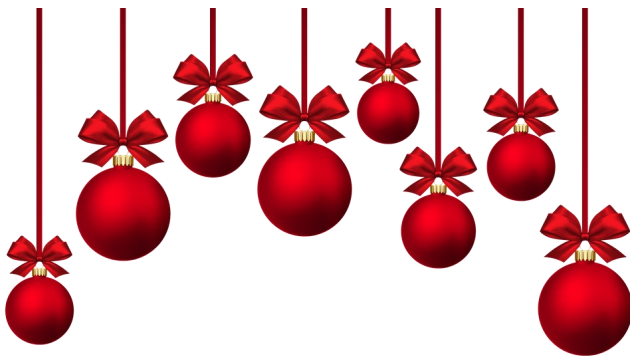




Trinity Methodist Church



**DECEMBER 2023**



**JANUARY 2024**

**NEW YEAR GREETINGS**

**Our Mission Statement:**

**Our Mission is to proclaim the love of God,**

**in Jesus to all people by:**

**Being a place of welcome, worship & nurture.**

**Belonging, learning & growing together.**

**Serving the community in whatever way we can.**

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Charity No: 1144617



It was with great sadness we heard that Brenda Hindes died on 10th November after a short illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gerald, Linda, his two brothers and all the family. May Brenda rest in peace with the Lord and being reunited with Peter.



Chelmsford Methodist Circuit

*I Give Online*

I support this Church and its Ministry giving via a Standing Order.

I place this card in the offering as a way of participation as an act of worship.

If you are interested in setting up a standing order, please speak to your Church Treasurer

Many of us now give to the Church by bank transfer and don't put anything into the offertory bag; this could discourage visitors, unfamiliar with the process, from making their own donations. It is suggested that more of us take one of these cards on the way into Church as a way of making our donations more "noticeable". Please consider this request.



## BOWLS CLUB ANNUAL CAPTAIN V PRESIDENT MATCH

The President was delighted to announce his win in 2023 during the Harvest Festival service, his first success after a few seasons of trying.

*From the Manse.....*

Home telephone number—01245 499028  
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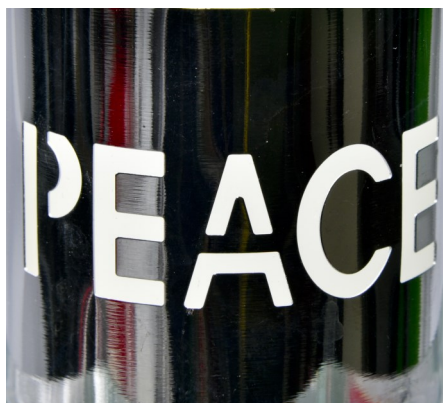


## **The Hope of Peace**

The headlines on the news at the time of writing concern the terrible outbreak of violence in Israel/Palestine. I can't think of a time in my lifetime when it seemed so terrible, and that feels like it's saying something. It feels so hopeless. Throughout my childhood the so called 'Troubles' were going on in Northern Ireland. I was brought up in the life of the Church praying for peace in that seemingly hopeless, impossible and intractable conflict. When the Good Friday agreement was brokered it really felt like an answer to the prayers of so many for so long. As recent post Brexit issues have shown us though, we shouldn't take the peace for granted, but there is always the possibility of hope.

Despite all the odds peace is always possible, that means we can live in hope for a change. Some people have been able to represent that hope by doing things that were against all the odds, like Sasaki Sadako, with seemingly insignificant symbolic actions. My daughter Grace, recently wrote about this amazing person in her blog 'The Murmuration'.

[open.substack.com/pub/murmuration/p/how-should-we-respond-to-evil](https://open.substack.com/pub/murmuration/p/how-should-we-respond-to-evil)



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*The Japanese practice of making 1000 paper cranes (senbazuru) was popularised by a child called Sasaki Sadako, a victim of Hiroshima. When the United States dropped the atomic bomb on Japan in 1945, two-year old Sadako was blown out of her window but miraculously unharmed. She lived in relative good health for most of her childhood, but was eventually diagnosed with radiation-induced leukaemia aged eleven.*

*During her hospitalisation Sadako was brought some paper cranes by school children, and was inspired to fold a 1000 cranes in the hope that it would grant her (as the folder) a wish of good health. Sadako is thought to have completed her senbazuru, but died at the age of twelve*

Despite her suffering she held on to hope, symbolised by the cranes, which have become symbols of hope for peace the world over. Let us also hold onto the hope of peace in the face of everything telling us it's a vain hope.

*For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8: 38,39

Peace,

Mark  
~



**ORIGAMI**

**Paper Crane, one of a thousand**

*Received via e-mail  
12th October Ed*

## HOW CAN WE BE KINDER TO OUR PLANET THIS CHRISTMAS?



**Re-use cards and wrapping.** Help reduce the huge amount of trees that go into making Christmas tags by re-using old Christmas cards. Recycle the section that carries the greeting, cut out the picture and use that as a tag. You could use fabric remnants and ribbons to make simple, drawstring gift bags in various sizes. Use these for your family and close friends and they could be reused for years to come. Recycled brown paper has a much lower ecological footprint than Christmas wrapping paper. Could your church display one card from each person?

**Gifts** – Try to avoid ‘stuff’ that people don’t want. How about tickets to an event or a promise of some time? Consider ethical toiletries, plants/seeds or food, something made from recycled materials, a sustainable alternative to single use items or even a charity gift. You could combine a bar of fairtrade chocolate with a charity gift of cocoa trees (or some other combination).

**Decorations** – Buy decorations that you can reuse or use natural materials such as holly and ivy. If you have a real tree, remember to recycle it with the Farleigh Hospice collection service <https://www.farleighhospice.org/events/christmas-tree-recycling-2>

**Food** – Try to include more vegetables and vegetarian food. Store leftover food in reusable pots or wax wraps (not cling film) and find recipes to use it up. Don’t forget to boil up the turkey carcass for some delicious stock for soup or casseroles.

**Crackers** – Avoid crackers with plastic toys that will just be thrown away. You could even try making your own.

**Dim the lights but not the joy!** – If buying new lights, consider LED or solar versions.

**Buy locally** - [The Art Place Chelmsford](#) Meadows Shopping Centre, Chelmsford. 75 percent of the money goes back to the artist, 25 percent to the charity Ideas Hub which help a lot of people in need.

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## Support charities

<https://embraceme.org> Shop ethically with our range of unique gifts, many of which are Fairtrade, fairly-traded or eco-friendly. All proceeds help support our Christian partners in the Middle East as they work to transform lives and restore dignity for excluded and marginalised communities.

<https://www.goodgifts.org> Good gifts that offer practical help for people in need in the UK or overseas. You can buy a goat for a community recovering from the effects of war, an hour's respite for the carer of a disabled child or provide hearing tests and hearing aids for a child in Africa.

<https://www.worldlandtrust.org> Donate £5 to plant a tree. The world loses the equivalent of 31 football pitches of forest every single minute.

## Sheridan Pengelly

\*\*\*\*\*

# Friendship

On Sunday 15 October, Mark prepared a truly exceptional service which had 'Friendship' at its core. As a congregation we were asked to bring along a friend, a neighbour, a relative, a colleague, or someone whose routine might not involve going to church. I was so dreadfully disappointed that virtually nobody responded. It would have been a wonderful opportunity to let these people know what we get up to on a Sunday morning and who knows, they might have been inspired to come again! When I asked our friends if their attendance had been worthwhile, the answer I received back was - 'I'm not sure if this is what you expect me to say but – I really enjoyed it! I do hope that if we can have another friendship service in the future, many of you can see your way to bring someone along.

*Eric Smart*



## Elizabeth Laurel Fletcher

December 1926- September 2023

### *Reflection and Tribute*

*by nephew John*



Laurel had no immediate family of her own but was loved by many close relatives and friends. Her nephew, John, recalled Laurel was his number one aunt, full of fun and loving life to the full.

Laurel attended Birkbeck College in London and was known to bring home all manner of living creatures, some in cages, to aid her studies. She travelled extensively in the UK and abroad to study and teach, passing on her knowledge to students less fortunate than herself. While work was important, Laurel was keen for the outside life enjoying walking, swimming, caravanning and touring the World far and wide including to Africa, South America, Australia and China.

While Laurel exhibited great intellectual discipline in her professional life, according to her family she was less so at home; her weakness was hoarding – very little appeared to have been thrown away including old prescriptions dating back to 1904, 22 years before she was born and Christmas cards back 30 years.

Laurel retained her good humour and determination throughout her life, even as her eyesight failed. She will be sadly missed by family and friends particularly those at Trinity. Rest in Peace Laurel.

*Abridged from: Reflections and Tribute from nephew John.*

# LAUREL FLETCHER REMEMBERED

9th December 1926—17th September 2023

by Nanette Wright



What a full and varied life Laurel lived in her 96 years, and what changes she saw in her lifetime.

Growing up in Shropshire, as a St John's Ambulance first aider, she worked in a local hospital in the latter stages of World War 2, and vividly remembered dancing with thousands of others to celebrate the ending of the war. At 21 she got her 1st BSc in horticulture then a teaching diploma, and the Vice Principal wrote that her *'quiet but effective manner which makes her well liked and respected by all ... and her interest in her own branch of science has an infectious effect upon her pupils who soon begin to enjoy contact with one who so obviously enjoys the work she has chosen without any attempt at domination.'* The 2nd BSc came later, and she was probably one of the early female members of The Association of Science Education and Fellows of the Royal Society of Biologists.

Laurel loved sports as a young woman, and ran a guide company for a while. She was also a big dog lover, sometimes taking her bearded collies to Crufts, and usually taking them to work with her, where they would quietly sit behind her legs.

Students enjoyed time with her, whether on one of many field trips (with dog), hearing of her training a goldfish, or discovering that she learned exactly how woodlice travel in straight lines! Having taught in schools and colleges, where she became Head of Science, she ended her working career as an Essex Science Education Advisor, but not before she was sent by the British Council to Chile and Argentina to help improve the teaching of science.



The Director General wrote to her saying that her time there had resulted in *'a great deal of interest and awareness of modern teaching methods has been created which we hope will be followed up in the coming months. I am sure your report will be of considerable value to all concerned in Science Education in Chile'*.

Gardening was her great love, and she could identify the variety of a particular plant from a description and just feeling, even with no sight!

Laurel was nothing if not adventurous, always saying 'yes' when invited to do anything, often before she knew what she was saying 'yes' to! Once retired, Laurel and her sister Joy travelled far and wide, from various East African countries to many South American countries. Even as she lost her sight, she would take the photographs under Joy's instruction, as she had a steadier hand for the task!

Blindness and poor mobility didn't stop Laurel getting out and about into her 90s, crossing a busy road to get to the bus stop (when she couldn't hear any traffic) to get into Chelmsford for a variety of meetings usually followed by lunch with someone. She was someone who was interesting to listen to and always interested in others, and her fascination for science didn't waver. Sadly the sudden end to her busy social life brought about by Covid led to a quick decline of that very sharp mind. A wise woman with a wealth of life experience, wicked sense of humour, humility and an abundance of grace, Laurel will be missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing her.

Nanette Wright



## *A Christmas Story for children and the young at heart*

*by Joy Petts*

### **A Slave's Tale**

I wonder if Mr High & Mighty, with his demands, realises what utter chaos he is causing and how much work is involved!

No sooner has one set of visitors left than it is all hands to the pumps before the next lot arrive. I must sweep the courtyard, brush the floors, shake the bed mats, empty the slops (Oh! How I hate that job), fill the wine jars, fetch the bread from the market and look after Lily the cow down in the shed at the back as she is about to have a calf.

My master, not known for his patience, is not having one of his better days. There has been much waving of arms and grumbling at the door. There are so many people. My mistress is a more-kindly soul and seems to have picked out one couple and is leading them away, but I am not sure where as I am too busy to notice.

Much to my master's annoyance, she keeps disappearing and at one time I am sure I saw her carrying a water jug and some old tea-towels.

It is now very late and she has returned looking very pleased with herself. She is deep in conversation with her husband. At last, he tells me to get my head down for a couple of hours as tomorrow will be another long day.

Thankfully, the raucous laughter and singing has subsided downstairs and I try to sleep as best as I can, but somehow other music more-sweetly flows through my dreams.

What is all that commotion? I am awake and run downstairs. Oh no! there are several very smelly shepherds with their dirty feet in the hall and they are treading all over my nice clean floor! What's more, they have got some of their sheep in the courtyard and you know what they leave behind!

They are demanding to know where they can find the new baby boy. What baby boy? Certainly not here or I would have known. The shepherds are rough and their language not to my liking, but my mistress has come on the scene and calms things down in her usual way. She lights a lantern and beckons them to follow her. I lag behind, full of curiosity. They are going to the cowshed and the door is ajar. I'm sure I shut it after I went to see Lily. I do hope she is alright.

Looking inside on tiptoe I can see a man and a woman lying on the straw and a very tiny baby in the cattle trough. The shepherds have quietened down and the lady beckons them forward with a tired-looking smile. They are kneeling and talking with her. After what seems an age, they get up and start running back towards the street. They are laughing and shouting and surely will wake everyone up.

My mistress turns to me with a knowing smile and walks back to the inn, leaving me to stand and wonder.

Who is this child and why is he here?



## **WHITECHAPEL MISSION - help to fill CHRISTMAS GOODY BAGS**

Goody Bags.....As mentioned in the last Trinity News, we now have a huge box in the Vestibule we are hoping to fill!! Can you help Whitechapel to bring a little 'Christmas Cheer' to many folk.

**Items such as.....**

**Gloves, bobble hats, scarves, warm socks, small rucksacks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, in fact toiletries of any kind are especially welcome.**



Janet and Nick Wintle are delighted to announce they are now proud grandparents to a little boy, Henry Trinity Wintle, born on the 16th November and weighing in at 8lb 1 oz.

**10th December 2pm, - 4 Churches Service at Hall Street  
Carols and Farewell.**

**15th December 7pm - Music & Drama AND Male Voice Choir  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**17th December 6pm Trinity's  
BIG SING CONCERT**



**21st December 7pm - Carols at the Black Bull**

**24th December (Christmas Eve) 6pm - PYJAMA SERVICE**

**AND AT 11.30pm - Midnight communion service.**



**CHRISTMAS DAY** 10am service led by Rev Mark



Closing Date for **February / March 2024** edition of  
Trinity News **17th January 2024** for publication on

**Sunday 28th January 2024**

Articles to be sent to Anthea Tayler **AND** the Church Office  
or give a hard copy to the Church Office.

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