

# Trinity News



**Harvest Festival**  
**8<sup>th</sup> October at 10.45 a.m.**

**October 2023**

## **Ministers Muse**

Dear Friends,

Well, the summer is over, and the temperatures are starting to fall, and the days are getting shorter. And one sad task I now need to do, is to put our folding camper back in the garage (after clearing out the junk we accumulated there over the summer), knowing it will be too cold to go camping again until next May.

After holidays, festivals, walks in the sunshine, trips to the coast (and for us this year a joyful wedding), comes the realisation that all those things that we looked forward to for so long are over, for another year at least. But although those events themselves are over, I know that the renewing effects of the rest, recreation, celebration, learning, and vitamin D, will continue to sustain me in the months ahead.

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

In the midst of the summer, and all the things we enjoy about that season, we might easily forget all the things that may bring joy and fulfilment in other seasons too.

As we shift to a slightly different pace, and a different wardrobe, can we shift our mindset to embrace challenges and changes of a new season, knowing that there will be joys to experience, some of them unexpected, especially if we are open to what lies ahead, rather than only looking back in longing and nostalgia.

Most importantly of all, we know that God’s love and faithfulness are constant through every season; summer and winter, springtime and harvest, sun moon and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in manifold witness, to God’s great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Yours in Christ,

Gavin

## **Church Council**

Our Church Council Meeting is on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7.15 p.m.

Anyone can attend the Church Council and Church Members can vote.

One of the items being suggested by the Church Stewards is that the proceeds from the Bucket/Well should go to a different charity each church financial year. (September to August).

We would like suggestions from our members and friends that can be voted on by the Church Council.

Please tell a Church Steward what your chosen charity would be.

## **Bible a Month: Niger.**

*“For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, his Spirit fills us with power, love, and self control”. 2 Timothy 1, vs 7 (GNB)*

Niger is a land locked country in Western Africa, and has borders with Libya, Algeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Nigeria and Chad. It covers an area of 489.191 sq miles, making it about 5 times the size of the UK. It has a population of 25.4 million, and the languages include French, Hausa, and Djerma. The literacy rate- people who can read and write is a low 37.3%.

Niger is one of the poorest nations in Africa and one of the toughest for Christians, who face the threat of persecution from Islamist extremists. More than 99% of the population are Muslim, but you (via Bible a Month) are supporting a growing Christian minority through Bible Society’s literacy project.

Christians, and interested non believers, attend Bible bases literacy classes that enable them to read the Bible and study other topics such as agriculture and animal husbandry. This initiative enables them to familiarise themselves with God’s word, as well as giving them dignity and equipping them with practical tools to play an active role in the economy.

Since 2019, 3,135 people have attended classes. Bible Society plans to reach 5500 in total. Bible Society also supports the equipping of Sunday school teachers in Niger and a family Bible-reading programme. None of this would be possible without your continued kind giving.

### **Prayers**

- Thank God for the success of the literacy project. Pray that those who can now read and write will be blessings to their communities and guide people to Jesus.
- Ask God to bless those Christians who are training to be educators and supervisors in the literacy programme.
- The wife of Hama Yaye, Bible Society leader in Niger, tragically died recently after a sudden illness. Please pray for comfort and strength for Hama and their 3 children.

## **Mission Update from Niger**

Hassia was finding it hard to grow her faith in Jesus in a dusty sub-Saharan village in the Muslim-majority West African country of Niger. The 40 year old mother had a Bible in the Hausa language, courtesy of Bible Society, but she was unable to read it. “If I wanted to hear a passage I’d have to call out to my children to read it to me” she says.

That was before she attended one of the Bible-based literacy classes that are part of a long term project supported by Bible a Month. “Before, it was only the children who read the Bible to us during our morning prayers, but now I know how to read and its me in person who reads the Bible, and I tell you, it has transformed my spiritual life and I have come closer to the Lord through his word” she says.

More children now are learning to read and write at school but many adults, especially in rural areas, have received little or no formal education. In rural regions of Niger, up to 92% of the community are illiterate.

Hassia says her ability to read the Scriptures has now impacted her family and friends. Because she now understands what she reads, she is able to guide the children to understand too, and she helps her husband to read and study the Scriptures.

One of the aims of the project is to help churches grow by educating Christians in the country so that they can play greater roles in society. The Bible is giving people like Hassia hope in a society that is targeted by Islamist extremists, and is plagued by drought and poverty.

*Simon Bartz, Bible Society.*

### **Life is like a journey on a train,**

with its stations, with changes of routes and with accidents! At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don’t realise that they vacated their seats! This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all the passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way- Love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life without us. I wish you a joyful journey for the coming years on your train of life. Reap success, give lots of love and be happy. More importantly, be thankful for the journey! Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on my train!

*Lessonslearnedinlife.com.*

## Four threats to your morning coffee

*Honduran Fairtrade coffee farmer Esperanza Suazo Saenz tells us how climate change has devastated coffee production in the region.*

It takes a lot of expertise to produce the high-quality beans that end up as your favourite cup of coffee. But the life of the smallholder coffee farmer behind your morning brew is far from easy.

**Smallholders produce 75 per cent of the world's coffee**, but even though they grow huge volumes of beans, in many regions these farmers earn little for their coffee. They have little negotiating power in coffee supply chains and many struggle on low incomes due to price volatility, and yet they bear most of the risk.

All the while, **the climate crisis poses a huge threat to coffee producers while deepening poverty and inequality**, especially for those who already live in rural communities without access to good roads, schools and healthcare.

Here, we highlight some of the dangers to the future of your favourite morning brew!

### **Farmers are facing many threats.**

#### **1. Many non-Fairtrade farmers receive very low prices for their crops that don't even cover their costs**

At the same time, coffee prices can change hugely because of weather events, changes in currency or supply and demand, making it an incredibly unstable commodity. To put this in context, coffee farmers today receive an estimated 3 per cent of the cost of a cup of coffee sold in your local coffee shop. Between 2018 and 2020, the price fluctuated around US\$1 a pound, causing a crisis for farmers. It drove thousands of coffee farmers into poverty. It's also worth remembering that the price of your favourite coffee is **set by the retailers and not by the coffee farmers**, who don't get to see any uplift in the prices they get.

#### **2. The climate crisis is a huge threat to farmers in low-income countries, even though they have contributed the least to the crisis**

Coffee is very climate-sensitive, and changes in rainfall and weather patterns can spell disaster, and farmers can lose their entire harvests because of these changes. It is predicted that by 2050,

50 per cent of the global surface area currently being used for coffee farming will no longer be suitable for growing coffee due to climate change. But, with increased incomes and extra



funding for green projects, there's a lot that producers can do to protect their land and farm in a way that makes the soil healthier and less prone to landslides, etc.

### **3. The cost-of-living crisis is global**

This means that farmers are facing soaring production costs. 75% of coffee is produced by smallholder farmers, so these increasing costs directly affect the farmers' livelihoods.

With bills soaring in the UK, many are worried about the rising cost of living in 2023. But for many agricultural communities that have already been struggling, these increased production costs threaten farmers' survival. When crops are wiped out by blight, pests, diseases and/or storms, this can make farming families even more vulnerable.

### **4. All this has been made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic**

The pandemic disrupted production and sales, leaving farmers drastically out of pocket. Unless farmers earn more for their crops, they'll struggle to afford to protect their families and livelihoods, as well as their communities, from the many crises they face.

## **That's where Fairtrade comes in**

Buying Fairtrade coffee is easy and affordable. Every bean bought means certified farmers in low-income countries can earn fairer prices for their produce, receive a Fairtrade Premium to invest in their business or communities, and benefit from training and support from our Producer Networks. All this means they stand a much better chance of protecting their crops, livelihoods and communities from the threats they face.

There are dozens of Fairtrade coffee suppliers across the UK, ranging from take-outs like Greggs and Leon to supermarkets such as M&S, Waitrose and Co-op (who sell Fairtrade coffee as part of their value ranges), and popular brands like Percol, Café Direct and Cru Kafé.

*When you choose Fairtrade, you're part of a global community fighting for climate justice – and a fairer, better world.*

## **Spoonerisms**

The spoonerism is a form of metathesis (the transformation of sounds or letters in a word) so as to form some ridiculous combination. The term is named after Rev'd William Spooner (1844-1930), warden of New College, Oxford, a fast talking and noted academic. They are usually the result of the speaker's tiredness or speed of talking when the tongue cannot keep pace with the speaker's thoughts. Examples attributed to Rev Spooner include:-

- Wishing to see the college dean, he asked his secretary: "Is the bean dizzy"
- On entering church for Sunday service: "Good grief, someone is occupewing my pie"
- "There is no peace in a home where a dinner swells."
- "The Lord is a shoving leopard".
- "Let me sew you to your sheet."
- "She joins this club over my bed doddy"
- "Let us sing the old revival hymn, "Shall we rather at the giver?"
- Greeting a group of farmers: "I see before me tons of soil" (sons of toil).
- Proposing a toast to Queen Victoria: " Three cheers for our queer old dean".
- "The enemy fled quickly from the ears and sparrows."
- When performing a wedding ceremony: "It is kisstomary to cuss the bride"
- "The defeat was a blushing crow".
- "Those girls are sin twisters"

## Diary of a Church Mouse by [John Betjeman](#)

Here among long-discarded cassocks, damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,  
Here where the vicar never looks I nibble through old service books.  
Lean and alone I spend my days behind this Church of England baize.  
I share my dark forgotten room with two oil-lamps and half a broom.

The cleaner never bothers me, so here I eat my frugal tea.  
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw; My jam is polish for the floor.  
Christmas and Easter may be feasts for congregations and for priests,  
And so may Whitsun. All the same, they do not fill my meagre frame.

For me the only feast at all is Autumn's Harvest Festival,  
when I can satisfy my want with ears of corn around the font.  
I climb the eagle's brazen head to burrow through a loaf of bread.  
I scramble up the pulpit stair and gnaw the marrows hanging there.

It is enjoyable to taste these items ere they go to waste,  
but how annoying when one finds that other mice with pagan minds  
come into church my food to share who have no proper business there.  
Two field mice who have no desire to be baptized, invade the choir.  
A large and most unfriendly rat comes in to see what we are at.

He says he thinks there is no God and yet he comes . It's rather odd.  
This year he stole a sheaf of wheat (It screened our special preacher's seat),  
And prosperous mice from fields away come in to hear our organ play,  
and under cover of its notes ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.

A Low Church mouse, who thinks that I am too papistical, and High,  
yet somehow doesn't think it wrong to munch through Harvest Evensong,  
while I, who starve the whole year through, must share my food with rodents who  
except at this time of the year not once inside the church appear.

Within the human world I know such goings-on could not be so,  
For human beings only do what their religion tells them to.  
They read the Bible every day and always, night and morning, pray,  
and just like me, the good church mouse, worship each week in God's own house,  
but all the same it's strange to me how very full the church can be  
with people I don't see at all except at Harvest Festival.

## **Six facts you should know about Fairtrade coffee.**

Coffee is one of the world's most popular beverages. In the UK, we drink approximately 95 million cups of coffee per day, and it is a lucrative multi-billion pound business. However, a closer look at the supply chain shows coffee is a complex and often unfair relationship with the person behind every bean – the farmer. Fairtrade drives a fairer, more sustainable way of trading. Here, we dispel some of the misconceptions about Fairtrade coffee.

### **1. Fairtrade coffee is not more expensive**

Sustainability doesn't have to come at a price. You can find a variety of Fairtrade coffee for sale in the UK, and it won't cost the earth.

Many major supermarkets now have Fairtrade own-label coffee in their value ranges, including M&S, Waitrose and Co-op, so that Fairtrade farmers can enjoy the benefits of Fairtrade certification. All the coffee at Greggs is Fairtrade, and it's the cheapest place to buy takeaway Fairtrade coffee on the high street. With many supermarkets and brands selling Fairtrade coffee, the sums don't add up for those saying it's more expensive, and in many cases, it isn't. We've been working with our retail partners to offer Fairtrade products at accessible prices so that you can enjoy a Fairtrade coffee wherever you shop.

### **2. Not just anyone can use the Fairtrade logo on their coffee and call it ethical**

The FAIRTRADE Mark is a registered certification label for coffee sourced from Fairtrade producers in low-income countries, such as Kenya and Nicaragua. Coffee that displays the Mark must meet Fairtrade Standards, which incorporate a holistic blend of social, economic and environmental criteria. If a company wants to sell Fairtrade certified coffee (and have the FAIRTRADE Mark displayed on its packaging), they first have to make sure that the coffee meets all of the Fairtrade Standards.

### **3. You can be confident that Fairtrade coffee is exactly what we say it is**

The FAIRTRADE Mark (or logo) on a product means that the Fairtrade ingredients in that product have been independently verified by FLOCERT, an independent certifier accredited by the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO).

Independent certifiers audit producers, traders and companies to check compliance with our economic, social and environmental standards, including that farmers and workers receive the Fairtrade Minimum Price and Premium.

So, when it comes to Fairtrade products, including coffee, when we say that buying it is supporting farmers to get a better deal, you don't just have to take our word for it. Fairtrade certification system is rigorous, independent, and in line with best-in-class certification practice.

### **4. Fairtrade supports coffee farmers in improving their products**

On top of the price they get for their coffee, Fairtrade farmers also earn a 'Fairtrade Premium' to invest in projects that will benefit their business or community. Fairtrade coffee farmers invest at least 25 per cent of the Premium into initiatives to improve quality and productivity, which can help to increase farmers' incomes. Over the years, many Fairtrade coffee producers have won Cup of Excellence awards and several Fairtrade coffees on sale in the UK have also won various taste awards. In total, Fairtrade coffees have won over 28 Great Taste Awards – which is a testament to the quality achieved.

## 5. Gender equality and Fairtrade coffee

Studies show that while women's participation in farming has increased over time, women have less access to resources such as land, inputs, information, credit and training. Fairtrade Standards are designed to increase female participation and support more women and girls to access the benefits of Fairtrade. Producer networks are rolling out women's schools of leadership for farmers, enabling women to deepen their business, negotiation and finance skills. Many of the women go on to take on leadership and committee positions within their co-operatives and communities. The Fairtrade Standards encompass requirements on gender justice, including no discrimination based on gender or marital status, zero tolerance of abusive or exploitative behaviour, developing a gender policy, and programmes to support disadvantaged and minority groups.

## 6. The Fairtrade coffee farmers are learning to live with the climate crisis

Around 125 million people worldwide depend on the coffee we drink for their livelihoods. And yet, every time we have a sip of our favourite brew, we probably don't think about the journey from ground to grind. Coaxing a crop out of some of the steepest farmland in the world is no mean feat. And that's not all. Coffee is a boom-and-bust commodity sold on an inherently unstable market with widely fluctuating prices. Not only has the price been consistently low in recent years, but coffee farming is also getting harder as a changing climate brings extreme and unpredictable weather, more pests and faster-spreading diseases. In fact, by 2050, as much as 50 per cent of the global surface area currently used for coffee farming may no longer be suitable, experts believe.

And so, the climate crisis is an immediate and ever-increasing threat to the livelihoods of farmers and workers across the world. Fairtrade provides free training and financial support to produce more resilient crops and help farmers adapt, mitigate and become more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Fairtrade blog, Sept 2023.

## Lord of the harvest, the harvest of people

Lord of the harvest,  
the harvest of people,  
you need workers.  
What can I do?

I can try  
at home,  
at school,  
and in my leisure time,  
to see others as you see them;

to welcome them as you welcome  
them;  
to love them, as you love them.

Lord of the harvest  
the harvest of people,  
you need workers  
Will I do?  
**Amen.**

## Culture Club



12th October, is a day that is commemorated in many parts of the world. It remembers the day in 1492 when Christopher Columbus set foot on soil across the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, Hispaniola. Until now, in Spain and the Americas, the day has been celebrated as a day of victory and conquest of the Spaniards over the indigenous peoples they encountered, being a national holiday with parades, ceremonies and speeches. Recently, however there has been a move to recognize, although not officially, that it should be remembered as a day of the indigenous minority and how they suffered near extinction at the hands of the conquistadors. Two completely different cultures and religions collided with catastrophic results.

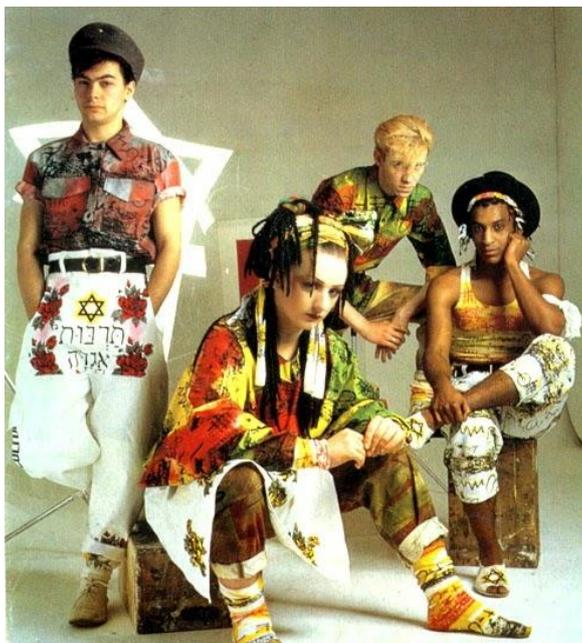


Back in 2014, there was a vote to recognize Palestine as a state in its own right. There has been conflict between Palestinians and Israel almost without a break ever since the Israeli Declaration of Independence, signed 14th May 1948 that recognized Israel's national home in Palestine. Since then, Israel has celebrated the day with a holiday for all its citizens. Again there is a similarity that one nation celebrates a victory and take-over of the land of another nation, leaving them virtually without a land they can call their national home. The differences based on religious grounds seem insurmountable. And so we could go throughout the world finding tribe fighting tribe, nation fighting nation because they infringe on 'their territory'.

**H**ow many  
religious wars  
have been  
fought for  
a religion of  
love and  
gentleness?  
**God**

The problem seems to be that people of a specific culture are so often intolerant of people of another culture, looking on them as evil and needing to be got rid of however that may be. Within most religions of the world there are different sects that interpret their sacred writings in a particular way. We are aware of how much animosity there is between Sunni and Shi'ite, noting that terrorists have mercilessly executed Muslims who are not from their particular brand of Islam. There are other groups of Muslims that differ because of the culture of where they are living. The same can be said of Jews, depending on whether they are European or Oriental in origin. Oriental Jews have in the past been persecuted by other Jews but recently have become accepted by the mainstream of their religion. Of course the

same thing applies to Christians. The differences within the same religion, let alone differences with other religions is often due to the cultural differences of where people live. Their customs as a nation often colour their perspective on their particular religion and their interpretation of sacred writings, causing different views and practices depending on which part of the world they live in. If I had been born and raised in India, would I be an evangelical Christian or maybe Hindu? If I had been born in Saudi Arabia, would I be Muslim? If so, which strand of Islam would I follow? Is it any wonder that non-religious people blame religion for most of the wars in the world?



Thinking of different cultures, I was interested to discover that the members of the successful 80s band Culture Club have a very valuable lesson to teach us. When they first got together to form the band, they realized just what a mixed bag they were. The lead singer Boy George was an Irish transvestite, the bass player Mikey Craig was a black Briton, Roy Hay on guitar and keyboards was Anglo-Saxon and drummer and percussionist Jon Moss was Jewish. (Taken from Wikipedia) Each one of them came from a completely different cultural background and so they decided to reflect this in their name - they were a club of different cultures making harmony together. Religious people might have

considered them out on the fringes of society, outrageous in their dress sense, sexuality and behaviour but if we have eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts to understand, we can learn a very valuable lesson from their example.

We need to ask ourselves which club of culture are we in, recognizing that our outlook and way of living is very much influenced by and reflects the culture of where we are living and how we have been brought up. Wouldn't it be nice if different cultures could join together in harmony instead of killing and persecuting each other? I might not be in a position of power to change things on a national scale or have any influence in an international debate but I can make a difference where I am. I can live in the spirit of Culture Club, accepting others, not as wrong but just being different, making harmony instead of discord with people who might have a different idea of God from me or have different ways of living and outlook on life. Let's make heavenly music – together

*From the blog of Mavis Andradez*

## **Christian Aid appeal for Libya.**

International development charity, Christian Aid, has launched an emergency appeal to help people impacted by the devastating flooding that struck Libya in recent days.

It has been reported that more than 5,000 people have died and at least 10,000 are missing after a catastrophic storm burst two dams and flooded the eastern port city of Derna.

Christian Aid is working with Dan Church Aid (DCA), their Act Alliance partner who have had an established presence in Libya since 2011. They are providing medical support to rescue teams in Derna and helping establish shelters to host homeless families in Benghazi.

DCA is also distributing basic items such as blankets and bedding, sanitation and hygiene items such as liquid soap, shampoo, and sanitary towels for people who have lost everything. When circumstances allow, DCA will also provide cash support.

Michael Mosselmans, Christian Aid's Head of Humanitarian Division, said:

"The scenes in Libya are heartbreaking. With critical infrastructure, including hospitals and homes, washed away by the flooding we are seeing people without the basics such as access to clean water and proper sanitation to prevent the risk of diseases. Christian Aid has therefore launched an appeal to strengthen the support we can give through our partner, Dan Church Aid, to people who have lost their homes, livelihoods and loved ones. Every prayer, every gift, every action brings hope to people hit by disaster. By joining us, you can help people in need rebuild their lives."

A donation of £25 will pay for a humanitarian response kit which includes both cash and non-food items such blankets and bedding, sanitation and hygiene items such as liquid soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, sanitary towels, baby wipes and nappies, and bottled water.

Christian Aid's ACT Alliance Partner, Dan Church Aid from Denmark, has had an established presence in Libya since 2011 and is now helping deliver an emergency response.

- DCA staff in the East of the country are assisting the Libyan Red Crescent in Derna itself, specifically with medical support to the search and rescue teams.
- DCA field officers are helping local authorities in Benghazi where shelters for the displaced are being set up in schools to host homeless families.
- DCA logistics and field staff are procuring basic items for these shelters such as blankets and bedding, sanitation and hygiene items such as liquid soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, sanitary towels, baby wipes and nappies, bottles of water, as well as much more. These will help families arriving at the shelters who have lost everything. DCA teams will assist with the distribution of these items to each shelter as part of our first phase response.
- Concurrent with this activity, DCA is busy buying more tools and equipment for the emergency search teams in Derna and other locations. There is a big shortage of basic

items such as large hand-held torches, head torches, hard hats/helmets, work gloves, ropes and pulley systems, and tools to remove debris.

- DCA expects delivering risk education to the affected communities will feature in a future response phase, as the flooding is known to have moved and spread sub-surface explosive items, including mines, from previous conflicts. When circumstances allow, DCA will also provide cash support.

Longer term, in the recovery phase, DCA will look to contribute rubble clearance and reconstruction efforts, using mechanical assets. With winter approaching, needs will become even more acute, and a feature of a future response phase will be winterisation i.e. the preparation of properties to withstand or survive the harsh impacts of winter weather.

*Christian Aid website*

**We have a collection plate at the back of the Church Sanctuary for donations to this appeal.**

### **Prayers of intercession**

God, who alone can forgive all our sins and heal all our infirmities, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

*Charlotte Elliot 1789 – 1871)*

God, who alone can forgive all our sins and heal all our infirmities, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We come before you now to offer up prayers for our troubled world. So many people and so many situations where forgiveness could bring so much healing and power – from individuals up to whole countries. We think about the stories in the news this week. We have been so conscious of human shortcomings. We pray for the resolution of unrest in prisons. For the continuous threat of terrorism. We pray for countries – such as the Ukraine – where war is no longer a headline, but where people live each day with uncertainty and terror. We pray for places where a solution cannot even be imagined, and the hurt just gets deeper. For people working together to promote peace and forgiveness. We pray for areas – such as Morocco and Libya – affected by such terrible natural disasters, that aid will reach where it is most needed.

God, who alone can forgive all our sins and heal all our infirmities, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church worldwide. Church, the place where we expect to find tolerance and forgiveness; but it's not exempt from trouble, both from within and without. We pray for the situation in Eritreya, where outside violence has come within the church walls and caused so much harm. We pray against any kind of violence in your holy places, verbal or physical. May the Church be a beacon of your love and forgiveness.

God, who alone can forgive all our sins and heal all our infirmities, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for our communities. For people who have had tough lives, perhaps have known only unkindness and even violence, and probably don't even understand what love and forgiveness are. We pray for people who have had things happen in their lives that they can't forgive. We pray for people whose lives are eaten up by guilt over things they have done.

God, who alone can forgive all our sins and heal all our infirmities, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, in body mind and spirit. For those who have lost a loved one. May they know your healing touch in the way they need it most. We pray for people who have hurt us; and for people we have hurt. Jacob's sons told Joseph lies, watching out for themselves. Joseph forgave and provided for them. Help us to forgive from the heart, with deeds, not just words. We pray that we would always put the needs of others before our own.

God, who alone can forgive all our sins and heal all our infirmities, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for our young people, our children and grandchildren, that they will learn the way of forgiveness, forgiving and being forgiven. We think about the man who didn't pay it forward when he was forgiven his debt. He didn't even think about it. Help us to be totally honest and open before you, realising forgiveness must be passed on to others. It can't be hoarded, stored up, hugged close. God, who alone can forgive all our sins and heal all our infirmities, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer. Amen**

## **Smile !**

- I got fired from the candle factory because I refused to work wick ends.
- Having a teenage daughter is like having a cat that only comes out to eat and hisses when you try to be nice to it.
- I just got a job making plastic Draculas. There are only 2 of us on the production line, so I have to make every second count.
- I watch so many crime programmes that when I turn off the TV, I wipe my fingerprints off the remote!
- Where did Noah keep the bees on the Ark? In the Ark hives.

- Not only does my mind wander, sometimes it walks off completely.
- The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose. Mosquitoes come close, though.
- I know why the month is May is called May. It may rain. It may snow. It may be 25C. Or it may be minus 4 C.
- The Egyptians claim there are no crocodiles in their country. I think they're in de Nile.
- This is important information. A friend had his 4<sup>th</sup> dose of the covid vaccine at the vaccination centre after which he began to have blurred vision on the way home. When he got home, he called the centre for advice, and to ask if he should go to see a doctor or be hospitalized. He was told NOT to go to a doctor or a hospital, but just return to the vaccination centre immediately and collect his glasses!
- Wanted: military historian for pub quiz team. Must have good general knowledge.
- People are making Apocalypse jokes like there's no tomorrow.
- Two silkworms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
- What happens if someone slaps you at high frequency? It Hertz !
- Tomorrow my son and I are getting new glasses. And after that? We'll see!
- What do you call a factory that makes okay products? A satisfactory.
- Today I started an argument with my wife while riding in a lift. I was wrong on so many levels.
- 1<sup>st</sup> sailor: "Sharks can grow up to 20 feet". 2<sup>nd</sup> sailor- "Sharks don't have feet".
- I had to put my pet centipede to sleep at the vets last week. It was merciful as it was on its last legs.
- Policeman: "you were going too fast". Me- "I was just trying to keep up with the traffic". Policeman- "There isn't any". Me- "I know. That's how far behind I am".
- Did you wish me luck in this years Great North Run? I managed 3 hours, 12 minutes and 9 seconds,; next year I will try to beat that. But I usually get bored and turn over to watch something else.
- If your eyes hurt when you're drinking coffee, try taking the spoon out of the cup!
- It blows my mind that NASA is able to receive data from 4.67 billion miles away, but I lose Wi-Fi signal in my kitchen.

***With thanks to LIVErNEWS, the Live patient Support Newsletter.***

## Points to Ponder

- Being told you're appreciated is one of the simplest and most uplifting things you can hear. *Peaceful Mind/Peaceful Life.*
- There is a purpose for everyone you meet. Some people come into your life to test you, some to teach you, some to use you, and some to bring out the very best in you. *Good Mental Health*
- People don't always say: I love you. sometimes it sounds like Be Safe; did you eat; Call me when you get home; I made you this.
- People who do not understand your silence will never understand your words. *Good Mental Health*
- Solve the problem or leave the problem; do not live with the problem. *Power of Thought*
- A smart person knows what to say. A wise person knows whether or not to say it.
- Every day is a new beginning. Take a deep breath, smile and start again. *Thoughts wander.*
- Hugs matter! One hug from the right person takes all your stress away.
- If you have the chance to make people happy, just do it. sometimes people are struggling silently. Maybe, your act of kindness can make their day.
- Sometimes you just have to rest. The world can wait. *Good Mental Health*
- Leaving your home and returning safely is such an underrated blessing. *Thoughts.*
- What you DO matters. What you ARE matters.
- Someone, somewhere is depending on you to do what God has called you to do.
- Its not when my voice is raised that you should worry. It's when I have nothing more to say.
- Be thankful for all the troubles you don't have.

## Harvest thanksgiving prayer

Lord, we praise you for your ongoing demonstration of your creative power and your sustaining authority over all that you have made; for the love with which you made all things and the care which you lavish upon us day by day.

We praise you, Lord of the harvest: for all the good things with which you fill our lives and the beauty with which you have filled the world; for the abundance of your gracious gifts and for the joy with which you flood our lives; for the world in which you have placed us and for the life you have given to us.

We praise you for your sovereignty over all your creation and for your majesty as it is displayed in your world and for your glory which is reflected in everything we see and hear.

Lord, we praise you and we worship you.

We give you thanks and we honour your name, for you have not only surrounded us with so many beautiful things, but also you have given us the ability to enjoy them all and the responsibility of caring for all that you have made.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, and for the harvest of good things with which he has filled our days; for the coming of the Holy Spirit and for the harvest of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control that are the signs of his presence within.

Lord, we have come to praise you for the harvest of life and love and the joy of knowing Christ as Saviour and Lord. May our lives continue to bring you a harvest of praise.

We ask this in Christ's name. Amen

*(from 500 More Prayers by David Clowes.)*

## A Sending Out prayer

Lord, this day and every day, may we touch many lives for you by our living, by allowing your love to flow in and through us, reaching all among whom we live, and work, and play. May we be generous with our time and resources, and may you be glorified in all we do.

In Jesus name we pray, **Amen.**

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWSLETTER.

September 2023

*From Kath Wade on behalf of Wallsend Churches Working Together*

We are in the Season of Creation – this year’s theme is Let Justice and Peace Flow.

So how can we as individuals work towards a state of justice for our environment – please read on but never compromise your health and well-being or spend money you do not have:

**Be a person of prayer.**

**Be informed**, then you will be equipped to have conversations with friends, family and those you wish to influence. There are some suggestions for reading below.

**Use your voice.** We are the first generation to know we’re destroying the planet and we could be the last that can do anything about it. Together, we are powerful.

**Be politically engaged.** Our leaders have made many promises but are not on track to deliver. We need to hold our government to account on its promises. Contact your MP and make your voice heard.

**Travel responsibly** to lower your personal environmental impact: walk, cycle, use public transport or car-share. When it comes to holidays, get creative and try to find alternatives to flying.

**Eat sustainably.** Food production is a major driver of wildlife extinction. What we eat contributes around a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions and is responsible for almost 60 per cent of global biodiversity loss.

**Reduce meat and dairy consumption** – you will reduce your weekly food bills at the same time.

**Reduce waste, especially food waste.** Enough food is produced each year to feed around 10 billion people – current global population is just over 8 billion – yet almost 30 per cent of the global population face dangerous levels of food insecurity with 193 million people, including children, experiencing acute hunger. Additionally, a third of the food produced is lost along the supply chain with households contributing most of the waste. And food waste which goes to landfill emits methane – one of the most potent greenhouse gases.

**Consume Less** and use your purchasing power wisely – supporting eco-friendly products will encourage companies to source and produce their products in a sustainable way while buying less will save you money too!

**Scatter wildflower seeds** on part of your garden to attract and help our insect populations. At the end of the season, scythe the growth if you can and then leave the foliage on the ground for a few days to give the seeds time to embed in the soil.

**Compost** – an excellent way to sustainably deal with vegetable and garden waste.

**Choose reusable over single use** for your beverages, straws, plates, utensils etc.

**Support the Wildlife Trust Plan to Restore Nature.**

<https://action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/130179/petition/1?locale=en-GB#:~:text=A%20rapid%20delivery%20plan%20to,water%2C%20clean%20air%20and%20nature.>

**Recycle properly** – if you put the wrong items in the recycle bin it can result in an entire load being rejected and ending up in landfill.

**Up-cycle** whenever you can – you can get creative and save money at the same time.

**Shop secondhand** for clothes, or trade with friends to save precious resources — it takes over 700 gallons of water to grow enough cotton to make just one plain T-shirt.

**Buy local** whenever possible.

**Use fewer chemicals** by buying natural household cleaners and all-natural beauty and hygiene items.

**Use less water** – be mindful each time you turn on a tap or the shower, start the washing machine or dishwasher.

**Conserve electricity** – think about your level of home insulation, turning things off when not in use, choosing energy-efficient appliances when possible.

**Resources and further reading:**

<https://www.un.org/en/actnow/ten-actions>

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/thingsyoucando>

<https://www.greenmountainenergy.com/why-renewable-energy/protect-the-environment>

<https://livingplanet.panda.org/en-GB/>

And for younger people:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zshp34j/articles/zrsbn9q>

## Sunday Rotas

Sunday	Door Steward	Flower Rota	Flowers Donated To
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Maureen Mills	Bill & Shirley Filmer	During the last month the communion table flowers have brought our prayers to – Mrs Aldrige, Margaret Storey. Gail Morgan. Peggy McCullough.
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Derek Ormston	Margaret Storey	
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Howard Hedley	Jean Trewick	
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sylvia Aston	Joan Keltie	
October 29 <sup>th</sup>	Doreen Kirtley	Pamela and Allan Fender	
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Lorna Morgan	Jean Trewick	

Sunday	Preachers	Church Steward
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr Keith Jones	Mark Burdon
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Gavin Hume and Deacon Gail Morgan. <b>Harvest Festival.</b>	Margaret Storey
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Derek Aldrige.	Pamela Fender
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Deacon Gail Morgan.	Susan Bewley
October 29 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Margaret Storey	Alan Barker
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Michael Ball	Mark Burdon

## Harvest Festival and Harvest Lunch

Any excess money from our Harvest Lunch on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 12.30** will be sent to the Through The Roof charity.

Our Harvest Festival on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 10.45** needs your donations of both fresh and tinned food. This food will go to Walking With after the festival. The offering money from the Harvest Festival will go to All We Can.

## Brunch Prayers

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 10.30 to 12 noon.**

This is a Circuit Event open to everyone. This first one is at Trinity, but future events will happen at other circuit churches.

Some form of food – we're told this first one will be bacon butties, followed by varied forms of fellowship and worship.