



Trinity Methodist Church



# December 2024



# January 2025

## **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

# CONGRATULATIONS

# Nina



Your Trinity family wish you well as you commence your career as a fully qualified Paramedic. You deserve this degree after all your hard work and study during the past six years.



**17TH NOVEMBER 2024**

Hugo Brenin Byron Harmsworth

Birth 6th February 2024

Parents —

Byron & Aliza Harmsworth

Welcome to our church family

**From Our Minister.... Asif Karam**

**Contact numbers:**

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## MISTAKES



Dear Friends,

The average SMS text message we write or say is 14.8 words long. A study found that the average person in the UK texts over 6 million words in their lifetime. On average, a person speaks at least 7,000 words per day, but many people speak much more. Astonishingly, an average person makes round about 50 mistakes using words per day either intentionally or unintentionally, regardless of the activity or any task he/she is pursuing, and it is rational. We all make mistakes; we learn from them and grow. However, clinging to our mistakes worsens them and does not help us much to grow.

Numerically and financially, churches are getting weaker and closing when not learning from past mistakes. We are familiar with this common saying, “making mistakes is better than faking perfections.” Generally speaking, this is the post-covid picture of the church. John Bradshaw said, “It is okay to make mistakes, mistakes are our teachers, they help us to learn.” In our football culture, this helps us to understand the point that football is a game of mistakes, whoever makes the fewer mistakes wins.

*continued on page 4.....*

Speaking of words, when all words are pooled and assembled, they then articulate the connotation and the sense of the sentence they are building. Sometimes, a single word can contain a lot of truth and this is certainly the case with “Immanuel” (God with us). Surprisingly, this word occurs only once in the New Testament. However, the idea behind this single word runs through the entire Bible. Emmanuel, conveniently rhymes with “dwell”- as in God came down to Earth to dwell among us. Though this is a single word, it is abundant with meaningful messages. Emmanuel is mistakenly disremembered, especially throughout our trials and tumultuous times, the with-ness of God is discounted and disregarded. We just remember and utter this word during Christmas time in carols and traditions. Many good Christmas traditions are inaccurately and incorrectly observed. There are many mistakes made with our traditions around Christmas, for instance Boxing Day, 26<sup>th</sup> December, was originally celebrated as a holiday commemorating St. Stephen, the very 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Martyr. Effectively, boxing day reflects the fact that on the 26th December, gifts were given to the poor. Throughout the year, money was put in the box at the church and given to the poor, but with the ever-growing online marketing and commercialisation of Boxing Day, all big mall sales plan and incentivise people to spend more and buy instead of giving to charity. I must say, charity is to give to those who are in need. The word Charity originated as the Christian love of one’s fellows. It came into the English language via the French from the Latin *caritas* which is the translation of the Greek word agape. Agape is an unconditional and sacrificial love for those who deserve our love. We shared such love extensively by sending Christmas cards, but this practice is fading away. Christmas cards were created and introduced by the penny post that everyone could afford to write and share wishes with the words Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in 1843.

As I am writing this letter, it is in the back of my head that on 25<sup>th</sup> November, during this month, a Christmas film will be released called Dear Santa, a comedy, fantasy and horror. I hope you don’t mind if I share the story line, it is, when a young boy mails his Christmas wish list to Santa with one crucial spelling mistake, a devilish Jack Black arrives to wreak chaos on the holidays. You may add it in your Christmas watch list, be careful as you add not with a spelling mistake. Another tradition is the use of Christmas Crackers, mistakenly they lost the sweetness. A French habit was wrapping a quality sweet in twists of paper inserting love messages.

Later, Tom Smith from London was inspired by this and added a new snap and crackle to his creation. Eventually the sweet part was dropped and a gift and paper hats with jokes were added and so the modern cracker was born. I read the world's longest cracker is measured at 63.1 metres long and 4 metres in diameter, this was made by the parents of the primary school in Chesham, Buckinghamshire, then it was pulled by the children of the school and members of the Saracens Rugby Club on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2001 and it went bang.



It is illegal to sell crackers to a person younger than twelve years of age. Another practise is the use of the brussel sprout, one of the ingredients in Christmas meals, either loved or hated, I know this isn't loved by children, my children did not love them, even I could only manage a few on Christmas Day. But on the other hand, sprouts are packed full of vitamin C, beta carotene, vitamin E and iron.

The point I want to make is by reflecting on Christmas and church traditions, in this fast-changing world the time has come not to cling and sit on traditions rather fly with the wings of traditions in this modern age, to reach out to wider communities. As an example, Rev. John de Wattville from Germany wanted to find new ways of expressing the Christmas story to children, so he gave each child a candle, raisins and sweets on cocktail sticks and a red ribbon around the orange, encouraged to light it and remember the goodness of God and that Christ is the Light of the World. What new ways can you generate and adapt in this cybernetic, computer-generated age presenting the Christmas message clearly not mistakenly? I love the Christmas season like everyone does.

*continued on page 6.....*



Present Christmas doesn't signal a truer meaning. It seems in today's age there are three Christmases. There is the religious Christmas with its Christian truth. There is the social Christmas with traditions of food and family gatherings. There is the commodity Christmas, filled with spending lots of money and decorating. So when someone at this Christmas time says I love (or loathe) Christmas, it is very important to ask what type of Christmas they are referring to when they say they love Christmas. During this festive season, just sense and seize such opportunity to share a deeper, richer and truer Christmas.

Friends, mistakes do happen but life goes on, they are forgivable if one has the courage to admit their mistake and regard them as happy accidents and incidences. I am sure, God is a forgiving God, he does not make mistakes, but he does make miracles, I am one and you are too. Let me grapple this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We Christians in this modern age are writing a gospel page every day by the deeds we do and by the words we say.

Yours in His love that came down at Christmas,

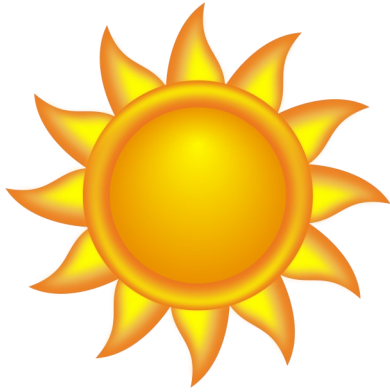
*Rev Asif Karam*



## A WELCOME DONATION



A huge thank you to Gerald and all the Hindes family for donating this magnificent grand piano to Trinity. Peter Hindes, one of our organist for many years, no doubt spent many an hour playing his piano at home with Brenda. Trinity's congregation will be very honoured to be custodians of this wonderful instrument. We are sure that Gerald, who also plays the organ for us when able, will feel 'at home' when he too sits to play at his father's piano in church! *Ed*



As I look out of my window at the sunshine and blue skies today I'm reminded once again of the beauty of the world gifted to us by God. 2023 was the hottest year on record. The effects of climate change are apparent to us all. World leaders are meeting now in Baku for COP29 to discuss future plans to tackle climate change.

*We pray:*

*God of blessings,*

*the universe sings of your glory*

*Deepen our gratitude for all you have made*

*and awaken in us a renewed commitment*

*to care for the earth and each other.*

Inspire world leaders at COP29 with openness to listen to those most affected by climate change and with courage to act urgently and wisely, so that our common home may be healed and restored and all people, and generations to come, may delight in it.

**Amen**

*Sent by Sheridan Pengelly 12 November 2024*



# Harvest weekend 3 churches together



During the Harvest Festival weekend at the end of September, Eric Smart joined the prayer group for a short while and below is his prayer which he read out at the Harvest service.

*Eric has given his permission to publish Ed*

*Father God, as I sit here in the quiet and peaceful surroundings, I appreciate all Your wonderful gifts, which some people do not have the time for or circumstances to appreciate as I do. Guide them, O Lord, to take time out of their busy lives to contemplate the beauty of your creation please, especially lay your hands upon those in suffering at present, through war, illness or sorrow, give them peace, health and hope.*

*Join hands with all, of your people in an expression of your continuing love. We will **then** do likewise. AMEN*



## HARVEST GIFTS FOR THE CHELMSFORD FOOD BANK

A wonderful 'Work of Art' achieved by one group during the craft Saturday.





## Growth

As I write there's quite a cacophony of noise outside the window - gardeners are trimming our hedges, bushes and shrubs, an autumnal ritual! Until now I've always attempted to tackle this job myself, but this year I've had to admit defeat, the rate of growth seems to be unstoppable. It has felt that the more I've cut things the faster they have grown!

I remind myself that the picture language of the Bible when it comes to horticultural metaphors - or should I say viticultural images in particular - speaks to us about this exact situation.

Viticulture is the study and practice of growing grapevines, with the goal of producing grapes. The Psalmist used such imagery in Psalm 80: here a vine is the symbol of God's people, who, though a young tender vine which was 'brought out of Egypt', was planted and took root in Israel. The health of the vine and the vineyards in the Old Testament reflected the state of the nation.

In the New Testament, Jesus takes up the theme: describing himself as the "true vine" who will be the source of life to his disciples, who are the branches: "I am the vine; you are the branches".

In the pruning, that trimming-back feels so counterintuitive - how can such clipping and reducing possibly prove fruitful? Weirdly in the pruning is growth, and that growth brings fruitfulness.

There are likely many times in our lives when we feel things are going in the wrong direction, going backwards. Perhaps it might feel like a severe curtailment to the growth we want to see?

Maybe next time I am muttering about the rapid growth of the huge and ancient jasmine that climbs over a pergola in my garden, I should be mindful that the growth that astounds me is a reflection of the fruitfulness of pruning. I gave that jasmine a good strong pruning two years ago and even more abundant growth has been the result!

May we too see abundant spiritual growth as a result of being part of God's vineyard! Blessings,

Mark



**29th September 2024**



Outdoor service hosted by St Michael's Church, Galleywood. It was a small gathering. The afternoon was dry and windy but the fire was warming. Rev Mark enjoyed the out door service while dodging the wood smoke. *Anthea & Tony*

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## **It's All About Joseph**

**By Joy Petts**



I was very angry and extremely hurt. She was promised to me and I loved her very dearly. I vowed not to touch her in that way until after we were wed but somebody had and I needed to find out who and find out very quickly. She had spent some time with her cousin away from the village. Had she met someone else?

Her condition seemed to have given her some very strange ideas, in that she was a chosen one, and had been told so by a visitor. She even had a name for the child for goodness sake! I found it all very hard to understand and it affected my very being. I wanted her to be hidden away.

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As the weeks passed, she seemed to blossom and appeared very content with her lot which did nothing for my self-esteem. My business at the workshop was suffering and I endured countless looks of disapproval and much tittle-tattle behind my back.

I had nearly had enough when the order came. At last I had an excuse to leave the village for a while and go south to the town of my birth, as had been decreed by the Governor, so that I could be part of the census. So I made my plans.

But then I had a dream, a very vivid dream. It was as though God was telling me that all that Mary had said was true. She really was carrying God's special son. After so many weeks I felt at peace and knew I had to accept all that lay in store for us.

It seemed that her time was not so very far away so I knew that I must take her with me.

And now we are ready for our journey. I know that it will be long and hard. I hope that we will make it before the child comes and, if we do, wonder what sort of welcome we shall receive.

Perhaps one day we will return here as a family and I will endeavour to nurture the boy just as if he was my own. But I will always know that one day he will be called the "Son of God".





## Chess The Musical



Trinity Music and Drama embarked on another musical tour de force with its production of Chess, the Musical in Concert, performed at Trinity Methodist Church in mid-October. Originally staged in London in the mid-1980s, it's a rock operetta, music by ABBA's Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus with book and lyrics by Tim Rice.

The story line is complex using Cold War rivalry between the USA and USSR played out over two international chess tournaments for the title of world chess champion.

The lead roles, Anatoly Sergievsky and Freddie Trumper, as would be world champions, were powerfully played, respectively, by Mick Wilson and David Rutter. The love interest lead, Florence Vassy, was admirably delivered by Anna Dunn. Supporting roles included Emma Byatt as The Arbiter, Mark Pengelly as the scheming Molokov and Carolyn Hanley as the abandoned Sergievsky's wife, Svetlana. All had strong voices and clear diction. Other roles were competently delivered by members of Trinity Music and Drama. Anna and Carolyn delivered with sensitivity the most popular song from the show, I Know him so Well. David Sherman, as musical director did a sterling job bringing the show to production; he was well supported by a ten-piece band.

Space limitations in using the church meant that singers and musicians performed close together and at times the musical accompaniment somewhat overwhelmed the vocals.

It was an ambitious production, another worthy performance for TM&D to add to its extensive CV of concerts and shows.

TT October 2024

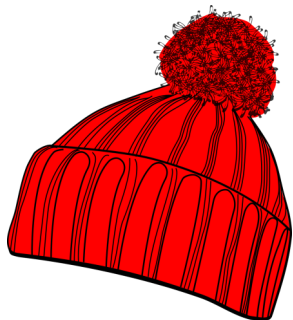


# Whitechapel Mission



We have made two trips to Whitechapel recently and on both occasions our car was filled, or indeed overfilled, with all the wonderful donations we have received from friends at Trinity or friends in the area. We have even taken 10 or more sleeping bags plus four brand new ones, which were donated after the loss of a loved one in their memory, together with ten large bags of clothes. Needless to say Whitechapel are always so very grateful for the help they receive from Trinity. Our thoughts are now turning towards Christmas. As always warm bobble or beanie hats are much needed and we are very grateful to Joan Layzell who is still knitting away to provide them. Toiletry items are always much needed and they always have a desperate need for new or good clean but used mens underpants and vests. If anyone would like to donate any of these items they will be very gratefully received. It will help make up the little gifts they hand out with breakfast at Christmas and we will be delighted to hand them over when we make our next trip in mid-December (or equally happy to fit in an extra trip if needed!) Thank you for your support.

***Keith, Jenne and John Essam***



## **ACTION FOR CHILDREN 2023/24**



A big thank you to everyone who donated to this worthy cause. Trinity collectors have again been most generous. Our numbers have declined due to folk moving away or sadly passing on. This year I have been able to bank £483.42p.

I have been the collection secretary, for so long I have lost count. I've been supported by Tony, who has counted, balanced and helped to carry the money to the bank. Since covid there is less loose change but more cheques, so banking has been easier. 2024 is my last year in this role!

I sincerely hope that someone will step up and take on this post. I would add it is not overly time consuming, just once a year for a few hours. I will happily explain the 'ropes' to anyone who is willing to take on this position.

Anthea Tayler



# Lunches 2025

The time has come to consider the future of Friendship Lunches. I am making one last plea before deciding on what happens next. I'm seeking anyone who can help in any way by offering to cook a lunch or maybe joining forces with someone else to provide a lunch on one Sunday during the year, or who can perhaps help by offering to prepare a dessert. Fortunately for many years I have had a loyal band of helpers who have worked tirelessly to provide the lunches which are really appreciated by those who join us. However, none of us is getting any younger! Without volunteers it will not be possible to continue providing a lunch each month. I will do my best to consider offering them bi-monthly in 2025 or at worst quarterly but this may not always be the case. However, I am asking you all to have a think and contact me if you can offer help in any way.

Thank you.

***J enne Essam***





## **DECEMBER DATES**

ADVENT SING ALONG ON –  
SATURDAY 7th 14th & 21st  
at 10.00 to 10.30am



ON THE CHURCH FORECOURT followed by tea & coffee

### **WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER FROM 7pm**

Again we are hosting  
CAROL SINGING at the  
BLACK BULL PUB



**DEC 15th 10.30** Please wear your  
'seasonal jumper' for this service



**22nd 4pm** BIG SING at Trinity



**24th 4pm** Christingle service at Trinity  
friends and family, all ages welcome.



**24th 11.30pm** Late communion for our  
Chelmsford Three churches together at Broomfield.



CHRISTMAS MORNING  
**10am** at TRINITY



**From 2025 Trinity News will be published quarterly  
running as follows:**

**SPRING** — FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL



**SUMMER** — MAY JUNE JULY



**AUTUMN** — AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER



**WINTER** — NOVEMBER DECEMBER JANUARY





**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**TO YOU ALL**

CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT TRINITY NEWS  
FEBRUARY—MARCH—APRIL 2025 Edition

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