

**REPORTS FOR
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
TRINITY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
PLYMOUTH
2020 – APRIL 2021**

Minister's report

During the beginning of 2020 I continued to return gradually to full-time working after recovering from my illness. In March it became clear that the Corona virus had spread to the UK. In the week leading up to clear government directives, the elders at Trinity URC decided to shut the church buildings from Friday 20th March, in order to keep church members and users of the buildings safe. The last church service where people were able to gather in person took place on Sunday 15th March. Due to Covid-19, the AGM of 2020 was cancelled.

During the first lockdown, most members were able to connect online to the services sent out from the central URC Walking the Way Group. All members and adherents of Trinity URC also received regular pastoral letters from myself. Furthermore, everyone received personal phone calls from myself, their elder and friends within the congregation. As a faith community we tried to make sure that people we know were cared for, able to get shopping and medicines and had someone to talk to.

Soon one of the house groups started meeting via Zoom. An online coffee morning was organized. The Central URC Sunday Services were burnt onto CD's for those who cannot access them online. Trinity Tidings was published online, again with paper copies printed and distributed to those who cannot connect to the internet. Some enjoyed 'garden gate' conversations with the people who distributed Tidings, CD's and pastoral letters. Help with shopping was much appreciated, as was (once restrictions were lifted) the return to walking in small groups, the offerings of baking and cooking and many kinds of practical help among members and friends of Trinity URC.

From the middle of May, the elders began to meet regularly on Zoom. On Sunday 2nd August the first Zoom worship service was held, initially fortnightly, then from the beginning of Advent weekly. The services were recorded and posted on Trinity's website for people to listen to afterwards if they wished. Again, services were burnt to CD's for people who cannot access internet. Several church meetings were held via Zoom. At the end of January 2021 Trinity started to share Zoom services with URC's in Newton Abbot and Exeter. In February 2021 elders at Trinity URC were ordained and inducted during a Zoom service. Different online study groups have met during this last year, learning about persecuted Christians worldwide, studying the Bible, and discussing social justice issues.

Although the church buildings have been shut for over a year at the time of writing, there is a strong sense that the faith community of Trinity still exists in similar numbers. The elders are planning for church services to resume from the church building from Pentecost Sunday, 23rd May 2021. Whatever 'new normal' is beginning to take shape, it is clear that as a faith community Trinity URC needs to seek vision for the future in order to be effective, sustainable and above all Spirit-led as a church.

Henriette Wentink (Rev'd)

Trinity URC Plymouth, 9th April 2021

Management Committee Report

As a Committee we have all worked hard this year despite the Lockdown.

We have maintained the fabric of the Church and ancillary buildings including the following:

Annual safety checks were carried out to the Fire Extinguishers, Gas Appliances, and Electrics. The Boiler was serviced, and a new time clock fitted. It requires remedial work carried out when the weather is warmer, and the heating is off.

The Timber Shed at the rear was treated and the areas around the outside of the buildings have been treated with Weed control.

The Organ has recently been serviced and whilst there are no major issues, we await report for required remedial works.

The Manse has had a Gas safety check and a repair to the conservatory Roof.

I am grateful to all who have contributed to the works voluntarily.

Richard Lock
Chairman

Trinity Audio and Projection System Report

During the first lockdown in 2020 due to covid 19 laws the Church turned to electronic communication of Sunday Worship using Zoom on the internet.

As the rules at the end of the lockdown put a limit on how many could attend church for worship, John Crosswaite and I made a plan, and we installed more equipment in the A/V cabinet to enable our future services to be available on Zoom in real time with the worship in church.

This system will be in use when we can resume services in our buildings.

John Crosswaite has also donated a new radio microphone system for the Minister as the old one was outdated.

John Pasmore

Trinity URC Big Build Report [in brief] Covid 2020 - April 2021

What seemed like a distant threat at the beginning of 2020 has become a present reality, and in March 2020, in the fight against the spread of the disease, government restrictions and social distancing, knocked on the door of Trinity URC, as on all communal buildings, necessitating closure to support the NHS and Save Lives.

This drastically affected all church life in our church buildings; and in particular in promoting our Big Build Project and subsequent fund raising.

We had started re-negotiating with a professional fund raiser to seek grant funding, but agreed that due to unprecedented circumstances it would be advisable to temporarily postpone enquiries. The Big Build Project Group also discontinued meeting.

Meanwhile, our treasurer Alex Hawtin gave notice that due to increased pressure at work, he wished to retire from post, since when, Valerie Bott has agreed to temporarily hold the purse strings.

Although aware of increasing concern about the ultimate outcome of Trinity's vision, it was felt correct to renew Planning Permission, as the agreement given in 2018 was invalid after 3 years. This was achieved through collaboration with our architects [MEB] and the Planning Office, Plymouth City Council in October 2021.

Mary McFarlane
Trinity URC 'Big Build Project'

End of Reports