

Holy Trinity Church

Maisons-Laffitte

2 Euros Donation

Who Does What

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Reader	Richard Medcalf

Church Wardens	Christine Salisbury David Bean
Church Council Secretary	Didier Trufanow
Chaplain's Assistant	Jenni Gibson

Activity	Contact person
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Book Stall	Sarah Masset
Buildings/Grounds	Adrian Parr
Charitable Giving	Rachel Ischoffen
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Crèche Rota	Jenni Gibson
Ecumenical Group	Christine Salisbury
Electoral Roll	Elizabeth Bean
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Guiding	Christine Salisbury
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Trinity Times	Nancy Huguet
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Activity	Contact person
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Planned Giving	Robert Manterfield
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Sunday Groups	Chaplain
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Welcomers	Jane Gorini
Youth Worker	Chaplain & Joy Van Staalduinen
Home Groups	
Monday p.m.	Richard Medcalf
Tuesday a.m.	Nancy Huguet
Thursday a.m.	Hesry Marshall

Guard your treasures

Chaplain's Corner

Hello everybody,



When I was thinking about a theme for this issue of Trinity Times, my thoughts turned to "treasures." Not buried treasure or shiny, valuable things, but the treasures of God! My personal Bible reading this month has taken me on a journey through Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy where there is an interesting quote. Paul tells Timothy to "guard the treasure entrusted to you." Ch 1 v 14. Paul is referring to the Gospel, but I found myself thinking first about the treasures entrusted to me, and then later about the treasures entrusted to us: the church community.

Perhaps try reading this passage several times yourself, and then pray to God, to reveal the treasure that has been entrusted to you!

I believe that part of the treasure entrusted to us at Holy Trinity Church is our ministry to children and young people. We are so very blessed to have these little treasures among us, their laughter, energy and enthusiasm light up the church. As the church, we have a wonderful opportunity to be a part of their lives, even if it is only for a few years before they grow up and their lives take them to pastures new. Our role, during the time they are part of the church community, is to teach them about Jesus and God's generous love, to pray for them, and to love them as any caring family would.

So, I thought this would be a good opportunity to update you on what is happening with our children's ministry, with our little treasures!

As many of you know, our youth worker Kirsten Taylor and her husband Elliot, left Holy Trinity in February to start a new chapter in their lives working in London. After placing an advertisement for an "online" youth worker, God answered our prayers, and Joy Van Staaldin joined our Holy Trinity family. Joy lives in Rotterdam with her husband and young son and is a Deacon in the Methodist Church. Since most of our youth ministry is done online through Zoom, this arrangement has worked out very well. So well, in fact, that Joy is now working with the youth of our neighbouring churches in Chantilly and Versailles! We are all very excited to meet Joy in person when she comes to Holy Trinity on September 12th for a youth event at our church.

Zoom has been a true blessing for connecting the church (for the young and the not so young!), but we all miss the opportunity to meet and talk in person! My big thanks to Jo Devlin (who helps Joy with the online youth group) who organised a Pizza Night for the young people on 18th June. It was a fun evening, we talked, played games and just enjoyed being together for the first time in almost a year! The younger members of our congregation have also benefited from Zoom, and my thanks to everyone involved in running Den@ten. This is a short online service for the under 11s that takes place every Sunday morning. There are action songs (yes, you can dance, even if you use zoom), teaching, prayer and fellowship. It's great fun and a lively start to Sunday morning.

On 4th July we held our first Messy Church. Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that includes creativity, celebration and hospitality. Over 30 children participated in this afternoon. Our theme was "gifts" and there were lots of crafts, drama and discussions about sharing and recognising our gifts. At the end of the afternoon, the children and their parents enjoyed a wonderful goûter. My thanks to everyone who helped organise this event, you are wonderful and you are my treasures too!

Part of "Guarding our treasures", our children, youth and the vulnerable among us, is making sure that they are safe. Recently, there have been a number of changes to safeguarding policies in the church. We are so blessed to have Alice Auperin to guide us through all these procedures and I thank you all for being so patient with the extra training and paperwork required. It is an essential part of our ministry to ensure that everyone is safe and protected in our church and at our events.

So, I give thanks to God for our "little" treasures and the opportunities to minister to them, and may we all remember that it is our children who will carry the faith and our church into the future.

Thanks be to God.

Charlotte x

*Our Chaplaincy Council report with thanks to
Didier Trufanow.*

Chaplaincy Council – Highlights of Last Meeting

The Chaplaincy Council met on 7 June 2021.

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

Since the last update in Trinity Times, the Chaplaincy Council has continued to focus on several ongoing matters: the organisation of our worship services, Youth Group meetings and Sunday morning sessions for our young members; current and future building works; Eco-Church initiatives; and future social/fundraising events. In addition, significant updates to Diocesan safeguarding policies were discussed and adopted.

Specifically, the following points were discussed:

Worship services – Following the resumption of in-person Sunday morning services in mid-May, weekly attendance has ranged from 30 to 38 persons. Online views of the YouTube service have understandably decreased from about 100 per week to approximately 40 to 60.

It was agreed that some form of the online worship service should continue over the summer months and beyond. Worship services as from September were also organised. There will be physical services at 9.15 and 10.30 am on Sunday mornings and a simple online YouTube service will also be created on a weekly basis. An All-Age service will be held on Sunday 5 September. The recently formed working group will continue to work on a “hybrid” model for our church (both physical and virtual services/activities).

Youth Group meetings – It was reported that the Youth Group was doing very well. The group was solid and was regularly attended by 8 to 10 Youth. Joy Van Staaldin (our virtual Youth Worker) is doing wonderful work with our Youth, who seem to be very motivated to attend and participate in the sessions (which have been following the liturgy).

Sunday morning groups for children – It was reported that the Den@Ten online group was continuing to do well. Approximately 10 children have been attending each Sunday morning.

Council members also discussed the “Messy Church” event which would be held on Sunday 4 July from 2 to 5 pm. For more information about the creativity of Messy Church initiatives, please visit <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/>!

Youth and Children’s groups at church - The children’s Sunday morning groups and the Youth Group will resume on Sunday 5 September.

Building Works – Council members discussed the reasons for the additional costs related to the recent building works. Adrian Parr (our Infrastructure & Grounds Coordinator) prepared a detailed technical report which included a complete explanation of the additional building works and a proposal for future works. The latter were prioritised in terms of urgency (essential/high, medium and low). High priority works include items such as the gutters/drains, leaking in the church porch, physical movement/cracks in the church building and water-sealing the belfry floor. All these points are continuing to receive careful attention.

Eco-church – As mentioned in the last Council update, Council members have begun discussing “Eco-Church” initiatives. As you may remember, these initiatives have been requested by Bishops Robert and David. The aim is to undertake concrete actions to help the world’s environment, which has been gifted to us by God. Different actions are currently being discussed to help our church achieve a carbon zero footprint. Nigel Bartram, our Environmental Link Officer, will be attending the environmental portion of Chaplaincy Council meetings as from September. Nigel will be proposing a roadmap of concrete actions at the next meeting. Again, if you have any thoughts or suggestions, I would strongly urge you to contact Nigel Bartram. This is an important matter and all ideas and reflections are more than welcome!

Future social/fundraising events – Public health conditions permitting, the organisation of the following events was discussed:

- (i) Welcome Barbecue on 19 September after the service,
- (ii) Harvest Lunch on 17 October,
- (iii) a Men’s Breakfast on Saturday 13 November and a Women’s Breakfast on Saturday 20 November.

Date of next Chaplaincy Council meeting: 13 September 2021

D.T.

What do you get when you combine the words MESSY and CHURCH? Anna Dobrovolskis tells us what happened at the first Messy Church event at HT.

Creativity, hospitality and celebration!



On Saturday 4th July Holy Trinity was finally able to organise a get-together for our children and youth! Under the banner of Messy Church we were able to provide an afternoon of crafts, games, reflection and prayer.

Messy Church is organised through the charity BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) and works with many Christian denominations worldwide. Its aim is to

provide Christ-centred activities on a regular basis for families who are not members of a church and want to learn more about Jesus.

We used the Messy Church model to welcome back about 30 of our children after such a long time away from physical church. Our theme was The Parable of the Talents. We introduced the story through a short play in the church and then moved into the hall where children were free to move around the craft tables, complete a craft and discuss and give feedback on the parable.

Once the rain had stopped ☺ we were able to go outside, play games based on trust, teamwork and fun! At the end of our afternoon together, we all assembled in the church for Charlotte to touch base with us, to find out what the children (and adults!) had learnt.

The main message Charlotte and the team conveyed to the children was that we all have talents. Your talent may seem like something small or unimportant, but to God it is special and only you can use it. If you keep using your talent, God will continue to make it get bigger and better.

A.D.



Alice Auperin explains why Safeguarding is a priority at HT, and in the Anglican Church, and how it protects each one of us.

Safeguarding at Holy Trinity Church



Oh no, not another lecture on safeguarding, quick, skip to the next article.... Hmm, let me just ask you this one question first: “How would you proceed if a safeguarding issue arose at Holy Trinity Church?” *

I know many see me as the rather quiet person who sends out emails requesting forms to be filled in and online training courses to be completed whenever you wish to give your much appreciated time and effort in volunteering for the many roles within our church. You might think I do this just so that the necessary bureaucratic boxes are being ticked, or to protect Holy Trinity

Church from potential legal action, or even to ensure that our church retains its insurance cover... Well, yes, these are all valid and necessary reasons. However, these procedures are in place not to incite us to remissness, nor to unnecessary suspicion, but so that we may all change our attitude towards safeguarding.

We are called to ensure that every person is of equal value and that the vulnerable are protected. Jesus’ compassion towards those who cannot defend themselves is shown time and again, continuing the message of the Old Testament: Psalm 10:14 “But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted: you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you, you are the helper of the fatherless.” (NIV) When we can collectively be moved to feel the enormous compassion God has for all people, then we will do our utmost for our church to be a safe place, beyond the rules and regulations.

OK, so would you like to know in a little more detail what I do, aside from asking you to fill in forms and requesting background checks? As safeguarding officer, I am a council member and safeguarding is a standard agenda item at each council meeting. I liaise with those providing pastoral care, making sure that they feel comfortable and supported in the amazing work they do. On a purely administrative level, this past year the Diocese in Europe has revised its chaplaincy guidelines which require a review of hire agreements, data protection, the recruitment of ex-offenders and equal opportunities policies, risk assessments of all the church’s activities, displaying of emergency contact details on noticeboards, and so on... It certainly is a very varied and fascinating role to have!

One aspect of it that I especially appreciate is that it has allowed me to meet so many of you. If you would be interested in completing the Basic Awareness online training course which is available to all, please let me know. Do come and find me for a chat - it doesn’t have to be about safeguarding!

A.A.

*You would ensure the person was at no risk of harm or danger and contact me immediately on 06.75.30.51.48

Are you overwhelmed by the recent examples of catastrophic climate change? Nigel Bartram and Caroline Varley show us how we can make a difference.

Each one of us needs to do everything we can to avoid this, don't we?



If your answer to this question is an honest yes, then FANTASTIC! And very well done, you're doing a lot better than us, but the article following this one shows what we're doing and need to do.

Why does it matter? Aren't we already doomed so our individual efforts are futile?

Let us answer both on a temporal and spiritual level. We hardly need to remind you of the havoc climate change is already wreaking on our planet, the list of events grows ever more worrying, by the day almost. This year in a matter of weeks, alarming, devastating floods hit Germany, Belgium and the Zhengzhou, London and New York metros. Canada and the US experienced deadly, unprecedented heatwaves. It's not so long since our screens were witness to massively destructive wildfires on an epic scale in Amazonia, Australia and the US. Our memory fails to keep up with the torrent of mankind-induced environmental disasters. It wasn't that long ago that floods in South Asia rendered 12 million homeless, but that's forgotten. Every year now more than 20 million are forced from their homes by climate change. The Arctic ice cap is melting before our very eyes. The list goes on and on. The number of climate-related disasters has tripled in the last 30 years.

This is bad enough, but we face far worse even in the future if we remain inactive. Despite the landmark Paris accord to keep the rise in global

temperatures to an average rise of 2 degrees maximum from their pre-industrial level by 2100, the reality is we're currently on course for + 4 degrees C. Doesn't seem that much does it? Well, to put in perspective, **the global average temperature was 'just' minus 4 degrees C less than current levels in the last Ice Age.** So, at plus 4°C both North and South Poles will likely be covered in forest, and with rising temperatures increasingly large parts of the planet will be under water, including many of our big cities. On what land is left, deserts will continue to encroach our habitable spaces and ability to provide food. Extreme weather events will become more frequent and stronger in intensity. A chilling thought.

As Christians, how well do we think this sits with us as stewards of God's wonderful creation? Genesis 2:5 tells us: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it". In Psalm 24:1 we read: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; " and in John 1:3 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."

Aren't we desecrating God's creation and His gift to us, of which we are supposed to be the custodians? Individually, we can't solve all the problems of climate change and environmental degradation. But collectively, **each one of us shares the overall responsibility. Each of us must do everything we can.** When the day of judgement comes, surely part of the reckoning will be what we did or didn't do?

There's another compelling moral reason why **we** should do as much as we can to have at the very least a net zero carbon footprint. A recent study conducted for Oxfam showed the richest 10% of the world's population (c.630 million people, in other words the great bulk of us including the Holy Trinity community) were responsible for 52% of the cumulative carbon emissions in the period 1990 to 2015, during which period they doubled. The poorest 50% (c.3.1 billion people) were responsible for just 7% of cumulative emissions.

You may say that it's too late and that our efforts anyway are just a drop in the ocean. But as fervent Canadian environmentalist and campaigner David Suzuki says "in the fight before us, every single drop counts, and enough drops will make a huge difference to avert total catastrophe, and a planet which will otherwise become increasingly uninhabitable." Technology will help in mitigating carbon emissions, but it will not be enough and is far from fully developed in critical areas like carbon capture. And how can it possibly stop mass extinctions? The crisis is upon us **now**.

What a poisoned chalice we're handing to our children and grandchildren. There must surely be an absolute obligation on us all to do whatever we can for future generations, especially as we are well and truly complicit in this disaster. If we are to avert this disaster, each of us needs **both** to act individually to get to net zero ASAP, **and** proselytise to family, friends, our networks, to seek out and sign petitions, to vote the 'right way'

In the end, of course, it's a matter for our own consciences and what we see as our duty as a Christian.

N.B & C.V.

PS. Since writing this article we've seen new rampaging wildfires in Greece, Italy, Turkey and California, plus the latest UN scientific IPCC climate change report announcing it's '**code red for humanity**'. It warns of increasingly extreme heatwaves, droughts and flooding, and a key temperature limit being broken just over a decade hence. But scientists say a **catastrophe can be avoided if the world acts fast**. They say there is hope that deep cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases could stabilise rising temperatures. We must all play our part.





Actions one family is taking and has taken to help arrest global warming and mass extinction

To reduce CO₂ emissions

One adult eats no meat or poultry and the second cut consumption from about four times a week to once a month.

Changed to LED lights.

Buy new electrical appliances only with highest-rated energy (and minimal water consumption).

Switched to green energy supplier in UK and in France a supplier which offers an offset* certificate (not ideal but the market is far less well-developed).

Fitted a new energy-efficient boiler.

Much more diligent about unplugging appliances when not in use and not leaving on standby.

All but eliminated air travel and will purchase CO₂ offsets* for occasional flight taken in future.

Replaced diesel with petrol car (unfortunately suitable electric car not yet available).

Buy CO₂ offsets for all our emissions and buy offsets for our kids (see here for calculating and offsetting CO₂ footprint (<https://www.carbonfootprint.com/measure.html>)).

Divested shares in fossil fuel producers and invested in renewable energy companies.

Signed numerous petitions and made donations to causes.

To help fight environmental degradation

Planted six trees of which four are fruit trees and increased the number of plants for pollinators. Also offsets some of our CO₂ emissions and adds a bit of beauty.

Support a charity which provides the means (training and money) for poor African women to plant trees in environmentally degraded areas to produce cash crops (<https://www.treeaid.org>).

Big reduction in use of commercial, chemical detergents (Essential. Now use bleach for disinfecting toilets and for washing clothes).

Increased bio food purchases from about 5% of total to 20%.

Installed multiple bird feeders in garden.

Reducing plastic use

Reduced bottled water consumption to only when guests come (about once a month) .

One adult switched from bottled shampoo to bars.

Circular economy

Rigorous about giving away rather than chucking away e.g. recycling of clothes

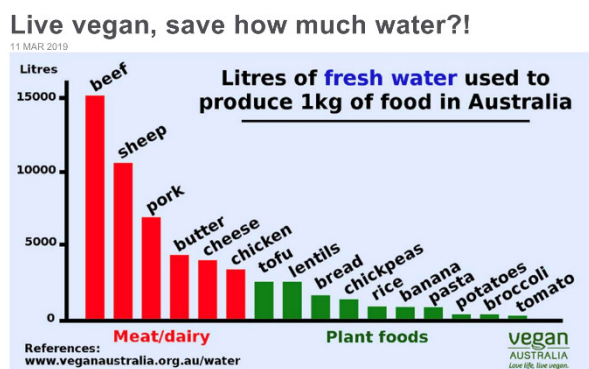
Additional future green actions and aspirations

1. Buy an electric car when there is a model available which works for our needs.
2. Look to buy electricity in France from a true green energy supplier.
3. Buy more second-hand goods and be more comprehensive and rigorous about repairing rather than buying new, and disposing for reuse rather than refuse.
4. Continue to increase bio purchases.
5. Buy less stuff.

6. Redouble efforts to nudge our one non-green child to be more environmentally friendly.

7. Try to persuade others to consume meat only as a treat (on average a serving of meat compared to a serving size of vegetables creates **20 times** more greenhouse gas emissions. It also takes 100 times more the amount of land than consuming vegetables. Globally its production already uses 80% of agricultural land and is growing rapidly. At a time when more than 2 billion people don't have ready access to clean fresh water and as shown below meat production uses a hugely disproportionate amount).

* A carbon offset is donating to a certified project which reduces in CO2 (and other carbon) emissions to compensate for those we produce in our everyday lives. It could be a scheme to buy much more efficient cooking stoves or clean drinking water for those in poor countries, stopping deforestation, planting trees etc. etc. the cost is very far from a fortune!



We know we are far from perfect and could do more. What is your list, ideas, priorities? We'd love to know.

N.B. & C.V.

A biblical garden is taking shape at HT. Victor Lucas outlines his proposed Eagle Scout service project which will make the biblical garden a reality.

A Biblical Garden at Holy Trinity

I'm excited to share an update about my upcoming scout service project. For those who don't know me, my name is Victor Lucas, I am sixteen years old, and am a member of the USA Boy Scout Troop in Paris. I have been a Boy Scout since 2016 and have joined several troops as my family moved around. Before becoming a Boy Scout, I was a Cub Scout in primary school. I have greatly enjoyed my time as a scout, as it has taught me many important life skills, whilst making numerous friendships and unforgettable memories.

To reach the final rank of Eagle Scout, I need to lead and execute an Eagle Scout service project, which I have offered to do for Holy Trinity Church. After speaking to Reverend Charlotte, I have chosen to transform the triangle between the fence and the old stone wall into a biblical garden. This biblical garden will include a small path that will lead the visitor through beds of biblical plants, such as lavender, boxwood, and flax.

Currently, the project is at the approval phase. After receiving approval from the church, my project must be approved by the Boy Scout Eagle Scout committee. If I can have an all clear and get everything approved, then I could move to gather the necessary materials and start on the arranged date with help from some Boy Scouts in my troop. I envision to try and have it done in spring 2022 at the latest.

V.L.



You may know that there are two telephone box libraries in Maisons-Laffitte, but did you know that the vicarage garage is also home to a new bookstore? Sarah Masset reveals how it came about.

There are Books in the Garage!

Before...



Following Roy Mitchell's inventive idea, some of the HTC bookstall team are at present tidying the Vicarage garage!! A challenging venture full of unexpected surprises!

At the time of writing we are about halfway there! Many undesirable and useless items have been recycled and many useful and interesting objects have been discovered!

On the left of the door, there is now a shelf of beautiful children's books available for sale. These have been given to us over the years and then put in the garage and forgotten! They are enjoying some fresh air and are waiting to go to new homes! There are also some books for adults on another shelf. We are hoping that in the near future all the books will be shelved so that the garage can be opened for the summer fair and Christmas sale. This will save space and energy when setting up!

... and after.

Meanwhile if anyone is interested in looking at the books, please feel free to go into the garage after the service.

Suggested donation : 1 book = €1, 6 books = €5.

However, please do not leave your unwanted books – or anything else - in the garage, as although they are very welcome, we already have plenty to house and will let you know when we need more!

A big thank you to Charlotte and Hesry for their help.

Any questions to Nancy or Sarah.



S.M.

Should you be in Paris and wanting to stop for coffee, here are some options as suggested by Nancy Huguet.

Not Just a Coffee



Café Joyeux 144 Champs-Elysees (another location at Opera). You can't miss their bright yellow signage. Open every day 8h30 to 20h30

A project started in 2017 in which the majority of employees have Down's syndrome or are autistic.

After a training period, the employees are hired on a CDI. In addition to drinks and light fare, you can also bring home brand coffee, tea, T-shirts and other items, sales of which go towards opening other cafés. When I was there, I had a coffee on their terrace, then made my way back to the métro. As I got on the escalator, I realised I hadn't left a tip (which I had meant to do).

So I walked back up the steps, and back to the restaurant, going inside where payment is made. I handed over my coins for a tip. When you give a tip, they ring a bell, and all the staff clap. It was well worth going back to make up for my forgetfulness.

Le Reflet, Caserne des Minimes Paris 3e

A restaurant for lunch or dinner in the newly-restored Caserne des Minimes in the Marais which employs people with Down's syndrome. I haven't tested this restaurant so look forward to hearing from anyone that does go.

La Table des Bernardins, College des Bernardins Paris 5e

This former Cistercian college dating from the 13th century and completely restored around the year 2000 is well worth a visit. The college now hosts a huge range of religious courses, as well as musical events and exhibitions. Although many are semester courses, there are also noon hour and evening conferences that can be attended on a one-off basis. Some of the conferences also address current social issues.

There is a cafeteria-style restaurant called La Table des Bernardins, that offers 3 formulae for lunch fare starting at 10 euros. Coffee, tea and cold drinks available morning and afternoon. Their aim is to employ people that are trying to enter or return to the job market.

Foyer de la Madeleine. Restaurant Associatif. Located in the Crypt of the Eglise de La Madeleine.

Open weekdays 11h45 to 14h without reservation. You need to buy an annual membership which costs 5 euros. Menu of entrée, choice of 2 plats, dessert for 12 euros. All are welcome, including the homeless (free). The food is very basic, but the décor is unique. Before covid, people on their own were often asked to share tables with others on their own. I have struck up conversations with people from all walks of life, including seniors and those working in offices close by.

Do you know of any restaurants, cafés or other places open to the public that go the extra mile to being inclusive? Please share with us. We look forward to hearing from you.

N.H.

Prayers for George



As some of you know, Carolyn's nephew George was seriously ill in hospital for 10 weeks earlier this year.



Her sister Emily and brother-in-law Tim would like to join her in thanking so many of you for praying for them all during this time. We are thrilled to announce that George is currently convalescing at home, making good progress and hoping to return to school gradually in September.

C.F.

Joan Bauman enlightens us on the life of hedgehogs and how they risk becoming extinct.

Hedgehog Havens!



One of Nature's strangest little creatures is the hedgehog. There are 18 distinct hedgehog varieties, ranging from the European Hedgehog, the largest in size and weight, to the tiny Long-eared Desert Hedgehog, which, despite its small size, will ferociously take on large scorpions, venomous spiders, and even poisonous snakes. There are numerous exciting videos on YouTube these days showing hedgehogs in action in various parts of the world. The hedgehog, however, is indigenous only to the Old World – Europe, Africa and Asia. As an endangered species, it is protected throughout Europe. In France, it is illegal to keep a wild hedgehog in captivity, although in the USA and the UK, the African Pygmy Hedgehog may be kept as a pet. As its name suggests, it is not indigenous to these regions, and is much smaller than the native European Hedgehog. Sometimes, well-meaning but misguided folks will release an African Pygmy Hedgehog into the wilds, which is generally tantamount to signing its death warrant, as this species cannot easily survive in our climes.

A hedgehog IS NOT a rodent. It has its own order : Erinaceomorpha. Whereas the North American porcupine is the world's largest rodent, unrelated to the hedgehog. The New World Porcupine and the Old World Porcupine are both rodents, but only distantly related within the vast Order 'Rodentia'. The hedgehog's closest relatives are moonrats, shrews, and moles.

There used to be an abundant hedgehog population throughout Europe and the UK, but in recent decades, their numbers have declined at an alarming rate, due in part to the widespread use of pesticides and herbicides, which have dramatically reduced the natural food sources of wild hedgehogs. Since Antiquity, hedgehogs in one's garden have always been viewed as a sign of good fortune. Indeed, they feed happily on many of our most disagreeable garden pests, especially slugs, snails, grubs, larvae, worms, and many different types of insects. A hedgehog will travel up to 2-3 kms per night, thus ridding an entire neighborhood of its creepy-crawly denizens which would otherwise devour the tender young lettuce leaves and other garden plants in your potager!

So, he who puts down slug and snail poison is directly endangering the wild hedgehog population, as these poisons can, will and do also kill hedgehogs which ingest a poisoned slug or snail. (Slug-snail poison killed one of our dogs, too, in 2008, as the previous resident had put out poison to protect his lettuce plants once a month, and after every heavy rain, for 18 years running. The soil

had veritable pockets of the metaldehyde substance he had used, which attracted our dogs by its sweetness, just as it attracts the slugs and snails. That summer, a friend's young kitten died of the same as well. Another good reason to attract hedgehogs to your garden rather than putting out poison.)

A second major reason for the alarming decline of hedgehog populations is road accidents. Hedgehogs have very few natural predators. As a result, they often make quite a lot of noise when coming through a thicket or a hedge, as they are reasonably confident that their sharp spines will protect them from just about any predator. Unfortunately, their chief protection is to roll up into a tight ball when they feel threatened, and to puff out their spines. This dissuades just about every other creature except for badgers, foxes and certain very large owls. But, in our modern world, if a hedgehog is crossing a road, even a very small one, and a car approaches, he will either run to safety at the side of the road, or roll up into his protective ball and stay put. This is why we see so many dead hedgehogs on our roads starting in April-May. The most vulnerable are the bigger male hedgehogs, who fear predators less than the females and the young hoglets. We do need a massive word-of-mouth campaign to help protect our dear little friends from an early demise on our roads. You can already help to protect hedgies everywhere by telling everyone you know that drives to look out for them, especially at night, in order to avoid squashing them. In captivity, European hedgehogs live 10-12 years. Most unfortunately, in the wild (meaning in our gardens and roadways) they rarely live past 2 years of age. How very very dreadful!!!!

A third big reason for the decline in their numbers is the reduction of their habitats, as the hedgehog has largely followed human populations into the suburbs and greener city areas. And, of course, as our suburbs and greener cities are criss-crossed with an ever-increasing number of roads, this multiplies the dangers for them in these areas.

An elderly French friend told me that it used to be that the more rural population in France used to enjoy a nice Civet d'Hérisson dish rather frequently, considered to be quite a delicacy, so perhaps the country-dwelling hedgies didn't have it so good, either! Although we can still find frog's legs and snails on the menu at French restaurants, I have yet to see a Civet d'Hérisson offered!

A study made in the 1950's estimated 36,5 million hedgehogs in the UK. Since 2010, the numbers have declined ever more sharply; a 2020 report on UK hedgehog populations estimates 1.1 million in England, 310,000 in Scotland, and 145,000 in Wales, so about 1.55 million. On the European Continent, the studies are even more alarming; a 2017 French-German effort estimated that hedgehogs will be extinct in Europe by 2025! Yikes!

The response to this drastic news includes a public-awareness campaign throughout the UK and on the European continent. The last 10-15 years have

seen numerous hedgie rescue organisations in local areas spread throughout each country. In the UK, they are called "Hedgehog Hamlets", in France, "Hameaux des Hérissons"! Charming! A direct translation!

These Havens for Hedgehogs will take in injured or endangered hedgies year-round to be cared for by professional personnel. One of their chief functions is to help undersized juvenile hedgehogs to survive the winter. Often, a female hedgie will have two litters of hoglets per spring-summer season. When these are born in late August or early September, they rarely reach the weight necessary to survive winter hibernation, and will simply perish in their sleep as the winter progresses. A young hedgehog needs at least 600g of body weight in order to survive a normal winter. Often, when the temperatures drop below 5°C, the mother hedgehog will begin her own hibernation, thus abandoning any hoglets that are too small. Many people will come across a small hoglet screeching in distress with a VERY LOUD VOICE !

For us, 2020-21 was Hedgehog Heaven ! Read all about this in our next issue ...

J.B.



These make a delicious treat for breakfast or with an afternoon cup of tea.

Nutty Banana Bread Muffins

Preparation: 20 minutes, plus cooling . Cooking: 30 minutes.

Makes 12.



For the muffins:

300g ripe bananas (peeled weight)

75g unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled

4 tbsp natural yogurt

1 large egg, beaten

1 tsp vanilla extract

175g plain flour

1 tsp each bicarbonate of soda and baking powder

175g light brown soft sugar

75g pecans, roughly chopped

For the crumble topping:

25g unsalted butter, chilled

25g plain flour

25g light brown soft sugar

50g pecans, chopped

1. For the crumble topping: rub the butter into the flour using your fingertips until the mixture resembles large breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar and pecans and set aside.
2. Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan oven) / gas mark 4. Line a 12-hole muffin tin with muffin cases.
3. For the muffins: in a large bowl, mash the bananas, then mix in the butter, yogurt, egg and vanilla. Into a separate bowl, sift the flour, bicarbonate of soda and baking powder. Stir in the sugar and pecans. Mix the dry ingredients into the banana mixture until just combined. Divide among the muffin cases.
4. Scatter over the crumble mixture. Bake the muffins for 30 minutes until well risen and golden. Cool in the tin for 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely before serving. They are best eaten on the day of baking.

C.F.

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.

Word from the Editor



I am not having any trouble projecting myself a month ahead to mid-September, as we have had fall weather the past few months. Harvest should be right around the corner. However, when I look at the few tomato plants in our garden, they are taller than me, but not one tomato in sight, red or green. What has happened to the seasons I remember when growing up? 3 months of spring, 3 months of summer, 3 months of fall (or autumn) and 3 months of winter. Well, perhaps our Canadian winter was a bit longer than 3 months. But nowadays, seasons and weather seem to be completely unpredictable. The verses from Ecclesiastes are so comforting, “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.” Nigel and Caroline’s article about the environment speaks on this subject.

Spending a few days in the Loire in August made me more aware that where most of us live, in and around Maisons-Laffitte, is really more city than countryside. Driving through back roads with fields of sunflowers and other crops, it made me think about the harvest. Many farmers have been affected by the extreme weather conditions in France and in other countries. So we have even more reason to be thankful for the abundance that we enjoy at harvest time, and all year round.

We hope that you will enjoy reading the varied articles in this issue, and are looking forward to your contributions and ideas for the upcoming Christmas issue.

N.H.



Dates for your Diary

5 September at 10.30: All age worship and climate Sunday.

12 September: Youth Welcome Back Party!
Get together for a fun time of pizza, fun, and games
with youth worker Joy after church from 12-3pm.

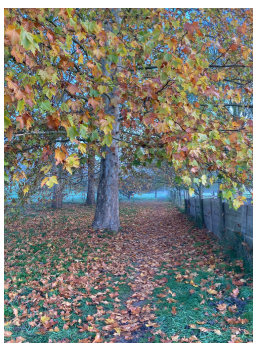
13 September: Chaplaincy Council Meeting.

Starting Weds 15 September at 8pm and Thurs 16 September at 10.30am:
A 5 week “Living in Love and Faith” course via Zoom.

19 September: Welcome Barbecue at 12.30pm.

17 October: Harvest Lunch. And Food Bank Collection.

Dinner on Sat 23 and lunch Sun 24 October: Fish & Chips Van at church!



Sunday Services

As of 5 September (Sunday school and Youth group starting):

1st Sunday:

9.15: Holy Communion Service
10.30: Family (Communion) Service

2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays:

9.15: Holy Communion Service
10.30: Holy Communion Service

5th Sunday:

9.15: Holy Communion Service
10.30: Family (Communion) Service

Please keep an eye on our website for up-dated information on all our services and other activities and / or sign up for our e-newsletter.

Deadline for our Christmas issue of Trinity Times: 8 November 2021.