who make this excellent piece of outreach work possible each year.

A new venture will begin at Trinity this Summer - Lunch Box Special. We will be providing a free meal for up to 30 children each Tuesday during the Summer break. Thanks to Anna and Emma from Trinity who have done a great deal of work on this project. I have managed to secure funding for the six week period via East Suffolk Council.

Thanks to Dawn Bone and Debbie Peck who continue to work as lay employees in the Mission area.

Dawn has not been very well of late with a reoccurrence of her back problem which has meant she has been off work, however I am pleased to say she is making good progress and hope she will be back in the fold shortly.

Debbie Peck and Elizabeth Storey continue to work at Gainsborough library and the Friday evening meetings attract good numbers. With the help of the above folk and folk from Landseer Road Methodist we were able to host a very successful Easter Bank Holiday fun morning at Landseer Road at which a group of youngsters presented a wonderful Easter Story; Neil sang, arts and crafts were provided and we ate rather a lot of hot cross buns. All the children who attended went home with an Easter Egg. Neil, Elizabeth and Debbie did a great deal of work to make sure this venture was successful.

Open the Book continues to run at Fairfield and Colnies School and many pupils recognise the team when they meet us out and about in Felixstowe. We do need a few more volunteers on this team if possible. Please speak to Jo Jacobs if you are interested.

We ask God's blessing on all we seek to do in his name, giving thanks for new members and a variety of outreach work both within Felixstowe and beyond.

## **Action for Children**

This is the Methodist Children's charity. We support it some years with our "Cash Cascade" – we collect small (and large!) coins and run a cake stall. It is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this charity and I intend to hold an event during September – the charity is challenging supporters to raised £150 during its 150<sup>th</sup> year. Let's see what we can do!

## **Baptisms**

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

## **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.

## **Holiday Club 2018 - Psalm Tree Island**

Our Holiday club was a great fun filled week for the children and adults alike. Psalm Tree Island wasn't the wonderful place it was made out to be but with the Watt family's help everything was sorted out and Mr "Nice Guy's" and the pirates' lives turned around. Ratty and Stinky our two puppet friends visited and were as popular as ever with the children. 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 Starship Discovery and all the usual suspects will be there. We are hoping that the children and families will understand from the teaching, based round the story of Simon Peter, 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.

## **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 ...

- Various running repairs have been carried out to remedy issues, often caused by rough use.
- Broken seat on Hamilton Rd taken away and bolts removed
- A new seat has been installed. The seat is made from recycled material and will need no upkeep.
- Water heater in South Porch accessible toilet replaced
- New blinds in kitchen have been installed
- A new main notice board has been installed – a modification is needed to make the use of the board safe. This will be carried out by Labelcraft free of charge.
- Automatic tap & sink in South Porch toilet
- Tiles have been replaced in the toilet in hall
- Kitchen tiles and been repaired and a new hob fitted
- The skylight in the small hall has been repaired and decorated inside
- Vandalised glass in the kitchen repaired
- The outside of the skylight in the small hall has been repaired and painted
- The polycarbonate sheets have been replaced to conserve heat in the winter
- The boiler house door and frame have been repaired
- The suspected problem with the drains has been inspected and mended.
- The hinges and lock on the door by Barclays Bank have been repaired
- One of the ladies' toilets has been repaired
- A new toilet roll holder has been put in the ladies' toilet

- A grab rail has been installed in the ladies' toilet to prevent people using the toilet roll holder as a support to get up from the toilet.
- A new paper towel dispenser has been installed in the accessible toilet in the main hall. The previous one had been destroyed by rough use.

Planned works ...

- New seats in the ladies toilets. The current ones are being broken regularly.
- Continuation of the painting of the windows and renovation of the stonework.

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.

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 key cupboard.

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

## 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 - 1<sup>st</sup> September to 12<sup>th</sup> May:

Under our heading of General Fund:

	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
Income (Offering & donations):	£19179.81	£17561.04	£18961.68
Saturday Coffee		£ 3385.87	£ 4254.68
Expenditure: Assessment:	£14518.00	£13542.00	£13676.00
Worship	£ 1692.63	£ 1395.46	£ 1659.11

Our Property Fund:

	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
Income (Lettings and Efforts):	£14421.02	£8791.86	£11383.46



## **“My Coat Thingy”**

I have brought the Coat Rail in for the last time this season after five months of success. When I started this project back in 2016 I could not have imagined the joy that a project, so simple, could bring.

Whilst the coats came in fast and furious this winter, they were slower to leave the rail. I've put this down to a mild winter this year. However, I have made some great contacts, brought people into the Church who would not normally have visited, and found great comfort in knowing that we have made many people's winter more comfortable. I have felt the Lord's hand very firmly behind this project – and it is in His name that we have all worked together. At Christmas we were able to pass on three bags of coats to the Salvation Army to help their outreach work. We were indebted to Jay Hornsby at Tiffer's in Ipswich for their donation of coats.

I could not have done this without the help and support of the Church family at Trinity and I am indebted to all those who have helped. I would especially like to thank Emma Elwell for all she has done and also Glen George for being my 'runner'.

My prayer is that other areas will take up this project. It costs very little to set up and is so appreciated by folk who have taken coats.

So, the rail is back in the store until the autumn. We have donated the few coats that were left to the Basics Charity and will start again in the Autumn.

My grateful thanks and blessings to all who have helped in ANY way.

Maddi.

## **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

## **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

## **Monday Coffee Mornings**

Monday coffee mornings in the church have been running for sixteen years now, since the pews were removed, 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 2017/2018 were donated to Macmillan Cancer Support, ABCD (Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability) and our Church funds, with each receiving £519. We also held a special coffee morning on 2nd July in support of the Shoebox appeal, raising £75.

This current church year, the donations will support the work of the East Anglia's Children's Hospices and Action for Children.

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

Graham Thompson

## **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.

**We need more volunteers** to help keep this work going, particularly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. If you would like to volunteer to help please see me.

Stephen Wyatt

## **Saturday Coffee Mornings**

The coffee mornings have been running on a Saturday morning for a few years now. However, over the past 18 months they have grown in popularity, with regular customer's even travelling in from Ipswich. We did wonder if Marks & Spencer closing would affect the coffee mornings but it doesn't seem to have made a big difference. It continues to be important outreach work and now we're in the summer we get a lot of customers that are here on holiday, it's good to see them interact with our

regular customers. Last summer we put a suggested donation of £1.50 for a drink and a bake. As we count the numbers attending it seems to average @ £1.50 a customer now. From September 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 we have made £4710.95 which is great contribution to church funds. At the beginning of the year one of our takings on a Saturday was donated to Jack's Appeal, the family were in that morning with Jack and a lot of customers gave us more.

On behalf of the stewards I would like to thank all those who bake, contribute and give their time to make it so successful.

*Jean Clarke*

## **Safeguarding Report**

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 has been updated and is available on request. 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

## **Christian Aid Report**

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 most recent Christian Aid Week (May 2019) Trinity collectors and individual donors raised just over £900 of which more than half was gift aided.

Trinity members also supported the pop up concert at the Canopy on May 11<sup>th</sup> when a further sum of £196 was raised.

A big thank you to all who gave of their time, money and prayerful support. **However, our band of collectors is dwindling and we need more volunteers to be able to keep up this work.**

Stephen Wyatt

Christian Aid Week organiser, Felixstowe

## **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, family fun 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](http://www.felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk)

A Suffolk Association of Fairtrade Towns has been formed and will be holding its annual event on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> at Bury.

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.

Stephen Wyatt

Secretary Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum

## **Contemporary Worship Services**

Over the last year 6 Contemporary Worship Services have been held in Trinity. We are extremely grateful to Neil, Elizabeth, Anne and Ian for the hard work put into the organisation of each one. The music and songs are very uplifting and the readings and prayers are thoughtful and inspirational. Guest speakers give short talks about their faith journeys and so far Neil, Rev. David Keeble, Rev. Jo Jacobs, Rev. Derek Grimshaw and Rev. David Kemble have given us an insight into their lives. There is a very positive feeling and I always get the impression that people enjoy their time of worship.

Anna Porter

## **Service of Healing and Wholeness**

These services are held approximately every 2 months in Trinity. They are led by the Rev. Jo Jacobs and assisted by Elizabeth and Neil. Generally we have an attendance of between 20-25 people. We have a time of worship and prayer and a time of quiet reflection and laying on of hands for healing. The evening finishes with Holy Communion. We are indebted to Jo, Elizabeth and Neil for this ministry.

Anna Porter.

## **Open the Book**

A group of volunteers continue to provide Open the Book at Colneis and Fairfield schools generally every 3 weeks during school terms. Most of the children tell us that it is their favourite assembly. We

enjoy bringing bible stories to the children but we do need new recruits to help us fulfil the parts in the plays. Recently Chris Eeles has joined us and we are thankful for his help.

Anna Porter

### **Messy Church in Trinity**

We have had a few Messy churches over the last year. The numbers attending have varied from just a few up to around 15. A variety of crafts have been provided along with stories and games. The children enjoyed cooked food and each one was given a small gift on leaving. Many thanks to all who help on these occasions.

Anna Porter

### **Lunch Box Special**

Emma suggested that we should think about providing a meal for hungry children during school holidays and thence this venture was born.

We will be catering for 30 Junior School children on Tuesdays from the 30th July to the 27th August. Each child must be accompanied by an adult and must have booked a place. Any special dietary requirements must be mentioned on booking. There will be enough food to ensure that the adults will have something to eat as well as the children. Sponsorship has already been ensured to cover the costs of the food. Help will be required in the kitchen on these Tuesdays.

With God's help we pray that we will serve our community.

Anna Porter

### **Shoebox Appeal**

In October I took 33 filled shoe boxes to the service in Trimley. This was 12 more than the previous year. I'm very grateful to all those people who filled a box or supplied items to help fill one. This year there are 2 more restrictions on items which may be sent. Sweets and toothpaste are no longer allowed.

We intend to donate the money raised on one of our Saturday coffee mornings for this appeal. How wonderful it would be if we could fill 40 this year!!!!

Anna Porter