

## **Trinity Methodist Church**

### **Report for the Annual Church Meeting, Sunday 25 June 2017, 12.30 pm**

Reports have been received from organisations associated within our church and also outreach work. Grateful thanks to everyone who has contributed so willingly. Reports are in alphabetical order. Our Minister Rev Diane is on sabbatical at the moment so unable to give a comprehensive report. Rev Diane is very grateful for all extra tasks that people are taking on while she is on sabbatical.

### **Church Stewards' Report**

The team of seven stewards continue to support worship services, discipleship and Bible study groups, fundraising events and fellowship socials as required. We give our thanks to Michael Peck who completes his six years as a steward.

We meet with our minister, Diane every six weeks to review and learn from recent events, plan and prepare for future events and to consider issues relating to church life. The stewards have continued to meet whilst Diane is on Sabbatical.

As from September there will be one less minister in the Ipswich circuit and therefore the current ministers will be sharing the responsibilities.

Diane will oversee Landseer Road church as well the Mission Area churches and port. The stewards have been discussing ways in which we can support Diane with her additional responsibilities. We hope to establish closer links with Landseer Road church and to have more regular Mission area services and events. We also hope to be more active ecumenically having enjoyed the Advent and Lent preparation courses and working together at Messy church.

Our church family continues to be active both within the church and in the wider community and we are grateful to our hard working and dedicated volunteers. The amount of work completed on the property has highlighted the need for more people on the property committee. It would also be helpful to have offers of help in other areas such as the sound system, screen etc. We have been discussing the possible hidden talents, skills and interests of our church family and also looking to the wider community for people willing to help. We are already reliant on people outside the church helping in some activities of the church. If anyone any ideas, skills, talents they would like to share or would like to be more involved in some way please speak to Diane or one of the stewards.

For the coming year

Holiday Club

Harvest Lunch invitation to the Felixstowe International school students

Dementia Awareness training

Godly play training

Fundraising events (suggestions and volunteers please)

Regular contributions to In Touch (volunteers needed)

Thank you for your support and encouragement during my time as your Senior Steward.

*Debbie Peck*

### **ENCOURAGE—THAT'S GOD'S WAY**

It only takes a little word

A smile, a shake of hand

To help another on life's way,

Perhaps lighten someone's load:

The world is full of lonely folk

Who bravely face the world

But hide behind a smiling face

A cross, a heavy load!

So you could be the one to cheer,

To brighten someone's day-

Haste then, some little kindness show;

Encourage-That's God's way!

*Vera Smith*

### **ACTION FOR CHILDREN**

This is the Methodist Children's charity. We support it every year with our "Cash Cascade" – we collect small (and large!) coins and run a cake stall. Last year we raised £260.60 for this worthy cause.

*Alison Davies*

## **ALL WE CAN (Methodist Relief and Development Fund)**

All We Can (formerly MRDF) exists to bring about significant and long term change in some of the world's most marginalised communities, and to empower people to change structures that are oppressive and unjust.

To achieve this, All We Can has three core priorities:

- Contribute to the eradication of poverty, through transformative long-term development, and disaster relief
- Increase the effectiveness of overseas partner organisations to contribute to the eradication of poverty
- Challenge the causes of poverty and injustice through education and advocacy, both in the UK and overseas

The vision of All We Can is for a world where people living in marginalised communities have the resources, opportunities and skills to take control of their own development, and to challenge unjust structures.

Trinity Methodist Church donated £352 to All We Can this year.

*Graham Thompson*

*Trinity Methodist Church's All-We-Can Co-ordinator*

## **Baptisms**

Since the last Annual Meeting we have held three baptisms. Amelia Carpenter, Heather and Dave Carpenter's granddaughter, Edith Watkins and Rory Richards. We had lovely times celebrating their baptism and welcoming them into our Trinity Family. We look forward to offering more families the opportunities to be part of our church.

*Alison Davies*

## **BIBLE STUDY**

This group continues to meet for term time studies. The group is currently studying the Letter of James. In the term before we studied 'Angels' which proved to be a popular subject. The ecumenical Lent course based on the film 'The Way' was well also attended. Val and I are happy to receive suggestions for our next study which will begin in September. We currently meet on a Thursday evening, but we are willing to consider a move to another day and time if Thursday evenings is not convenient for potential members.

*Val Jinks and Michael Peck*

## **CHRISTIAN AID**

Christian Aid is an agency of the churches in Britain and Ireland which works for relief and development in the poorest countries of the world. Founded on Christian faith, Christian Aid seeks to change an unjust world and show practical love and care by working in partnership to eradicate the causes of poverty and striving to achieve equality and dignity for all, regardless of faith or nationality.

In the financial year to June 2016 the Felixstowe Christian Aid Group raised £5921 through street and house-to-house collections and other events. To date this year the total is £6362. In the most recent Christian Aid Week (May 2017) Trinity collectors and individual donors raised approximately £800 of which more than half was gift aided.

This year we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Christian Aid work in Felixstowe with an anniversary service in September led by Rev Jo Jacobs. We also held a concert in April.

A big thank you to all who gave of their time, money and prayerful support. However, our band of collectors is dwindling and we need more volunteers to be able to keep up this work. The next event is a street collection on a Saturday morning in August. Or September

*Stephen Wyatt*

*Christian Aid Week organiser, Felixstowe*

## **COAT RAIL**

It was in January that I took a call from my daughter alerting me to a post on Facebook.

It was from a lady paramedic who was asking for donations of coats for the homeless.

I made contact with Terri who told me she had seen the project in Yorkshire and

and decided to see how Colchester would deal with it. She had a great response so I decided to give it a go. I posted on Facebook and to my delight I was inundated with coats. It was picked up by BBC Radio Suffolk and their presenter, James Hazel, accompanied by Zac, came to interview me at Trinity. We had a great time and they even filmed a short interview which was great fun. In a word we went viral. I had offers of coats, and clothes, from all over Suffolk. Alf and I picked up coats of all descriptions and children's coats, too. Basic Charity came up with a huge coat rail as mine had buckled under the weight. Of course, we received some negative comments but I knew God was urging us on. I felt that if we could help just one person stay warm during winter then it would be worthwhile. I estimate that we distributed over 200 coats. Not to mention scarves, gloves and hats. I never doubted for one minute that we were answering a need and that God was right there beside us. For me it was a huge part of our ministry. We met people and talked about our faith and our church. We left the rail every day and took it in in the evening. There was always empty hangers and, often, more coats. I am grateful to the church family for all their help and encouragement. Jesus said if you have more than one coat, give it away! I'm thankful for the generosity of strangers who were only too willing to share. As March drew in the supplies ran out but who knows what happens next.....bikinis?

*Maddi Ellis*

### **FAIRTRADE REPORT**

The Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum has secured Fairtrade town status for Felixstowe since 2009 and this was renewed again in 2015. This means that the Town Council actively supports Fairtrade, that a significant number of shops, cafes and businesses sell or use Fairtrade products, that a number of community organisations (such as schools and churches) have committed to Fairtrade and that there is a continuing campaign to raise public awareness.

The Forum organised several successful activities during Fairtrade Fortnight in February, including coffee mornings, health walk, youth event, displays and competitions. See the website of the Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum for details of our activities including a list of shops and cafes selling Fairtrade goods.

[www.felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk)

A Suffolk Association of Fairtrade Towns has been formed and will be holding its first anniversary event on Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup>. See the website for more details.

[www.felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk)

Trinity is a Fairtrade church and uses Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar. The Fairtrade Forum Steering Group meets on Trinity's premises.

In 2016 the Trinity Traidcraft stall sold £1051 of goods. This stall is now managed by Iris Allsop from the URC and items can be ordered from her. See Stephen Wyatt in the first instance.

Fairtrade goods are readily available in many shops. The widest range is in the Solar Co-op store. Please continue to buy Fairtrade products when you can.

Trinity has also invested a small sum in Shared Interest which provides capital loans to small businesses in developing countries.

*Stephen Wyatt*

*Secretary Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum*

### **FLOWER ROTA REPORT**

The Rota is still running very smoothly with every Sunday covered by the people who donate and those who arrange the flowers for that person in memory of a loved one.

The total money I have in the flower float at the moment is £136.03. I had a very generous donation of a box of flower foam which has helped also I have had donations of money throughout the year as well.

Obviously this will change as I have to replenish the things that are needed to help the arrangers with their task.

I would like to thank everyone who helped or donated the daffodils at Easter as the church looked amazing. I would also like to thank everyone who gives their time and money to have flowers arranged in the church every Sunday, as they always look so lovely. *Gina Folksman*

## FINANCE REPORT

God has been good to us and we are a very fortunate church in many ways! The financial summary comparing this year with the same period last year - 1<sup>st</sup> September to 8<sup>th</sup> May:

Under our heading of General Fund:	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>
Income (Offering & donations):	£24903.06	£19179.81
Expenditure: Assessment:	£16312.00	£14518.00
Worship:	£ 2259.66	£ 1692.63

I will be making a claim under the Gift Aid scheme which I hope could net £5000. As you can see from the figures my optimism last year is no more!

It is more than fortunate that our Assessment and worship expenditure have gone down as there has been a very large decrease in our income from offerings and donations. If this continues we will be facing difficulties again.

Our property fund:

	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>
Income (Lettings and Efforts):	£13251.55	£14421.02
Expenses:	£13411.17	£12833.30

We have spent an enormous amount on our property this year. All the large items have been funded from restricted funds which we have established for this purpose or donations. Please see the Property Report for more details.

I would like to highlight the incredible amount that the Saturday Coffee Mornings contribute to our financial position – this year so far £2870.16. The Spring Fair this year was amazingly successful – £1700 being raised on the day. My thanks go to all those involved in making all our fund raising a success.

Thank you for all you are doing.  
*Alison Davies*

## HOLIDAY CLUB

A very successful Holiday Club was held at Trinity in August 2016. Approximately 50 different children aged 5-11 attended for at least one of the days. The theme was "Adventure Cruise" and each day there were interesting and enjoyable activities to reinforce learning based on Biblical passages. A typical day involved games, bible story, drama, puppets, memory verses, craft activities and refreshments. The Club could not have happened without the help of many volunteers so a big thank you to them. This year the Holiday Club will be from August 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> with a special service on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>. The leaders this year are Alison Davies and Heather Carpenter and planning is well under way. However, as many offers of help as possible are needed to make the week a success. The Holiday Club is a very important piece of outreach work and a way of engaging children who will not come on a Sunday morning.

*Stephen Wyatt*

## HOLY WEEK

The Holy Week Reflections this year were led by Mike and Jane Cassidy. We decided to look at the development of some of the (main) various theories of atonement. Taking the title "Why Does The Killing Of Jesus Really Matter?" we ran four afternoon sessions followed by four (repeated) evening sessions (Mon to Thur) spread across the Felixstowe peninsular (Methodist) churches. There was lively discussion at the sessions and several people said that it was something of a liberating experience.

*Mike and Jane Cassidy*

## **KNIT AND CHAT**

Last September The John Le Vay Cancer Information and Support Centre at Ipswich Hospital started a Knit and Chat Group for cancer patients, which meets every Thursday morning from 10 am until midday at Trinity in the Church along with the regular coffee morning.

The rationale behind setting up the group was to provide a therapeutic as well as a social group for patients and to provide an opportunity for them to do something for other people, who are also having a difficult time.

Consequently, the Ipswich Refugee Centre was contacted and asked if they would welcome knitted articles of clothing for their clients. They were very pleased with the offer and, since the inception of the group, we have provided them with several packages of children's clothes. The Seafarer's Centre at Felixstowe Dock were also contacted and asked if they would want hats and scarves made by our knitters. Again, they were pleased with the offer and we have now provided them with many hats and scarves.

The group started with two volunteers from the Cancer Centre (Brenda Shelley and Debbie Peck) and about four patients. Since September the group has grown and we now have about a dozen regular knitters on Thursday mornings.

Becky, one of the knitters, says *"An informal group of this nature is invaluable to those who have been through treatment. The group offers each member mutual support and good friendships have been formed over the months. There is much laughter as well as discussion and it is rewarding to know that we are collectively bringing comfort and support to those for whom we knit"*.

Pat, another knitter, feels that by knitting for seafarers and refugees, we are giving something back, and Hazel says that the group has helped her overcome her sense of loneliness and isolation. Finally, Doris believes that the group has bonded so well, as members have all travelled through the experience of cancer.

*Brenda Shelley*

## **MESSY CHURCH**

At St Philips hall, Wadgate Road. Every Tuesday at 3.45pm

Ecumenical venture from the Walton churches - Walton parish church, St Marys, Seaton Road with Robin and Mary Pattinson.

I got involved via Rev Diane and the Mission Area. Jill tempest ask edme along.

It's great fun - games, Bible stories, crafts, followed by a banquet - pizza, cake and fruit.

Group of children with their moms. They love it.

*Emma Elwell*

## **METHODIST FUND FOR WORLD MISSION**

The Methodist Fund for World Mission works with partner churches overseas in a wide variety of evangelistic and social activities in some of the world's poorest communities. It gives co-operative aid and funding to education, medical, urban, agricultural and development projects, bringing hope and healing through our partner churches.

As the number of people who held a World Mission collection box fell to less than a handful, it was decided to end the box scheme earlier this year, but donations are still welcome and can be handed to Alison Davies.

I'd like to thank everyone at Trinity who has contributed to the Methodist Fund for World Mission in any way over the years.

The annual contribution made by Trinity Church remains at £500.

*Graham Thompson*

*Church Secretary for World Mission*

## **MISSION in BRITAIN**

First the good news, Mission in Britain is very healthy in Trinity, possibly without many being aware of it even though they are working hard at it. The title above I exactly what it says as the Coffee mornings flourish so well with more people coming through our doors and plenty of willing members prepared to welcome them and make friends.

For the younger generations we have the Holiday Clubs and Messy Church where children can learn something about the Faith in a fun and relaxed way.

The Knit and Natter group flourishes, especially the Natter bit but some serious knitting and sewing goes on well there too.

For the older generation there is Friday Day Centre whose members may well be older but where there is plenty of laughter and singing and quizzes and friendships made.

We musn't forget the Town Pastors who go out late at weekends to assist Clubbers to get home safely and receive whatever help they may need.

All of this is positive and actually 'doing' Mission in Britain. But now comes the serious side. MiB is more than the local Church, although that is where we need to start, money is needed to help put Ministers into our Universities and Hospitals, to fund Industrial Ministry and to put Padres into the service and keen Central Halls in our Cities. Trinity sends £200.00 from funds towards this every year and Trinity still has two faithful box holders who together added another £51.88p to that this year. Please seriously consider taking a collecting box at home and putting in change and coins throughout the year. I will take them in one a year and to the necessary. I make this appeal every year. Please will somebody respond. Several somebodies would be good.

*Margaret Powell*

### **MONDAY COFFEE MORNINGS**

Monday coffee mornings in the church have been running for fourteen years now and continue to be well supported and appreciated by members of our church family and visitors alike. It is pleasing to see people enjoying themselves on a day when there are few functions taking place in our town.

We do not charge for the refreshments we serve, but ask for donations which are donated to charities. The donations received for the church year 2015/2016 were donated to Level Two, Boost, and our Church Funds, with each receiving £465.

This current church year, the donations will support the work of the Felixstowe Opportunity Group, a playgroup for children with disabilities, and the Suffolk Alzheimer's Society.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years.

*Graham Thompson.*

*On behalf of the Monday Coffee Morning Team*

### **OPEN 4 U**

Open 4 U has continued to thrive. This term we have averaged 60 children accompanied by their carers on the premises each Wednesday during term time. The volunteers who facilitate the session are people from our congregation and from outside the church. It is amazing how faithful the volunteers have been to our outreach and I am very grateful for their support. As all our helpers are volunteers there are times when they are not available and occasionally we are VERY short of help to cope with the large numbers of little people we deal with. If you are able to offer to help out in an emergency I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Each week we plan a "make" which the children can take home, there are quiet things to do, activities to promote the children's fine motor control and lots of things to race around on!!!!

It is lovely to see that quite a few of our families have joined the activities at Messy Church, and Holiday Club. *Alison Davies*

### **OPEN the BOOK**

Open the Book is a project which offers primary school children an opportunity to hear the major stories of the Bible, presented chronologically, during one school year. It is a free service given to each school by a team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during Assembly. All the Year 1 stories are taken from The Lion Storyteller Bible written by Bob Hartman.

Open the Book was started in Felixstowe in September 2015. Members of the group have changed during the last 20 months with some leaving and some new ones starting. We go into Colneis and Fairfield schools approximately every 3 weeks during term time. We have one rehearsal during the week prior to going into the schools. There are speaking parts, non-speaking parts and sometimes we act as props. On most occasions a small number of pupils are asked to help. This may earn them extra points for their class. Seeing how the children listen and react to the stories is very rewarding.

We are urgently looking for new people to join the group as not all members are available for each session. Please prayerfully consider offering to help.

*Anna Porter*

## **PASTORAL GROUP**

Trinity's Pastoral Team of 13 members is responsible for some 93 individuals and families within the church. We meet quarterly to add members of the congregation to our list and sadly sometimes it is inevitable that we will lose loved and respected members. Our role is to take on the responsibility of liaising with the people on our list by maintaining regular contact, keeping them updated of church events, visiting if they are unwell or being a 'listening ear,' should they wish to share a problem or worry. On occasions there may be a need to share information with our Minister but we would only take this course of action with the person's permission, respecting confidentiality.

In my experience, people newly attending Trinity Church are happy to share their contact details, in order to be added to our Pastoral list, stating that they find it very comforting to know someone will be particularly looking out and caring for them.

The Sunday Morning steward will make every attempt to talk to visitors and people newly attending Trinity, but I would urge you all to be on the lookout for an unfamiliar face or someone who appears a little less than confident. Please introduce yourself, because a smile or a friendly word could make all the difference. As a church, I think we pride ourselves on offering a very warm welcome to all who set foot over the threshold.

We are all Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

*Heather Carpenter Pastoral Group Co-ordinator Tel: 01394 278239*

## **PROPERTY REPORT**

Our buildings and facilities are in constant need of upkeep and repair.

This is a resume of the work carried out since the last Annual Meeting:

- A handle has been fixed to the back door so that it is easier to close and it remains shut. This eliminates draughts when used properly!
- Plastic cover to the skylight in the small hall has been taken down, cleaned and replaced
- The skylight in the passage between the halls and the church has been replaced
- The monitors have been installed in the church. The funding for these came from the residue of the Development Fund which was established when we refurbished the church.
- New speakers and sound system has been installed. The cost of this improvement has been met by a very generous anonymous donation and the recovery of the tax on that donation. We are so grateful to the donors for this facility.
- The main hall doors have been refurbished and painted. The doors to the main outside doors and back door have been draught proofed – this works as long as people use them properly and keep them closed.
- The table trolley for the middle-sized tables has been made and retaining straps attached.

- The gas appliances have been serviced and landlord's certificate awarded
- The fire extinguishers have been serviced and one replaced.
- The cleaner's contract has been varied as a temporary measure so that she comes in twice each week (Tuesday morning and Friday afternoon).
- Slates from the north porch have been secured and one replaced following wind damage
- The main hall has been decorated and new curtains hung. The costs associated with this refurbishment have come from the Holding Fund which has mainly been established from the legacy from Dr Joan Chalmers. I have no doubt that she would be delighted that the money has been used in this way, and she would approve of the work. (The curtains which were in the main hall have been cut down, the worn parts disposed of, and the remainder made into curtains to brighten up the Memorial Vestry.)

Outstanding work which is scheduled:

- Painting of the skylight in the small hall – inside and out
- Window bars to be cleaned and surrounding reveals made good (Picked up on the quinquennial )
- Automatic tap in the South Porch to be replaced.

In the not too distant future we will be hiring a cherry picker to replace slates on the main hall roof. At the same time the top windows of the church could be decorated so that we make best use of the equipment whilst it is on-site.

Please can all who use the premises be asked to respect it? Including making sure taps and heaters are turned off. The heater above the South porch door was left on and a tap running in the South porch toilet – this caused an electricity bill of over £100 more than expected in one month. Grrrrrr. It is vital that anyone noticing any damage, or causing accidental damage, reports it to me or a Steward– two chairs were found with legs broken – if anyone had sat on them it would have deposited them on the floor, and with the age profile of the congregation it could have caused a nasty accident. Accidents happen and it is so important that we remedy problems speedily.

It costs a lot of time and money to keep our premises safe and in good order. A book in which jobs needing attention can be found in the small meeting room.

Our premises are used extensively for activities related to the church but also many and varied other activities. Regular users include:

- The Hamilton School of Dancing
- Scottish Dancing
- CD and Record fairs – in aid of The Crohn's and Colitis Society
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Bereavement Service

*Ian Davies*

### **SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS**

Saturday Coffee Mornings have gradually become busier and most times we have 70-80 people attending. The mornings are a really good time of Outreach for our church and we enjoy chatting with our customers, or should I say friends. This venture is also a means of raising money for church funds. Carol, Debbie, Mike, Jean, John and Anna donate the food and 90% of it is home-made. To date we have asked for donations for the food but we are considering suggesting a minimum donation of 50p per item. From September 2016 to the beginning of May 2017 a substantial amount of money, namely £2870-16, has been raised and we are extremely grateful for all the support we receive.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> hand book stall was started in March 2016 as another means of fund-raising. We now have CD's, DVD's and cards as well as the books for sale. It has been a huge success, not only at the coffee mornings but after church services when members of the congregation and visitors can have a browse and avail

themselves of some very affordable items. £279-71 has been raised since this project was started until the beginning of May.

Contributions are always welcome. *Anna Porter*

### **SAFEGUARDING**

The Safeguarding Policy is attached for consideration to renew. Safeguarding training took place for the Circuit on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2017. Prior to that, the opportunity to renew DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificates was taken up by many people on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2017. There have been no safeguarding incidents reported to the Safeguarding Officer at Trinity in the last year.

*Stephen Wyatt*

### **SILENT PRAYER – MONDAY LUNCHTIME**

Our church is open on Monday lunchtimes for an hour of silent prayer. Since this session started a few months ago it has attracted a small number of people, not all connected to our church, some from other denominations and some who are not affiliated to any church. Some are obviously quite at home with this style of prayer others like me find it a struggle to dismiss distractions and random thoughts! The regular attenders are very grateful to Trinity for this opportunity to pray, and to relax in God's presence. Before her sabbatical, Diane was a regular member of this group. Our aim is to continue this session on as many Mondays as possible, all we require is at least one church member to act as host and to lock up the church after the session. If you would like to join us, please do.

*Michael Peck*

### **SINGING PRACTICES**

We have been enjoying looking at the newer hymns in Singing the Faith, along with some old favourites, and also personal favourites. We meet up every few weeks for just an hour with the aim of becoming more familiar with some of the newer tunes. My grateful thanks to Judith for accompanying us and to those of you who come along. Do come along and join us. There is no regular time at the moment, just look out for the dates in the Sunday notices.

*Anne Clarke*

### **SUNDAY CLUB**

With regard to children, our numbers are generally low and sometimes a leader will find that no children are present at all. This is a shame because lesson preparation and forward planning still has to take place. I am indebted to our leaders: Stephen Medway and Heather Prince, also our helpers: Debbie Peck, Michelle Medway, Kate Robinson and Jenny Mellor. They answer my plea for help as much as they possibly can!

In order to comply with Child Protection regulations, we are required to have two people on duty each Sunday session. I remain indebted to Reverend Diane who has introduced an 'All Age Worship' service on the Sunday she is scheduled to take Communion. Together with Café Worship, this has made my job so much easier, as the children are able to stay in the Church for two services a month.

If anyone would like to be part of our team, please contact me.

*Heather Carpenter Tel: 01394 278239*

### **THURSDAY COFFEE MORNINGS**

These are continuing on a weekly basis. Numbers vary but there is a core of regular attenders and since we have moved into the church we have welcomed a number of people who have never been to Trinity before. Our position opening onto Hamilton Road attracts visitors. Many thanks go to the band of helpers who each give up one morning a month and make sure that everything runs smoothly. If you would like to volunteer to help, please see me.

*Stephen Wyatt*

### **TOWN PASTORS**

Town Pastors have continued to pray for and serve the community from our wonderful base at Trinity Methodist on Saturday nights. It has been a challenging year with the available team members reducing due to long-term illness and changes in circumstances, thus meaning we can't always cover with a full

team. However, most Saturday nights we have continued to provide a service to the night-time economy which is greatly appreciated by clients, proprietors and emergency services.

At present FTP is always recruiting particularly for base team and pastors, especially lady pastors.

We also continue to provide stewarding and input to events such as the Good Friday Service, Felixstowe Carnival and as 'Festival Pastors' at the Latitude Festival in Henham Park (alongside Town Pastors from the other 10 schemes).

In the last year, we have celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Town Pastors, and in April 2017 it was the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Felixstowe Town Pastors.

Our night-time friends are often surprised and encouraged to hear that FTP come from all Christian denominations in the town, and like our commitment to each other.

Those out and about in the wee small hours feel safe when we are around, and often communicate with us about their lives, worries, joys, challenges and questions of faith.

If anyone would like to know more about the work of Town Pastors, or would like to give towards this ministry, we are always happy to give a talk or presentation.

Every Blessing

*Peter Livey, Executive Director* [peter.livey@townpastors.org.uk](mailto:peter.livey@townpastors.org.uk) Tel 01394 212482

### **TRINITY PLAYERS**

In February Trinity Players put on 2 one act plays "The Samaritan" and " Properly Processed". Folk Group "In Tandem" also played some songs for us. We had a very warm reception and as a result we were able to give £200.00 to church funds and make a donation of £500.00 to a very worthwhile local charity, The Felixstowe Dementia Action Alliance. This charity does valuable work in Felixstowe, both supporting people with dementia and their carers, and raising awareness around the town.

We were saddened by the death of Peter Crick recently. Dear Peter came along to our rehearsals and provided welcome refreshments. Before that he took medium sized parts and was especially good at accents, and character parts. Peter was also a great help reading in parts when players were not there, both male and female. Great hilarity... We will miss him.

Over the past 10 years, Trinity Players have donated around £10,000 to charities, a marvellous way to help others, and have a lot of fun! Why not come along and join us. Please contact Julia on 01394 286506 to learn more.

*Julia Middleton*

### **TRINITY WEBSITE REPORT**

Trinity runs a number of websites aimed at providing information, help, some comical stuff and some thinking material. Their joint aim is to provide this for congregation members and the community both locally in Felixstowe and (in the case of our main Facebook site) worldwide. The latter is therefore a mixture of local material and general material.

Our main website is <http://www.trinity-methodist-church-felixstowe.co.uk/index.html> with Ian Clarke as its Admin. It contains, among other things, a list of dates of upcoming events at Trinity and the times of all the regular events each week like coffee mornings and the Wednesday drop in centre in the church hall for pre-school age children and their carers. There is also an up-to-date list of all forthcoming services and (where finalised) the presiding minister/ leader for each one. You can also find a thought-provoking message from our Rev. Diane Smith. The current message is about expecting the unexpected from God, given what was revealed to us in our Easter celebrations.

Our Facebook websites consist of a main public one, open to anyone in the world to read, and a number of specialised sites (such as drama, humour, news around Felixstowe and surrounds, history of Trinity church.) John Adams is the Admin for each of these Facebook sites. The main Facebook site has several aims:

- To provide a site for all members to communicate through messages, pictures and videos. We currently have 84 members worldwide. We can share thoughts, news, and pictures.
- To provide some material to support individuals who, for whatever reason, do not intend to come to a church building and give them the possibility to focus their thoughts on God for however brief a time they are able to do that. This material takes the form of:
  - a daily bible readings together with reflections based on each reading, as supplied by a Methodist online site, namely <http://www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/a-word-in-time>
  - a Sunday extended focus, consisting of a bible reading/ reflection, two prayers (as supplied by another Methodist online site, namely <http://www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/prayer-of-the-day>), and a hymn in the form of a video (usually a choir singing this) together with some notes about the hymn writer or the circumstances surrounding that hymn as supplied by John Adams researching general websites on this material.

Comments are encouraged. Also requests for favourite hymns. Some of these are in the form of seasons, such as the season of Christmas Carols providing one each day from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. Through this process we hope that Trinity provides a new kind of outreach to the online community.

After very recent discussions with Madeleine Ellis, she has kindly agreed to act as a second Admin for our Facebook websites so as to comply with updates to the Safeguarding policy as it relates to Facebook. This means that both Madeleine and I will be ensuring material put on our Facebook sites is checked and that everyone can feel safe when visiting our sites. The main web page for Trinity church is merely a factual site with material managed by Ian Clarke and Mike Peck and is considered to be already compliant with Safeguarding policy.

*John Adams*

### **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

This year the service was prepared by the women of the Philippines and was titled 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' 109 people attended Trinity Methodist Church from about 10 different denominations and the service was followed by a lunch of homemade soups and bread. £618.43 was raised in total for WWDP which in turn will be distributed to various organisations around the world. If you would like to know more, visit the website [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

Next year's service will be prepared by the women of Suriname (a small country in South America between Guyana and French Guyana) and titled 'All God's Creation is Very Good'. The service for 2018 will take place at St. John's Church on Friday 2 March at 11 am, so please put the date ready to go into your 2018 diary. Finally, Margaret would like to say a big thank you to everyone at Trinity who got involved and helped to make the service such a success. The soups were talked about down at the Leisure Centre so a special thank you to those in the kitchen and to all who enabled the service to go so smoothly.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Margaret for getting me involved in this rather special organisation. The thought that for one day of the year for 24 hours people all round the world are praying for a particular country with its concerns and needs. Amazing and if I may say so, the powerful way to make a difference in changing our world for the better.

God Bless

*Jill Tempest*

