

February
2025



Trinity
United Reformed
Church

The Messenger

Minister's Letter

Dear friends,
I have recently returned from a nationwide URC conference that was part of the ongoing Church Life Review. The conference focused on rebirth and renewal of the church (in many different forms). It was challenging. It was inspiring. It was, at times, overwhelming.

We face a lot of different challenges when we try to think about ways to grow or revitalize our churches. We live in an increasingly secular society. Public perception of churches is damaged by the bad actions of a few. For those who might be interested, we struggle to stand out among the other churches in our communities.

I don't think that our conference came to any definitive answers for the challenges we face, but we sure did come up with a bunch of reasons why we weren't growing! Many of those in attendance commented on their goals of seeing their churches survive until the next generation could assume control.

But what I want to share with you today was part of one of the Bible Studies that started

each day of the conference. I share this with some risk, because what I am about to say might initially seem upsetting to many of you... but hear me out, because there is a lot of hope and possibility in this message!

We were studying Deuteronomy 30:11-20—the end of Moses' extended sermon to the Israelites as they stood on the banks of the Jordan preparing to enter into the Promised Land—and we were talking about the difference between what Moses was presenting to the Israelites (a re-covenanting with God) as opposed to a golden age of faith and a promise of permanence and stability until the end of time.

The point our study leader made was that—as Christians—we are never promised permanence... nor should we seek it for our churches. Moses encourages the Israelites to "choose life" so that they may live. It was not a complicated thing Moses was asking... just to make a simple choice.

The same choice could be said to be facing the URC at this moment, and God would

indeed encourage us to “choose life” with all the costs and joys that come with it. And that means being open to the movement of the Spirit within us and around us. That also means that things might look different in the years ahead. And that’s okay. Because, as scary as change might be, it is in the very nature of the church to change over time. After all, if our goal is to keep things exactly as they are forever, we’ve placed our hope in permanence—and permanence leads us to idolatry, because we are then putting our faith in something that is not God.

However we feel about change in our churches, the fact is that change is coming (spoiler alert: it’s always coming!). The Spirit moves where it will, and we are called to respond. So now is not a time for pessimism...but it’s not a time for optimism, either. It is a time for hope—hope that the Spirit will move among us and provide for



new and continuing expressions of faith—hope that our witness and message to our community and the world is not in vain—and hope in the promise that it is God who will always have the last word.

May that sense of hope renew and revive us, strengthening us for the journey ahead.

Traveling mercies,
Brian

March Messenger

Please send in all articles for the March issue of The Messenger to handhurc@gmail.com by **Wednesday 19th February**. Any late articles will be kept for the following month. Thank you.

Family News

Congratulations to Andrew (Andy) Hewitt and Nicola (Nicky) Parsonage on their engagement. The wedding will take place in Lincolnshire, in April.

Also, congratulations to Laura Stainer and Nicholas (Nick) Willats on their engagement. The wedding will take place at Langtons in August.

Advanced Notices

Every Thursday

Trinity Leisure Club takes place in the Roope Hall from 1pm until 3pm. Anyone is welcome to attend to play a mixture of board games and card games.

Coffee Morning and Indoor Sale

Saturday 8th February 2025, 10 am - 12 noon

Heath and Havering Communion

Wednesday 12th February, 5:30 pm at Nelmes URC, Hornchurch

Church Clean

Saturday 22nd February, 10 am to noon. Please bring your own dusters etc

Prayers

This month, we are praying for the Los Angeles Fires, Homeless charities, and NHS winter epidemics.



Are you in need of some

TLC

Trinity Leisure Club



**Join us for tea, biscuits
and indoor games.**



£1 per session

**Find us in the Roope Hall
Trinity Church, Upminster**



1- 3 pm

Every Thursday

Trinity Leisure Club (affectionately known as TLC) meets every Thursday from 1pm until 3pm in the Roope Hall and everyone is welcome.

We play board and card games and enjoy a chat over a hot drink and biscuits or sometimes even cake! Some people bring their knitting but, whatever your preference, it's a fun afternoon in pleasant company. At only £1 per session (proceeds to the church and charity) it's an inexpensive afternoon out.

Why not give us a try or bring some friends and get some TLC!

Nativity Scene

A Christmas Nativity scene has been displayed on the lawn of Trinity church (next to Roomes Stores) since it was made by Rev. Phil Nevard, minister at the church from 1999-2012. Since then it has been lovingly maintained and put out every year by a Mike Addis. The church is very sad to report that the figures were damaged beyond repair during the week before Christmas, when they were vandalised.

Recently, the church has been approached by the Men's Shed who have offered to make a new set of nativity figures for Christmas this year. We are very grateful for their help.

Christine Willis
Elder, Trinity church



Dorothy Bridger

Dorothy Bridger (nee Roberts) was born on the 13th June 1934 and died on the 24th November 2024. Dorothy's membership at Trinity was not straightforward as she was made a member on the 28th November 1951 by transfer from the Junior Roll and deleted from membership roll in 1974. Dorothy was then readmitted as a member on the 6th August 2000 and became non resident in 2015 when she moved to live nearer to one of her daughters.

The eulogy below was delivered at Dorothy's funeral by her daughter Susan and Alison and has been shared by them for inclusion in the Messenger.

Mum was a brave, independent and strong lady. She was blighted in her later years by Alzheimer's, they were very difficult years for us all, but we were fortunate that she managed to hold on to the love our family gave to her and she NEVER lost her ability to love us all. We are so thankful to the wonderful carers at Lean on Me and Cepen Lodge for helping us look after her in her final few years.

Mum was an amazing Gran, after losing our dear Dad she threw herself into giving double love to Nicholas and Rosanna who often stayed with her. When Cameron and Aimee came along she was a doting Gran. She even stayed with us (Alison's family) in Germany for a long 4 weeks when Aimee was born, which delighted Cameron, possibly not so much Gordon! She had many lovely family holidays with both families and sometimes with all of us. One highlight was when we took her as a surprise to Centreparks in Holland when she turned 70. With typical Mum enthusiasm she threw herself into all the activities including cycle hire.

Mum was born in Coniston Avenue, Upminster in June 1934 to Alec and Betty, both proud Scots who moved to England for Grandad's work. She had one older brother, Stuart.

Mum started school at the Tin Hut in Deyncourt Gardens. Her early school years were interrupted by the war. She spent much of her time during the war staying with her mother and grandmother in Edinburgh, whilst her father

worked as a dental surgeon at Oldchurch hospital. Mum often spoke of her time in Scotland she attended school in Edinburgh and visited her father's family in Cruden Bay, Aberdeenshire.

After the war, the family returned fully to Upminster and Mum attended the Ursuline Convent in Brentwood. She often spoke of her happy childhood including riding lessons in Cranham and rowing off the coast.

She studied at St Oysth Teacher Training college to become a primary school teacher and taught at schools in Upminster, Cranham and Hornchurch.

Mum was a keen girl guide and kept this interest in guiding through her life. At the age of just 21 she set up the 7th Upminster brownie pack – meeting every Tuesday at Branfil and she remained Brown Owl for over 40 years until she retired from guiding at 65. She would spend hours planning her weekly Brownie meetings. Sausage and beans was the staple tea for Tuesday evenings, she was far too busy to think of anything else. She took her Brownie pack away for a week's holiday every year to Shoeburyness where we stayed in a church hall and had to be roped together to paddle in the sea and latterly to Went House.

She met John, her future husband, through the Ilford Rambler's association. They courted for some years and married in 1964 at the United Reformed Church in Upminster and settled down to married life at 40 Park Drive.

We have our fond memories of family Christmases. Christmas Day was always at Gran and Grandads for a grand Christmas lunch. Sally, Alex and David would join us later to watch the Wizard of Oz. Boxing Day was always with Dads family, Charlie and Amelie with our big cousins Alan and Colin. Mum was an excellent cake baker, however she could never quite recreate Auntie Amelie's chocolate cake!

The Upminster Scottish Association was a huge part of Mum and Dad's social life. Mum was a member throughout her life as her parents were founder members. Designed as a social club for Scots living away from home it evolved into an inclusive society with many varied activities. Dancing always kept Mum busy and fit. When she met Dad she dragged him along and the activities were a huge part of their life and they made very dear and lifelong friends.

We were very lucky to have friendly neighbours in Park Drive with similar aged

children and we became firm friends.

Mum always kept herself busy, she enjoyed sewing and made us beautiful party dresses. She loved her lace making, making intricate designs and ensuring we had special garters for our wedding days. Monday evenings were her evenings with the lace ladies, god forbid if we ever interrupted her evening!

Even into her later years Mum always threw herself into learning, she was interested in history and kept learning into her 80s. She enjoyed many group holidays within the UK exploring our history.

Mum was extremely well travelled. This started young when as a young woman, she travelled to South Africa with her parents to meet up with her brother and his young family who were living in what is now Tanzania due to work. There was extended family in South Africa to be visited and the trip took around 3 months. We heard many tales of it.

With Dad she had some lovely holidays to Canada, cruising around northern Europe, lots of boating holidays. We have a special place in our hearts for the Fawlty Towers type hotel in Cromer we spent many holidays at. In later years, Mum continued her adventures to Egypt, Iceland and cruising the Danube.

When she moved to Bishops Stortford to be nearer to Susan's family and with a more manageable apartment she kept up both her activities in Upminster and joined church, U3A, trefoil guild and the Arts society locally. She was, if anything as busy in her first years until her health deteriorated.

She never gave up as a teacher. She took her grandchildren on trips to museums always keeping them entertained, well fed – often with Gran's special porridge – and loved.

It is connections and interests that stand out to us about Mum. Whenever you walked up the road with her, she bumped into someone she knew. She never refused an invitation to join in and had a busy and fulfilling life.

We will all miss her dearly and have been very privileged to share a little of her story and our memories with you all today.

DEAR FRIEND,

HOPE YOU ARE DOING WELL AND STAYING SAFE. TANJILA IS KEEPING WELL AND DRAWN THIS FOR YOU, HOPE YOU WILL LIKE IT.

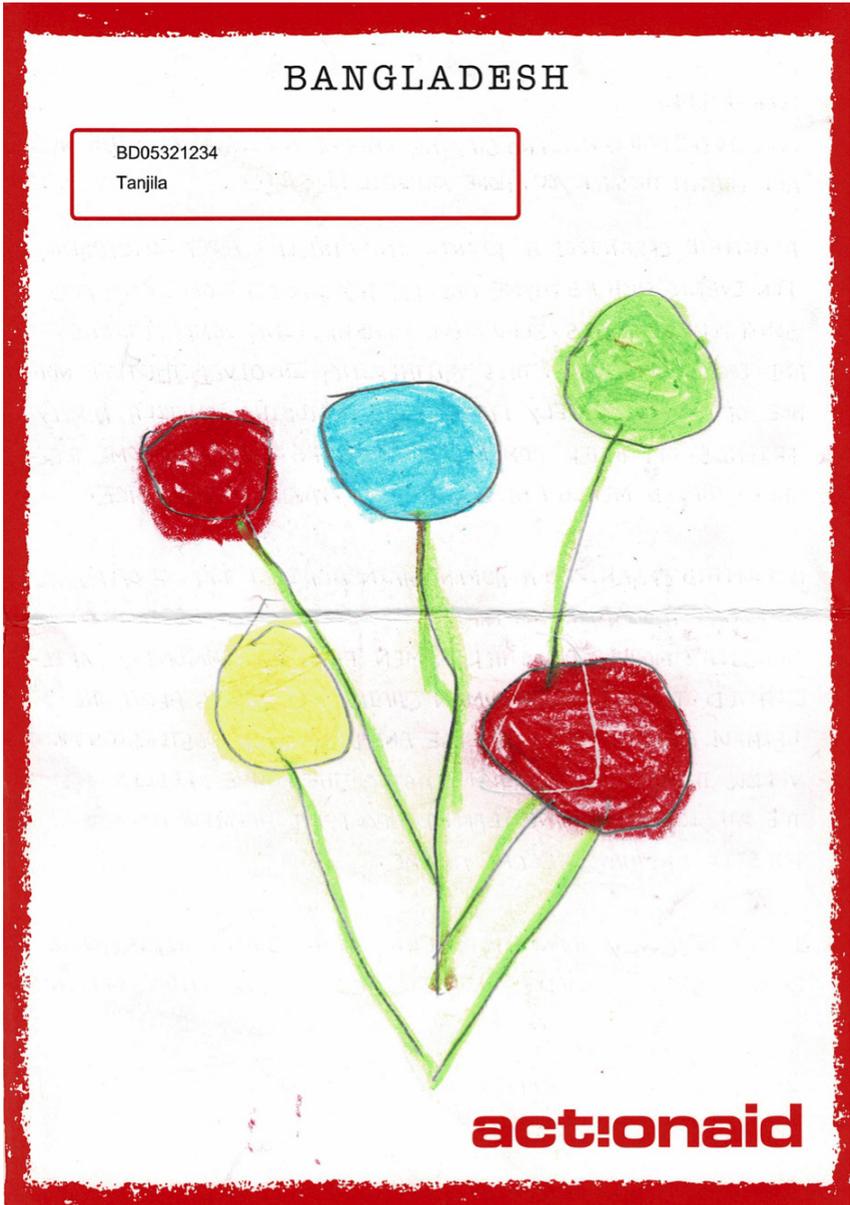
ACTIONAID ORGANIZED A PICNIC IN TANJILA'S AREA, INCLUDING FUN EVENTS SUCH AS RHYME AND POETRY RECITATION, DANCE AND SONG PERFORMANCES, BEAUTIFUL HANDWRITING COMPETIZIONS, AND LOCAL FUN SPORTS. THIS GATHERING INVOLVED THE ATTENDANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 1700 PEOPLE, INCLUDING TANJILA, FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS. EVERYONE CAME TOGETHER, SHARED MEALS AND HAD A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE.

ACTIONAID ORGANIZED A HUMAN CHAIN AGAINST THAT USE OF PLASTIC TO MARK WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY IN WHICH 60 PEOPLE, INCLUDING TANJILA'S MOTHER AND OTHER WOMEN FROM THE COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATED. THROUGH THIS HUMAN CHAIN, THEY TALKED ABOUT THE HARMFUL ASPECTS OF PLASTIC USE AND DISPLAYED POSTERS CONTAINING VARIOUS INFORMATION AGAINST PLASTIC. THE PEOPLE PRESENT AND THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE HARMFUL ASPECTS OF PLASTIC AND HAVE BECOME AWARE.

I LIKE TO CONVEY THANKS FOR BEING WITH US AND HELPING US TO BRING POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE LIFE OF PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Message collected by: RIPA.

Trinity has received a letter from the support worker of Tanjila, the little girl in Bangladesh that the church supports through the 5 pence collection on a Sunday. Tanjila has also drawn a lovely picture for us.





Our minister, Brian, will be spending some of his office time in our local cafes and coffee shops in the coming months. You are welcome to stop by to say 'hello,' stay for a chat, or just share some light conversation over a refreshing beverage.

All sessions will take place from 9:30 to 11 am

Upminster

4th Wednesday of the month

(*with exceptions)

Costa Coffee (across from church)

***29 January**

***Tuesday, 25 February**

26 March

***Tuesday, 20 May**

25 June

23 July

(Not meeting in April—Easter Holidays)



Second SATURDAYS



at Trinity URC

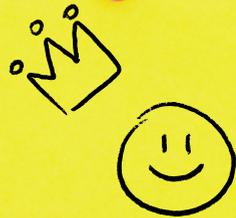


Coffee

Come to our monthly coffee mornings between 10 am and 12 pm. Coffee, tea, orange squash and a variety of cakes and biscuits available.

Sale

Books, jigsaw puzzles, handmade items, bric-a-brac, toys etc for sale. Stalls either outside or inside depending on the weather.



When

On the SECOND Saturday of the month from 10 am until noon at Trinity United Reformed Church.



Our 2024 Charity

From the Craft Fairs and other sources Trinity raised £4013.35 during 2024 which has been donated to The Harold Hill Foodbank, our Charity of the Year. Thanks to all involved.

Although The Foodbank is no longer Trinity's Charity of the Year, we continue support it through donations of non-perishable food items. Please place your donations on the box in the South Porch.

Other Charity Collections

During 2024 Trinity raised monies in support of Charities by collections:

St Francis Hospice	January Communion	£138.60
St Mungo's	February Communion	£139.80
GHISP (Scout Gambia Project)	March Communion	£127.20
Medecins sans Frontiers	Easter communion	£171.41
Bromley by Bow	April Communion	£112.50
Christian Aid	May Communion	£127.00
London's Air Ambulance	June Communion	£114.53
Jinja Project	July Communion	£118.97
Havering Street Pastors	August Communion	£98.00
London Churches Refugee Fund	September Communion	£119.50
Commitment for Life	October Communion	£90.38
Bible Society	November Communion	£148.41
Crisis	December Communion	£174.00
Water Aid	Christmas cards	£61.00
Harold Hill Foodbank	Christmas day Offertory	£162.00
Total		£1,903.30



Never stop praying.
1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sunday Services

February

2nd Communion

Rev Brian Buschkill

9th

Claire Bottone

16th

Rev Brian Buschkill

23rd

Tim Banks

All services start at 9:30am unless otherwise stated.

Please send in all articles for the March issue of The Messenger to handhurc@gmail.com by **Wednesday 19th February**. Any late articles will be kept for the following month. Thank you.