



Trinity Times

Summer 2022

Holy Trinity Church

Maisons-Laffitte

3 EUROS DONATION

Who Does What

Chaplain	Charlotte Sullivan 06 83 08 59 67
Reader	Richard Medcalf

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

Activity	Contact person
Address List	Jenni Gibson
Book Stall	Sarah Masset
Buildings/Grounds	Adrian Parr
Charitable Giving	Rachel Ischoffen
Choir	Rachel Meuriot
Coffee Rota	office@html.com
Crèche Rota	Jenni Gibson
Ecumenical Group	Christine Salisbury
Electoral Roll	Elizabeth Bean
Flower Rota	Fiona Dabas
Guiding	Christine Salisbury
Intercessions	Elizabeth Bean
Lesson Readers	Elizabeth Bean
Little Fishes	Jessamy Dinot
Trinity Times	Nancy Huguet
Organist	Joan Bauman
Outreach Group	Chris Parr

Activity	Contact person
Pathfinders	Chaplain
Pew Sheet	office@html.com
Planned Giving	Robert Manterfield
Prayer Net	Edith Briard
Safeguarding	Alice Auperin
Scouting	Gillian Barratt
Sidesmen	Patrick Gautier-Lynham
Sunday Groups	Chaplain
Treasurer	Bob Hughes
Trinity English School (TES)	trinityenglishml@gmail.com
Web Site	Richard Medcalf
Welcomers	Jane Gorini
Youth Worker	Joy Van Staaldin
Home Groups	
Monday p.m.	Richard Medcalf
Tuesday a.m.	Nancy Huguet

Chaplain's Corner

**O Lord you search me and you know me.
Psalm 139**

I have to begin this article with a couple of thank yous!

Thank you all so much for an amazing birthday celebration and your most generous gift.

Many of you know that for some time I have been contemplating getting another dog. One of the great joys of living here is having the opportunity to walk daily in the forest. As Jaffa gets older our walks together are becoming shorter and shorter. Your generous gift means that a puppy will soon be arriving at the vicarage. Watch this space. Thank you! x



Secondly, it's now nearly exactly two years since I joined the family at Holy Trinity Church and I do want to tell you how happy and fulfilled I am here. You have all been incredibly supportive in helping me to settle in and making sure that I am always surrounded by a loving church family.

On 13th June I am returning to the Dordogne for a holiday. Whilst there I will be leading worship at the church where my spiritual journey began and also leading a session at their annual women's retreat. The women's retreat was something that I introduced at the very beginning of my ordained ministry and so it is a great privilege to be invited back.

The theme of their weekend is Psalm 139 "O Lord you search me and you know me". I was asked to lead a session on how this psalm reflects my faith journey, and how God uses all of us, uniquely knowing our strengths, and our fragilities. I was asked for some photos in order to illustrate my talk and if you would like to see them they are here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsdhty5mHGE>

Psalm 139 can be very comforting or very disturbing depending on how we feel about the idea that God knows everything about us, our words before we have spoken, our thoughts before they have formed in our minds. This can be greatly reassuring, a promise of protection, guidance and company on our journey through life. It can also leave us uneasy, reminding us that there is nowhere that we can hide from God. God knows our actions, even those we might choose to hide away within the darkest shadows! However, I don't think we should be afraid, the psalm is not

describing God as a cosmic police officer who sees all our misdemeanors. God is well aware of our actions, but like a loving parent, He is also able to celebrate our positive deeds.

There is also a deeper knowledge within this psalm, a knowledge that goes back to the beginning of all creation and to the beginning of our own creation, when we were being formed in our mother's womb. Even then, God had insight into the person that each of us would be. Such insights are almost just too much for us to comprehend, just as they were for the psalmist, King David. Yet like the psalmist we are inspired to constantly praise our Creator whatever the circumstances.

That's a lot easier to write than it is to do sometimes, but one of the things that I like about this psalm is that it encourages me to be totally honest before God, an upfront and personal relationship, with the assurance that I can be me. It's a relationship where one minute I can be upset with God for something that has happened and then the next minute I really can't thank God enough for the many blessings in my life. It helps to remind me that, no matter what, God will always be there for me and always has been.

I hope that after reading this you may take some time to sit with psalm 139 and reflect on your own journey and through that reflection draw ever closer to Him. He who knows you completely and (still) loves you!

When I was preparing for the retreat I was reminded of a book entitled *Tales of the Hasadim*, by Martin Buber, a Jewish philosopher. He offered these words concerning the relationship between God and us. I think he says it so much better than I ever could:

Where I wander – You!
Where I ponder – You!
Only You, You again, always You!
You! You! You!
When I am gladdened – You!
When I am saddened – You!
Only You, You again, always You!
You! You! You!
Sky is You, Earth is You!
You above! You below!
In every trend, at every end,
Only You, You again, always You!
You! You! You!

Highlights of Last Council Meeting

Since the last issue of Trinity Times, the Chaplaincy Council has met once via Zoom on 28 March 2022.

Reminder - all Council meetings have regular updates about spiritual development matters, Eco-Church initiatives, safeguarding and our financial situation.

A wide range of matters were raised during the last meeting, including the following:

The Chaplain presented her vision for our church in the future. This included reflections about our spiritual life, our missional strategy and our church organisation. Each one of these items was presented in detail and Council members then discussed the Chaplain's reflections.

The Chaplaincy Council had a long discussion about the initiatives taken by Holy Trinity to support Ukrainian refugees in the Maisons-Laffitte area. Among the many subjects raised, the Chaplain and Jenni Gibson highlighted the following: the weekly Pop-Up café, the Ukrainian guests staying at the vicarage, administrative matters related to healthcare and housing benefits, and the French language class being held at Holy Trinity for our Ukrainian friends. Council members were reminded that the situation was very fluid with changes all the time. All congregation members able to help out were invited to contact the Chaplain or Jenni Gibson.

The Chaplain reported that Bishop Robert would be coming to the Paris area in November 2022 for a Confirmation service.

Christine Salisbury and David Bean were re-admitted as Church Wardens following their re-election at the AGM on 27 March.

The following church members were elected as officers for 2022-2023:

Vice Chair – Robbie Gibson

Treasurer – Bob Hughes,

Secretary - Didier Trufanow.

Alice Aupérin was re-appointed as the Church Safeguarding Officer for 2022-2023. The Chaplaincy Safeguarding Policy was then read aloud to Council members and was unanimously re-affirmed.

Nigel Bartram stood down as our Environmental Link Officer. This position therefore remains vacant for 2022-2023. The role of the Environmental Link Officer is to ensure the Chaplaincy's commitment to a responsible attitude regarding environmental issues and to liaise with the Environmental Officer for the Anglican Diocese in Europe. We are all deeply grateful to Nigel for his unceasing commitment and devotion to environmental matters.

Joy Van Staalduinen (our virtual Youth Worker) was re-appointed as the Youth Officer. The role of the Youth Officer is to liaise with the Diocese about matters related to youth and children.

Members of the Chaplaincy Council for 2022-2023

Revd. Charlotte Sullivan, Alice Aupérin, David Bean, Johanna Devlin, Anna-Danute Dobrovolskis, Jenni Gibson, Robbie Gibson, Sylvaine Hughes, Bob Hughes, Beth Jusseaume, Angela Labaisse-Brodie, Hesry Marshall, Henry Marshall, Richard Medcalf, Rachel Meuriot, Adrian Parr, Christine Salisbury, Julie Tavé, Didier Trufanow.

Date of next Chaplaincy Council meeting:

Monday 12 September

D.T.

Prayer

Dear heavenly Father,

You know the names of each and every person who has ever existed,
who exists now, and who will ever exist.

Such knowledge is so difficult to comprehend.
What is even more difficult to comprehend
is that you love each and every person behind the names.

Thank you that I'm one of the names you know,
one of the people you love.

I feel so privileged to have a part to play in the larger story of salvation.
However small a part, Lord, help me to realize that it isn't insignificant.
How many people are in paradise today
because of one line spoken by a thief on a cross?

Give me the strength to say my lines with grace and dignity
so that wondrous play can go on
and so that paradise might be fuller
because I played my part, said my lines, and exited quietly.

Thank you for my name.
As I say it aloud, whisper to me what you think of the person who bears it...



LJ Desmeulles' carrot cake recipe received rave reviews at the Summer fête

Carrot Cake

This recipe makes two loaf tins

(Photo: Marmiton)

400g sugar

400g Self Raising Flour

400ml sunflower oil

400g carrots finely grated

4 eggs

½ tsp salt

1 tsp cinnamon

1tsp mixed spice

1tsp vanilla essence

Mix oil, sugar, and eggs

Add spices and salt

Add SR flour – beat in massively

Add vanilla essence

Fold in grated carrots

Cook at 170°C for 70 minutes

Take out and leave to cool

For icing

250g butter

500g icing sugar

Dash of vanilla essence

Thanks to Zoé Campbell for this delicious recipe

Orange Upside-down Cake

GLAZE:

3 tbsp unsalted butter, melted
3 tbsp brown sugar

CAKE:

3–4 oranges, sliced into 1/2" slices, peel removed
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp salt
1/3 cup unsalted butter, softened
1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
1/4 cup granulated white sugar
1 large egg
1 tsp pure vanilla extract
1/2 cup milk
1/4 cup orange juice



Preheat the oven to 350°F and line an 8"x8" standard baking pan with parchment paper, allowing the ends of the paper to overhang on the sides.

Whisk together the melted butter with the brown sugar, and then pour this mixture all over the bottom of the prepared pan.

Place the peeled orange slices, side by side, into the bottom of the pan, on top of the glaze. Fill in all of the gaps with small pieces of orange.

In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside.

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, or using a handheld electric mixer, beat the softened butter with both sugars, on medium-high, until light and fluffy, about 1 minute.

Add the egg and vanilla and mix again.

Add half of the dry ingredients. Mix together on low, slowly, for c. 30 seconds.

Add milk, and remaining dry ingredients. Mix again on low for 15-20 seconds.

Add orange juice, and mix again, on low until all ingredients are incorporated.

Pour the cake batter on top of the pan with the prepared oranges, spreading it with a spatula to make it even.

Place the pan in the preheated oven, and bake for 40-45 minutes.

Check the cake after 40 minutes by inserting a toothpick in the center; if the toothpick comes out clean, the cake is done. If there is batter on the stick, bake for another 5 minutes.

Remove the cake, and allow it to cool for 10-15 minutes before inverting the cake on to a cake stand or plate.

Allow the cake to cool completely, before slicing and serving. Enjoy!

The cake can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature, for 2-3 days, or 4-5 days in the fridge. I would not recommend freezing the prepared cake.

Our summer fête was held on Saturday 21st May from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm - BBQ, lunch, bar, tea room, jams, cakes, bric-a-brac, books, games, toys, clothes, bouncy castle and more.

As well as raising money for Ukraine, the sun shone and everyone had a lot of fun!



Try out an easy acrostic poem by Jennifer Gunner written to the word "summer":

S	-	Sunny days
U	-	Umbrella drinks
M	-	Melon balls
M	-	Morning heat
E	-	Easy schedule
R	-	Restful nights

*Crown of thorns, Donkey, Treasure Hunt, Eggs, Happy Children. What do these words have in common? Learn about the Messy Church on Palm Sunday from LJ Desmeulles .
With thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen.*

Messy Church



On Sunday 10th April you could feel the excitement in the air; the church was full of families young and old; we were starting our Palm Sunday service outside and the church was buzzing. Maybe this sense of excitement was how the people of Jerusalem felt all those years ago when Jesus entered on the donkey. For the children of Holy Trinity, this was no ordinary Palm Sunday, it was the day of our 2nd edition of Messy Church. The one the children had been asking for. Our prayers had been answered and the sun was shining as we left the church after an uplifting family service. Trinity Hall and the garden were buzzing with children's laughter as 38 children eagerly waited with anticipation for their hot-dogs and chips. Once fed and watered we gathered everyone around and finally the Easter edition of Messy Church had started. They participated in the greatest story ever told, they visited the tomb, tried on the crown of thorns (not for the faint hearted), they helped create the beautiful Easter garden at the front of the church, they painted eggs, made Easter cards, baked resurrection rolls, participated in an obstacle course and did a treasure hunt for the coveted Cadburys Cream Eggs.

Comments on the church WhatsApp group were: "38 children! So many gleeful grins as they went out the gate, what a fantastic team." "Ladies...bravo! Don't know about you I'm shattered, but happy." "It was fantastic indeed!"

The children loved it and my son has been asking when the next one will be. I have also just heard that Christina and Florence's dad has commented that the girls keep nagging him about when is the next Messy Church, we might need to wait a couple of months to recover from the last one, but rest assured there will be a 3rd edition of Messy Church!

Here are a few of the children's comments when asked if they enjoyed Messy Church:

"Messy church was a lot of fun, my favourite part was making Jesus' crown (from clay) and the Easter garden." Max, 8.

Harry, 11, stated, "Messy Church was great. It was a super idea to group children together from different ages and spend the day playing games and talking about God. I also enjoyed listening to Charlotte as well as being asked to hide the eggs in the garden, that was special."

"The crafting activities were fun and the baking was yummy. The egg hunt was cool because you had to find eggs all over the place." Connie, 9.



LJ.D.

Three months on, the Pop Up Coffee morning for Ukrainians is still happening at HT. Alice Auperin and Jenni Gibson explain what actually happens each Tuesday morning and why it is important to continue.

Pop Up Coffee for Ukrainians

At the beginning of March, several church members joined a local English-speaking WhatsApp group who were preparing to welcome Ukrainian refugees to Maisons-Laffitte by hosting, collecting clothes and toiletries. Reverend Charlotte immediately offered to host some Ukrainians, and, with an amazing team of volunteers, Jenni organised a Pop-Up Coffee room, opening two mornings a week in the hall – a safe space for Ukrainian refugees and others to meet. There are now over one hundred refugees in the Maisons-Laffitte & Mesnil le Roi area.

The first few coffee mornings were a time of adjustment for all, getting to grips with Google translate, providing immediate practical help with getting appointments at Versailles Préfecture, clothes, toys... but also providing a safe place for our Ukrainian guests to meet each other to talk and share together. After two months, it was decided that Pop Up Coffee would take place once a week on Tuesdays, as other groups and charities offering help had also been established in the area.

Support has since taken on MANY different forms; from translating documents into French to booking medical appointments, providing train tickets, enrolling students at university, finding someone to drive people to their meetings and the food bank, organising the loan of bicycles, looking into the best options for French bank accounts, mobile phone rates etc.

On Tuesday mornings we have been blessed to have many volunteers from church as well as many non-church members who have given their time and energy to support our weekly coffees. A few of our helpers are locals who also speak Russian. Their help has been invaluable in explaining the French system to our Ukrainian friends, many of whom speak neither French nor English. One of our Russian volunteers co-runs an association called “Andorinhas” which is now supported by our Charitable Giving Committee. They have been collecting and distributing food, toiletries and baby items, as well as transporting essential items to hospitals in Ukraine. Another of our Ukrainian guests, Tatiana, is a trained psychologist specialising in trauma, and has led therapy sessions in the church hall for those who wish to attend. We have also had several delicious donations for us all to taste, including Ukrainian pyroshki pastries and homemade crepes and galettes. And we have even had a relaxing yoga session in the church garden!

Holy Trinity’s Pop-Up Coffee is a huge team effort, the “let’s do this!” enthusiastic attitude of helpers is awe-inspiring. However, what encompasses this form of outreach above all is the power of everyone’s prayers with God’s love & grace. Thank you all for your time, donations and, above all, for your prayers.

A.A. & J.G.

A huge thank you to Alice & Jenni, the winning team who have invested so much time and energy in organising the Pop Up Coffee mornings for Ukrainians, and been on hand every week to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

*So much going on at HT!
Carolyn Froment answers the question:*

What is TES?



*RG2-6 celebrating
World Book Day 2022.*

Have you ever been near the church on a Wednesday morning and wondered why swarms of happy children were buzzing around?

“Trinity English School” - a school which teaches English to Anglophone children - meets on the church premises every Wednesday from 9.15 until 12 noon during term time.

We currently have about 70 children registered in 8 classes from reception class (ages 3-5) to *collège* (11-13 year olds), but it hasn't always been this extensive.

“Trinity Tots”, as it was formerly known, was founded in 2006 as a “not for profit association” managed by a parent-run committee. It initially had a playgroup for pre-school children running on Mondays and Fridays and just two levels of reading group, but it quickly grew. Prior to that, it was run for many years directly by the church under the name of “Holy Trinity Church Playgroup & Reading Group”.

The reading group was set up in 1986 and was run initially by Fiona Dabas with her late dear friend Kym Lebreton, and later aided by both Jayne Ducasse and Christine Salisbury over the following decade. In the early days there were just 8 pupils, who met in the bell tower (this was before the building of Trinity Hall). The playgroup preceded the reading group by a couple of years; one of the leaders is still a member of the team now, over 30 years later! Several members of the congregation have helped in either reading group or playgroup over the years and lots of our children – who have since grown up and moved to various corners of the world – have attended it.

My own children (now 21 and 18) attended the school from the age of two until the end of primary school and I feel that it is thanks to their time there that they can read and write in English as easily as they can in French. It was certainly the place where the foundations of their love of reading were laid and where they (and we as parents) made some firm friendships - some of which have endured, nearly 20 years on! During some of their time there I worked as a helper, then, after a long pause, was asked to return to teach reading group level 3 in September 2020. Having been teaching English as a foreign language to adults in the meantime, it took me a while to adjust to working with children again but, despite a challenging first year - mostly carried out on-line via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 pandemic - it has



*Jayne, Fiona and Kym with
the whole school when it started.*

been an extremely positive, enjoyable and enriching experience.

What has struck me most about working at TES has been how sweet, affectionate and enthusiastic the children are. They arrive at school with big smiles on their faces and, as all classes are small, it is possible for us as teachers to get to know each child really well, and to adapt and help them at their own pace. Reception class (as playgroup is now called) currently has 12 children (but can have a maximum of 20, with 3 helpers) but the reading group classes have no more than 10 pupils each, some are as small as 4 or 5, and there are 2 adults per class. The team - both the teaching staff and the volunteer committee members - consists of a group of dedicated, energetic and imaginative people who have been really inspiring to work with.

As a school we loosely follow the British curriculum. Children in reception class learn their letter sounds with “Letterland”, and it is their colourful artwork on the kitchen walls that you might have admired while sipping your cup of coffee after church. In the reading group classes our pupils move through “Jolly Phonics”, “Oxford Reading Tree” and “Nelson Spelling” until, by the end of primary school, they have become confident readers and writers of the complex language which is English.

As well as being somewhere for native English-speaking children to learn to read and write in English, TES is a real community. The school year is flavoured with cultural events: just recently we have held a World Book Day celebration, an Easter Egg Hunt as well as a Bake Sale to raise money for Ukrainian refugees. The end of the school year will be marked by a Fun Day and a Teddy Bears’ picnic, and at Christmas we organise various fundraising events, sing carols and some classes even perform a pantomime!

To find out more, please visit our website: <https://trinityenglishschool.fr/> or our Facebook page.

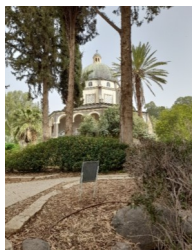
Please get in touch if you are English mother-tongue and would like to join our team of paid teachers’ helpers, and if you would like to register your children for September 2022, I’m sure we can find room for them!

Finally, we are extremely grateful to the church for lending us rooms in the church hall as premises for the school, and for the renovation work which has recently been carried out downstairs, making three of the classes much more comfortable. A BIG thank you!

C.F.



Max Desmeulles’ cake sale for Ukraine.



As we struggle to make sense of Bible passages, how often have we all wished we could be transported to the Holy Land, preferably at the time of Jesus' preaching and teaching? Two of our HT family made the trip to the Holy Land in May 2022. Elspeth and Peter Scott and Katrin Dubreil were kind enough to share with us their amazing experience of walking in Jesus' footsteps.

9 days in Israel and Jordan

After a delay of 2½ years due to Covid 19, we finally departed on April 27, 2022 for 'a once-in-a-lifetime' trip to Israel and Jordan organized by the AVF of Ile de France. We flew from Paris to Tel Aviv where our group of 26 persons, including 5 independent travellers, spent the first night in isolation awaiting the results of our 2nd PCR test (the first was 48 hours before departure) before we could continue. The rest of the travel was by coach as far north as the Lebanon/Syrian border and as far south as the northern tip of the Red Sea and accompanied throughout by guides bilingual in French.

On the 2nd day we travelled north to visit a very old synagogue in Safed, then on to the Golan heights captured by Israel after the 6 days war in 1967 and from where you can look into both Lebanon and Syria. Despite the awful connotations of war and evidence of uncleared minefields and other war debris, the area is green and attractive with views of rivers, mountains, nature reserves, chains of (mostly) extinct volcanos, canyons of basalt and archaeological sites. Our 2nd night was spent in a bungalow in a nearby Kibbutz that is typical of an experiment in communal living for orthodox Jews that started in the 1920s.

The next day started with a visit to the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, the town where Jesus spent his childhood and youth and also the largest Arab city in Israel. We then went on to various holy Christian sites around the Sea of Galilee: Capernaum which is described in the Gospels as the 'town of Jesus' and his 2nd home after Nazareth; Tabgha where Jesus fed the 5000; and the church built at the mount of Beatitudes. Our journey then continued to Jerusalem where we spent 3 nights.

Jerusalem, with its history going back 3000 years, holds a central place in the three great monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. For Judaism, it is the city where the Kings David and Solomon reigned. The Wailing wall is all that remains of King Herod's temple and is the most holy place for orthodox Jews. For Islam, Jerusalem is the place where Muslims will meet again on the Last Day of Judgement and is their third most holy city after Mecca and Medina. For Christians, of course, it is the place where Jesus was betrayed, tried, condemned, crucified and resurrected.





Our walking tour of Jerusalem started at the Mount of Olives from where there is a magnificent view of the old city and from where one can walk down through the Garden of Gethsemane followed in our case by a visit to King David's tomb and then on to the Wailing Wall. The following day we following the Stations of the Cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre built on the site of the crucifixion of Jesus. The evening highlight was a 'son et lumière' show in the Tower of David that recounted the history of the founding of Jerusalem and its capture by the Greeks, the Romans, the Crusaders, the Caliphs and the Ottomans and, finally, the short British Mandate prior to the founding of the state of Israel.

A visit to Bethlehem followed, which is only 10km to the south of Jerusalem and is in a Palestinian administered territory separated from the rest of Israel by an 8 metre high security wall. The Church of the Holy Nativity is in the centre of town, built over a network of grottos, in one of which Mary is reputed to have given birth to baby Jesus. This church like many we visited in Israel is relatively modern having been rebuilt following the destruction during 400 years of Ottoman rule.

Next followed a visit to the museum where the Dead Sea scrolls, discovered in 1947 by a Bedouin shepherd, are kept and studied. We then went to one of the most disturbing and distressing places of the whole trip, the Holocaust Museum of Yad Vashem that shows in graphic and upsetting detail all that led to the assassination of 6 million Jews. The museum is a compulsory visit for all Israeli lycéens along with the site of the last stand of the Jews against the Roman occupiers at Masada. Frankly, had we known in advance, we would have declined to visit this museum despite the moral imperative not to ignore this terrible history.

The following visit to Masada, a high plateau of rock that overlooks the Judean desert and the Dead Sea was an amazing place to visit, thankfully accessible today via a téléphérique.

It is the site where the last Jewish resistance to Roman occupation took place and all committed suicide rather than submit to the Romans when their defeat by 5000 Roman soldiers became inevitable around 72 BC. The ruins of the Jewish and later Roman buildings built by King Herod were fascinat-



ing and showed their incredible ingenuity for water management both for drinking and growing crops on this exposed plateau. The rainy months are November and December and that has to suffice for the whole year.

We then crossed the border into Jordan via the Allenby bridge over the Jordan River that has in recent years become just a muddy river bed in that location due to excessive water extraction for agriculture by both Israel and Jordan. After the border crossing, we travelled a long way south by bus to Petra, which is located only a few tens of kilometres north of Aqaba.

The Nabatians who thrived in the area around Petra between the 4th and 5th centuries BC were an ancient nomadic Arab people. Their most famous monuments/mausoleums were sculptured from pink coloured sandstone cliffs that are accessed on foot, or horseback, or charette, or electric taxi via a most amazing, narrow desert gorge. When it rains in November/December, the water can reach several metres depth. The complete round trip was 8 km in up to 32°C heat that we walked except for Elspeth doing 2 km of the return trip in a charette.

After Petra, we went further south to Wadi Rum where we spent the night in tents (with all mod cons). The desert that we visited by 4x4 jeep has sandstone/limestone formations rising up to 1500 metres above the desert floor and has been the backdrop for many films including Lawrence of Arabia. The Turkish steam train that he ambushed in the film is also preserved in the area.

Our final day in Jordan started with the long haul north up the Rift Valley to a Dead Sea Resort hotel. The Dead Sea is the lowest point on Earth at 400 metres below the Mediterranean Sea. The concentration of salt is 34% to be compared to 3.5% in normal seawater and is reputed to be beneficial for psoriasis and arthritis. The art of floating and your back while following dire warnings to avoid ingesting any of the water is not as easy as it looks.

Our last night was spent in Tel Aviv after recrossing the Jordan/Israeli border, visiting the site of Jesus' baptism on the river Jordan (where there is still some water flowing), then heading west across the mountains via Jerusalem before discovering green pastures again on the west facing side of the hills. The last morning before flying back from Tel Aviv to Paris was spent following a walking tour of Jaffa, which has the oldest known port in the world in use since the Bronze Age.

The whole trip was memorable if tiring with so much packed into 9 days but well worth it!



Elspeth & Peter Scott

On Holy Ground



“We *must* visit the Holy Land,” I said to my husband about a year ago. The dream had been mine for ages, but lately I had begun to feel a sense of urgency. And yet, how to go about it? One does not simply walk into the Holy Land—not without a plan, a guide, a group. Then, a mere few months later, my husband announced that his company was organising a trip to that very place. We applied at once and were among the handful of couples accepted—a miracle in itself!

In early May, our 30-member group travelled to Tel Aviv, met up with our Israeli guide, and headed to Tiberias. The next morning, we set off in the steps of Jesus, starting with the Mount of the Beatitudes, site of the Sermon on the Mount, where a visiting choir burst into impromptu song as we gazed out over the Sea of Galilee.

From there, we proceeded to Tabgha, site of the Feeding of the 5,000; the Church of the Primacy of Saint Peter, site of Jesus’ commissioning of Peter (“Feed my sheep”); and Capernaum, “Town of Jesus” and locus of much of His ministry. We boarded a fishing boat and sailed across the Sea of Galilee, looking back at the coast and imagining Jesus walking on the water. And we visited Nazareth, with its sites of the Annunciation and Joseph’s carpentry workshop.

The following day we crossed the border into Jordan, where a new local guide took us to Jerash, a vast Greco-Roman city that was part of the Decapolis and is known as the “Pompeii of the East,” then on into elegant Amman for the night.

Over the next several days we visited sites straight out of the Old Testament, which left me awestruck by their scale and their beauty. We began with Mount Nebo, the location from which God showed Moses the Promised Land, which he would never enter. The natural bedrock in that hallowed place is golden-white, almost luminous in nature; one cannot help but think of Moses’ face, illuminated by his encounters with God.

From there we descended through the stunning Wadi Mujib canyon, a land that once separated the Amorites from the Moabites. Arriving in Wadi Musa (“Valley of Moses”), we stopped at Ain Musa (“Moses’ Spring”), where one can see the very rock he struck with his staff to bring forth water.

The next day was devoted to Petra, whose scale and splendour surpassed even my expectations. We explored rainbow-colored Nabatean caves and tombs, meandered among immense Roman ruins, and stood amazed before sweeping vistas of sun-soaked crags and distant valleys.

Some 30,000 steps later, we stumbled back onto our coach, exhausted but grinning.

From there we travelled to Wadi Rum, one of most beautiful deserts in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site, where we experienced “glamping” on a whole new scale; our desert camp was worthy of the Three Magi! Climbing aboard 4x4’s driven by local Bedouins, we drove deep into the desert to marvel at ancient petroglyphs before returning to camp for a glorious sunset.

Our final day in Jordan was spent at the city of Aqaba on the shores of the Red Sea with a perfect view of the Sinai Peninsula across the way; I could imagine the Exodus vividly. That night, we gathered on the rooftop of our hotel to raise a glass of Jordanian wine in a toast to our wonderful guide and his extraordinary country.

We returned to Israel the following day, pausing to “swim” in the Dead Sea before setting our sights upon Jerusalem; that first view as the city spread before us will remain with me forever. We visited nearby Bethlehem, Masada, Qumran, and more, but the city itself was the crown jewel of the trip. From the Temple Mount to the Mount of Olives, from the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, “the stones cry out” in testimony to Christ. While visiting the Garden of Gethsemane, our guide handed me an olive branch from among those ancient trees—by far the souvenir I treasure the most. As I return somewhat reluctantly to normal life, a line of prayer comes powerfully to mind:

“May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.”

Wonders He has shown me indeed. What a blessing, what a privilege, what a tender gift from the Lord who gives us the desires of our hearts.

Katrin Dubreuil

* * * * *



Our condolences to Nikki, Tina and all the family
on the passing of Roger Thomas on 3 May 2022.

Members of the congregation share their memories of previous royal jubilees and occasions

Jubilee Memories



As my father worked in a bank in Whitehall, my parents were able to go to London and see the procession from one of the windows. My brother and I watched the ceremony on a black and white television at a friend's (very exciting as we hardly ever saw TV!).

At school we were given a sampler to sew which, contrary to most of my friends, I never finished! There was also a Coronation mug but that has disappeared, however my parents kept the programme.



Sarah Masset

On Coronation Day I was in France with no TV and no means of listening to the BBC. But I do have memories of the Coronation of George VI! Well, not exactly the Coronation itself. I remember sitting in the garden and playing with cardboard coaches. There must have been horses as well but I knew horses, they delivered our milk in the morning. Gold coaches were way beyond my experience (and probably there weren't any at all in New Zealand) and they obviously made a lasting impression.

Edith Briard

I was a young teenager at the time of our Queen's Coronation. I belonged to a group of girls called SFG (Girls' Friendly Society). We met weekly in the church hall and had all kinds of activities (mainly knitting, sewing, table tennis, bible study). It was decided that we would parade on Coronation Day. I, being tall, was to dress as a Roman soldier, while my friend Janet was to be dressed as my wife. Coronation Day was cold and wet and I had bare legs and was dressed in a very short tunic and sandals. We paraded through Newmarket High Street, where the crowds should have been to applaud us, but they were all indoors in the warm, watching the coronation on TV, eating chicken sandwiches and Coronation Cake, and drinking wine. I completely missed the Coronation at Westminster Abbey and arrived at our friend's house to see on TV the coach drawing away. After a warm bath, then three sandwiches they had saved for me plus a slice of Coronation Cake, I felt somewhat better.



On Coronation Day the children of the British community were invited to the British Embassy in Paris. I was one of them. Each of us received a souvenir mug and a small Union Jack which I still have. On that day we also watched the Coronation on TV, it was the first Eurovision programme! My parents invited all our neighbours...

Margaret Henon

Patrick Gautier-Lynham



I was given a lovely Dunoon ceramics silver jubilee mug for my 18th birthday. It stayed with me throughout my student days and is with me to this day. For the Golden Jubilee, 2nd June, we celebrated Rachel Ischoffen's birthday at the same time in a Jubilee picnic with Anne, Ben and Benjie as well as two or three other families, playing games, running races and toasting our Queen in the St Germain forest, to the puzzled looks of passers by, who eyed our flags and bunting most suspiciously!



Fiona Dabas

My very first time in Europe was a month-long tour with my University Choir in 1977. We started in Italy, then went through Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France and ended up in London for several days. There were Queen's Silver Jubilee items for sale absolutely everywhere. I took home four beautiful Jubilee mugs from Harrod's. They lasted forever, and were used daily by my parents. That was 45 years ago! Imagine!

Joan Bauman

My memory of the Queen's silver jubilee in 1977 is not a happy one. I was at primary school, where each child was given a commonwealth country to represent. Along with a couple of classmates, I was to dress up in the traditional costume of someone from Papua New Guinea. Unfortunately the climate of our little island is not as warm as that of Papua New Guinea and the day itself was bitterly cold. Despite this, my teacher insisted that we wore virtually nothing other than our grass "skirts" (i.e. a few strips of green crepe paper) in order to look the part. I still remember how cold I was, 45 years later. Looking at the photos I have of this historic moment (which I am not publishing!) I can see that the spectators are all wearing coats and "the Queen" is wearing a lovely warm fur cloak!

Carolyn Froment



On Sunday 5 June this year we had a wonderful Pentecost Sunday service followed by an indoor Platinum Jubilee church family picnic (sandwiches, coronation chicken, strawberries & cream, Pimm's!). Thank you to everyone who contributed in making it a such a special celebration and a lovely birthday party for the church!

Beautiful Jubilee Banner borrowed from Kate Giry-Deloison and the church in Arras with our thanks.

The Post War Processions in London in 1945 and 1946

Our happy Whitsun service at Holy Trinity, which coincided this year with Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in London, brought to my mind many memories of previous "Great Days" in the city and in particular the Victory Parades of 1945 and 1946.

At that time Londoners were just emerging from an extremely difficult period due to Flying Bomb and Rocket attacks that had disrupted everyday life since June 1944. (They began just after the Normandy landings.)

After the evacuation in 1939 of all school children under the age of 16 to country areas, we had returned to our schools in London in 1942 and 1943 following the German invasion of Russia and the subsequent decline in air attacks on London.

The new rocket explosions were particularly unnerving because they were supersonic. It was impossible to give warning of the missiles' approach with air raid sirens. (Those sirens we still hear as they are tested each month in Maisons-Laffitte!). The most serious rocket "incident" occurred at our local Woolworths store in New Cross during the midday shopping "rush" on a Saturday in late November 1944. There were over 300 casualties.

So the "Victory Parade" in July 1945 of marching soldiers and musical bands was a happy but muted affair, the bulk of our armed forces being still on the continent dealing with the post war chaos there.

The great festivities resembling the scenes we have recently seen on television, therefore took place a year later in July-August 1946.

On that occasion army, navy and air force contingents from many different nations took part in the London procession: Canadians, Australians, Indians, French, Poles, South Africans and Americans... The parade was also exceptional because in fact there were two simultaneous processions.

The marchers on foot once again paraded down the mall to Buckingham Palace to salute King George and the royal family. Hundreds of onlookers watched in Green Park and the Queen Victoria Monument.

However there was also a 2 kilometer long motorised procession of artillery, tanks, troop carriers, ambulances, fire engines, mobile food canteens, musical ENSA groups on lorries (ENSA – Entertainment National Service Association). This procession wound its way along crowded streets through the City and the poorer districts of the East End of London.

I remember watching it with my mother from the windows of the Port of London Authority Offices opposite the centuries old walls of the Tower of London! This vantage point was arranged for us by my father who had just returned to duty in the City of London Police after being wounded by a shell splinter. (Our own anti-aircraft shells were almost as dangerous as enemy bombs. We collected the 'splinters' of jagged iron as kids on the mornings after air raids.) The boy with the biggest collection got a Mars Bar!

Alan Daines

Word from the Editor



I rarely think of being touched by grace. I reason that must be for people that are closer to God than I am. But I felt truly touched by grace at our church service on 15 May.

We had the privilege of listening to three songs by a Ukrainian mother and daughter, and a third Ukrainian girl who played a traditional instrument called a bandura. The young women were dressed in traditional costume with intricate embroidery. The mother's blouse has been in her family for over 100 years.

The first song was a traditional Ukrainian ballad sung by mother and daughter. The second song was sung by the young daughter, with a strong rich voice full of emotion as we saw scenes of a war-torn Ukraine projected on the wall at the front of the church. The depth of emotion of the singer and those listening was such that the quality of the air in the church seemed to change. There were tear-stained cheeks and lumps in throats, emotions shared by all, regardless of nationality. The third song included the two singers and the traditional instrument. There was a hush in the church as our attention was focused on the music and the performers. At the end there was a burst of applause.

I walked out of the church feeling as if I had received a precious gift. We often complain, feel we don't have all we deserve in life, keep thinking how things will be better in the future when we are richer, have more time, etc. But after seeing the outpouring of love of country, of sadness and emotion for what has happened in these past few months, and for what may happen tomorrow, it made me feel a part of humanity, of God's family in all its diversity.

The gift of the Ukrainian performers and the response of those listening was a shining example of Charlotte's sermon. We are called to one thing above all else, to love our neighbour as Jesus has loved us.



Nancy

*The TT committee, Carolyn, Edith, Nancy and Sarah,
wish you a safe and relaxing summer
whether you are travelling or having a staycation.
May you feel rested and refreshed to tackle the busy rentrée!*

* * * * *

*Our thanks to Jo Devlin
for the beautiful, sunny cover of this issue.*

Nigel Bartram has just had a book published. Informative, funny and proceeds go to a good cause. Read on...

As some or all of you may know or remember, I have Multiple Sclerosis and have had it for a smidgeon under 20 years now. Some of you will be aware that for about half that time I've been struggling to put together a book which unearths some funny sides of this incurable disease. The book is entitled ***'MS A Funny Thing (well sometimes!)*** and has just been published. It's a collection of stories of funny things which have happened to people with MS (PwMS), including me, because of our MS. Each has a brilliant illustration done by a young artist. All royalties go to 4 MS charities who have helped me a lot in different ways.

'MS A Funny Thing (well sometimes!) is available in paperback and eBook formats from Amazon. (I know Amazon isn't to everybody's liking. I need to explain that as the book is printed in full colour, and is therefore expensive to print, in order to show off the fantastic illustrations, Amazon and its print subsidiary was the only option which enabled me to keep the price in reasonable bounds whilst offering a good margin for the MS charities).

Meanwhile, here's a podcast I did recently for one of the charities,:

<https://overcomingms.org/resource/podcast/s4e51-bonus-coffee-break-31-nigel-bartram> and below is the book cover to give you a foretaste.

N.B.

MS A Funny Thing (well sometimes!)

The editor of MS A Funny Thing (well sometimes!), Nigel Bartram has Multiple Sclerosis, a serious and incurable disease. But, far from getting him down, his MS inspired him to produce this uniquely uplifting and humorous collection of stories and brilliant illustrations.

To Bartram's great surprise and delight, he realised that Multiple Sclerosis doesn't rob MS sufferers of their sense of humour. Indeed, it has given many a rich new vein of experiences to laugh about, so important when up to half of people with MS experience clinical depression or anxiety at some point.

Bartram's hope in collecting these stories and commissioning their accompanying illustrations is to offer a light-hearted way to promote a greater understanding of this disease, while bringing smiles to the faces of people with MS, their families, friends, and caregivers, and of course raise much needed funds for MS charities.

"In medicine, we now understand that laughter is good medicine. This book is decidedly good for you! All proceeds go to worthy MS charities. Win-win!"

- Professor George Jelinek MD, Honorary Professor, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and Founder of Overcoming Multiple Sclerosis, and living very well indeed with MS

"While it is vital to take our health seriously, we must also try to find laughter and lightness. Sharing our stories and laughter is a wonderful therapy from any illness."

- Dr Keryn Taylor MD, Consultant Psychiatrist, who is living very well indeed with MS



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.

Dates for your Diary

**From Friday 24th to Sunday 26th June : Calling all 11-18 year olds!
Join us for a weekend near Paris as we embody the hands and feet of Christ.
We will spend time together in fun and games while also working with
Serve the City to provide humanitarian relief.
This will be an opportunity to learn how to love like Jesus.**

**Our Youth Leader, Joy, will be leading an online Confirmation preparation
course on Sunday evenings (starting at the end of August) for anyone
interested in being confirmed during Bishop Robert's visit
in November 2022.**

**In September, we will also be holding a First Communion course
for any Sunday Group children who wish to take their First Communion
on Easter Sunday next year.**

12 September : Council Meeting

25 September : Rentrée BBQ

**Please see our website for more details:
<https://htcm1.com/>**



Summer Sunday Services

**Please see our website
for times of services during the summer.**