



# TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS



**“O Little Town of Bethlehem how still  
we see thee lie.”**

**Winter/Christmas 2021/22 Issue 56**



## Message from Rev Sam Funnell

Dear Friends,

Welcome to another edition of TNV – the Christmas one....does that make it The Nativity Version?! (Sorry – I thought it was funny!)

I'm currently enjoying watching all sorts of Christmas cooking programmes. I know that's hard to believe with my lack of culinary ability and enthusiasm but I do enjoy watching OTHER PEOPLE make nice things and with the added spark of Christmas magic, it makes it extra special. As well as the tasty dishes that get prepared, there are the festive decorations, people gathering together to enjoy the sharing time and lots of extra-special ingredients that only seem to appear in quantity around this time of the year – mincemeat, cranberry jelly, brandy butter and the sprouts!

Whether you share my love of the Christmas cookery shows or not, I'm sure you will find lots to savour in this latest edition of our church magazine – festive themes, stories and memories gathered from all sorts of people in our church family and I'm sure there'll be more than a few beautiful decorations too, as you work your way through this little bit of our Christmas sharing.

Enjoy your reading, enjoy your Christmas preparations and celebrations and enjoy the extra-special bit of our Christian 'Christmas Magic' that we might prefer to call a miracle – that the God of all time and space, came to us and for us, in the tiny and fragile frame of a human baby – JESUS – child of hope, joy, love and peace.

Have a really and truly blessed Christmas!

Sam.





## Family News

We thank God for the lives of all those who have died in the past few months, and we remember:

Alfred Vice, Maurice Lee, Ted Atterbury  
& Isabel Higgins



“May light perpetual shine upon them”



In August we welcomed Brenda Wilson to Trinity on transfer from Winshill Methodist Church in East Staffs

Several of our members have had special birthdays recently so congratulations to:

Joan Vice, Margaret Davies, Carole Hymers,  
Andy Meal, Edna Evans, Margaret Chisholm &  
Janet Atterbury



Baptism 7th November 2021  
Jacob Patrick Oliver Stokes

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the kind and caring people from Trinity who supported me and my family with prayers, cards, emails, phone calls and visits during my daughter Ceri's long illness and our recent sad bereavement.



Gill Edwards

## Dates for your Diary

After careful discussion and feedback from the congregation, from the 5th December our morning service time will revert to 10.30am.

Foundry Worship is held every fortnight and will now be starting at 5pm during the winter months.

2nd, 9th, 16th, & 23rd December 17.30pm	Online Advent Prayers
19th December 10.30am	Nativity Service
19th December 17.00pm	Carol Service
24th December 17.00pm	Christingle
24th December 23.30pm	Midnight Communion
25th December 10.00am	Christmas Day
26th December 10.30am	Circuit Service at Godalming No service at Trinity
2nd January 10.30	Covenant Service





## Toast

After a few weeks of sermons which featured us thinking about bread, Sam asked what our first thought would be if she just said 'bread'. I (like many others, I'm sure) had mixed thoughts ranging from traditional Cottage Loaves to bread we make in our home baking machine.

However, when Sam said that her first thought when bread is mentioned is that of 'toast', one clear and vivid memory jumped into my mind which prompted me to write this article.

On one of my tall ship voyages across the Pacific ocean, my buddy was a wheelchair user from Croatia called Mislav. He had been an officer in the Croatian Navy but was shot in the lower back during the conflicts in the area some time ago. Although confined to a wheelchair Mislav had never lost his sense of humour or his taste for toast !

Mislav now lives in a flat in Dubrovnik either above (or very close to) an old fashioned, traditional, bakery. When he's at home, one of his pleasures first thing in the morning is to pop down to the bakery and buy fresh bread and use some of it to make some toast.

On board ship, breakfast is always accompanied by a basket (or 5) of freshly made toast brought down from the galley. As the ship's cook can either purchase local bread (or if needs be, bake their own) plenty of toast is always available. One of the problems with distribution is that if a new basket is delivered to one end of the mess deck, by the time it reaches the other end of the table it can sometimes be empty ! By the second or third day of our voyage, it became clear to the entire voyage crew that the person most in need

of toast was Mislav, because as soon as he heard the 'ding' of the food lift arriving with fresh toast he would yell "Toast, Toast" and drive himself across the mess deck while we all cleared a path between him and the lift so that no-one was run down in his determination not to miss out on his favourite food. From this moment on, he was known for the rest of the voyage as the "Toastmeister"

So – in answer to Sam's prompting ..... In my mind  
Toast = Mislav !



Mislav and Terry – another member of our watch – making the ropes 'ship shape' after a sail change

Mike Tozer

# DINGBATS

1

Clever Cle  
Clever

2

**12 LOTS**

3

**DR W**

4

**LENLEN**

5

**Golden Gate  
TSUNAMI**

6

**Do Re Me Fa  
So La Te**

7

**SIRLOIN  
SIESTA**

8

**FIB  
SSS**

9

**Red Med Dead  
Hi! Hello! Yo!**

10

**$\frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{4}$**

Contributed by Barbara Phillips

*Answers on page .....30*



Did you know that Foundry Worship has been running every other week for just over 3years? It has not been an easy ride – we lost our way a bit about a year in, and then shortly after we had Covid which completely scuppered how we did things. I do now feel we are starting to make progress again. I'd like to thank everyone who is or has been involved – even if you no longer worship with us your contribution to our journey has been important, and you will always be welcome.

We're about to break the unbroken every other week pattern. Since Foundry Worship falls on Boxing Day, we have decided to miss that one. So we meet on 12<sup>th</sup> December (we'll have a Christmas theme) and then the 9<sup>th</sup> January. Note that now the clocks have gone back we meet at 5pm.

So on behalf of the Foundry Worship team can I wish you all a wonderful Christmas time.

Hugh Bowerman, Foundry Missioner

## Talking Points—Help Needed!

How do we start conversations with people we don't know? Many people find that extremely difficult. Even more challenging can be bringing our faith into conversations.

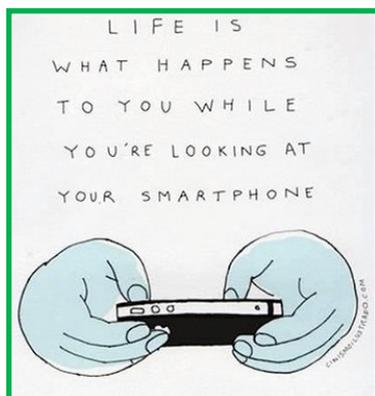
I have mentioned previously the idea of having pictures, objects and information boards located where people can't fail to see them – prominent locations in the East Entrance and Courtyard. The exhibits would be chosen to make people think, to ask questions. They should engage with people. Perhaps when we see someone looking at them we would be bold enough to go up and ask them what they think – and bingo, a potentially

meaningful conversation has started.

Because you can only say so much about a single object, I'd propose changing the exhibits on a regular basis, fresh opportunities to start new conversations.

So can you help? I'd like to get a group of people who can help put together a list of exhibits. These could range from display boards from Methodist Heritage, to works of art, collections of objects, a themed flower arrangement, photo's, art on a theme (e.g., by a school or college). Things that are interactive would be brilliant. Even now I feel I'm being a bit narrow in my thinking – which is why I need help. Most of what I'm asking can be done from the comfort of your home – an idea whilst you're snoozing and perhaps a phone call or email to see whether it's viable. There will be practicalities to sort, but The Foundry team are here to help with that.

Is this something you can help with? If so, please let me know and we can take things from there.



Or is your Smartphone life?

Hugh Bowerman, Foundry Missioner,  
[hugh.bowerman@gmail.com](mailto:hugh.bowerman@gmail.com), 07900 483728

## From a 'Bucket List' of Cathedrals Visited by Graham Warr.

**“In search of the human Jesus through visual representations of Mary and her baby - God’s Son.”**

This came about as I began my visits to England’s cathedrals.

I became aware of the various representations of Mary in statues, sculpture and art. Each one showed a different aspect of the annunciation, birth, growth and development of Mary and her baby.

Let’s journey through the Nativity in art.



Mary is going to have a baby – God’s Son (Blackburn).

Magi, wise men from the East, come to worship the new baby (Chester).





"Feeding time" (Newcastle)

Mary cuddles and soothes  
(Peterborough)

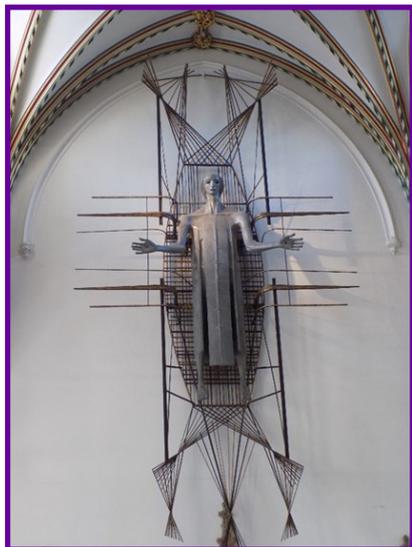


Playtime! (Carlisle)



"Did you enjoy your bath?" (Blackburn)

"One step at a time" (Chester)



'The child grew in size and strength. He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was with him.'

*(Luke 2: v40, Inclusive Bible)  
Christ the Worker, Blackburn.*

## Spot That Carol!

- 1 Soundless dark hours
- 2 Great Sovereign Vaclav
- 3 As herdsmen observed their droves during darkness
- 4 Oi, approach the whole devoted lot of you.
- 5 Deity relax thee jolly chaps.
- 6 Unstirring. Unstirring. Unstirring.
- 7 Off in a feeding trough.
- 8 Previously in King Walliams metropolis.
- 9 Tiny ass.
- 10 Ah small settlement south of Jerusalem.



Contributed by Barbara Phillips

*Answers on page .....30*



## Christmas Greetings to all our friends at Trinity

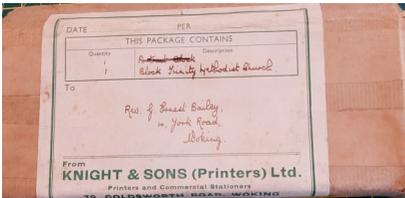
Trish & Jim Dennis	Jean Normington
Jim & Margaret Chisholm	Henk & Gerda Innemme
Leonora Salter	Lorna Fry
Trevor & Mary Ledger	Margot Craig
Ann & Jeff Dawson	Sue, Chris & Jess Waddington
Lee & Elaine Slatter	Janet Atterbury
Wendy & Geoff Eaton	Sam Funnell
John & Joyce Nelson	Sheila Card
Sue Wetherell	David Reeve
Ian McIntosh	Gareth & Sheila Davies
Shirley Turner	Carol Hymers
Ruth Taylor	Doreen Lee
Sue Waddell	Glen & Liz Penfold
Allison Jackson	Marian Nash
Jill Willis	Enid & David Pullen
Graham & Daniela Warr	Mike & Sue Tozer
Lyn & David Lorberg	Jo Farmer
Gill Edwards	Dierdre Cooke
Lisa & James Barrott	Margaret & Peter Dorrell
David & Daphne Lander	Peggy & David Boorman

## News from the archives

During the recent clear outs some old brass printing blocks were found. These had various pictures of Trinity over the past years.

Surrey History Centre will only accept paper items for archiving, so I contacted, at their suggestion, the Lightbox. I am pleased to say they were very

happy to accept them for displays they put on about Woking.



The box pictured here contained



the brass plate which shows a picture of Trinity in the mid 1930's. I've been able to date this as this is when Rev Ernest Bailey was our minister.

The Lightbox has a small display on Frank Derry scheduled for 22nd February 2022. I think he was part of Trinity's past, but maybe some of you may know more?

Jean Normington

May Christ's gift to everyone be love, joy and peace this Christmas and always.

Kevin Bown



## Shadows in a Stable.

Shadows moving in a stable  
Loom dark against the lantern's light,  
Golden glow surrounding figures  
Helping Mary through the night.  
Outside a twinkling star keeps watch  
Steady above that human scene,  
Shedding light on all below it,  
Touching the roofs with silver sheen.

The figures pause and hold their breath  
And suddenly a baby cries.  
They move again, now filled with joy,  
And happy tears fill Mary's eyes.  
The sky outside explodes with light  
As angels gather far above,  
They laugh to hear the baby's cry,  
And sing with joy their songs of love.

The golden light within the barn,  
The silver of the star-filled sky,  
Combine to welcome Mary's son,  
That baby with the tiny cry.  
Light of the World has come to Earth,  
A beacon for the lives of all.  
His cry will echo down the years,  
His truth shine from that distant stall.

Elaine Slatter.

Glen Penfold has set the words of "Shadows in a Stable" to music and has just released it as a song for Christmas.

It can be heard immediately now on YouTube, before its release as a single on 12th November on the global audio streaming stores of Spotify, iTunes, Apple Music, Amazon Music etc.

Here's the YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/Ad3cRPOh5Zo>

Glen will also be performing this at our Carol Service on 19th December.

### What does our new Foundry logo symbolise?

Outward facing.  
Embracing difference.

Coming together to form a visible Cross (Jesus/God)



F for Foundry,  
Faith,  
Friendship,  
Fairness ...

Inclusive. All are welcome.



## MONEY MATTERS

Trinity relies on the generosity of our congregation to enable us to further the work of the church and fulfil our mission to serve the community.

### Regular Giving:

You may not know that the banking rules have recently changed for us. Our HSBC Bank in Woking is now a digital branch, and does not take any cash or cheques over the counter.

Our cash and cheques now have to be taken to Weybridge for banking, and the cost to bank each cheque is now 60p. This applies mainly to the Envelope Scheme and the cash collection plate.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

You can arrange for your regular donation to Trinity to come directly from your bank by Standing Order or online transfer (this can be weekly, 4 weekly or monthly).

### **HOW CAN I DO THIS?**

A standing order can be set up by sending a letter to your bank, with the following information:

**OUR SORT CODE**  
**OUR BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER**  
**THE AMOUNT**  
**HOW OFTEN**

Please see Daniela in the office or Mike Tozer, who can give you our bank details. Your personal details will remain as confidential as they have always been.

### Legacy Giving:

Have you thought about leaving a gift in your Will to Trinity? This type of giving helps us with larger projects, and helps with our long-term planning for the work of God.

There are two types of gifts that you can leave in your will:

- A pecuniary gift, which is a fixed sum of money
- A percentage of your estate, once your family and friends are provided for.

This can be sorted out by making an amendment to your Will with a solicitor, or by making a change in your will, in a document called a codicil. Your solicitor will need our registered address and charity number information (Daniela in the office can give you our charity details).



Thank you  
Sue Waddell (Treasurer)



## News from the Circuit

The Circuit Leadership Team are delighted to announce that following a successful visit to the Wey Valley Circuit, Rev Dr Paul Glass has accepted our invitation to take up the role of Superintendent minister commencing September 2022. Paul will have pastoral charge of Cranleigh and Guildford St Marys churches plus the Surrey University Chaplaincy. We look forward to welcoming Paul and his wife Janet to the Circuit. Paul currently has the Chaplaincy of Kent College, and has previously served in the North West.

There are still vacancies for Circuit Stewards. The current team are all due to stand down in Summer 2022. Please contact Linda Weedon if you are interested.

The Circuit is planning a Vision Day for early next year to look at the future shape and mission of the Circuit.



## Praying Together

I am just in the middle of reading a book called “An evil cradling” a memoir written by Brian Keenan. It is a strange book telling the tale of the time Brian was kidnapped and held in prison. So, it is sad and almost unbearable to read at times particularly when the prisoners are beaten or transported in ghastly conditions between prisons. It is also uplifting when the tale is told of the friendship of John McCarthy and Brian Keenan. The two comfort each other and help each other in times of depression and the release of both men.

One part relates how Brian makes a candle to shine in the dark when Brian and John are held in a dark prison. The electricity generator has stopped working so there is no light. So, the men create larger candles from candle stubs and hold back the dark.

This seemed to be a good way of thinking and praying about Advent God bringing light in hard times. I remember one year when I went to a school assembly and the class read the beginning of the gospel of John in unison so the line about the light being in the world and the dark not putting it out seemed to shine out itself and stick in my memory.

Jesus is the light of the world declares John

John 1 Good News Translation - **The Word of Life**

**1** In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** From the very beginning the Word was with God. **3** Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. **4** The Word was the source of life,<sup>[a]</sup> and this life brought light to people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.**6** God sent his

messenger, a man named John, <sup>7</sup> who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. <sup>9</sup> This was the real light—the light that comes into the world and shines on all people.

Thank you, God, for this time of Advent.

We anticipate and thank you for the coming of the light of the world in Jesus.

Thank you that we can enjoy this month of December and the opening of the Advent calendar.

Each day we open a window and reveal a picture maybe a lamp or a lamb and a Bible verse.

We celebrate Emmanuel – God with us here on earth .

Thank you, God, for the smell of spices and fruit, and the baking of the Christmas cake and Christmas pudding or the choosing and buying these things.

Thank you for the anticipation and excitement of Christmas coming.

Thank you for the lighting of the advent candle and the singing of advent songs like “O Come O come Emanuel”.

The reminder that Jesus is the light of the world the reminder to be like salt and light in the world.

Thank you for the joy of remembering relatives, neighbours and friends and writing Christmas cards to greet each one and pray for family and friends who live near or far away.

Deciding what to write can be hard but each card is written because I want to share God’s love and show I care.

Thank you for friendship.

Thank you for the love of God the Father.

Renew our hope and our faith in a loving generous Father God.

Thank you for the love of Jesus.

Thank you for the love and companionship of God the Holy Spirit.

Help us to let God's love be in us and fill us.

Help us to let God's love fill us and then flow out of us to other people in the world.

Thank you, God, for presents. Thank you for anticipation of what a beautifully wrapped gift may contain. Thank you for the care with which a gift is chosen and given.

We rejoice and thank God for Christ coming at Bethlehem, Christ comes to each of us and Christ will come again.

Thank you Father, for the words of well loved carols and all the ways of celebrating the birth of Christ.

Lord Jesus in this advent time as we wait for Christmas day help us to live each day to the full and also live each day to be ready for Christ to return.

Be ready to greet the returning Jesus with a joyous welcome with gladness, and faith filled love.

Help us to be ready to say sorry, to apologise to repent and start again full of forgiveness and love.

Help us to be alert to be needing to forgive others and to love willingly rather than full of bearing grudges and moaning.

Even in the rush and busyness of getting ready for Christmas help us to pause.

Be still and think of baby Jesus in the manger,  
pause and smile at the Christ child in the crib,  
pause as we celebrate Christ is born together.

We pray for people for whom Christmas is extra work.

Think of someone you know – someone looking after family members or maybe a care home worker, nurse or policeman or fireman or clergy.

Pray for them this Christmas.

Thank God for their work and ask for God's presence be known to them as they work and care.

We ask that the familiarity and busyness of Christmas may not smother the truth that Jesus Christ is born.

Amen

## **A Prayer for Climate Change**

Wake us up Lord!

God of Salvation,

Wake us up Lord!

The night is nearly over.

Let us begin our Advent journey.

Move us from our lives

Of greed and selfishness,

From our globalised world

Of inequality and exploitation,

To your kingdom

Of righteousness and mercy.

To a transformed world,

Where peace is built on understanding not weapons,

The poor are empowered to live their lives to the full,

Businesses are built on need not greed

And your Creation is nurtured not abused.

Wake us up Lord!

Let us live as people of the light.

Amen.

*Sue Cooper/CAFOD*

# Christmas Carols

## The History of Christmas Carols

Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but these were not Christmas Carols. They were pagan songs, sung at the Winter Solstice celebrations as people danced round stone circles. The Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year, usually taking place around 22nd December. The word Carol actually means dance or a song of praise and joy! Carols used to be written and sung during all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has really survived.

Christmas, celebrate the birth of Jesus, then started to be celebrated at the same time as the solstice, so the early Christians started singing Christian songs instead of pagan ones. In 129, a Roman Bishop said that a song called "Angel's Hymn" should be sung at a Christmas service in Rome. Another famous early Christmas Hymn was written in 760, by Comas of Jerusalem, for the Greek Orthodox Church. Soon after this many composers all over Europe started to write 'Christmas carols'. However, not many people liked them as they were all written and sung in Latin, a language that the normal people couldn't understand. By the time of the Middle Ages (the 1200s), most people had lost interest in celebrating Christmas altogether.

This was changed by St. Francis of Assisi when, in 1223, he started his Nativity Plays in Italy. The people in the plays sang songs or 'canticles' that told the story during the plays. Sometimes, the choruses of these new carols were in Latin; but normally they were all in a language that the people watching the play could understand and join in! The new carols spread to France, Spain, Germany and other European countries.

The earliest carol, like this, was written in 1410. Sadly, only a very small fragment of it still exists. The carol was about Mary

and Jesus meeting different people in Bethlehem. Most Carols from this time and the Elizabethan period are untrue stories, very loosely based on the Christmas story, about the holy family and were seen as entertaining rather than religious songs. They were usually sung in homes rather than in churches! Traveling singers or Minstrels started singing these carols and the words were changed for the local people wherever they were traveling. One carol that changed like this is 'I Saw Three Ships'.

When the Puritans came to power in England in 1640s, the celebration of Christmas and singing carols was stopped. However, the carols survived as people still sang them in secret. Carols remained mainly unsung until Victorian times, when two men called William Sandys and Davis Gilbert collected lots of old Christmas music from villages in England. Carols were sung as folk songs in places like pubs, but they often weren't thought of as 'proper' or 'nice' songs by the middle or upper classes. (Singing carols in pubs still happens today and there are some very famous carol sing pubs in the north of England, especially in North Derbyshire and South Yorkshire.)

Before carol singing in places like churches became popular, there were sometimes official carol singers called 'Waits'. These were bands of people led by important local leaders (such as council leaders) who had the only power in the towns and villages to take money from the public (if others did this, they were sometimes charged as beggars!). They were called 'Waits' because they sang on Christmas Eve (This was sometimes known as 'watchnight' or 'waitnight' because of the shepherds who were watching their sheep when the angels appeared to them.), when the Christmas celebrations began.

Also, at this time, many orchestras and choirs were being set up in the cities of England and people wanted Christmas songs to sing, so carols once again became popular in churches and concert halls. Many new carols, such as 'Good King Wenceslas', were also written in the Victorian period.

New carols services were created and became popular, as did the custom of singing carols in the streets. Both customs are still popular today! One of the most popular types of Carols services are Carols by Candlelight services. At this service, the church is only lit by candlelight, and it feels very Christmassy! Carols by Candlelight services are held in countries all over the world.

The most famous type of Carol Service might be a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, where carols and Bible readings tell the Christmas Story.

©whychristmas.com

## Some of our favourite carols

From Ann Dawson

"Come thou long expected Jesus" written by Charles Wesley and a slightly more modern one "Come and join the celebration" words and music written by Valerie Collison

I also like "Hark the Herald angels sing" again Charles Wesley wrote words, and "Christians awake salute the happy morn" words by John Byron.

From David Reeve

My favourite Carol lives in "The Grove", but per the topic it has been at various stages in my existence "Away in a Manger", "Hark the Herald Angels", "Oh Come All ye Faithfull", but at present it is "Still the Night, Holy Night".....it is simple and moving and is popular in so many countries and reminds one of the Christmas Truce on the Western Front 1914.

From Jean Normington

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" has always be one of my favourites, hence the picture on the front cover!



Uniformed Groups,  
Cremona Dance & Kids  
Karate  
*Beneath the paper  
wrappings, there's an open  
stable door, beneath the fir  
tree trappings there's a  
welcome and there's  
more...Beneath the tinsel  
fairy is a presence that's  
divine...*  
StF 192 (Stainsby)

Lace Makers & Creative  
Stitchers  
*Star of silver, sweep across  
the skies...*  
StF 216 (Perry)

Short Stay School &  
Neighbourhood Party  
*Go through the park, or  
into the town; the sun  
still shines on, it never  
goes down.*  
StF 167 (McClellan,  
Paculabo, Rycroft)

Zumba, Badminton,  
Kettlebell, Yoga  
*Come and join the  
celebration, it's a very  
special day;  
Come and share our  
jubilation...*  
StF 196 (Collison)

IMM, Music Exams &  
Epworth Choir  
*It came upon the midnight  
clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near  
the earth  
To touch their harps of  
gold...*  
StF 205 (Sears)

Coffee and Chat  
*Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love  
be mine...*  
StF 210 (Rossetti)

Chinese  
Congregation  
*We, earth's children,  
now rejoice...*  
StF 199 (Wesley)

Amnesty  
*Born in the night,  
Mary's Child, a long  
way from your  
home; coming in  
need Mary's Child,  
born in a borrowed  
room.*  
StF 193 (Ainger)

Trinity Toddlers  
*Away in a Manger, no  
crib for a bed, the little  
Lord Jesus laid down his  
sweet head...*  
StF 191 (Anon)

Prayer Group, Messy Church at  
Fun Club, BSF, & Bible Study  
*So here I am to worship, here I  
am to bow down, here I am to  
say that you're my God...*  
StF 175 (Hughes)



**Our building users &  
tenants in Song –  
I've paired them  
with carols of  
Advent & Christmas**  
*Dan Warr Schori*

The Wombles  
*We look on Joseph's  
roughened hands...*  
StF 219 (Pratt)

**Christmas Greetings from Chinese  
Congregation  
To Trinity, our church family**

**We wish you all a  
Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year  
full of blessings of our gracious God**

Christmas is a time for thanksgiving. We thank God for His rich provision throughout the past years, especially in 2021. With the coming of about thirty families from Hong Kong, we have experienced a new journey in our worship and fellowship. New spirit and perspectives have added new spark and momentum, resulting in a regeneration of our structure and dimension in our functioning as a church, with implementation of updated technology and experiences in various areas. We look forward to a more fruitful 2022 with new dimensions to move forward, and accommodate more new friends from Hong Kong, helping them to settle in the UK.

We are grateful to Trinity for the unfailing support to facilitate our worship. Our new friends are amazed at the warm hospitality, which is far beyond their expectation in a foreign land. They have found a new spiritual home here in Trinity. We look forward to the coming of a new phase in working together with Trinity in serving our Lord.



Simon Che November 2021

## The 'Banning' of Christmas

From the mid-1640s until 1660, Christmas was 'banned' in England, Wales and Scotland by the Puritans. They thought Christmas was wasteful and that it led to lots of people eating and drinking too much, etc. In 1642 Parliament made the last Wednesday of each month into a 'fasting day' for people to think solemnly about what they had done wrong. In 1644 the last Wednesday in December was the 25th and both Houses of Parliament went to fast sermons. Then in 1645 a new directive of official church worship said that only Sunday were to be holy days, and no other days (like Christmas) should be celebrated; Christmas could be spent in contemplation, but NOT celebrated!

In 1647 this was confirmed and the feasts of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun (Pentecost) were all banned. Then in the 1650s more laws were passed ordering shops to stay open on December 25th and penalising anyone who went to a Church service on that day. Soldiers were even posted on the streets and confiscated any food they thought would be used to celebrate Christmas.

It's commonly thought that Oliver Cromwell 'banned' Christmas. But the laws were in place before he came to power. He was the 'Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland' from 1653 to 1658 and certainly supported the laws, but he didn't create them!

Although Christmas was officially 'banned', many people still celebrated it in quiet. In the late 1640s there were riots in several big towns between people who wanted to celebrate Christmas and those who didn't!

When King Charles was restored to the throne in 1660, all the laws made between 1642 and 1660 were thrown out and so Christmas and the 12 Days of Christmas were also restored and celebrated again in England!

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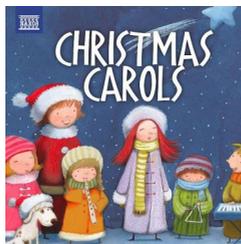
## Answers to Dingbats and Spot That Carol

### Dingbats

- |                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Too clever by half         | 2 One too many    |
| 3 Draw a blank               | 4 Contact Lens    |
| 5 Bridge over troubled water | 6 Short of dough  |
| 7 Cut above the rest         | 8 Lionesses       |
| 9 Seasons Greetings          | 10 Close quarters |

### Spot That Carol

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Silent Night                  | 2 Good king Wenceslas          |
| 3 While shepherds watched their | 4 Oh come all ye faithful      |
| 5 God rest ye merry gentlemen   | 6 Still. Still. Still          |
| 7 Away in a manger              | 8 Once in royal David's city   |
| 9 Little donkey                 | 10 Oh little town of Bethlehem |



## **A note to contributors**

It is our practice to publish each edition of TNV on the Trinity website. It is an important source of information about church life at Trinity and something we want to share with others. At the same time we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable for their personal details to appear on the internet in this way. We will be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so.



## **From the Editor**

Thank you to all who have helped with the preparation and distribution of this issue of TNV. The next issue is planned for Easter and it will be edited by David Lander.

**Jean Normington**

**Articles for the Spring/Easter issue  
should be submitted by Monday  
21st March 2022**





**TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS is  
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in the love of God and share the message of  
Jesus Christ”**

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