

TRINITY + + TIDINGS

Trinity United Reformed Church
Torr Lane, Plymouth, PL3 5NY
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SEPTEMBER 2021



**THIS IS A CALCEOLARIA PLANT
(SEE DETAILS ON NEXT PAGE)**

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HALL BOOKINGS

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The service provided by the URC is being posted each week on our web page so you can listen to that if you wish..

You can also sign up to receive the daily meditations from the URC just go to the web site URC.org.uk and click on Daily Devotions



Lizzie Houlton Music

Would you like to learn a new skill during this difficult time?

I am running zoom piano lessons (£10 per half hour session) with a free trial lesson. All you need is a piano or keyboard in your own home.

Please get in touch:
07834391059
elizabethhoulton@gmail.com
lizziehoultonmusic.co.uk



Handmade cards and gifts for all occasions.

Ring Lucy on 01752 405133

or go to her website

<https://lp-cardmaking.square.site>

Calceolaria is very easy to take cuttings from and the flowers last all summer. I got it from Rev Alf Baker. If anyone would like a cutting just let me know. Jill Stidson

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

This month we are looking at the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-20). It's the story of a farmer who sowed his seed in different type of soils. These represent the different responses of the heart to God's Word (v15-20):

1) The hard heart: 'like seed along the path...as soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.' (15). Some people, when they hear the message, get distracted eg social media, work or relationships. Personal priorities prevent them from hearing God.

2) The shallow heart: 'like seed sown on rocky places...since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.' (16,17). These are the people whose heart isn't open to the message. When things become uncomfortable or discouraging, they are ready to quit.

3) The crowded heart: 'like seed sown among thorns... but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.' (18,19). This soil is most relevant for us today. People crave status, comfort, security and personal desires alongside the things of God. It's a heart that is worried about life getting out of control!

4) The open heart: 'like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop – some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.' (20). This represents the open heart that listens and accepts Jesus's word, and is ready to follow Him however difficult things become.

What kind of soil is our heart? Are we hard, shallow, crowded or open? Do we have a heart of faith to follow Jesus in every aspect of our lives?

Canon Paul Hardingham



LET JESUS CHRIST FIND YOU

Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.' John 14:1-6

We come to church regularly to meet God. But actually, God comes to meet us. He comes to us personally though His Word; and in Holy Communion, Jesus arrives under cover of bread and wine, saying 'this is My body; this is My blood'.

The whole Bible is the story of God searching for us, not the other way round. It begins with Adam and Eve running away and hiding, and that's how it continues to this day. But it ends with a dramatic vision of reunion.

In the meantime, humanity is invited to stop, turn round, and face God who is in pursuit. 'Turning round' is what 'repentance' means.

Becoming a Christian is letting Christ find us; being a Christian is becoming an apprentice in His workforce.

Not long before His crucifixion, Jesus taught His apprentices about His death – and theirs. "I'm going to prepare a place for you, and I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also."

When we contemplate dying, it may seem like a journey into the dark. But we will not go alone. Never alone. As we reach out into the darkness, Christ is reaching out to us. Just as He has been reaching out to us throughout our lives, so He is there to grasp us as we breathe our last. "I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also."

For the disciple, death is a union – a reunion with Christ. It's the most natural thing in the world. So, we pray that at our end, we may reach out into the darkness, to find we are grasped by the One who has already prepared a place for us.

The Ven John Barton

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Mike and Heather Barriball are delighted to announce the wonderful arrival of grandson Coby Barriball on 22nd July 2021.

The parents, Stewart and Gemma are besotted and his older sister Summer absolutely dotes on him. We are all blessed. We're so thrilled and thankful that we want to share this happy news with you all.



I wish to express my gratitude for the help and care received from my family and friends following my surprise "holiday" in Derriford hospital recently.

Many thanks for the cards, flowers and wishes and prayers which have been a great comfort to me.

I am now feeling much better and making steady progress

Thank you all
David Woolley

Evelyn and Erin Criddle were very pleased to receive a card from Trinity a couple of weeks ago. Evelyn thought that the message on the front was wonderful and Erin said that the picture and message were 'really her'.

THANKS

My mum - Margaret Osborne - wishes to thank everyone for their good wishes, flowers and cards that she has received throughout the pandemic. Unfortunately mum has lost her mobility we think due to a complication of Covid, but I am managing to take her out, out. She is currently not allowed 'out', which means that she is still unable to come to church. We are both hoping that this will change soon. In the meantime please continue to keep her in your prayers.

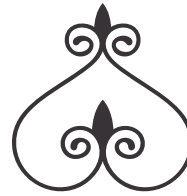
Judy Beaumont.

CLAIRE HOSKING who some of us remember before she moved away, sends this news.

"Unfortunately I was diagnosed with non active myeloma in January and had a course of chemo which reduced my blood readings well. It is treatable but not curable at present. I am waiting for a Stem Cell Transplant which will give me my best chance of remission but have picked up a lung infection somewhere which needs sorting first. All a bit frustrating.

I have been shielding for the duration and will be in Hospital for about four weeks for the transplant and then shield for another three months when I get home, so that is pretty much this year gone".

Claire's name has been added to our prayer list



OBITUARY

Evelyn McLean was born on April 9th 1941 in Glasgow. She married her first husband and had two children David and Ian who gave her two grandchildren Rebecca and Alasdair.

When she divorced from her first husband she joined the Trinity Scottish dancing group and it was here that she met Alec McLean. When his wife died, Evelyn was a source of comfort to him and later they married. They enjoyed many happy years together. They loved travelling especially to Scotland but also to every continent and journeying on the Orient Express in Europe and the Silver Bullet train in America.

Evelyn also enjoyed line dancing and was a member of the Freemasons and Caledonian Society.

Her health was not good in her latter years and after Alec died she also lost her son David. However she had good neighbours, a gardener and a fringe carer to help. She enjoyed watching television especially the tennis surrounded by her many Teddy bears which she collected over the years.

We extend our sympathy to her family.



We have just heard the news that Barbara Campbell has passed away. There will be a service at Trinity, details later. Meanwhile we offer our sympathy to all the family.

BECOMING NEW

When a caterpillar changes into a butterfly, it's hard to believe it's the same creature. But at both stages of its life, it has a body that is perfectly suited to living in a particular environment.

This insect can help us understand the afterlife and the significance of the resurrected Jesus. Paul, on his journeys, discovered that some members of the church in Corinth were confused about life after death. So, Paul, wrote a lengthy letter to them to explain the importance of the resurrection of Jesus, and how it affects our future existence.

Paul doesn't mention caterpillars and butterflies but describes a seed becoming a plant. By just looking at an individual seed there is no knowing what it is going to look like! But out of its death comes a beautiful new life form.

Paul points out that all living beings have a body that enables them to live in a particular environment. There are earthly bodies for living in a physical world and a spiritual body for living in the heavenly realms. And so God will give to us a new spiritual body to enable us to live with Him in heaven.

Of course, all butterflies eventually die, but in our resurrected body we will not be subject to decay or death. How do we know this? Jesus said: "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19). Jesus pioneered the way for us. He died on the cross, arose from the grave, and so opened up the way for all believers in Him to go to Heaven. Thanks be to God!

Lester Amann

COME AND JOIN US

'Hot' on the heels of an afternoon spent singing at The Garden House in Buckland Monachorum during the July mini heatwave, Plymouth Philharmonic Choir is preparing to start weekly indoor rehearsals at 7.15 p.m. from Thursday 9 September 2021.

These will be held at The Meade King Hall at Plymouth College, Mutley. It is evident that this is a very supportive and friendly group of singers as

over the last 18 months new singers from all voice parts have joined the choir even though rehearsals and concerts have been cancelled. This is an invitation to come and join us too, but with the added bonus of now being able to sing some wonderful music!

Further details can be found on the choir's website <https://plymouthphilchoir.org> where there is a section at the bottom of the homepage specifically for prospective and new members. Please also make contact with Choir Membership Secretary, Pat Brodie (pat.brodie@outlook.com / 01752 330337).

Plans for the 2021 – 2022 concert programme are in full swing together with a summer holiday trip in August 2022. The first of these events, featuring music by Mozart and Haydn, will be held in Plymouth's Guildhall on Sunday 28 November 2021

The work by Haydn was originally entitled 'Missa in Angustiis' ('Mass for Troubled Times'). At the time of the first performance news that Admiral Lord Nelson had defeated Napoleon in the Battle of the Nile reached Austria. It is thought that listeners associated the trumpets and timpani in the opening section and the jubilant, dramatic music that followed, with the political turmoil and then the military victory. The work became known as the Nelson Mass. Composed for an Easter Day service and performed nearly 20 years later at the Coronation of Francis I, Mozart's Mass in C is more widely known as the Coronation Mass. The celebratory nature of the music would have been fitting for both occasions. With much to look forward to and celebrate in the year ahead, the choir hopes that you will join them to experience some sensational music.

Hope you can!

My three-year-old was saying his nightly prayers in a very low voice. "I can't hear you," I finally whispered.

He said firmly, "Wasn't talking to you."

THE BREAD WE EAT

At the Passover meal, on the night before His death, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, "This is My body given for you;". He also took wine and passed it to each of them and said, "This is My blood, given for you."

These two elements, the bread and the wine, continue to be the central focus for Christians: doing what Jesus asked us to do, 'Do this in remembrance of me'. (Luke 22:19b) What we call this service varies between denominations and even between churches within the same denomination.

The word 'Eucharist' comes from the Greek by way of Latin, and it means thanksgiving. It is a way of giving 'thanks' as Jesus did', reminding us not only of the tremendous sacrifice that Christ had made on our behalf, but also recalling the love and joy that Jesus brings to the community.

The word 'Communion' comes from something done with others – the community. It's done with Christ. It's done with other worshippers. In sharing the meal, 'I becomes 'us'.

The word 'Mass' comes from the conclusion to the traditional service – which was in Latin: 'Ite, missa est.' 'Go. You are being sent.' Today we use similar words, 'Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.'

In some denominations the bread is literally the 'daily bread', whilst in others it is a 'wafer' or yeast free bread – as was used at the original Passover.

This month: Have a look at the wafer remember the manna given to the Israelites in the dessert . How does it reflect receiving Christ into your life?

The Revd Dr Jo White

ONLINE SERVICES

Almost two thirds of UK churches plan to carry on streaming online, even after restrictions lift.

According to a recent survey by the insurance group Ecclesiastical and The Bible Society, 93 per cent of churches have used new ways to keep in touch with their congregation and over two in five churches (43 per cent) saw an increase in attendance as a result.

Live streaming has undoubtedly helped churches keep their services going during the pandemic, but this research suggests most, 62 per cent, would like the new habit to stay.

Over two in five of the churches who had used these new channels said that they had seen an increase in attendance against their usual numbers, leading most to say they will carry on streaming after lockdown ends.

As one vicar in Norfolk said, "At the height of the pandemic we were getting over a hundred visits to our Facebook page a day, ten times as many as beforehand.

"By using social media we've been able to reach many more people than ever came through the actual church door each week, so it's definitely something we're looking to continue offering. There is certainly more hope now than there was this time last year and we look forward to the Lord leading us from this difficult time into freedom and new beginnings."

From Parish Pump

THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

The World Wildlife Fund (now the World Wide Fund for Nature) was founded 60 years ago in Switzerland, on 11th September 1961. It is now believed to be the world's largest conservation group, working in wilderness preservation, and reducing human impact on the environment.

A group of distinguished scientists, conservationists and businessmen, put the organisation together and chose its original name and the famous panda logo.

The late Prince Philip has been President of both the UK and international branches, and he was concerned particularly with encouraging faith communities to involve themselves in the environment. This led to a major conference in Italy in 1986, resulting in huge global publicity and tens of thousands of faith-led environmental initiatives around the world.

The WWF now has more than five million supporters worldwide, working in more than 100 countries and supporting around 3,000 projects.

Tim Lenton

In the last Tidings I asked for suggestions for celebrating the Queen's platinum Jubilee next year. I've had the following :

Suggestions of things we could partake in for The Queen's Jubilee next year.

Friday evening could be a musical concert, Saturday through the day could include a beetle drive, card games, quiz, people entering flower arrangements, cake competitions, silent auction, taking part in pointless, with a barbecue or a meal, Sunday we could have a faith lunch and entertainment.

Hopefully you will get more ideas from other folk from Church, Ruth Bray

Let's have a discussion about it so let me know your thoughts. Editor

Now that we are back in Church, our flower ladies are giving us some good arrangements. They are running low on funds so if you feel like helping out please put something into the flower fund box or hand it to Sue, Mary or Debbie.

CHURCH WEEKEND

I am afraid I have some news which I found upsetting, so I am sure several my friends at Trinity will agree.

Unfortunately, the Methodist Holiday Guild has gone into receivership. This means that Treloyhan is on the market to be sold.

Treloyhan still holds our deposit and I am unable to retrieve this until the sale goes through and then we will be added to the creditors. This may mean that we can return to Treloyhan, but at the moment everything is in abeyance. I will keep you all posted.

Judy Beaumont

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

We are delighted to announce that The Ladies Fellowship is starting again with an open meeting on Tuesday 7th September at 2.00pm in the Back Hall. The invitation to attend is for all ladies and visitors are most welcome.

This will be a chance to have a good chat and catch

up with a cuppa and a biscuit with all those we have missed over the last 18 months or so.

There is only one speaker booked at the moment, Janet Cowland on 5th October, as she is retiring at the end of the year. Other speakers will commence in January. Our afternoon meetings may include a quiz, bingo or Pointless. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

NEWS FROM MANAGEMENT.

When you are able to go into the main hall again, you will notice that the corridor is much lighter. This is because the cupboard space has been revamped to give better storage for the tables and more shelves. John Pasmore designed the layout and thanks to him and all who helped it is looking good. Well done all involved.

Thanks also to all who helped on the work days when the back hall, the small hall and parts of the main hall were completed. The kitchen is soon to have a new ceiling and then all the cupboards, crockery etc will need to be cleaned. This will be done on Wednesday September 1st from 9.00am. until 3pm or when it is finished. Please come and help. There are jobs for all abilities.

Richard Lock has been chairman of the committee but has decided to stand down from this position. Thank you Richard for all you have achieved since taking over.

It was our Harvest Festival Sunday. My husband had cut his ear while shaving. We arrived at the church just in time to sing: 'First the blade and then the ear'.

REMEMBRANCE

Last year I saw poppies made of the bottoms of lemonade bottles! I thought they looked so effective that I propose to have a go at this for the church. So if you have lemonade or any other fizzy drink that comes in a plastic bottle - look at the bottom - if it is sort of dimpled then please may I have the bottom!!! If you are unsure, then just pass the bottle to me and let's see if we can make a good display for Remembrance this year.

Judy Beaumont

THANKING GOD FOR OUR BLESSINGS

Our winter barley ripened quickly this year, and soon the combine harvesters were rolling here on the Northumberland / Scottish Border. As the first trailer load of grain came into the shed, I ran my hands through the golden grains, offering a short prayer of thankfulness as I savoured the smell of fresh cut barley. It was a good harvest.

I've often reflected on the Old Testament festival of the Firstfruits, where the Israelites offered the very first sheaf of the spring harvest to God (Leviticus 23:9-14). I think this act required great faith, as they trusted God for a fruitful harvest to come, something that was far from certain, given their utter dependence on the weather.

I'm not sure about you, but I'm always up for giving thanks after the event. I'll sing 'Come ye thankful people come' and rejoice that "all is safely gathered in", but am I able to trust with anticipation for what is yet to come?

The festival of the Firstfruits reminded God's people that everything they had came from Him. I am reminded that I must learn (and relearn) to trust in God, who has proven His faithfulness to me, over and over again.

Perhaps right now as a church community or an individual you're waiting for a certain event, standing on the cusp of a new initiative, praying for a certain outcome or anticipating a long-held vision becoming reality. Let's all keep trusting that whatever the challenge, however things turn out, irrespective of what we anticipate, God is going before us and has secured the Firstfruits of an even greater harvest through Jesus, as He rose from the dead.

Just as the grain offering to God in the Old Testament anticipated a harvest to come, Paul reminds us that Jesus' victory anticipates an even greater bodily resurrection and eternal peace (1 Corinthians 15:20-22).

As we continue our journey with Jesus through the challenges of each day, let's do so with a deepening faith and trust. In the meantime, bring on the harvest – I'll see you on the other side!

Alistair Birkett, director of Rural Ministries for Scotland and Northern England.

GRAMMATICAL SENSE

If people from Poland are called Poles, then why aren't people from Holland called Holes?

GOD AND SCIENCE

Alister McGrath is well-known as a theologian, but he started out as a scientist. After becoming a Christian as a student, he wanted to learn about his new faith so he studied theology at the same time as completing his PhD in molecular biophysics. He has not lost touch with science, but has continued to write and speak about how science and Christian faith work together. In this extract from a recently released interview, he shares his experience of being a scientist and a Christian.

"I think my most vivid experience of wonder took place in the 1970's when I was on vacation in Iran. We were travelling on a bus in the middle of the night because it wasn't hot then, and the bus broke down. We found ourselves in the middle of this solemn black desert, and the night sky shone with a brilliance like I had never seen before. That just overwhelmed me, it made me think there is something really wonderful here.

"Now, I was a Christian by that time and I knew how Christianity could answer that but it just struck me, that sense of wonder has two possible outcomes. One is science – this universe is wonderful, what's it all about? But of course, it is also about religion, the deeper levels of things that science can't really engage. I think one of the things I have discovered over time is that maybe this sense of wonder both opens the gateway to science and to faith, and that those two together are able to answer questions which on their own they simply couldn't.

"I think science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer – they transcend its capacities to answer, and you might think of non-empirical questions like, 'Why am I here? What is the meaning of life? What is good and how do I live a good life?'"

"These are real questions and they're good questions but they're not scientific questions. And the psychologists tell us that we really need answers to those questions if we are to lead a fulfilled human existence. You find some scientists who say, 'Well because science can't answer them there are no answers to be given', but actually most realise that there are answers waiting to be discovered – it's just that science can't deliver them.

"Science fills in part of a big picture but there are parts of the picture you have to fill in from somewhere else. Science is part of the answer but only part, and faith supplements it, giving us a vision of life that is exciting and reliable, and also something that we can inhabit meaningfully."

Before setting off on a business trip to Birmingham, I called the hotel where I'd be staying to see if they had a gym. The hotel receptionist's sigh had a tinge of exasperation in it when she answered.

"We have over 100 guests at this facility," she said. "Does this 'Jim' have a last name?"

FLYING BISHOP

The new Bishop wanted a bird's eye view of his new diocese, so he had an idea. He rang his local airfield to charter a flight, and was told that a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him. Arriving at the airfield, the bishop spotted a plane warming up outside a hangar. He jumped in, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go!"

At once the pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the bishop spent several minutes enjoying the views, and looking for local landmarks. Finally, he instructed the pilot, "Fly down the valley now and make low passes so I can take pictures of some of the best of the old parish churches."

"Why?" asked the pilot.

"Because I'm the new bishop," he replied happily, adjusting his camera, "and I want some good aerial views of my diocese."

The pilot was silent for a moment. Finally he stammered, "So, what you're telling me, is, you're NOT my flight instructor?"

ELDERS DUTY

Sept	5th	Penny Watson
	12th	Mary Willis
	19th	David Woolley
	26th	Judy Beaumont
Oct	3rd	Mary McFarlane
	10th	Margaret Phillips
	17th	Jill Stidson
	24th	Mary Willis
	31st	David Woolley

VESTIBULE DUTY

Paul Grosch	Linsay Grosch
Isobel Full	Ian Full
Richard Rowse	Judy Beaumont
Richard Lock	Bernadete Massey
Pat Bogue	Andrea Middleton
Isobel Full	Ian Full
Margaret Phillips	Yvonne Greener
Paul Grosch	Linsay Grosch
Richard Rowse	Judy Beaumont

COFFEE ROTA

Sept	5th	Ruth Bray and Kathy Behan
	12th	Sandra McDonald and Pat Bogue
	19th	Mary McFarlane and Stephanie Corless
	26th	Barbara Godfee and Andrea Middleton
Oct	3rd	Penny Watson and Yvonne Greener
	10th	Ruth Bray and Kathy Behan
	17th	Sandra McDonald and Pat Bogue
	24th	Mary McFarlane and Stephanie Corless
	31st	Barbara Godfree and Andrea Middleton

SEPTEMBER DIARY

There is no need to book a place for Sunday Worship,
but a list of attendees will be kept

Wednesday	1st	9.00am	Work party to clean the main hall and kitchen
Friday	3rd	10.30am	Time Out in the Church. Join for coffee, a chat then a time of prayer and quiet. finishing at 11.30am
Sunday	5th	10.30am	Worship in Church or on Zoom.led by Rev HenrietteWentink
Tuesday	7th	2.00pm	Ladies Fellowship open meeting.
Friday	10th	10.30am	Time Out in the Church. Join for coffee, a chat then a time of prayer and quiet. finishing at 11.30am
Sunday	12th	10.30am	Worship outside Church led by Rev Rodney Baxendale. (Rodney is moving away from Plymouth so it would be good to give him a fond farewell)
Tuesday	14th	12noon	Ladies Fellowship lunch at The Duke of Cornwall

15TH SEPTEMBER DEADLINE FOR ITEMS IN OCTOBER TIDINGS

Friday	17th	10.30am	Time Out in the Church. Join for coffee, a chat then a time of prayer and quiet. finishing at 11.30am
Sunday	19th	10.30am	Worship in the Church and on Zoom to include Holy Communion. led by Rev Edgar Daniels
Tuesday	21st	2.00pm	Ladies Fellowship Social Afternoon
Thursday	23rd	11.00am 7.30pm	Social Awareness group meet on Zoom House Group meets on Zoom to study Acts chapter 18
Friday	24th	10.30am	Time Out in the Church. Join for coffee, a chat then a time of prayer and quiet. finishing at 11.30am
Sunday	26th	10.30am	Worship outside Church led by Rev Henriette Wentink



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