

The Messenger



Dec 2019 / Jan 2020

Trinity
United
Reformed
Church
Upminster



Minister`s Letter

PUDDING
CAROL
SHOPPING
CARD
DAY
PARTY
STOCKING
TREE
FATHER
EVE
PRESENTS
CRACKER
WHITE
BONUS
DECORATIONS
FAYRE
DINNER
CAKE
CACTI
WRAPPING PAPER
LIGHTS

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
Our churches are entering the powerful traditional themes of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

Advent is a season for looking forward, anticipating the future, preparing ourselves for the coming again of Jesus Christ. It is not simply a countdown to Christmas, it is a God given time to prepare ourselves to receive the forgiveness and new life He brings, and to commit ourselves afresh to His service.

In the world around us, this season is characterized by a certain kind of insatiable wanting, and yet the proliferation of consumer goods, for those who can afford them, does nothing to satisfy our own sense of need.

Christmas then, is the time whereby God relinquished power and is found in the helpless vulnerable body of a baby, unprotected from human poverty and danger. This defies our imagination, and we find it easier to sentimentalize Christmas. But let us not be accused of being a kill-joy, rather in all the fun and celebrations of Christmas let us remember the special message of God's coming to us in Christ, Emmanuel.

And may all our celebrations at Trinity demonstrate that Christmas isn't simply about celebrating the coming of Jesus long ago; but most importantly how each one of us responds to Him now. 'How we express our belief that Jesus was born not just for people then but for us today, and though He died, He rose again and is alive here and now. This is the news not just for a few but for everyone; not just for others but for us all! And this is news which will go on challenging, inspiring and moving people day after day, from now to eternity; Good News which will remain Good News until the end of time!' (Nick Fawcett 'Getting it across')

The Christmas season is followed by Epiphany, which takes it's themes from the journey of the magi, the presumably rich and articulate foreigners who undertook a journey of discovery to search for the Christ. There is in this season, a sense of trying to see more clearly, of being open to 'epiphany' the showing forth of God in unexpected places.

As we journey through these seasons perhaps we too, as a Church, can explore the idea that something new is being shown to us as we move away from familiar ground in order to have our eyes opened. This may be unsettling, but it may also be full of unforeseen delight and God's grace.

Now is also the time to give thanks for the service so many of you have been able to give to the Church, during the past year; using your God given talents, your love and kindness to others.

And may I wish you all, a Happy and Blessed Christmas and may 2020 bring you Health and Prosperity.

Yours in Christ,
Ann
(Revd. Ann. Woodhurst)

Family News

We are sorry to hear the news that Doreen Leeder died on the 1st November and we send our condolences to her two sons, Andrew and David and their family

We also send our condolences to the Willis family especially Chris on the loss of her dad Harry and Brian on the loss of his mum Janie. We remember Brian, Chris and all the family in our prayers and thoughts at this time. May God wrap the Willis and Leeder families with his love.

We pray for those members of our congregation who are unwell or facing uncertainty. At this time we especially think of Frank & Margaret, Rosemary, Mavis, Dee and Ian & Meryl.

We think of those unable to worship with us at present and especially Doris, Kath and Joan.

If you have any item you wish to be included in Family News, please contact one of the Elders.

Thank you

St Francis Hospice coffee morning

This will be held on Saturday, 14th December, 10am-midday, with carol singing on the church lawn from 10.30am-midday. There will be carol singing again on Saturday, 21st December.

Help is needed with the following:

- Making cakes
- Donating raffle prizes
- Running the raffle on 14th
- And most importantly, singing carols!

If you can help with cakes or the raffle, please let me know. If you are able to join in the carol singing on either, or both days, please be at the church for 10.20am.

Chris Willis

Social & Fundraising

We have had another very successful year fundraising for the Whitechapel Mission. We hope that the Christmas Market will further boost the total.

Thanks to everyone who has supported our events this year .

If you have any fresh ideas for events for next year please speak to one of the fundraising team Pat, Brenda. Sue, Eileen, Susan, Sonia, Pam

Message from Dorothee

Dear friends in the H&H Churches,
As the season of Advent & Christmas approaches, we remember our years with you fondly.
Salzburg is already surrounded by snowy mountains - the view from our windows is stunning!
Although we are in a country that is foreign to us, I feel as if I am re-discovering some cherished traditions. Austria is different from where I grew up, but times like Christmas remind me of similarities too.
However, there are many things we will miss from our UK Christmas-es too.
We will hold you and the churches in our thoughts and prayers.
Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a blessed start to the new year.
Love from Dorothee & family

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to :

Abie Sutherland 16 years on December 21st

Samuel Woodgate 17 years on January 26th

Christmas Prayer (from David Clowes)

Heavenly Father, we praise you for Jesus Christ and for his coming among us at Christmas.

It is so easy to think that we don't count, that we have been forgotten or that no-one cares.

We praise you that in your Son we have one who assures us of your almighty presence and proves that your love is truly for each and every one of us.

Father, we praise you for Jesus Christ and for the value he gives to our lives as we live them in faith, hope and love.

It is as we look to him that we know some things are right and some things are wrong, some things are against your will, and some things are within your purposes for our lives.

We thank you for all the fun and laughter, for the joy and peace, and for time with our families and friends.

We thank you too for the singing of carols and for listening to the familiar Christmas story and that we can know that it is not just a story!

Help us not to lose our hold on Christ this Christmas.

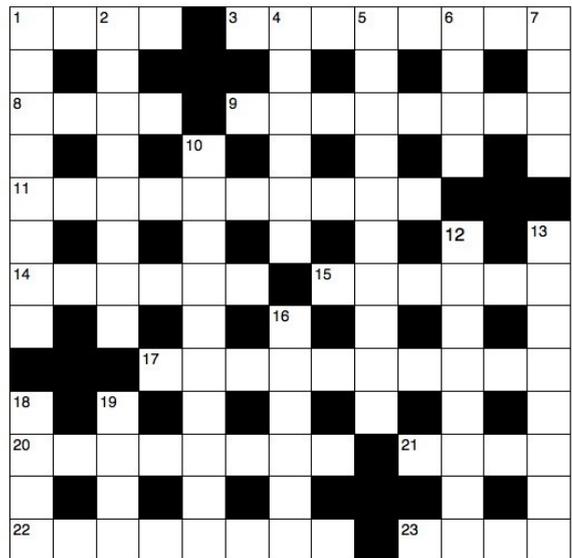
Teach us again to remember that the baby in the manger is the man on the cross and the man on the cross is the Lord of the empty tomb and the Lord of the empty tomb is the one who is Lord of eternity.

We bring our prayer in the name of the King of kings and the Lord of Lords. Amen

Puzzle Page (answers on page 6)

Across

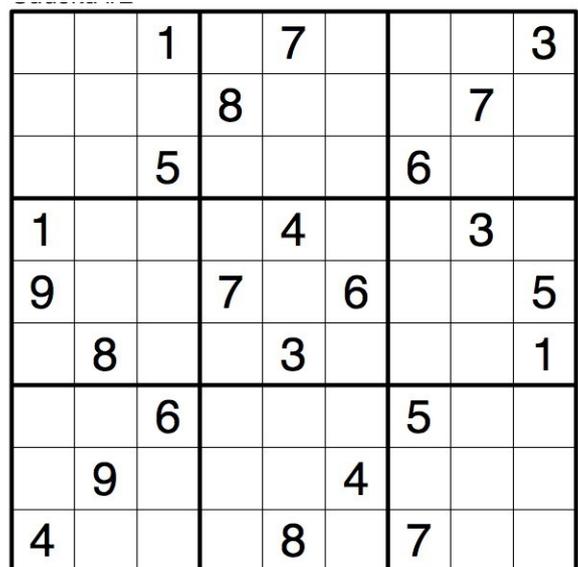
- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)



- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)



K C G 25th Christmas Concert

The concert on Friday 20th December at 7,30 will be the KCG's 25th Christmas concert at Trinity! Proceeds have always been divided 50 : 50 between the church and various charities, and so far – with the proceeds of the summer concerts – we have raised about £35,000. The only expenses taken from the proceeds are for refreshments, except the mince pies at the Christmas concerts, which are provided by the choir. We are grateful to the church members who attend the concerts, help with the sound (Mick P) the raffle (Eileen) and the refreshments (Susan). Come and make our Silver Anniversary Concert a bumper fund raiser for the church and Muscle Up for Lucas, part of the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy charity. Lucas is a local 7 – year –old boy with this life- limiting condition, for whom the KCG is delighted to raise funds. Tickets, still only £7-50, are available from me now

Sonia Gould

Messenger Deadline for February Issue

Please submit any articles for the February issue by 6pm on Wednesday 22nd January with dates up to and including 1st March The Messenger will be ready for distribution on Sunday 2nd February

mike.addis1@btinternet.com



*We don't sing carols no more...
you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!*

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Memories from Ken Norgate

SEPTEMBER 1939



At the outbreak of the war in September 1939 the government decreed a policy of evacuation for vulnerable areas. It was considered that London was particularly at risk and families and schools were evacuated to safe areas. I was amongst those sent away from home as the school which I was to attend was in Walthamstow, an evacuation area. On a morning in November my parents took me to the South West Essex College in Forest Road Walthamstow. The school hall was packed with parents and pupils listening to notices given by the headmaster, Dr. Barron. Together with the rest of the pupils I was led to the coaches and we set off to our destination, not some idyllic country situation but a town in the centre of England, Kettering. On arrival at Kettering we were assembled in a large hall, probably the grammar school hall, and here we waited to be introduced to the people to whom we were to be billeted. Together with another boy, Leonard Forsbery, we were introduced to Mr. and Mrs. Sykes and taken to 68, Lawson Street, a little way from the town centre. Not that I can remember, but we must have walked to the house, as there were very few people with cars in those days.

Ken's Memories (continued)

68 Lawson Street was an end terrace house with three up and two down with kitchen and scullery. An outside toilet with plank boarded seat. There was adjacent orchard which was owned by grandfather Sykes. As well as us two evacuees there were two teenagers from Yorkshire and the Sykes family including their young son, Peter, who had a deformed foot.



68 Lawson Street



From the top: Mrs Leonard, Fred, me and Peter

Of the three bedrooms upstairs Leonard and I shared a bed in the small back room. The two Yorkshire boys had the large front room and the Sykes had the middle room. I was not used to sleeping with anyone and I think it must have been equally strange for Leonard, who left within a very short space of time. I cannot recall a bathroom but presumably I must have had a bath at some time or other! Downstairs I can only recall the living room where we had our meals; I am not sure what was in the front room. My only recollection of a meal was a particular breakfast where I had Shredded Wheat and being told off because I sneaked another spoonful of sugar.

Ken's Memories (continued)

Far from being a country situation, Kettering, like neighbouring Northampton, is quite industrial with many shoe factories. The Sykes were both involved with shoe making, Mrs Sykes was an outworker stitching shoe uppers. About 50 yards from No. 68 Lawson Street was the Wicksteed factory. It was, and still is, manufacturing park equipment i.e. swings, roundabouts and the like. Of course during the war it was engaged on some sort of war work, quite what, no one actually knew outside the factory.

The school shared the Kettering Grammar school premises; the SWETC had the morning session and the grammar school the afternoon. For us the afternoon was for games and homework. Not that I remember doing much of the latter. The SWETC retained their staff but gradually the younger members we called up and only the older ones were left. One in particular was Wilkinson, the maths master, who wore a tweed suit and had rimless glasses. He prowled through the classroom with a cane in his hand and put an almighty fear into us mere pupils. Looking back, it was not a very good introduction to secondary school education and that was followed by an equally unsatisfactory schooling when I returned home at the end of that first school year, but that is another story.

It was not all doom and gloom and one particular pleasure was the Saturday Morning 3d rush to the "pictures". This was something new to me as I was not allowed to go to the Saturday morning cinema when at home at home. A case of "when the cats away the mice will play". The bag of sweets and the cat calls of "look behind you" – great fun. On fine days I used to walk to Wicksteed Park and Fred and Jim and occasionally play on the swings. These were quite different to those home – big gondolas seating two or three people which could be swung to great heights. Big roundabouts, and bumpy slides – quite often had to wait your turn to get on the various "attractions". There was also a miniature railway which ran around the park which was operated by grandfather Sykes but we never got a free ride. My religious education was further extended when I attended Sunday School at the Fuller Baptist church with Smith Brothers.

The winter of '39 was particularly bad and there were several inches snow. I remember walking through the town centre and seeing snow sliding off roofs, bringing down gutters. As schoolboys we revelled in it with snowball fights on the playing field with some of the masters and older boys. Whether it lasted until Christmas I cannot remember, in any case I went home for the Christmas holiday. I was fortunate to have the benefit cheap train travel and during the following terms I had several weekends at home. And at the end of the summer term I went home for good – just in time for the "Blitz".

Doreen Leeder (eulogy)

Doreen became a member at Trinity on 1st November 1959, exactly sixty years before she died. Before coming to Trinity, Doreen and her husband Stan had attended Bow Congregational Church. When they first came to Trinity, they were made to feel welcome and became an integral part of the church family. Stan became involved with the music side of the church, whilst gentle, well mannered and non-complaining Doreen took up a variety of roles.

For many years, Doreen was a leading member of the crèche and Beginners department of Junior Church, helping to look after the youngest members of the church family. She was always a loving and comforting presence to the little ones, cuddling all the babies. Many may remember Doreen cuddling their children or may well have been cuddled themselves.

Doreen was in charge of the flower-arranging rota for many years, which also involved maintaining the flower fund. She continued this until six years ago when she developed an allergy to flowers amongst other things. Sonia Gould took up Doreen's position in 2013 and still uses Doreen's blue notebook. Doreen was excellent at maintaining the flower rota, however, if she could not get a slot filled, she would do the flowers herself that week.

Despite doing so much for the church, Doreen was largely a background figure. Her husband Stan had a vital role as a church organist, working with young musicians and arranging Friday Arts concerts, however, Doreen stood steadfastly by him, full of encouragement. She understood how important music was for Stan and allowed it to take precedence; after all, dinner could wait!

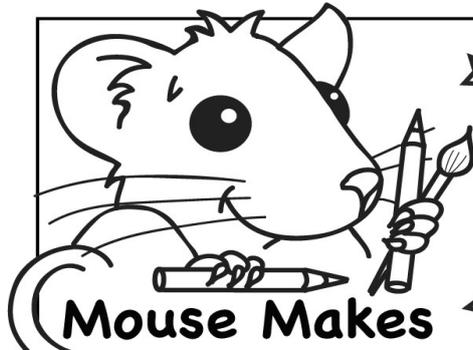
Doreen was always immaculately dressed with a smile on her face. Although she was a quiet lady, she loved to hear about other people's achievements. Whenever she was asked how she was faring health-wise, she modestly turned the conversation around so that you ended up talking about yourself. In fact, whenever Doreen was engaged in conversation, one of the first things she would ask was "how are you?"

Later in life, it became difficult to get to church, particularly for Stan; however, their elders Pam and Mike regularly visited, providing them with Holy Communion. Doreen thoroughly enjoyed receiving visitors, even when she was not in the greatest of health. Although people had come to find out how she was, Doreen much preferred to ask about her visitors' lives and the goings-on at church. She was always grateful to be remembered by church friends and each visit would end with a "thank you for coming" and a wave goodbye from the door or the window.

Although Doreen had been unable to attend services at Trinity for some time, she will be greatly missed by many people. She will be remembered for being a positive presence in the congregation – a truly lovely lady.



Children's Page



Mouse Makes

Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?
Read Luke 2 :1-6

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?
Read Luke 2:7

What did Mary dress her baby in?
Read Luke 2:6

Why were the shepherds afraid?
Read Luke 2:8

What did the angel tell Joseph to name Mary's baby and why?
Read Matthew 1:21

What good news did the angel tell?
Read Luke 2:10-11

Who appeared praising God and what did they say?
Read Luke 2:13-14

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?
Read Luke 2:16

Colour a star each day until Christmas

Good news!

Glory to God

A Saviour is born



Saturday Coffee Rota

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 7 Dec | Sue Brand | Clare & Richard Brindle | |
| 14 Dec | Giovanni Anastasi | Chris & Mick Hewitt | |
| 21 Dec | Margaret Sida | Alison Smith | Maxis Jones |
| 28 Dec | Pam Addis | Eileen & Mick Pullin | |
| 4 Jan | Brenda Mole | Sue Brand | Elaine Upson |
| 11 Jan | Badminton Club | | |
| 18 Jan | Giovanni Anastasi | Chris & Mick Hewitt | |
| 25 Jan | Susan Neville | Sonia Gould | Leanne Copping |
| 1 Feb | Cubs | | |



Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard each Saturday morning this year. It's been much appreciated

Sunday Coffee Rota

| | | |
|--------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1 Dec | Pam Addis | Mandy Haines |
| 8 Dec | Margaret Sida | Jane Whittington |
| 15 Dec | Susan Neville | Brenda Mole |
| 22 Dec | Eileen Pullin | Heather Stainer |
| 29 Dec | Pam Addis | Mandy Haines |
| 12 Jan | Sue Brand | Helen Whittington |
| 19 Jan | Chris Willis | Pat Gothard |
| 26 Jan | Margaret Sida | Jane Whittington |



Flower Rota

| | WWW 1 | Communion | WWW2 |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1 Dec | Sonia Gould | Brenda Mole | Sonia Gould |
| 8 Dec to | CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS | | |
| 3 Jan | | | |
| 12 Jan | Linda Legrand | Linda Legrand | Linda Legrand |
| 19 Jan | Sonia Gould | Sonia Gould | Sonia Gould |
| 26Jan | Clare Brindle | Clare Brindle | Clare Brindle |
| 2 Feb | Heather & Evelyn | - | Heather & Evelyn |

Diary December

Sun 1 9.30am Morning Worship inc Communion - Revd Ann Woodhurst

Thurs 5 11.30am Service at Freshfields

1.00pm Trinity Leisure Club

Sat 7 9.30am Morning Prayers – Chapel

10.00am Coffee Morning – Group D



Sun 8 9.30am Nativity Parade Service – Worship Group

Thurs 12 1.00pm Trinity Leisure Club

Sat 14 9.30am Morning Prayers – Chapel

10.00am Hospice Coffee Morning – Group A
Carol singing on the lawn

Sun 15 9.30am Christingle Service – John Mackerness

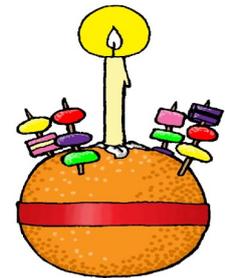
Thurs 19 1.00pm Trinity Leisure Club

Fri 20 7.30pm K C G Christmas Concert

Sat 21 9.30am Morning Prayers – Chapel

10.00am Coffee Morning – Group B

Carol singing on the lawn



Sun 22 9.30am Morning Worship – Patrick Smith

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight –Revd Ann Woodhurst

Tues 24 11.30pm Midnight Service- Methodist Church

Wed 25 10.00am Christmas Day Worship

Sat 28 9.30am Morning Prayers – Chapel

10.00am Coffee Morning – Group C

Sun 29 9.30am Café-style Worship - Elders



Diary January 2020

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Sat 4 | 9.30am | Morning Prayers – Chapel |
| | 10.00am | Coffee Morning – Group D |
| Sun 5 | 9.30am | Morning Worship inc Communion - Revd Ann Woodhurst |
| Thurs 9 | 1.00pm | Trinity Leisure Club |
| Sat 11 | 9.30am | Morning Prayers – Chapel |
| | 10.00am | Coffee Morning – Badminton |
| Sun 12 | 9.30am | Parade Service – Worship Group |
| | 6.30pm | Evening Communion – Heaton Way URC |
| Thurs 16 | 1.00pm | Trinity Leisure Club |
| Sat 18 | 9.30am | Morning Prayers – Chapel |
| | 10.00am | Coffee Morning – Group A |
| Sun 19 | 9.30am | Morning Worship – Paul Timbrell |
| Thurs 23 | 1.00pm | Trinity Leisure Club |
| Sat 25 | 9.30am | Morning Prayers – Chapel |
| | 10.00am | Coffee Morning – Group B |
| Sun 26 | 9.30am | Morning Worship – Revd. Kevin Swaine |
| Thurs 30 | 1.00pm | Trinity Leisure Club |
| February | | |
| Sat 1 | 9.30am | Morning Prayers – Chapel |
| | 10.00am | Coffee Morning – Cubs |
| Sun 2 | 9.30am | Morning Worship inc Communion - Revd Ann Woodhurst |
| Thurs 6 | 11.30am | Service at Freshfields |
| | 1.00pm | Trinity Leisure Club |

