

# Trinity Church

## Sunday 9th August 2020

Dear Friends,

We are living through strange times, when advice and rules seem to change almost daily – and the rumours also tend to circulate! The priority for us is about keeping people safe – I suspect other factors are influencing other organisations. We want to get the church open and back to normal – but the ‘normal’ we are used to does not yet seem very realistic. The current situation is under constant review and an update of the current situation is included in this bulletin.

The thing that makes a building look alive is the people within it – and church buildings are primarily places for gathering. It is gathering itself that is the problem at the moment while this virus is so contagious. From the questionnaire we sent out, a vast majority of people are somewhere in the middle – which suggests a significant degree of uncertainty. Now we have to wear facemasks in church and are not meant to socialize either before or after any gathering – and with social distancing still in place for some time, even gathering is not the same – and some things we are used to doing are presently not allowed – like singing.

The Elders are continuing to meet regularly via zoom and will continue to review and look at what we can do – and many of the churches in the Circuit are going to revisit the situation in September. We are still opening for individual prayer on a Wednesday between 10 and 12 if anyone wants to pop in.

As we have been saying for some time, we will get there, we just don't know when.  
Keep safe, *Richard*

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP** (9<sup>th</sup> August) at 10.30 am on Trinity's Facebook page or YouTube channel (search Trinity Church Leek).

**Circuit Pray together at home:** daily at 9pm

If you are interested in joining a circuit wide Bible Study group via Zoom that meets on a Tuesday evening, please contact Richard or the Church Office.

### TRINITY CONTACTS:

Tel: 015383 398483 (church office)

Office Opening Hours – Wednesday – Friday 8.30am to 12.30pm

Email: [trinitychurchleek@uwclub.net](mailto:trinitychurchleek@uwclub.net)

Website: <http://trinitychurchleekurc.org.uk/>

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/URCMethodist](https://www.facebook.com/URCMethodist)

YouTube: Trinity Church Leek

### CIRCUIT CONTACTS:

CIRCUIT WEBSITE: <https://staffmoorlandsmethodists.org.uk/>

CIRCUIT FACEBOOK: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/staffmoorlandsmethodists/>

CIRCUIT OFFICE: 01538 723666 EMAIL: [admin@staffmoorlandsmethodist.org.uk](mailto:admin@staffmoorlandsmethodist.org.uk)

## Lectionary Reading

Sunday 9th August



**Genesis 37: 1 – 4, 12 – 28**

**Psalms 105: 1 – 6, 16 – 22, 45b**

**Romans 10; 5 – 15**

**Matthew 14: 22 – 33**

**Join us for worship on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
at 10.30 am on YouTube (Trinity Church Leek) or  
Trinity's Facebook page (facebook.com/URCMethodist).**

**If you cannot access the on-line forums, but would be  
interested in an audio only disc (cd), please contact  
Steve and Jean Thompson (01538 384608).**

### **Update from Elders re Covid -19**

Some four weeks or so ago when the time Elders, via zoom, started to consider the possible re-opening of Trinity, it soon became very clear that on top of government guidance we would need to consider emerging advice from both our URC and Methodist church bodies.

While the guidance was extremely detailed and helpful, Elders were faced with the responsibility as trustees to ensure the safety of members and the public takes precedence over anything we wanted to re-introduce.

The guidance insists that before opening up, each organisation nominates a Covid-19 lead and, for every planned activity, a detailed Risk Assessment (RA) should be completed and checked with our church bodies and insurers to be confident we didn't breach the conditions of our insurance.

It was agreed that a team approach would work best and together with Richard the following Elders agreed to be involved: -John Fisher, Steve Thompson, Jean Thompson and Maureen Wiskin (named lead).

It is this team's responsibility; -to keep up to date with emerging guidance: think about and draft risk assessments for any activity the Elders prioritise; - to seek approval for

each RA; -and keep each activity under review, suggesting improvements where needed .

It took over a week to draft and agree the first RA for opening up the church for private prayer and reflection on Wednesday mornings and the final document had the benefit of input from various Elders and Richard. Thanks goodness for technology!

The second priority identified by Elders was to respond positively at fairly short notice to the request for two funerals. This was a bit more complicated as many more people were permitted to attend if this could be arranged safely. In discussion with Sigleys the Covid-19 team was able to come up with a workable plan (RA) and the funerals were able to go ahead.

The team meet or are in touch weekly to review progress. Any new initiative is considered by the members together with Richard and recommendations go to Elders for a final decision.

If you or anyone you know has a request, query or concern about Covid-19 and how it affects, or might affect, you and /or our church please get in touch with one of the Covid-team members who will discuss your issue and get back to you.

Thank you so much to all those who have agreed to steward at these events -we are most grateful.

And finally –a rumour has it that the request for key holders to get in touch was a roundabout way of taking back their keys. This is far from the truth! The reason is to ensure that those who need access be given the guidance which enables them to do so safely, both for themselves and others –no ulterior motive whatsoever. So if this applies to you please contact Maureen or one of the team and we would be happy to help.

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## **PRAYER AND REFLECTION**



**Having been able to consider fully the guidance from the URC and Methodist Church, and complying fully with this guidance, Trinity Church will be open for individual private prayer and reflection on Wednesday mornings from 10am to 12 noon.**

**Numbers in the building will be monitored and kept within current social distancing requirements and time restrictions may be included if busy.**



## Circuit Reflections available on your phone

01782 980 180



If you haven't been able to access the circuit reflections written by our ministers and local preachers that have been posted online, it is now possible to listen to them on your phone. No computer necessary.

Each week a recording of one of the reflections can be listened to by calling 01782 980 180. This is a Stoke on Trent number and will cost the same as ringing any 01782 number. The reflections are normally 10-12 minutes long. A new reflection will be available every Thursday and be available until the following Tuesday.

## Prayer List for Sunday 9th August 2020



### Those who need prayer for sickness or other reasons

Angela Bates, Sara Best, Eric Birch, Jill Ellis, Grace Hambleton, Frances Earl, Dennis Bates, Josh, Ivan, Lyn Kirkham & family, The Rev Julie Hassall, Jane Fulbrook, Audrey Pointon, Christine Redfearn, Alison Roberts, Michelle Coates (Liz Lowe's daughter), and Millie and family.

We also pray for all those who care for the above.



The next edition of Trinity Topics will appear around mid-September and will be edited by Derek Harley. The theme will be 'Harvest in any form' although this is not exclusive, and we have included ideas for other topics below.

- Things I never thought I would ever be able to do
- Things I have finally had time to do in lockdown
- Thanks for Random acts of kindness
- A Harvest quote or poem that inspired me
- A book review
- A stock cupboard recipe for Harvest time
- Tips for keeping positive in lockdown
- Something to make us laugh
- Something for young people
- A quiz of no more than 10 questions

Please keep to 500 words maximum and short amusing topics are welcome, although fewer words will be even more welcome!

**Please do not send items which are copyright.**

**Final date for contributions - 24<sup>th</sup> August although earlier if possible**

Please email items to Carol in the Church Office: [trinitychurchleek@uwclub.net](mailto:trinitychurchleek@uwclub.net) or let Carol have any hand written items.