



Church



The magazine of **A**llen Memorial
and **T**rinity Methodist Churches



Pentecost

May 2018

Ministers Muse

We are approaching now one of my favourite times of the year. As I write the blue bells, daffodils and tulips are telling of God's glory in vibrant colour. The weather is warming up, and the long, cold, dark days of winter are rapidly fading from my memory.

We are also approaching Pentecost, perhaps my most favourite part of the Christian year. I rejoiced at Christmas in the birth of Emmanuel, was sad on Good Friday and sang with gusto, on Easter day, the wonderful hymns of the resurrection. But it is at Pentecost that my spirit soars as I hear once again the message of the coming of the Holy Spirit just as Jesus had promised. This is not a once for all, as Jesus death and resurrection were, but one which is constantly repeated as people pray for God's guidance in their lives.

Pentecost means "The Fiftieth," and another name for Pentecost was "The Feast of Weeks." It was so called because it fell on the fiftieth day, a week of weeks, after the Passover.

Luke, in the book of the Acts of the Apostles, tells us that:-

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they (the disciples) were all together in one place. and suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability."

What happened at Pentecost we really do not know except that the disciples had an experience of the power of the Spirit flooding their beings such as they never had before. We must remember that for this part of Acts Luke was not an eye-witness. He tells the story as if the disciples suddenly acquired the gift of speaking in tongues.

Luke says:-

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy".

What happened was that for the first time in their lives this motley mob was hearing the word of God in a way that struck straight home to their hearts and that they could understand. The Power of the Spirit was such that it had given these simple disciples a message that could reach every heart.

The power of the Spirit gives the same message today, a message that God loves all that he has made, and that includes all of us. He wants us to know that his presence is with all of us, offering his love and care, sharing our pain and distress and celebrating with us in our joys and successes.

We need to be aware of the needs of those around us so that we, with the help of God's Spirit, may be a comfort and help to them, but we must also be aware of our own needs, and learn to accept the help offered to us in God's name.

May you feel blessed by the power of God's Spirit as we share God's love and care with those we meet.

Yours in Christ, your friend and minister, *Janet*

A Prayer for Pentecost

Lord, you are so great that the whole of the universe cannot contain your glory, and yet you live in the lives of those who put their trust in Jesus.

Lord, you deserve the praises of everyone who has ever lived, everyone who is living and everyone still to be born, and yet you welcome our worship.

Your glory cannot be limited to one time and place, but by the Holy Spirit you help us to sing your praise and to share your love.

We thank you for Jesus, who promised that the Holy Spirit would come to empower our lives and to change us completely.

We thank you that the Holy Spirit is your free gift to all who put their trust in Jesus.

We thank you that the Holy Spirit fills us with joy and with the strength to praise and to serve you.

We thank you for the Holy Spirit, who helps us to love those we find it hard even to like and to help those who will never say thank you.

We praise you that the Holy Spirit makes Jesus real for us and brings us God's word in the Bible.

We thank you for the way in which the Holy Spirit fills us with new hope, great joy, and real life.

Forgive us when we still do not trust you in the way we should, and that we are afraid to trust you with the whole of our lives.

We ask your forgiveness for the way we hurt you and each other, and the way we hurt ourselves.

We ask our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen

From 500 Prayers for All Occasions by David Clowes.

Deacons Muse

Dear Friends

I'm looking out of my window and there are 6 goldfinches on the bird feeders. What a wonderful sight. But, this has not always been so. I have faithfully had bird food out since the first autumn I was here and 2 ½ years on I am seeing some results. Along the way I have changed the position of the bird feeder, I have changed the bird food in order to try and entice them into the garden and at last my labours have been rewarded.

From Mark 4 ...

A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸ Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing...

The farmer sowed a lot of seed and at each change of ground something different happened and it wasn't until the seed was sown in just the right conditions that it flourished.

In both these stories there were many factors that came together to produce the rewards that resulted.

We are God's messengers with an amazing good news story to tell everyone. We know we are loved by God because someone helped us to learn about who God is? But there are many who do not yet know that Jesus loves them. Are we prepared to show others God's love so that they too may know that Jesus loves them?

This month in our churches we will have opportunities to welcome people who may never have been in a church. We have a good news story to tell so let's shout it out.

Loving God, enable us by your spirit to be bold enough to share our story through our words and actions. Will you bless us with the words to say and prompt us into actions of extravagant love towards those we meet. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Grace and peace,

Deacon Gail

Trinity Shoe Box Appeal 2018

Each month we are asking for donations of items to go in our Shoe Boxes.

This month we are asking for Boys hats/scarfs/gloves/caps (all ages), Small Dolls (no knitted toys please), Dominoes, Yo-Yos, Small Colouring Books, Small packets of Paper Hankies.

Our continued thanks to everyone who contributes to this very worthy cause.

Central African Republic- hope in the midst of chaos.

By Ken Dachi, Bible Society's programme adviser for Africa.

Central African Republic (CAR), right in the middle of Africa, is a dangerous place. The war between Seleka and Anti-Balaka rebel groups has been running since 2012, but much of the conflict is political manoeuvring to gain control of highly lucrative diamond, gold and oil mines. The capital, Bangui, is controlled by the UN- but beyond this, the country is lawless. Violence, looting and kidnappings are widespread. Approximately 90% of people live in extreme poverty. The Foreign Office advises not to travel to CAR at all. But our staff are working there, so I was compelled to go and see for myself.

This is a difficult country to be in. The airport has no electricity so everything is done manually. The moment you exit the airport, it's total chaos...a marketplace of displaced people who sought refuge in the airport some years ago and stayed, living and trading on the site ever since.

Our ten colleagues are based at two sites. The first "office", on the edge of Bangui, is a former internet café. Eight staff share three desks in a boiling hot room. We tried to hold a board meeting, but the rain hammering on the tin roof was so loud that we couldn't hear each other's voices. We had to wait two hours for the storm to pass then start the meeting again.

The other colleagues have a small office in Bangui Evangelical School of Theology. They have barely any basic tools like computers and printers. Electricity is only available for 3 hours a day. Outside that, everyone relies on generators. You can hear the noise of generators all over the city.

I was taken to the Bible "warehouse"- an old freight container. In 2015 this container was looted by rebels and Scripture material was set ablaze. I saw the left overs.

The whole set up was chaotic and ramshackle, and in this tense environment you have no idea if you will even make it to work the next day. When you fear for your life, you don't tidy your office or get organised. There's no order or records, or proper resources. The war affects everything.

But, here is the important thing to know: Bible mission doesn't depend on money, or resources, or office space. God's work is happening right now, in this volatile nation. I managed to get out of the city to meet a group of women involved in Bible-based literacy and trauma healing. The women have overcome all obstacles- war, insecurity, tension- to start a group teaching people to read and write using the Bible as the main text. Their energy and passion to understand the Bible was moving. I realised that when people decide they want to read God's word, they will find a way. To study the Bible is everything. Scripture is their bedrock. It was the perfect picture of hope.

I saw a small kiosk, from which our staff sell Bibles. In a country which is totally broken, people still use their scarce resources to buy Bibles.

There are projects Bible Society would like to support in CAR. We plan to train up 20 women as literacy class leaders and trauma healing counsellors, to run Bible- based sessions in their communities. We'd like to install three new kiosks for Bible sales around Bangui, and build a new distribution centre. I also hope we can buy three motor bikes to deliver Bibles around the region. For our colleagues I'd like to provide proper support- computers, a printer, internet access and a refurbished office space. These people have not had their salary reviewed for 11 years, but have still worked faithfully to share God's word as best they can. This is one of the toughest places in Africa. Please pray for our work here. We need your help.

From Word in Action- the newsletter of the Bible Society; Spring 2018.

Amity Printing Press in China

By Hazel Southam

I'm fixated by a screen in the lobby at the Amity Printing Foundation in Nanjing, eastern China. It shows the number of Bibles the vast printing press has produced. And it is constantly adding more.

When I arrive, the number stands at 154,773,000 Bibles. When I leave a few hours later, it's up to 154,805,139. The Bibles are sent to 72 countries. They also go to more than 70 distribution points across China and through them to some 60,000 churches. It's impossible to keep up with the demand. The Church in China is burgeoning. One million people are believed to come to faith every year. Half a million are baptised each year. In churches across China, local people buy Bibles to give to non-Christian friends. Giving gifts is hugely important in Chinese culture, so this is an acceptable means of outreach.

In the south of China, in Luquan, the result of Amity's work is clear. It has just printed 10,000 copies of the Bible in the black Yi language, a local dialect spoken by millions. "My greatest hope has been fulfilled" says local pastor Zhang Wenfu, "It means that when we worship, we can read the Yi Bible to the congregation".

During the Cultural Revolution, "we dug out a space in the wall behind the bricks and hid the Bible" says Wenfu. "so you can imagine that now, to be able to read it anytime and to preach the gospel and give sermons to the congregation is wonderful".

More Bibles are being printed. Wenfu says, "It's God's grace to us. It's been a great year." Amity provides that grace to millions more each year.

Christian Aid in Syria

Christian Aid's crisis response involves working with partners inside Syria and on the associated refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe. Inside Syria there are 13.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and nearly 3 million people are trapped in besieged and hard to reach areas. People in these areas have little or no way to earn a living and the most basic food items, such as bread and rice, are very difficult to find.

Our response

In northern Syria, our partner has provided business training and small business grants in the Idlib Governorate to women and young people to support income generating enterprises.

In the Eastern Ghouta area of rural Damascus, our local partner operates a food kitchen that cooks basic nutritious meals for vulnerable families in the area, most of whom have been displaced multiple times.

Due to the merciless shelling of the area since late 2017, the kitchen has only been able to work on an occasional basis due to the dangers inherent in living in an area under near-constant aerial bombardment.

Our aims

To ensure the protection of all civilians, including humanitarian workers and civil society organisations inside Syria.

To ensure access to humanitarian support – including food, shelter, education, and medical support.

To ensure a just peace is negotiated.

To ensure the safe and voluntary return to homes of those displaced.

To ensure that all parties involved in the conflict are held accountable to international laws and standards.

In Syria we work on...

Humanitarian response

With increasing insecurity, violence and displacement, we are continuing to provide [humanitarian](#) assistance and food to the most vulnerable populations inside Syria.

We work in besieged areas, where access to food is often severely limited. Our partner provides hot meals daily for vulnerable families.

Education

Throughout the next three years, Christian Aid will work with its partner in several locations in Syria to implement an education and livelihoods project.

The project will provide young Syrians with tools and techniques with which they can start to move past the trauma and loss they have experienced, and to enable them to become active members of their societies.

Livelihoods

Christian Aid's partner in northern Syria has trained women and young people in small business management, allowing them to subsequently write business proposals, apply and compete for small business grants.

Our aim is to reduce economic vulnerability and enable Syrians to secure a sustainable way to earn a living.

We support conflict affected vulnerable communities, many of whom have been displaced multiple times, to access livelihoods through training and in kind grants (for example the free use of facilities). We place a particular focus on women and youth.

Where we work and who we work with

We support partners in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. Our team is comprised of individuals with significant programmatic, humanitarian, advocacy and policy expertise.

Key achievements

Northern Syria

Through our partner in northern Syria, we have helped to reduce the vulnerability of 60 women and young people through a rigorous six-month programme, which provided entrepreneurship training.

Following the training, 30 young people and women received a small business start-up grant to enhance their financial autonomy, contribute positively to their communities and to secure sustainable work to provide for themselves and their families.

Eastern Ghouta

Our partner in eastern Ghouta has been working in some of the toughest conditions in the conflict to provide hot meals to families in desperate need.

Despite disruptions to this project, in 2017 we were able to provide hot meals to 9,000 people.

Refugee families from Syria receive vouchers that they can spend in local supermarkets as part of a monthly distribution run by REACH, supported by Christian Aid.

Spring Fair

Saturday 12th May at 2 p.m.
at Allen Memorial.

Bric a Brac, Cake Stall, Tombola
and more
Teas and Coffee.

Toddlers

Mums and Toddlers at Allen Memorial
Wednesdays 9.30 to 11 a.m.

Trinity Toddlers
Thursdays 10 to 11.30 a.m.

Nicaragua News April 2018

Hello everyone!

Well here I am now back in Bluefields for nearly 6 weeks and it seems as though I've hardly been away from the place! It's so easy to adapt to Nicaraguan style living. I have no problem with the 100 degrees of heat that we are enjoying at the moment.

My journey out was very good, but after being on 4 planes and with little sleep, it was very tiring. Disappointing too, as when I arrived in the capital Managua, instead of 3 large suitcases, I only had two. (Sorry for repeating myself for those of you who already know part of the story!) I reported the loss and was given a paper & told to call the following day as it would probably be on the next flight. I did so, to be told it had been left in Amsterdam, along with 7 others, but it would be sent on. After 2 weeks, one did arrive, but not mine, it was full of men's clothes, so that was sent back. After 5 weeks, I have been sent a form to fill in & been told that the first search failed, so now they will do a second one - in Panama. If that fails, then it has to be a compensation claim. I'm gutted as this case was absolutely packed to my allowance of 23 kgs. with gifts for the children from their sponsors, with school supplies, baby items for the maternity home, clothes for all ages, sweets, balloons, medication & so the list goes on. My hope is dwindling now of seeing it again, but at least I have learnt a lesson for the future - of making a list of all the contents & taking a photo of each case!

Pastor Ed & Ligia's house has been very busy since I arrived with a team of 21 people from Canada the first week and then for Easter we had a team of 30 from the USA, mainly teenagers, as well as another 2 adults. Everyone had their own bed! This week we have had only five visitors staying. Next week, we will be very quiet with only the 3 of us.

In this short time, I've been to 2 funerals here and lost 2 dear friends at home, but I know being away 8 months of the year, this is usually going to happen.

You will see the two photos of Marvin & Manuel, both SIFT students. Last week Manuel was scalded by a pot of boiling

water. He was taken to hospital, but not detained. He

was given antibiotics but has come out in a rash. His grandmother brought him to me to explain why he would be missing from school, but also to see if I could buy something to help the wound. We took him to the pharmacy and I was advised to buy an antibiotic spray, so as not to touch the wound and some pain killers. Thankfully yesterday he was much improved.

Marvin has been brought up with his grandmother Karen most of his nine years and he adored her. She was a very sick diabetic and had to have a leg amputated. I think she then developed cancer. About January time, I read on face book that Karen had died. Now that I'm back in Bluefields, I have found out the sad story. At the time, there was only Marvin



& Karen in the house and she was in so much pain, she said she couldn't go on any longer, so she poured some flammable solution over herself and struck a match. She died later in hospital. A nine-year-old child should never have to witness something like that. I have spoken with the director of the school, who has been a great support to Marvin and she says he is starting to come good.

Some of you will remember the tale I told you last year of helping a family who were living in a dilapidated house in the graveyard. Well I have been told that they are no longer there, that they are living out of Bluefields. I haven't managed to find out what happened and whether the owner put them out. I know some of you wanted to help support this family, so I will keep checking as to whether they return.

I'm sorry this mail seems to be a bit gloomy, but I can't let these things dampen my spirits. Life is just amazing if we grasp hold of it.

I'm in the process of having another 4-tier bench made for the football / basketball pitch that I had made last year. It is being used so much, not just by the children in the orphanage, but the community also, so it warrants the spectators having another bench to sit on.

Also, the American owner of the drilling machine is going to San Pancho very soon, to the clinic I visited last year, to check on the exact spot that the well will be drilled. It will take the team about 4 days, so hopefully by the end of April, this community will be blessed with a well, over 100' deep.

And it is on that happy note, I say goodbye for now.

God bless

Love Margaret

Prayer Corner

Wednesday 23rd May, 6 to 7 p.m. at
Allen Memorial Church.

All Welcome for a time of Quite Prayer.

We are Witnesses

To the love of God our maker

We are witnesses

To the peace that Jesus gives us

We are witnesses

To the holy spirit in our lives

Surprised, challenged, healed and
nourished,

We go out in justice and joy.

Messy Church

Thursday 3rd May 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
at Allen Memorial.

Royal Wedding / Wedding at Cana
Worship, Games, Crafts and Food.

We always need helpers so if you can spare
a couple of hours we would love to see you.

Things Are Different

Sitting behind me on the bus the other day were two men having a discussion about how they gave up the habit of smoking. One said that he had tried various types - pipe, rolling his own and the usual cigarette. He had smoked since being a very young teenager but just decided one day that he wasn't going to smoke any more - and he hasn't. The other gentleman had also smoked for many years but gave up because of health reasons. The conversation went on to discuss their surprise that now neither of them liked being around people who were smoking. They could even smell on their clothes if they had just smoked a cigarette. The mere thought of smoking now just churned them up. Their sense of smell and taste had improved beyond expectation and generally they felt better in their health with more energy and less coughs and wheezing. Strange how the environment they thrived in had now become something they avoided whenever possible. Their ideas about smoking had changed their outlook almost to the complete opposite way of thinking.



NO SMOKING



Just the other day I received an email from a friend explaining just how people should treat a dog for the blind that is in working mode. Normally if a friend is out with his or her dog and we meet up, the immediate reaction is to greet the friend, sometimes with a hug or handshake, and also to make a fuss of the dog. But in the case of a dog accompanying a blind person, you should never get hold of the person's hand or arm in case the dog reacts in defence of his owner. A dog for the blind also has special times when he is given fuss

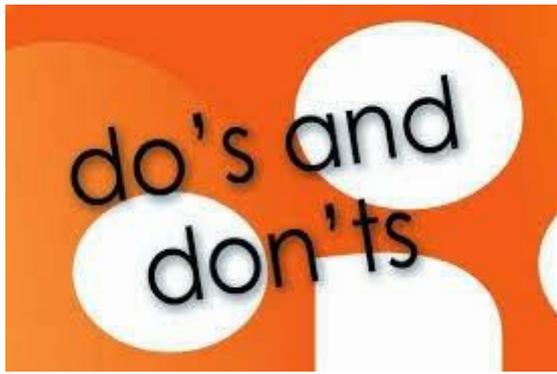
and attention and that is not when he is working. Then his full attention is on the directions of his owner. Different situations need different responses.

Looking back over my life, although I have never smoked, I can agree with the two men who see things differently now. How I have changed my thinking on many issues over the years! Life experiences have taught me many lessons to the point that some things I see in a different way from how I used to see them. I like to think that this has made me a better person, more tolerant and accepting. There is the old saying about not criticizing someone unless we have walked in the other person's shoes. Although the two gentlemen preferred now not to smoke, they fully understood those who still do and how difficult some find it to relinquish the habit. They have been there and understand but now see things differently.

They say that there are moments that open up your life like a walnut cracked, that change your point of view so that you never look at things the same way again.

meetville.com

Jodi Picoult



Again, as with the working dog, there are situations when what works with one doesn't work with another. In life there is no one size fits all solution. Situations are different, and people are different. We need not only to empathize with others but see them as unique and different. Many religious people seem to think that obeying the rules, the 'do's and don'ts' is how you become affiliated to God. There is no set formula, no specially worded prayer that saves. Each must come to God as we are, and he deals with us as we need. That is different for

everyone. Some might find a church building inspiring where they want to worship while for others the silence and beauty of a walk in the country is where they meet and talk with God. There was a time when I considered that part of being a Christian is going to a place of worship but now I know that anywhere can be a place of worship and that's how I now prefer to live. What works for one does not necessarily work for someone else.

Different people, different situations, different ways of thinking but God is one and loves all equally and is happy to meet with us anywhere, anytime and in any circumstance in which we find ourselves.

From the blog of Mavis Andradez.

Smile!

- Paddy in Wetherspoons: "How much is your lager?" Barman: "£2 a pint and £7 a pitcher". Paddy: "I'll just have a pint, forget the photo"
- Saturday night and I'm about to hit the gym!!! Sorry, typo- I meant gin.
- Always trust a glue salesman. They always stick to their word.
- I always carry a picture of my wife in my wallet. It reminds me why there's no money in there.
- Today I have invented a new game - Quiet tennis. It's pretty much the same as normal tennis but without the racket.
- That awkward moment when you tell a chemistry joke and you get no reaction.
- I've just cleaned my Hoover. Does that make me a vacuum cleaner?
- There's a pretty young lady grouting in the bathroom! Singing, "It's a heartache, nothin' but a fools game" I think she's a Bonnie Tiler.
- My mate had an operation to change him into a duck. He's been left with a massive bill.
- Marriage is a relationship where one person is always right and the other is the husband.

With thanks to LIVErNEWS, the Liver Patient Support newsletter

Change the story

Share a story of welcome for refugees

Today, more than 65 million people are displaced globally. Forced from their homes by violence, fear or desperation, each is deserving of safety, freedom and hope.

The stories we hear and the stories we tell are important. They help us shape our thoughts, form our opinions and set the agenda.

So when refugees are portrayed negatively in the media, their inherent dignity is challenged. But every one of us has a voice in this story, and in times of political uncertainty at home our message of shared humanity is more important than ever.

Changing the story

We want to tell a story that upholds those escaping injustice and war, and that celebrates those who offer a welcome.

We believe we are all created equal with the image of God within us. We stand for a UK that refuses to turn a blind eye to the suffering of people seeking sanctuary.

While many communities and churches are united in welcoming those seeking refuge, the response of the UK Government has not matched the scale of the crisis.

Through sharing stories of hospitality, and the positive contributions that refugees make in our communities, we demonstrate our commitment to a United Kingdom that refuses to turn a blind eye to suffering and affirms that everyone deserves a safe place to call home.

Behind the label

Asylum seekers and refugees here in the UK have been telling us their stories. Join us in celebrating these honest and brave accounts, which reveal the people and the struggle behind the label. Witness the important contributions that they are making to their communities. Together, we can #changethestory.

Justin

I would like people to know that I am a human being. Maybe the difference is my colour, and my very soft voice, and my big structure, but I breathe the same air you breathe.

I come from Ivory Coast. I was a teacher back home. I got involved in the student union and activities – that is how everything changed. I had to leave.

You lose so much and people don't see it. If something happens to your relatives at home, you can't go back. And people think that you have no education, no background.

God is helping me. Without him, I would not be able to do it.

Amran

I came with nothing, I couldn't even bring photos of my children.

I literally ran from Somalia. There's fighting everywhere. I don't know where my husband and my mother are, I haven't heard any news of them for two and a half years.

Belfast is a good place, it is safe. It was very hard applying for asylum, but I was granted refugee status. Now I learn English, I shop, and I cook. I would like to be a nurse.

I was so happy when my children came here. I live in a hostel, but I still have stress about finding a home for my family.

At times I feel negative, but more positive than negative.

Naomi

I still have a life I believe, if I am able to work.

I'm from Kenya. I had to flee for my life. I studied business administration, but here I am volunteering at NICRAS.*

I'm quite ashamed to associate myself as an asylum seeker. In most places they see that you are less of a human. But the longer I am here, the more I see that people are welcoming.

I am funny... I am kind... I am hardworking. I am not alone regardless of what I have been going through. God will not abandon me.

* NICRAS is the Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers. As volunteers, Justin, Naomi and a small team provide advice, food parcels, and outreach education to schools, churches and the community on asylum and refugee issues. Justin became chair of NICRAS in 2010. He has won three prestigious awards for his work supporting others.

From Christian Aid's website

Musical Misquotes

These hymns and carols have all been misheard and misquoted by children.

Can you work out the original words?

- I've got the joy, joy, joy down in my heart Tuesday!
- I got the pizza passes understanding....
- All things bright and beautiful, all teachers great and small.
- Dance, dance wherever you may be. I am the Lord of the dancing fleas.
I'll eat you all wherever you may be. I'll eat you all in the dance said he.
- Blessed insurance, Jesus is mine.
(the little boy's dad worked for an insurance company)
- Lord, I lift your name on high....You came from heaven to earth, to show the way,
from the earth to the cross, my dead toupee.
- In Morecambe, invisible, God only wise.
- Hey! I knew ya. Hey ! I knew ya, Give thanks to the risen Lord.
(a 2 year olds rendition of Hallelujah, Hallelujah)
- Praise my soul the King of Heaven....Praise the ever nasty King.
(a 3 year old thought the last line was about Herod.)
- Get dressed you married gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
- Crazy, crazy, all you little children...
- Hark, the hairy angels sing, glory to the newborn thing.....
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners wreck a child.....
With the jelly toast proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

From Bloopers and Blessings, published by the Leprosy Mission.

Prayers for the World

Blessed are you, Lord our God.
How sweet are your words to the taste,
sweeter than honey to the mouth.
How precious are your commands for our life,
more than the finest gold in our hands.
How marvellous is your will for the world,
unending is your love for the nations.
Our voices shall sing of your promises
and our lips declare your praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever Amen
From Prayers for the World, churchofengland.org

A Prayer of the church

Fools say in their heart, "There is no God". They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God. They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one. Psalm 14, v 1-3 NRSV

It is all too easy for Christians in this country today to feel like an endangered species, out of step with the culture of the surrounding society. However, we are not the only ones feeling isolated. Our society has more than its fair share of victims- the excluded, the persecuted, and the left-behind. Our task as Christians is often simply to let these people know they are not alone. Pray to God that we should live out the divine reality of compassion and hope.

Prayers for Allen Memorial and Trinity

Lord, we commit ourselves to show kindness to others;
To demonstrate the kindness we have received;
To act kindly even to those who offend us,
And in the face of bitterness, carelessness, and lack of concern to offer the undeserved love of God. We cannot do this in our own strength, so we commit ourselves to rely on the grace of Christ. Amen

From 500 more prayers for all occasions by David Clowes.

May the God who told us to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth give you boldness and courage to share the Good News of his redeeming love. May he use you for the furtherance of his kingdom at home, at work, and in our community. May his blessing be upon you today and always. Amen.

Bible a Month: Turkey

“That’s how it is with my words. They don’t return to me without doing everything I send them to do” Isaiah 55, v11. (CEV)

Turkey is a country in Western Asia, with a small area in South East Europe. It has borders with the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, and inland, with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, and Syria. It covers an area of 783.500 sq kms, which is approx. three times bigger than the UK. It has a population of 80.8 million, approx. 25% more than the UK. The literacy rate- people who can read and write- is 95%. Languages include Turkish, Kurdish, plus other minority languages.

One of the biggest challenges facing Bible work in Turkey is that Christianity is a minority religion. Less than 0.1 % of the population are Christians in this overwhelmingly Muslim country.

Bible Society’s team in Istanbul has just eight members of staff and their vision is not only to reach out to Christians but the whole Turkish population of over 80 million. It seems an impossible task, but thanks to donations to the Bible Society, it is possible to support them in their mission. The Bible book shop, based on a busy street in Istanbul, provides a unique opportunity. A huge open Bible is displayed in the window. About 50 people come in the shop every day and thousands more pass by. People read the Bible from the street. Sometimes they come back months later wanting to talk and staff say they have had many encouraging conversations. Peoples’ lives are being transformed as they encounter God’s word.

Prayer Pointers

- Pray for peace and stability in Turkey. Pray that Christians will know God’s protection over them as they face threats and protests.
- Please pray for people reading the Bible from the street. May the Holy Spirit open their hearts to the message.
- Give thanks that the shop now has two members of staff who are able to talk to the many customers. Pray for more volunteers who are committed Christians to come and help.
- Praise God for the amazing testimonies coming out of one small shop in Istanbul. May our team in Turkey be encouraged as they see that with God all things are possible.

*Thank you for your support which is bringing the Bible to life at home and around the world.
Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7DG.*

Points to Ponder

- It's nice to have someone who simply asks, "How was your day?"
- Friendship is the sweetest form of love. So when I say I'll be your friend till the end, it's as good as saying I'll keep you in my heart until its very last beat.
- Always end the day with a positive thought. No matter how hard things were, tomorrow's a fresh opportunity to make it better
- Happiness is being around people who may not be your real family, but who love and support you anyway.
- Our children can be our greatest teachers if we are humble enough to receive their lessons.
- Always leave people better than you found them. Hug the hurt, kiss the broken, befriend the lost, love the lonely.
- To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to care enough and be there.
- Each day is a gift...even if it isn't exactly what we hoped for.
- Look forward with hope, not backwards with regret.
- Never forget who helped you out while everyone else was making excuses.
- Let us feed the hungry, house the homeless, stop the killing and provide medicine for the sick. When we have accomplished that, we can sit around and argue about religion.
- Complaining about a silent God while your Bible is closed is like complaining about not getting texts when your phone is turned off.
- In a world so torn apart by rivalry, anger and hatred, we have the privileged vocation to be living signs of a love that can bridge all divisions and heal all wounds. *Henri Nouwen.*
- The time is always right to do what is right.
- Life is all about balance. You don't always have to be getting stuff done. Sometimes it's perfectly okay and absolutely necessary, to shut down, kick back and do nothing .

Lori Deshene

N.B. Most of the above are feely available on the Internet and cannot be attributed to a particular author.



Preachers and Services

Allen Memorial

Trinity

May 6 th	10.45 a.m. 6 p.m.	Canon Peter Dodd Rev Alison Wilkinson	10.45 a.m.	Deacon Gail Morgan
13 th	10.45 a.m. 6 p.m.	Mrs Ann Matthews Mrs Pat Gurr	10.45 a.m.	Rev Janet Jackson Gift Service.
20 th	10.45 a.m. 6 p.m.	Deacon Gail Morgan Rev Janet Jackson Communion Service.	10.45 a.m.	Mr Keith Jones
27 th	10.45 a.m.	Rev Janet Jackson Communion Service.	10.45 a.m.	Rev Paul Cleever-Thorpe Communion Service.
June 3 rd	10.45 a.m.	Pastor Tom Leighton. Rev Alison Wilkinson	10.45 a.m.	Mrs Chris Carroll

Allen Memorial Church Stewards

May	
6 th	Alan Emery
13 th	Anne Gallagher
20 th	Martin Edworthy
27 th	Alan Emery

Trinity

	Audio Visual Operators	Church Steward
May 6 th	Alan Barker	Mark Burdon
13 th	Susan / Lynda	Bill Filmer
20 th	Mark Burdon	Alan Barker
27 th	Alan Barker	Susan Bewley

Trinity Door Stewards Rota

(All 10-45 a.m. unless otherwise noted)

May	
6 th	Mr L Lawson
13 th	Mrs J Scott.
20 th	Mrs S Aston.
27 th	Mrs S Filmer.
June	
3 rd	Mrs L Morgan.

Trinity Saturday Coffee Morning Rota

May

5th Susan Bewley &
Lynda McQuillan

12th Maureen Mills &
Lorna Morgan

19th Sylvia Aston &
Janis Duff

26th Mick & Zoe Watson

June

2nd Susan Bewley &
Lynda McQuillan

Trinity Flower Rota

Sunday 6th May

No Donor at time of printing

Sunday 13th May

No Donor at time of printing

Sunday 20th May

Mick & Zoe Watson

Sunday 27th May

No Donor at time of printing

Sunday 3rd June

Alan & Dorothy Barker

During the last month our Communion Table Flowers have brought their beauty and our thoughts and prayers to Margaret McCullough, Sylvia Aston, Gail Morgan and Mick & Zoe Watson.

Planting Your Spring Garden

For The Garden of Your Daily Living

Plant Three Rows of peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce Be Faithful
2. Lettuce Be Kind
3. Lettuce Be Patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is Complete Without Turnips

1. Turnip For Meetings
2. Turnip For Service
3. Turnip To Help One Another

To Conclude Our Garden. We Must Have Thyme

1. Thyme For Each Other
2. Thyme For Family
3. Thyme For Friends

Water Freely With Patience And Cultivate With Love. There Is Much Fruit In Your Garden Because You Reap What You Sow. Pass It On!!!

Articles By ?

All articles for the June edition of AT Church must be handed in by Sunday 20th May