

TRINITY TIMES

Easter 2021



Holy Trinity Church Maisons Laffitte

Donation : 2 euros

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Buildings/Grounds	Adrian Parr
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Flower Rota	Fiona Dabas
Guiding	Christine Salisbury
Intercessions	Elizabeth Bean
Lesson Readers	Elizabeth Bean
Little Fishes	Jessamy Dinet
Trinity Times	Nancy Huguet
Organist	Joan Bauman
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Activity	Contact person
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Planned Giving	Robert Manterfield
Prayer Net	Edith Briard
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Scouting	Gillian Barratt
Sidesmen	Patrick Gautier-Lynham
Sunday Groups	Chaplain
Treasurer	Bob Hughes
Trinity Tots	Jenni Gibson
Web Site	Richard Medcalf
Welcomers	Jane Gorini
Youth Worker	Chaplain
Home Groups	
Monday p.m.	Richard Medcalf
Tuesday a.m.	Nancy Huguet
Thursday a.m.	Hesry Marshall

Chaplain's Corner

Dear friends,

I must admit I'm having trouble processing the fact that we are approaching Easter "*with restrictions*" again!

I admit that I had naively imagined that the threat of Covid 19 would have been eradicated by 2021.

However, as we move through Lent, we begin to see the first shoots of spring, we enjoy the warmer weather, the prospect of vaccines and the promise of hope, which is after all the message of Easter. As I have mentioned in my recent sermons, I actually love the season of Lent - a time to make space, a time to reflect and to draw closer to God. My Lenten discipline this year includes giving up TV. Instead of watching countless series on Netflix, I've tried to read more, to spend more time writing in my journal and just reflecting on what our lives at Holy Trinity will look like once the country returns to "normal". I must admit I love the silence, and I enjoy taking my morning coffee into the garden, to think and to pray instead of waking up to the struggles of the world on the BBC news. That alone feels more hopeful!

The book many of us are studying for Lent is "Living His Story" by Hannah Steele. A book which encourages us to witness to others by simply telling our story. Our story of becoming a Christian, or by sharing our experience of God or about those who have helped us on our spiritual journeys. I have been reflecting on my own story in the last year, as it's now a year since I first met some of you at Holy Trinity when I came for my interview in March 2020. The following week the whole country was plunged into lockdown. We all have a story to tell of these times, we will tell of how we coped, of how our lives changed and the sad stories of those whom we knew and who lost their lives. I know that in my own story there will be times of lament, and despair, but I would like to think that the things which helped me to survive in the loneliest of times are my faith, my hope in Christ and the love of those around me. As we approach Easter Day let us remember that the stone rolled away from the empty tomb is the greatest sign of hope for us. It is God's greatest miracle. We are Easter people, and we find our greatest joy in this one event, this is our story.

What the world needs now more than ever is the witness of our Easter faith. Many people are seeking ways to get through the Good Fridays of their lives to the time of resurrection and new life, and to receive a renewed reason to hope.



When we acclaim together on Easter morning that "Christ is risen" it reminds us all that there is something stable, something permanent in creation that will not be defeated by sin and evil. The empty tomb is our assurance that God stands with us, and that God is there to strengthen and uphold us in our darkest of times.

The journey of Lent is often deeply personal, but it's always one which brings us together when we follow Jesus through the events of Holy Week and we gather as one at the foot of His cross. There we see how a symbol of defeat and rejection becomes transformed by the grace of God into the ultimate symbol of victory and redemption. With perfect trust in Him, there is no such thing as hopelessness any more. There is only the love of God in Jesus Christ, in whom we have hope. Even in the bleak midwinters of life, when springtime seems so far away, what is there to defeat us when we place our faith in Christ, and in the Spirit who draws near to us today, filling our hearts and minds with an unquenchable hope which truly does overcome our sorrows.

This is a great story for us to share isn't it ?

Charlotte

Some comic relief sent in by George Hart, former member of Holy Trinity

A man goes to the Optician for his annual eye test. The Optician puts a contraption on his face and asks him what he can see.

"I see empty airports and empty football grounds", he says. "I see closed theatres, closed pubs, closed restaurants."

"That's perfect", says the Optician. "You've got 2020 vision"!

And for a moving bedtime story and poem about 2020, check out, The Great Realisation by Tomfoolery on YouTube.

Chaplaincy Council – Highlights of Last Two Meetings

The Church Council and our entire community were greatly saddened by the tragic and untimely passing away of Simon Tennant in December. Simon was a very active member of our church and Chaplaincy Council, and his presence is sorely missed. We continue to pray for his family and commend his soul to God's eternal love.

The Chaplaincy Council met on 2 November and 11 January.

All Council meetings have regular updates about spiritual development matters, safeguarding and our financial situation.

Over the past few months, considerable attention has been devoted to our (i) worship services, (ii) our Sunday morning children's groups and Youth Group and (iii) building works.

Since the beginning of the second national lockdown last October, our Sunday morning services have again become virtual. Even though the Sunday morning services are greatly appreciated (thank you Jenni!), the Chaplaincy Council continues to reflect on the possibility of organising in-person services subject to all relevant French and CoE Covid safety requirements.

The Council has also spent considerable time reflecting on the spiritual growth of our young people. Recently a weekly Zoom Sunday group called 'Den@Ten' was created for the Sunday morning groups. These Zoom sessions include music, games/activities and a Bible story.

As you probably all know, Kirstin Taylor, our Youth Worker, and her family have recently returned to the UK to pursue their ministry. As a result, the Chaplaincy Council is discussing the recruitment of a new Youth Worker. A small working group was formed to consider the profile and different types of responsibilities which this position could encompass. Despite the difficulty of recruiting a Youth Worker during the present period, recruitment efforts are underway.

Finally, much time has been spent on the structural evaluation of our church building. Thanks to the much appreciated efforts of Adrian Parr, our Infrastructure & Grounds Coordinator, it was confirmed that urgent repairs were needed.

A quote for the relevant building works was obtained, examined, and approved by the Council.

Other matters which were raised during the last two meetings included the following:

- Different ways of organising a virtual Christmas Fair. In addition, Council considered the organisation of a virtual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

- A full presentation of our 2020 financial accounts was made. In addition, a proposed budget for 2021 was examined. We are very grateful to Bob Hughes, who has very kindly stepped in to manage our finances following the passing of Simon Tennant.

- Alice Aupérin, our Safeguarding Officer, has indicated that all safeguarding related matters are well in hand. However, administrative procedures related to safeguarding requirements have slowed considerably due to the present Covid situation.

- The Chaplaincy Council has continued to focus on several priority areas: (i) Communicating the Relevance of our Christian faith and (ii) Managing our Infrastructure & Grounds. Three Council sub-groups are dedicated to communicating the Relevance of our faith: Home Groups, Sunday Services and Debates/Conferences for the wider community. A fourth sub-group is devoted to our Infrastructure & Grounds

- **Dates of the next Chaplaincy Council meetings:**

1 March 2021

19 April 2021

AGM via zoom Sunday 18 April 2021

You may find you change your mind about animals and how you look at them after reading this moving and thought-provoking reflection by Caroline Varley.

Animals, are they really happy fellow beings of God's creation?

Did you know that 'even' rats experience fear, have fun, and feel compassion? This article is about how much of humanity is ignorant of the intelligence and sensitivity of animals, aside perhaps from our experience of pets and seeing clever apes in TV documentaries.

This article is based on a book written by a highly respected primatologist of world renown, and the supporting research of neuro-scientists, anthropologists, and behavioural scientists at the forefront of their fields, following decades of careful research. The conclusions of their latest work should, I believe, be a massive wake-up call for the way we treat animals.

It is clear that humans are both sentient and intelligent. The critical question is whether these attributes can be applied to animals. Sentience may be defined as the capacity to sense, feel, experience and perceive. Intelligence may be defined as the capacity for self-awareness, reasoning, and problem-solving

Many of us may feel that this makes us humans very special. In strict evolutionary terms, it's largely a delusion. Modern neuroscience makes it impossible to maintain a sharp human-animal dualism. Our brains are the same basic structure as other mammals. We have no new body parts, and we employ the same neurotransmitters. The brains of humans start out a similar size in the foetus. It's not a different computer but a more powerful one, as ours just kept on expanding. There is not a single organ of our bodies which other animals do not have. We are on a continuum of evolution not only with mammals, but with all creatures with a central nervous system. There is no magic point where humans suddenly break out to be the only beings on earth which are sentient and intelligent. It's just a matter of degree.

The evidence of countless experiments, years of close observation, and now with the insights of neuroscience such as brain scans reveals that the intelligence of animals has an integrated, intelligent flexible response system to their world, which takes them far beyond basic instincts, even if these can't be articulated in speech.

We are not the only species with the capacity for love, hate, fear, shame, hope, self-awareness, guilt, pride, anger, joy, hope, disgust, empathy, depression, to

feel pain, evaluate, have fun but also to intimidate, and to be deliberately cruel. Of course, there are degrees of cognition among animals. Each type of animal is different. A rat will be more developed than an elephant.

Here are just three examples to make the point. Let me start with rats. Yes rats. It turns out that rats experience fear, have fun, and feel compassion. Our feet tend to freeze in the face of danger. It's the same with rats, who get cold tails and paws. Rodent faces show that they express anguish through narrowed eyes, flattened ears and swollen cheeks. They also like to be tickled, and utter high-pitched chirps for more. A laboratory rat presented with a companion trapped in a glass container will respond to the distress of the trapped rat and make a purposeful effort to liberate her.

Birds are more intelligent than rats. But their intelligence and self-control may surprise. A (famous to scientists) so-called 'marshmallow' test was given to children and then to parrots. They are promised two of them, but only if they leave first one alone for 15 minutes. Both parrot and child can hold out against temptation for exactly the same 15 minutes. The same mental processes must be at play.

Horses have some of the most expressive faces on the planet. They have no less than 17 distinct muscle movements. Horses snort more when they are content, greet each other by pulling back their lip corners, show the whites of their eyes and open them in fear, curl up their upper lip when finding a scent.

And so on, with dogs, cats, elephants, geese, fish, zebra, apes of course. All animals, each in their own way, adapted to their natural history.

There is overwhelming evidence that animals, like us, are sentient beings. A burning question concerns pain. Just because animals can't speak, doesn't mean that they don't suffer. There is a great deal of pain in nature of course. But what about the additional and unnecessary pain inflicted by humans?

Consider our disparagingly called livestock? They account for 75% of animals on earth. A vast number of animals under our control. Our language for defining them is telling. Pigs are pork, Calves are veal, Cows are beef. Lambs are lamb. Sheep are mutton, Geese and ducks are foie gras. Before, animals often had names, pastures to graze on, mud to wallow in and so on.

Today, it is simpler and more productive to lock them in so people rarely see the miserable, degrading, even cruel conditions of their shortened lives. When these animals hit our supermarket shelves, or the butcher's, all that we conveniently see is cuts of meat without feet, heads, or tails attached.

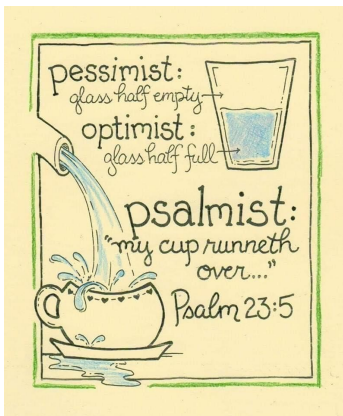
Perhaps we should not eat meat at all? After all, we are omnivores. We have a long evolutionary history of supplementing fruit and nuts with animal proteins. We are part of a vast ecosystem. All animals kill each other. Today, with the climate change impact of all those animals raised and eaten for the growing billions of humans on the planet, our current approach won't do anymore. If we don't want to be vegans, we should seriously consider eating far less meat, and when we do eat meat, to find out how these animals have been treated. From farm, to transport, to abattoir.

I would like you now to spare a thought for the poor stressed pigs. The fate of 90% of French pigs is to live out their time, permanently indoors packed into serried ranks of cramped crates. Think of that next time you go past your local charcuterie. Not even "bio" is a guarantee that pigs have a good life. Think of the terrified geese and ducks force fed to produce foie gras, next time you tuck into a New Year's dinner. Spare a thought for the frightened calves wrenched from their mothers after birth to live their short lives in the dark, the better to ensure that you can enjoy your pink veal chop. The desperate battery-reared chickens crammed into vast sunless hangars. And live lobsters about to be plunged into boiling water, screaming as they die. As for the rest, are you quite sure about the conditions in which your lambs, cows and fish have been 'brought up'?

Human cognition is far more evolved than any other animal's on earth. Our minds are somehow excluded, to some degree, from the laws of evolution. There is no obvious evolutionary need to have a mind that can play chess, or argue about our origins. Nothing short of a divine being could have lifted us up. Our responsibility towards the animal kingdom is therefore immense. Their lives, their well-being, in our hands.

All God's creatures, one and all. Our fellow travellers on this planet.

CV



When preparing for her father Alex's funeral earlier this year, Angela Labaisse's sister found this article among his papers, which she thinks he wrote for an Alpha Course at his church, St. Andrew's in Fairlight, East Sussex and organised by their then vicar Bernard Crosby, which she would like to share with us.

Amazing Grace



To answer Bernard's question "what does Easter – the Crucifixion and the Resurrection – mean to me?", it means grace and forgiveness.

The well-loved Christmas carol tells us that "love came down at Christmas" but at Easter I think we must add another dimension to that love, namely, grace and forgiveness. Easter is the manifestation of such love, but it is by God's grace that He allowed

His son to die for us and of course, it was in His dying that Christ himself asked His persecutors to be forgiven.

It was by good chance that Patrick, our organist, delved into his extensive repertoire and the choir is now rehearsing an anthem that will give me and the other men a lovely line to sing:

"What wonderful love, what perfect grace of Jesus, our exalted host invites us to that special place"

I went to my dictionary to look up the meaning of 'grace' and was amazed to find that it gave 10 different meanings for the word. By which I don't mean 10 different synonyms. The first was various words like, beauty and elegance. Another was "a grace note", which is a decoration to another note in music and so on. But number 8 read:

"in Christianity grace is the free and unmerited favour of God and the divine assistance given to man".

I am right I hope in thinking that Christ himself did not actually use the word but at some point Peter referred to John's gospel as, "the gospel of grace". I think 'grace' is one of the differences between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The old reflecting our relationship with God and a vengeful God, while the New Testament is permeated with the essence of grace and forgiveness.

One does not need to be a good person to make a great work of art or help to feed a starving war-torn Africa or help their sick. But a Christian in doing such

things can add the other factor of grace.

I read that at the British conference on comparative religions some experts were debating, *“what belief made the Christian faith unique?”*. After all, other religions have included a god appearing in human form or have accounts of returning from the dead. C.S. Lewis on hearing of the argument resounded promptly saying, *“this is easy. It is grace!”*

When I was 6 years old my father, as part of the rear guard at Dunkirk became a prisoner of war and spent the next 5 years in a German prison camp. My brother and I spent our summer holidays with his mother. At bedtime she would ask us to say a prayer usually something we had learned at school. Then she would ask us to add, *“for the safe return of our Dad”*. It was a long time ago now, but I am sure there never seemed to be any acrimony towards the Germans. It was a simple prayer to bring him home safely. I would like to think that this was a good example of grace at work.

To complete the story, our prayer was answered, and our father did come home. But for a boy of 6 waiting and praying until the age of 11, it took a very long time to answer. Regrettably my gran died before the end of the war and never saw her son again.

To return to my definitions of grace I did not mention one obvious one – grace before a meal. And as we are about to approach the table I hope this will complement what Bernard is about to say....

AL



On right of table: Angela’s daughter Olivia, husband Olivier, younger son Erwan, parents & Angela; On the left: older son William.

Here are the sights, sounds or smells which have given most pleasure to the TT committee. Please share with us those that have lifted your spirits.

Sights and Sounds During Covid

In these uneventful covid days one thing especially lifts my spirits: seeing a very young puppy out for a walk. It just radiates joy and a zest for life, dashing off to investigate everything, overjoyed to see another dog, then all too often brought up short by its leash. Sometimes it wants to say it’s tired and tries to just sit and not move on. And if I can pat it and play a little, my heart too is filled with happiness. Even the memory immediately lifts my spirits. – E.B.

Every morning an uncanny silence - no traffic - everybody at home behind closed shutters! Only the occasional pigeon cooing on the roof, a cock crowing and chickens clucking in a neighbour's garden. Wonderful to imagine for a while that you are deep in the country and not in a flat a couple of minutes from a busy station!! – S.M.

It’s the February school holiday and the temperature is an incredible 19 degrees. I’m sitting in the garden with a cup of tea, thinking about all the things I "should" be doing. Instead, I’m listening to the birdsong surrounding me and enjoying the quietness and the clear blue sky resulting from the lack of overhead aeroplanes. I think this difference is what I noticed and appreciated most during "Lockdown 2020" and it is becoming apparent again in 2021 as spring starts to appear and we venture outside once again. Our slower pace of life and lack of places to go enables us to enjoy and appreciate this newfound stillness, but this time last year who would have thought that we’d still be in this situation now?... - C.F.

Confinement has changed our habits so much. Some changes are positive, giving us more time to reflect and to be aware of our surroundings, especially nature. Some of the busy noises have disappeared, and there are less cars on the road after the curfew of 6pm. One sound that raises my spirits is a horse being led by a man down the street. I hear the slow clip clop, clip clop as he makes his way first, down the street, and later back up. I don’t know where they are going, or why. The man is always walking the horse, he is not sitting on his back. I know this because I race to the window to catch a glimpse of this sight. As I go about my everyday activities at home, I keep an ear open for this sound. Why does it give me such a thrill? Why do I feel like a child clasping a gift to my heart? We don’t live in the park, and although 20 or even 10 years ago, this used to be a regular sight and sound, it had disappeared. Until very recently when one lone horse with his master has given me cause for joy and thanks. – N.H.

A behind-the-scenes look at how our virtual Christmas Fair multiplied like the loaves and fishes. From Rachel & Emma Ischoffen.

Boxing Days 2020

Or how we all worked together to raise (rather a lot of) money

It was after one of our last “masked” services before the second lockdown that Nigel spoke to me about an on-line Christmas Fair or shop. I was rather taken aback having thought that we might sell a few puddings, marmalade etc. amongst the congregation and leave it at that due to potential future lockdowns, social distancing etc. For the next “fête committee” zoom Charlotte said “Let’s invite Richard to the meeting, he has some good ideas” and “Hesry’s making her curries and intending to sell them €5 per portion”. Richard’s good idea turned out to be “Christmas Cheer Boxes” to spread a little hope and happiness over the Christmas period. But what to put inside to reflect the traditional Christmas Fair spirit? Marmalade of course, mince pies, puddings maybe, cards, cakes ... Together we decided to go ahead with the idea if we could sell 15 boxes. When Rosemary phoned to say she would make about 30 jars of marmalade, I was delighted and assured her that we would never sell so many boxes. I had ordered enough fruit and suet to make about 30 puddings too, as well as half the usual amount of mincemeat (thinking it’ll be alright, we can keep what doesn’t sell till next year ...).

On the 14th November Charlotte, Emma, Fiona and I made 37 puddings and about 30 jars of mincemeat. However, after dozens of emails and phone calls we soon realized that this was not nearly enough – more suet and fruit had to be ordered quickly to make more! There was a problem with the Christmas cards too – we needed more! I phoned the UK to repeat the order but somehow the order was delayed and when I phoned the company I discovered our cards were in Bristol! Another package had to be rushed over the channel!

The boxes themselves were collected from Leclerc where I had recently started working. Every evening Emma and I sorted them into piles of small, medium and large ready to be covered with Christmas paper on “Boxing Day” itself. One evening I collapsed into fits of nervous laughter as I surveyed my office covered in flattened cardboard boxes, rolls of wrapping paper and lists of names!

Meanwhile Rosemary and her team of helpers were busy with the increased order for marmalade and Jan prepared herself for large scale last-minute lemon curd production. As for Claudia, she cheerfully rose to the challenge of making over 600 mince pies – how did she do it?

For the cakes, I had the “brilliant” idea of offering people a limited choice of type of cake meaning that lists became increasingly complicated, having to match cakes between bakers and customers. At one point we “lost” an order between Excel tables and had to start all over again. By this time 73 boxes had been ordered, so 73 cakes or batches of scones had to be located! Anyone who phoned or met me over those few days was immediately asked “Would you like to bake for us?” Fortunately everyone was more than willing, with many volunteers making several cakes. Fiona made 70 scones on “Boxing Day” morning!

Christine suggested making gingerbread men and then fudge was added to some of the boxes too. Isaline rang to say the scouts had prepared some handmade gifts – our boxes were filling up nicely. And what about a greetings card for each box, handwritten? (Another evening’s fun for Emma and me....).

We all know the Christmas Fair would not be complete without a raffle. Nancy and Hesry organised this superbly, and we decided to include raffle tickets in the boxes. During one phone call Nancy indicated that the draw could take place on the Friday so that winners could collect their hampers at the same time as their boxes on the Saturday. I thought this a very good idea and said as much until Emma overheard the conversation and called out “No! the raffle tickets are one of the surprises in the boxes – no good if the draw has already taken place!” Lucky someone was on the ball!



On the great day, December 12th, I arrived at the church hall at 8am and a delicious smell of curry filled the air as Hesry and Beth had departed in the early hours, after cooking curry nearly all night! Judy and Sylvaine, Charlotte, Jan and Christine packed and wrapped the boxes, not forgetting labels to ensure the right cake was in each box. Then we waited for the customers to arrive whilst Bob set up his money collection table. Nancy was on hand too,

sorting out her raffle hampers and Hesry and Beth dished out the hundreds of portions of curries that had been ordered.

What a relief to see all the boxes collected and how wonderful to receive emails of appreciation. Together we raised over €7,000! Many thanks to everyone—helpers and customers!

RI & EI

In photo : Nancy, Rachel, Sylvaine, Judy, Charlotte and Jan .

More recipes to share with you from among those sent in for the Centenary celebration (before we had to reduce our plans to a minimum).

Recipes

Easy Chicken Dinner (For 1 person)

Cheese crackers, crushed
1 chicken breast, without bones and skin
Sour cream (crème fraîche)
Margarine or butter
Salt

Heat oven to 200°C
Coat chicken with sour cream and turn in crushed cheese crackers
Place on a baking sheet
Sprinkle with salt
Put on 3 knobs or 2 tsp of melted margarine or butter
Bake in 200 °C oven for about 30 minutes

Belgian Chocolate Biscuit Cake

225g Plain Chocolate (Nestle dessert noir)
225g Butter
225g Plain Biscuits (Petit Beurre Lu)
25g Sugar
30g Almonds (chopped)
2 Eggs
Few drops of vanilla essence/brandy

Grease 30cm loose bottom tin
Melt chocolate with butter
Break up biscuits (not too small)
Stir into chocolate with eggs and sugar mixture
Add nuts and brandy (keep few halves of nuts for garnish)
Mix well crushing any large pieces of biscuit
Put in tin and smooth top, garnishing with almonds
Put in fridge for at least 2 hours
Store in fridge but bring out 30 mins before serving
Serve small slices as it is quite rich!
Freezes well (I usually cut it in slices to freeze).

Anke Iwata

Jean Genock

Banana & Choc Chip Muffins

Approximately 16 muffins

200g all purpose flour
110g packed brown sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon sea salt
70g unsalted butter, melted and cooled slightly
3 ripe medium bananas, mashed with a fork (and any other chopped up fruit eg. an apple)
1 large egg
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
200g chocolate chips

Heat oven to 180 degrees C.
Line muffin cups with paper liners.

Whisk the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl.

In another bowl, whisk the melted butter, mashed banana, egg, and vanilla until blended.

Add the banana mixture to the bowl with dry ingredients then use a fork to combine. Do not over mix. Stir in chocolate.

Fill muffin cups 3/4 full (use an ice-cream scoop).

Bake until a toothpick can be inserted and come out clean, about 20 minutes.



Photo source: marthastewart.com

Jenni Gibson

Are you looking for a free family outing not far from ML, and open all year round? Look no further. Nancy Huguet shares a Saturday outing suggestion.

Free Family-Friendly Outing

You may remember that the first weekend of Lent was a balmy 18 degrees and the sun graced us most of the daylight hours. Everyone was outside and cyclists and walkers were everywhere. Viewed from above (from a drone, for example), we must have looked like ants scurrying about after hibernating during the winter. It felt like spring!

We joined those streaming out of urban areas into the countryside. In about 30 minutes, we were in the Parc National Régional de la haute vallée de Chevreuse driving along quiet country roads with flat fields stretching out on either side alternating with areas of trees. It was so relaxing! Our destination was Dampierre-en-Yvelines which is best known for its château. But that was not our destination.

We were headed for the Marais de Maincourt. With seemingly everything closed due to covid restrictions and the time of year, late February, we were looking to get some fresh air and a bit of exercise. The Marais de Maincourt provides something for everyone. There are 2 trails that are so well marked that even we weekend hikers couldn't possibly get lost.

The green trail is a leisurely 1 hour walk accessible to all. We passed families with strollers and young children (even wheelchairs with a strong person pushing should be able to manage). The green circuit takes you through the marsh walking on a wide raised wooden boardwalk with regular platforms complete with bench to stop. There are 13 information boards, many accessible for children. For example, one has a list of creatures in the marsh with matching photos. You need to match up who eats who. We also passed an enclosed field with donkeys.

The orange circuit is a leisurely 2 hour walk which includes part of the wooden boardwalk through the marshlands, but then gently climbs onto the wooded hillside. There are abandoned sandstone quarries, an old lavoir and the site of a moulin. Vegetation and terrain change. Picnic benches are scattered throughout. For an added challenge, we saw some young people running the trail with packs. Both trails are very accessible and user-friendly. The starting point is a parking lot where you pick up the trail.

Dampierre-en-Yvelines just down the road has a variety of restaurants for all budgets. Even on this warm February weekend there was take-out food to be had.

Should you wish to continue your day out, the Château de Breteuil is only a short drive away. Known as Perrault's château, you will find over 50 fairy tale characters, wax figurines made by the Musée Grévin. You will find some of your favourite characters including Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Puss'n Boots throughout the château and the outer buildings and garden.

The 75 hectare garden includes a labyrinth. On the summer day we visited a few years ago, there was a storyteller in the garden with children gathered round. The entrance fee is 14,50 euros per adult (11,50 for garden only), which can run rather steep for a family. And if you are looking for a wedding venue (when wedding receptions are allowed again), we also happened on an outdoor wedding in the château gardens.

Wishing you many happy outings this spring!



NH

Almost all of us have spent more time at home over the past year than ever before. Edith Briard shares a prayer that puts God at the heart of our home.

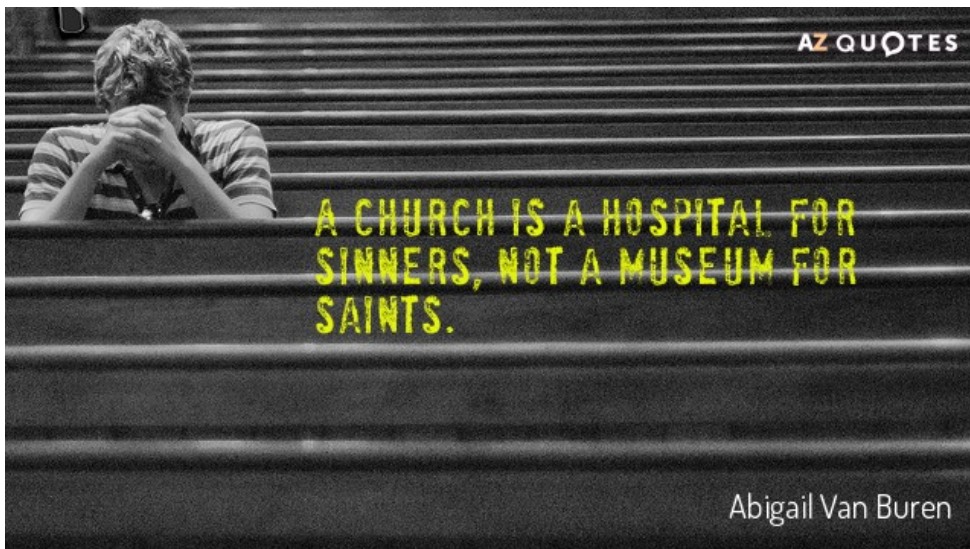
World Day of Prayer

Because of Covid we have to spend more time in our homes than ever before. More than ever they have become the centre of daily life. Perhaps that is why this year's World Day of Prayer, prepared by the women of Vanuatu, spoke to me so emphatically and prompted me to share with you. It compared God to a house-builder and each of us to a stone that is special and unique. We were encouraged to use this stone to build our lives on the strong foundation of God's love. One prayer in particular resonates with so much force today.

"Help us to build our lives on your foundation: with windows that look out to the world; with a door that opens to welcome all; with mortar which binds us together; with a roof that shelters us through the storms of life."

This is a house we can live in with confidence, because we know it will withstand any storm.

EB



What an intriguing title! Read on to find out more about the toilet twinning scheme taking place at HT as explained by Anna Dobrovolskis.

Trinity Twins Toilets!

In Spring 2020, the Green Lantern environmental group suggested twinning the toilets in our church. The charity committee granted our request to flush away poverty by donating to the Toilet Twinning U.K charity that build toilets in developing countries.



I am going to explain to you why Trinity felt it was worth every penny spent 😊:

Did you know that one in three people in the world do not have access to a toilet? This is more than just a hygiene issue. Let's look at the reasons why everyone should have access to a loo. (I'll try and keep this as clean as possible..):

*Open defecation (going outside in nature to relieve oneself) leads to diarrhoeal death. This currently stands at about 2195 young children per day (1 in 9 children's deaths worldwide).

*Open defecation e.g near irrigation sources leads to diseases entering the food cycle of a community.

*When people get ill they cannot work to support their family.

*Medicine can be costly and put a family into debt.

*Girls frequently stop going to school once their periods have started if the school does not have latrines.

*Women and girls can be especially vulnerable going to a dark field at night time.

*All people can be in danger of snakes if going to a field at night.

Let's look at why loos save lives:

- * Toilets mean that human waste is contained hygienically.
- * Hygienic habits can be more easily established when a family or village have a toilet nearby (having water and soap at hand after leaving the toilet).
- * People can feel safe, dignified and relaxed when going to the toilet.

The latrines are built by the community who have received the funding to allow them to feel ownership and to increase the likelihood of them using them. The community is also given hygiene courses and the risks of open defecations are explained to them.

Trinity is twinned with toilets in Honduras, The Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. Photos of the toilets we have had built are on display (you've guessed it) in our public toilets.

For further information see the Toilet Twinning website:

(<https://www.toilettwinning.org/twin-today>)

And for those of you who want to read even further here are details of the annual United Nations Toilet Day on November 19th!

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/toilet-day>

Green Lantern would like to wholeheartedly thank the Charity Committee for allowing this project to be realized.

AD



Henry Marshall shares how he and Maria-Carmen have successfully navigated the shoals of a marriage with different faiths for over 55 years.

Ecumenism in marriage



Many moons ago, Nancy, our editor, asked me whether I would be willing to write an article for the Trinity Times on the subject of ecumenism in a mixed marriage. I hesitated to answer her as it is of course quite a difficult theme and an even more personal one. In addition, every family that finds itself in this situation must find solutions to various problems which may not necessarily conform to the rules of the 'powers that be' ! (The solutions, not the problems !)

I was, myself, already born into a mixed marriage: my mother was French and was a non-practising Roman Catholic but my British father was a practising Anglican. Their solution was easy: they were married in St George's church in Paris. The family went to church there, I was christened there and was brought up as an Anglican. When in England during WWII, I went to a C. of E. school and later was a boarder at an Anglican Public School, where I was confirmed and attended prayers and church services regularly. This helped me develop a faith which remains with me today.

My wife, Maria-Carmen, was born in Madrid, just after the end of the Spanish civil war. Although her parents were not particularly regular church attenders, under Generalissimo Franco's regime the Roman Catholic church was omnipresent : there were, for instance, no civil marriages and divorce was unheard of. Children normally attended catechism which was integrated into the local school system. She followed the usual course and gradually joined various youth movements in her parish and local area. After her confirmation she became a regular attender at daily mass and rosary recitations.

Although we first met in 1956, our more proper engagement lasted from Pentecost 1959 to our wedding on Whit-Saturday 1964 in Madrid, where MC was living with her parents. I alternated between London (and Vevey in Switzerland), where I was serving my Chartered Accountant articles and Paris - my parents' home. During those 5 years we wrote to each other twice a week !

The telephone was too expensive but we did manage to meet up at Easter, Whitsun, during one week in summer and at Christmas/New Year.

During our long correspondance we touched on many subjects but, of course, our relative religious positions were among them. We started very positively by underlying the fact that we were both Christians, that we accepted the same creeds, the same New Testament (in fact, almost the same Bible !) and we felt the same need to be in contact with God through prayer and with His people by regular attendance at Church.

We agreed that neither would try forcibly to 'convert' the other; that each would continue to attend his own organisation but that we would, from time to time, attend the other's church (to get to know it better). We would encourage each other to be active in his/her lay activities (MC was on the catechism board of the Lycée International for 14 years, présidente for the last 4; and I was on the Holy Trinity parish council for 8 years, of which 3 as hon. treasurer and 4 as hon. secretary.)

In addition to participating in daily prayers together, it seemed, and still seems, important that we should do things jointly. Due to MC's limited knowledge of English this has meant essentially being active in French or Spanish organisations. We have now been in the Equipes Notre-Dame for nearly 40 years and when we lived in Spain we were in another, less formal, prayer group for married couples attached to the French church. For a few years, we also both attended the Holy Trinity group that met at Bob and Sylvaine Hughes' home (they were of course all bi-lingual !).

From an early stage we also decided to be active in our 'Christian Unity' behaviour. Whenever we were staying with family or friends who attended their church or chapel, we would accompany them, whatever Christian denomination that might be. Futhermore, if the service included the Lord's Supper we would also partake. If it were a simple memorial of the Upper Room ceremony, so be it; we would remember that sacred occasion. If it were a full consecration of the Eucharist, we would accept with the rest of the congregation the Body of Christ and, if it were also available, his Holy Blood.

The most difficult area for us to find an arrangement was for the religious education of our (unborn !) children. Where would they be baptised ? Where would they attend Sunday school/catechism ? Our relationship almost broke off on more than one occasion until we found 'une côte mal-taillée', 'un pis-aller', a 'modus vivendi'. Finally, they were all christened in specific Roman Catholic churches that had links with our family, but we agreed that they would also attend various religious ceremonies in Anglican churches (in particular at Christmas and Easter) and would follow the religious education provided in their school: the girls that went to the Lycée International went to the RC chapel there

and the boys who were boarders in an Anglican Public School in England followed the normal religious syllabus there. Those that wished to do so also attended various Scout organisations. All our children are now married and, in every case, their current religious affiliation is dependant on that of their spouse !

The arrangements for our wedding were also far from straightforward. As is usual, we decided to be married in Madrid, the bride's home town. But that was in 1964, before both the 2nd Vatican Council and the death of Franco and the subsequent democratic Spanish Constitution of 1978. It had to be in a RC church but, at that time, 'heretics' were not allowed to be married in a church building ! The only possible solution, we were told, was to hold the ceremony in the parsonage ! No way could we agree to that ! Fortunately the RC church was not as monolithic as it appeared; the above rules were those of the Spanish Episcopacy, the local French church depended on the French Episcopacy who was far more conciliatory. As I also have French nationality through my mother, I was entitled to go to St Louis des Français ! Le Recteur was delighted to preside over our international wedding in his beautiful church and we have now been happily married for nearly 57 years !

HM



Photo source: thefellowshipsite.com

Before our Lent study, the Bible studies had the pleasure of reading and discussing Psalms. Many of us have our own favourites that bring us great comfort. This is Jeanne Halpern's favourite.

Why I Love Psalm 46

I love the sheer poetry of Psalm 46, and its bold affirmative language. Right from verse 1 we are plunged into the powerful imagery of a God who is our refuge and strength in times of trouble. This is a statement of faith which I have often had recourse to in my own times of fear and doubting, but I have also shared it with others. In the midst of figurative environmental turmoil and warfare in the first and last part of this psalm, we can hear the voice of God who intervenes to bring us comfort and shelter. We are safe and secure in the Lord's presence for He protects His people when disaster strikes. We are at Peace and all our fears are removed as we trust in Him who is faithful and unchanging.

JH

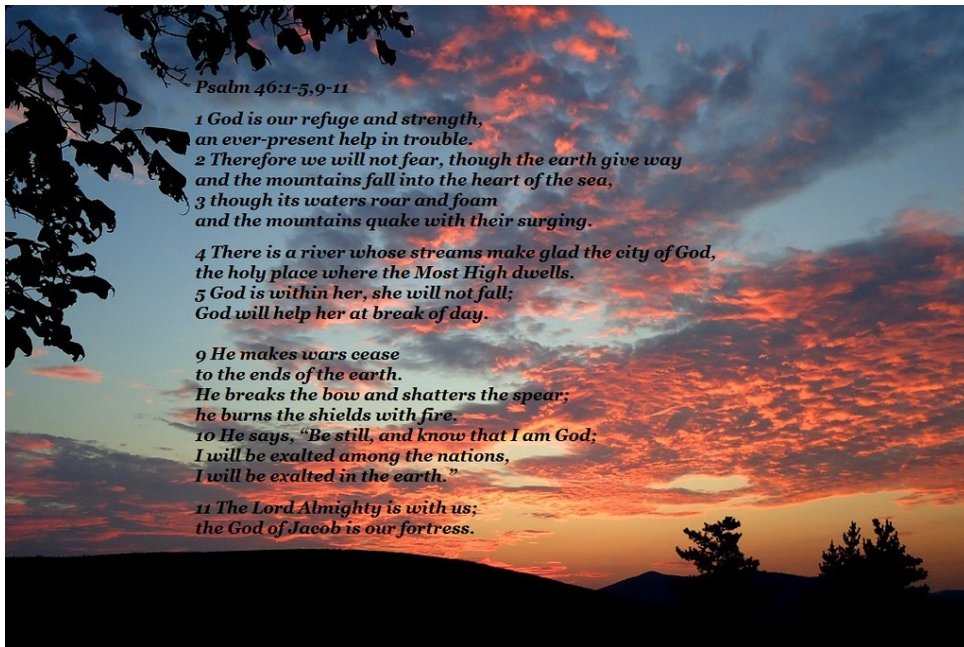


Photo source: flickr.com

Word from the Editor



I am writing this on the first weekend of Lent, which is early this year, late February. And spring is in the air with warm sunny weather, warmer than the unseasonable cold and snow found in unexpected places like Texas and Athens.

In the article about my outing to the Marais du Maincourt in the Chevreuse, I failed to mention that not 5 minutes into our walk, I noticed something out of the corner of my eye. A yellow butterfly!

I don't know about you, but I find butterflies magical. I remember the monarch butterflies of my childhood being abundant. Since then, I don't recall seeing many butterflies. Are they more rare? Or are our lives so busy that we miss the beauties of nature that surround us?

I was mesmerized by the sight of this yellow butterfly that fluttered in and out of my sight during most of the walk. It seemed to be a sign of something that I had perhaps lost sight of. The need for quiet time and contemplation, the need to be observant of nature.

Back at home, I looked on Internet to find the name of the yellow butterfly. It looked like a brimstone butterfly, a very common type. I read that this beautiful yellow butterfly announces the arrival of spring. What happiness can be found in nature if we are only willing to take the time to open all our senses to the wonders that surround us!

Wishing you and yours a magical and peace-filled Easter.

Love, Nancy

As we celebrate the most glorious and uplifting day of all, we joyously proclaim,

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter greetings from the Trinity Times Committee.

The policy of this magazine is to publish articles of interest provided they are neither illegal nor immoral. The content of the magazine does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial committee.

Sunday Services

Please keep an eye on our website for up-dated information of all our services and other activities due to the uncertain times as we go to press:

<http://htcml.com/news/>

Dates for your diary

AGM via zoom: Sunday 18 April 2021

Chaplaincy Council meeting: Monday 19 April 2021

Children's corner

On this website you can find instructions to make a 3D Easter Egg to decorate your Easter tree:

https://www.wmgallery.org.uk/media/_file/learning/wmg-learning-at-home-osterbaum.pdf



A BIG thank you to Johanna Devlin for the cover art of this magazine and to Carolyn Froment for taking on the task of the magazine set-up.

Christ is risen !



He is risen indeed !

Alleluia !