

Trinity Weekly News Sheet 06 November 2020



From the minister ...

Love in a Box

I've just had confirmation that the Love in a Box collection will be going ahead as planned this year, despite lockdown. Which is great news.

Churches are closed so I'm afraid there is no opportunity for boxes to be brought to services or at other times for dropping off. Instead there will be a single window of opportunity for us to receive boxes, which will be between 2.00pm and 3.00pm on Sunday 15 November 15 at Trinity.

The doors of the church foyer will be open for you to literally step over the threshold and place your box(es) on the pile. Please wear a face covering, maintain social distancing and don't touch any of the other boxes. Please resist the temptation to hang about in the car park afterwards chatting to people, but leave immediately.

A collection box will be provided for the fee of £4 per box, which must be presented separately this year. Cash is acceptable, either loose or in an envelope (or the envelope supplied as part of the Love in a Box leaflet). Cheques should be made out to 'Mustard seed relief missions', and of course if you are donating multiple boxes then one cheque for the appropriate amount is sufficient.

Sorry if the time slot is inconvenient for you or appears to be very tight, but we must do our best to prevent the spread of the virus. Please do not leave any boxes outside church, as they will not be included in the collection.

Please let anyone know who might be planning on contributing to the appeal. I will put this information in this week's newsletter, and also announce it on Sunday in our live streamed service on Facebook.

God bless

Ralph

Trinity Building Fund

As many of you know, our new church building was partly financed by a ten-year interest-free loan from our sister church in Redhill granted in 2013. The total amount of the loan was £450,000, which we have been paying back in annual instalments since then. We have recently paid our 2020 instalment of £45,000, and that leaves us with a balance to pay of £87,500 - £45,000 will be due in October 2021, and the final payment of £42,500 in 2022.

As ever we are grateful to all those who contribute to the Building Fund, whether on a regular or one-off basis. Inevitably, for a variety of reasons, the level of giving has dropped over the years, and as things stand at the moment payment of the last two instalments may present something of a challenge. We would welcome either one-off gifts or regular monthly payments to enable us to pay off the outstanding debt (we can settle the debt early if we have the necessary funds available), and if anyone feels they could contribute in this way, or has any queries, please get in touch with me.

Andrew B
Building Fund Treasurer

East Grinstead foodbank

East Grinstead foodbank is still open, and will remain so throughout lockdown, as foodbank staff and volunteers are key workers.



We are busy planning our Christmas Bags delivery again and need your help! The festive bags are given to individuals and families who have been nominated by our referral partners and churches. We have been stockpiling the essential items we include such as tinned meat, baked beans, pasta and fruit. What we really need now are the seasonal goodies that top off the bags and bring a bit of joy to the children (yes, and the adults too!). We would love to receive:

- **Round tubs or cartons of chocolates**
- **'Fancy' boxes of biscuits!**
- **Christmas cake bars or similar sized festive cakes (small oblong ideal)**
- **Tubes of crisps (no packets please due to storage issues)**

If you are shopping in Sainsbury's or Waitrose donations can be left in our collection boxes in store. Alternatively they can be put in our collection box in the entrance of Jubilee Community Centre. All Christmas items by **07 DECEMBER** please, to allow for packing and distribution on 10 December (we have to get the bags out to schools allowing time for families to collect before the schools break up, hence the early date).

As you know, we rely completely on our wonderful donors to help us spread some Christmas cheer - needed more than ever in these difficult times. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.



With apologies to Matt Redman
(whose spelling is better, but not so amusing!)

Young at Hearts

It has been a real blow that our monthly Sunday outings have not been able to take place this year. We have certainly missed you all.

IF, which is a very small word meaning such a lot, the lockdown is released for Christmas Celebrations and you would like to see if Elizabeth Dickenson and I can organise an event at High Beeches, which is managing the social distancing rules very well, please let us know as soon as possible.

High Beeches has a Christmas Menu with Starters, Main Course and Dessert plus coffee/tea and mince pies for £24.25. Two courses come in at £19.95.

Please telephone Elizabeth or me with your thoughts and any questions you might have regarding this event.

Thank you ladies. Here's hoping!

Mary N

National Day of Prayer Friday 13 November

On Wednesday I attended a Webinar run by Evangelical Alliance which was about how churches were/are managing both before and after Covid. One thing that was mentioned was that they had written to both The Queen and The Prime Minister request a National Day of Prayer. This was not approved, but EA is going ahead anyway. The Day will be on Friday 13 November. You can find more information here:

<http://www.eauk.org/dayofprayer>

The Evangelical Alliance says, 'As communities across the UK face further restrictions and lockdowns, as many churches are forced to stop their in-person gatherings, as suffering and loss affect so many families, we hear the call again to unite and seek God together in this time of trouble.'

There are a few details on the above link and more details will be available over the next few days, so do keep checking. Hopefully you will feel able to join this Day of Prayer on 13 November.

Just a thought ... or three

Smart people learn from everything and everyone,
average people from their experiences,
stupid people already have all the answers.
Socrates

A walk to a nearby park may give you more
energy and inspiration in life than spending two hours in front of a screen.
Tsang Lindsay

Life is not what you alone make it.
Life is the input of everyone who touched your life
and every experience that entered it.
We are all part of one another.
Yuri Kochiyama

Autumn Splendour

Autumn leaves falling in golden profusion,
Drifting down gently on soft, misty days,
Spreading a carpet of richly-dyed brilliance

Touched with the flame of the sun's dying rays. Still as a pool
in the first light of morning,
Faithful reflection of colours above,
Stirred by the flutter of leaves ever-falling,
Settling to rest like a home-coming dove.
Daubed like the palette of some supreme Artist -
Yellow and russet and ochre and brown,
Orange and green, with a touch of vermilion;
Set like the gems in a great golden crown.

Tranquillity shattered, the scene whirls with movement,
Winds whip the last of the leaves from the trees,
Carelessly flinging their handfuls of brightness
Caught up aloft on the gyrating breeze.
Sweeping down low in an elegant curtsey,
Gracefully bowing like guests at a ball,
Dancing an intricate ballet of beauty
Choreographed by the Greatest of all.
Whirling and spinning in joyous abandon,
Sinking at last in a spent, weary heap;
Nestling beneath the bare canopied branches
Ready again for the long winter's sleep.

Anne Butler



Whole Life Worship: Worship and Waiting

After three days they found Him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. [...] Then He went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. Luke 2:46, 51-52

In the year 2020 we have all become unwilling experts in waiting. We wait for the right to see friends, or for a vaccine to become a reality, or to return to the office. For many Christians, the waiting and the longing is about being able to meet together again.

But even then, there is still a sense of waiting for the time when we can share a cup together again, join our voices in song, and lay a caring hand on someone's shoulder to pray. Despite our best efforts with online services and socially-distanced gatherings, we are hungry for a return to physical, embodied worship together.

Although some may have become frustrated with this enforced waiting, there's little we can do about it. But we can control *how* we wait in these days.

Scripture has little to say about Jesus' life before the age of 30. Only Luke tells the story of a 12-year-old

Jesus, lost by upset parents. He then adds just a few words to sum up the next two decades of Jesus' life. God incarnate entered into our experience of waiting, not for a year's lockdown, but for more than 90% of his earthly life.

Does that mean that 90 per cent was unimportant? No. Growing in wisdom takes time. The work of God in the waiting is not a quick job. As Jesus willingly entered into the painfully slow process of growing up, from newborn to adult, so we can also enter into the slow process of growth God takes us through.

What does God want to do in you during this slow period? What does it mean for you to worship God in the waiting of 2020? The shape of worship in this time may look different to how we have worshipped before. Less singing 'Hallelujah!' and more praying 'How long, O Lord?' Less rushing and more being still.

If we allow God to teach us, we may also learn to worship with our whole lives. We can't sing together on Sunday, but we can speak truth on Monday. We can't put money on the offering plate at church, but we can choose to invest ethically. Perhaps this season of waiting will be a time in which God develops us into whole-life worshippers: people who, like Jesus, grow 'in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and people'.

Sam and Sara Hargreaves

Sara and Sam run engageworship.com, providing training and resources for local church worship

(First published by LICC in their 'Word for the Week' thread)

Notes from a Scandinavian Correspondent - Summer 2020

Episode 7 - Lest We Forget



Danes rise early and go to bed early. Late evening you might see the occasional car passing through the village. The road to the south of the village is straight, and quite a steep hill, at busier times of the day, tractors and motorbikes seem to make hard work of the incline ... at this time, though, car headlights sometimes shine into our cottage from the distance.

Other lights shine from fields, as farmers attempt to complete the harvest, followed by ploughing and sowing the next crop before the winter storms set in. Whilst summer nights are longer here, winter days are that much shorter and the pace of a farmer's life, as ever, is dictated by climate and location.

Another early autumn storm has already left huge lakes in some of the local fields. Tractors are sometimes fitted with caterpillar type tracks instead of wheels in order to cope with water retentive fields.

Local streetlights appear to be dimmed after 10.00pm so as to conserve electricity; however generating electricity is at such a level that one day earlier this summer all of Denmark's electricity needs were provided by wind turbines. Turbines appear across the landscape, some are located on a jetty out into a coastal bay. They do not detract from the landscape and are perhaps part of an accepted compromise with procuring relatively clean energy.

Covid 19 has, and continues to leave its mark around the world. However, Denmark is refreshingly relaxed. (Sadly life has changed a little between August and November.) Day to day life goes on mostly as normal, the princess who takes her two small children to school in a bicycle wheelbarrow contraption will continue to do so, although the Royal Yacht, which should have toured this part of Denmark celebrating the centenary of re-unification, will not appear. The monarchy appears to be closer to the man in the street. It was not always so; splendid palaces saw the state purse squandered by previous monarchs. Of course, this was seen and not appreciated, but one could not criticise the monarch. Instead, artists used their skills to express their contempt and got away with it. A little like modern cartoons in the daily press ... the Saturday edition of The Times often has an excellent political cartoon!

Having visited some Danish art galleries, I have sometimes thought that Danish art was dull and uninspiring. That was until I saw a form of Advent Calendar, created by Peter Kaer, a Danish art historian. In recent years, he has taken a piece of art, for example, by Anna Ancher, and unpicked it, showing that every element has a purpose expressing something significant. His catch phrase is, 'There is never nothing, there is always something' of interest. Galleries such as Trapholt, Louisiana and AROS are fabulous buildings and my former perception is probably unfair. AROS is a stunning concrete block, with a light well through the centre. The other two both overlook the sea and their settings make them outstanding, even before you see an exhibition. Often exhibitions can make important social statements, like pointing out problems of homelessness or the exploitation of women. Other exhibitions we've enjoyed have been based on colour and movement. The circular walkway atop Aros in Arhus has coloured glass and the colour of the light changes as you walk around.



Around Denmark we have often seen carefully tended wayside memorials to Allied Airmen, who gave their lives during World War Two, supporting local resistance movements, making strategic strikes and not always returning to their base. 'They gave their today for our tomorrow' and the gratitude of Danes and many others persists.

Home Thoughts 29 Misty Splendour

*The day is cold, and dark, and dreary
It rains, and the wind is never weary;
The vine still clings to the mouldering wall,
But at every gust the dead leaves fall,
And the day is dark and dreary.*

'The Rainy Day' - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The dry spell of weather is giving us a breathing space after lengthy downpours. Hedgecourt Lake and Weirwood Reservoir are full to the brim. Last month was the fifth wettest October for the UK since 1862, also the fifth gloomiest October, particularly in southern England, with a third less than its usual hours of sunshine. I remember it well! An episode of La Niña is predicted to develop, which is bad news for Britain and much of the world. La Niña occurs when the Pacific cools across much of the Equator and sends our weather haywire. In Britain and Western Europe it can help cut off mild Atlantic air resulting in cold northerly winds in early Winter. Later in the Winter its effects bring milder air, but with more storms and heavier rain than normal.



Last weekend's blue moon, the second full moon in a calendar month, was spectacular. They usually happen every two or three years. I marvelled at the brilliance of the moon above the garden and Hedgecourt Lake over this last week. I think it is also called a woodcock moon. Peter and I used to go up to Ashdown Forest towards dusk on an early Summer evening to see if we could spot woodcock, but we were seldom lucky. In Autumn many woodcock cross the North Sea in search of soft places with less likelihood of frost: soft mud full of juicy worms is ideal and Ashdown Forest is the perfect area with plenty of undergrowth and thick layers of fallen leaves - perfect camouflage, where they can sit and wait for

dusk when they move out to feed.

Talking of perfect areas, the Piet Olufsen border at Wisley was spectacular. Ornamental grasses, such as miscanthus sinensis and malepartus mingled with pampas grass and persicaria as they moved sinuously with the breeze and shone with grace and beauty. At this time of year ornamental grasses with their lovely silhouettes and structure come into their own and are a foil for the brilliance of Autumnal trees. Scarlet hips and haws, blue/purple sloes, ivy flowers, figs, bright orange pyracantha provide food and well protected roosts for thrushes, blackbirds and overwintering redwings and fieldfares.



As we walked up a Kentish lane, a flurry of sparrows with cheeps and chirrups burst out of the hedge laden with berries. I think I also spotted greenfinches and blackbirds with them. In the fields, male and female pheasants were feeding on spilt grain, we could hear gunshot, a 'shoot' was in progress. Disturbed, they flew up with a great clatter, dashing off low and fast, gliding into cover. Above them soared two buzzards, gently 'mewing' and suddenly a kestrel shot by. We walked a muddy footpath through a stand of red oaks, with deeply lobed dark red leaves, and later an avenue of stately beeches. Our way took us by a churchyard where we spotted a tiny wren pottering about at the foot of these magnificent ancient trees, some still carrying pinkish-red, cup shaped fruit resembling a berry. The oldest specimens of yew may even pre-date the foundations of the church as yew had important pre-Christian religious significance.

This week I have seen two kestrels over the garden. The sweet scent of Winter-flowering viburnum; the textured bark of bare trees; gleaming branches of silver birch against the blue sky; the skeletal outline of old cordon apples with their gnarled, fissured, twisted bark; last-gasp flowers still putting on a show - all give me tremendous pleasure. Seasonal light brings drama too as glossy and prickly evergreens shine and twinkle and deciduous trees cast long, dark shadows. There are still plenty of bracket fungi on trees and colourful goblets of fungus rising out of grassy areas or thrusting through leaf litter. Two jays bounced around the lawn as if they were on springs; the robin is still bathing late in the evening; squirrels chase each other up and down the horse chestnuts. Jewelled spider's webs are slung from bud to bud on the rose bushes - works of art and so beautiful. Please be vigilant when Bonfire Night approaches. Having spent weeks feeding up on slugs, snails, beetles and worms to survive the Winter, many hedgehogs will now be asleep and a perfect place to snuggle down is a pile of leaves, twigs and branches. Perhaps we could leave them in peace and, if we must have a bonfire, make a new one.

Refilling the bird feeders is keeping me busy along with making sure that water in the bird bath has not frozen. Clematis cirrhosis 'Freckles' is in flower, it has drooping cream/pale yellow petals speckled with maroon which will bloom all Winter and eventually produce attractive silky seed heads. There have been eight or more goldfinches, greenfinches, several long tailed tits and four nuthatches visiting the feeders.

On Sunday, at Weirwood Reservoir, I saw several pheasants feeding in the fields. The three gadwall duck, six great crested grebe, coot and gannet enjoyed the peaceful water. The feeders beside the Reservoir have been replaced, topped up and were providing seeds, and nuts for a variety of takers - two nuthatches; chaffinch; black cap; goldfinches; greenfinches; robin; blue, great, coal and long-tailed tits. A tree creeper spiralled round a branch above and a great spotted woodpecker hung onto the peanut feeder supported by its tail. Suddenly, with a flurry of wings, they were gone as a sparrow hawk flew overhead.

Yesterday evening I went to Hedgecourt Lake as the sun was sinking in a golden glow and lighting up the water, shining and still. Magical. In swept the starlings. They swirled, rose in ever-increasing numbers and shapes and fell like black daggers into the reeds. From the reeds came a soft, gentle 'chatter' as the murmuration settled for the night. What wonderful plants reeds are with their soft feathery tops undulating and swaying in the light breeze, providing refuge and roosting for thousands of birds and small mammals. Ten pochard and several coot were near the middle of the Lake and I counted at least eight great crested grebe diving for fish as the family of swans moved to the far side. High in the sky many birds were making their way 'home' for the night - maybe they were migrating.



Perched beside the weir, a grey wagtail waited quietly, not moving. With a sudden, sharp call it flew off. As I drove up Mill Lane, a muntjac deer ran out of the woodland in front of the car ... what an evening!

*So gentle is the light of Autumn,
Kinder far than Summer's blaze
Gilding tree-tops, towers and turrets,
As they peer through pearly haze ...*

*Touching ancient hills with splendour,
With its last soft, lingering rays,
May this glow of sunshine cheer us
In the Autumn, all our days.
'Sunshine Glow' - K O'Farrell*

Joan Bateman`



Across the world, Covid-19 has brought much sadness to many. 'On the brink of this second lockdown we might understandably feel helpless, anxious and vulnerable', says the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, '... we do what we can to halt the spread of this virus - but we can still feel powerless. Is there anything else we can do? Really do? Yes. Yes there is. We can pray. Prayer is my first response when I feel out of my depth, when I need help, when I am worried, when I am concerned for those I love ... Prayer changes things'.

Thy Kingdom Come invites you to join us over the next four weeks of #PrayerfortheNation. **Every day we will pause and pray at 6.00pm for those impacted by the pandemic.** You can set an alarm, light a candle or use a light on your mobile phone as a prompt to pray, or you may even hear a church or cathedral bell ring as a reminder.

Go to the Thy Kingdom Come website for daily prayers, with an easy to use, downloadable prayer booklet to help as you pray over the next four weeks. Please join #PrayerfortheNation - and share it with your friends and family.

Trinity Methodist Church East Grinstead RH19 2HA

OUR VISION IS TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE CHRIST KNOWN

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