

# **Trinity News**



**Harvest Festival Service  
on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

**October 2017**

## Ministers Muse

Dear friends,

As I write this the weather has taken a turn and the feel of Autumn is in the air. The holidays are a distant memory and like others I hit the floor running on September the first and I haven't stopped yet.

October has been the time when we traditionally celebrate Harvest and for many churches, especially those in more rural settings, it is one of the highlights of the year, yet for some in the more urban areas, something less relevant.

A few years ago, I seemed to have cornered the market in taking Harvest Festival services in my churches in Banbury, mostly in rural areas. I led one Harvest service at one of my furthest chapels, in Upper Boddington, a tiny chapel surrounded by idyllic fields and I made the comment that it was good to be celebrating Harvest amongst a rural farming community. After the service one of the farmers, a lady who spoke her mind whatever the consequences, came to me and said that really they were celebrating Harvest about 6 months too late, as their harvest was the new-born lambs.

Today when much of our food comes from all around the world and some was harvested months earlier, the direct link with its production has been broken. It's so easy for us to take it for granted; even if there has been a crop failure we can find an alternative supplier. So it is good that at least once in the year our focus can be on the richness of God's provision and give thanks.

Perhaps in the coming weeks we should be mindful of God's bountiful provision, remembering those in other countries who have less than they need. There are many ways in which we can support those who do not have the abundance that we are fortunate to enjoy. See if you can find a way to thank God by helping someone else.

Your friend and minister, *Janet*.

### **A Seniors Perspective Of Facebook.**

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.

Therefore, every day I walk down the street and I tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day.

I also listen to their conversations, give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have four people following me:

two police officers, a private investigator, and a psychiatrist.

## Deacons Muse

Dear Friends

**‘Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.’ Romans 15: 7**

As a circuit we have been asked to consider what it means for each church to practice ‘Radical Hospitality.’ This is one of the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations written by Robert Schnasse.

A story of radical hospitality for me is found in Luke 7: 36 – 50 a Pharisee (Simon) asked Jesus to eat with him. The story unfolds that a woman from the city, who was a sinner, had heard where Jesus was going to be eating. She went into the Pharisees house with an alabaster jar of ointment and began weeping at Jesus’ feet whilst at the same time anointing his feet with the ointment. There was an outcry, but Jesus reminded Simon that when he was welcomed into his home he had not given him any water to bathe his feet but that the woman had given the most expensive thing she could have and though her sins were many she was forgiven.

I have been on the receiving end of being given radical hospitality as I’m sure many of you have. Being invited to share a meal in the homes of refugees is something I will never forget. Out of the little they had there was such a strong desire to offer hospitality.

Within this church I have witnessed many of you practising radical hospitality. That desire within us that is naturally inviting and welcoming to those whom we know and those who are complete strangers. Hospitality is a mark of our own Christian discipleship that comes out of the love we have found in knowing God for ourselves.

In the Parable of the Sower, which we were reflecting on last Sunday, the farmer sowed the seed lavishly over the field. God’s love is for everyone. It’s not exclusive to a few.

Today, I believe more than ever we need to continue to show radical hospitality to others. God calls us, God equips us and God has given each of us gifts to enable the kingdom of God to grow. For we know all things are possible with God.

*Loving God bless us as we journey with you day by day. Inspire us to discern the ways in which you are calling us to show your love to others. In Jesus’ name Amen.*

In fellowship,

*Deacon Gail*

## China’s Pastor Crisis

It’s 4 am and still dark in the small town of Luhe in central China. The town is asleep but Rev’d Liu Xiaofan is awake. Every day for the last 35 years he’s risen at this time. He walks alongside the river, praying and singing, communing with God. He works a 19 hour day, seven days a week, and hasn’t had a day off in those 35 years.

Why does he do this? Because- with 3 other pastors- he is responsible for some 45,000 Christians over more than 900 sq miles, among 244 congregations. He lives on site at his home church in Luhe town so that he can be available constantly.

“I believe in being on call 24 hours a day” he say. “I never get a day off. It’s the way here. My daughter got married in July and even then I didn’t have the day off. For me, it’s very natural.”

Across China this situation is repeated again and again. Church growth, combined with a lag in the number of pastors being trained, means that nationally there are some 6,700 Christians for every trained pastor.

Bible Society has been able to provide the best theological library in China in Nanjing Theological Seminary. It helps the students learn. And we're able to bring in specialist teachers to add to the quality of their learning. It all helps them when they get out into their home churches.

Rev'd Liu is now concentrating on encouraging the next generation of pastors within his churches; 12 young people from his congregations are studying in Nanjung.

So back at the Luhe church, it's now early on Saturday morning and Rev'd Liu is taking the Saturday church service. The church is packed. Then, after a bit to eat, he jumps in the car and drives to Gaozhuang village, about half an hour away. This rural community is bringing in the rice harvest, drying the grains of rice across the roads. So he drives carefully around vast swathes of rice to get to the church. Rev'd Liu visits the church once a month. The rest of the time lay leaders conduct the services.

Yu Mei Ping, 69, is one of the church members. "Because our church is not that rich we can't afford our own pastor" she says. The idea of the church having its own pastor is beyond her. It would be "unimaginable" she says, and "inexpressible joy".

Back at the town church in Luhe, it's 6.45 pm on Saturday night and a Bible study starts with singing. This is where Rev'd Liu starts to train lay leaders, some of whom may go on to become theologically-trained pastors like him. Everyone is up and clapping. There's a very cheerful atmosphere. Around 70 people are seated at rows of desks on a Saturday night to learn more about the Bible.

The next morning, Luhe church starts filling up at 5 am. By 7 am more than 1200 people have arrived. Late-comers for the 7.50 am service sit outside in the late winter sunshine. Among them is Duan Yonghua, 56, who's here with his grandson. "I come to church because of God's goodness" he says, "My sister was called to the Lord first and I have seen a change in her life and so I came too now the whole family comes to the church".

This is the case across China where it's estimated that 40 million people are Christians. One million more join the church every year. But at Nanjing Seminary, there are just 400 students. Two thousand have been trained since it opened in 1952. Rev'd Liu spends Sunday afternoon at Long Ci village where 700 people are attending the service. The church is so overwhelmed that they are digging the foundations of a new, larger building.

But they are also laying down the foundations for its spiritual future, as Chen Jingchun, 28, the Sunday school teacher, plans to go to Nanjung to be trained as a pastor. "I couldn't do my job without the training; I could try my best to love the kids. They would feel my love, but to teach the Bible I really need to be trained. "

So, in the coming years, it may be that as new pastors like Jingchun join the churches, Rev'd Liu could have a day off. What would you do with it, I ask? He looks rather blank. "I've never thought about relaxing. Each time when I think I will have a short break, something crops up"

*Hazel Southam, Chief Reporter of the Bible Society.*

## Prayers for the World

**H**appy are those who have bread to eat!  
**A**s grain grows in the fields and  
**R**ains bring the water of life we share  
**V**isions of all your people united in  
**E**ternal praise and kneaded together to  
**S**hare good news of justice and peace:  
**T**aste and see that the Lord is good!

*An acrostic harvest prayer from christianaid.org.uk*

### *A prayer of the church*

*The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifice. When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, "Friends, why are you doing this? We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to follow their own ways; yet he has not left himself without a witness in doing good-giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling you with food and your hearts with joy" Acts 14, 13-17 (NRSV)*

As we celebrate the harvest with thanksgiving, we remember that harvest festivals were first instituted in the Law of Moses as the three occasions in the year when the whole people would gather together to worship, bringing a portion of their crops and their herds as offerings to God. That spirit of universal praise and gratitude seems long gone, but the eternal facts do not change- so give thanks, as always, to God, the source of all our blessings.

### **Prayers for the church here at Trinity**

Lord, you call us to come to you just as we are: you declare that when we come with open hearts and with open lives you will never turn us away. Yet we know that, only as we focus our hearts and minds on your will, and allow you to infiltrate every corner of our lives, will we truly be able to worship you. We long to experience your renewing Spirit, your healing grace and your empowering love. We pray for this congregation and for all our worship leaders, ministers and local preachers, whom you have sent to bring your Word to us. Amen

*May God our provider make you faithful and strong to do his will. And the blessing of God, Father and Holy Spirit be among you, and remain with you always. Amen*

## Points to Ponder

- When someone is not treating you right, no matter how much you love them, you've got to love yourself more and walk away.
- Life is all about balance. You don't always need to be getting stuff done. Sometimes it's perfectly okay and absolutely necessary, to shut down, kick back and do nothing.
- Learn to love with all of your heart and accept the unlovable side of others. For anyone can love a rose, but it takes a great heart to include the thorns.
- What's done is done. What's gone is gone. One of life's lessons is learning how to move on. It's okay to look back and think of fond memories but never stop moving forward.
- You can't pour from an empty cup. Take care of yourself first.
- Depression is when you don't care about anything; anxiety is when you care too much about everything. And having both is just like hell. *The Purple Flower*
- God gives miracles to those who believe, courage to those who dream, love to those who accept and forgiveness to those who ask.
- When you can't control what's happening, challenge yourself to control the way you respond to what's happening. That's where your power is.
- When you're thankful for what you have, you are always rewarded with more. Try to stay positive and things will get better.
- Things end. People change. And you know what? Life goes on.
- Every day is a new beginning. Take a deep breath, smile and start again. *Simple Reminders.com*
- Givers have to set limits because takers don't have any.
- Don't worry about people who aren't happy with you. They probably aren't happy with themselves.
- Family isn't always blood. It's the people in your life who accept you for who you are. The ones who would do anything to see you smile, and love you no matter what. *Womenworking.com*

*At my lowest, God is my hope.*

*At my darkest, God is my light.*

*At my weakest, God is my strength.*

*At my saddest, God is my comforter.*

## Why Fairtrade invests in the farmers and workers of tomorrow

by Mike Gidney, Fairtrade CEO

When Fairtrade began, more than twenty years ago, we were a response to the scandal of poverty in global supply chains. In a world that was eagerly embracing globalisation – with the promise of more choice and cheaper prices for consumers – it was hard to find a big company that paid any attention to their social and environmental footprint. Farmers and workers really were out of sight and out of mind.

Fairtrade was determined to change that, to bring the people behind the products into sharper focus so that they could exercise their right to be heard and increase their influence over their trade. Poverty does not just deny people a livelihood, in too many cases it also denies them a voice – the opportunity to speak out about their needs and hopes and to have a say in the way the world is run. As Maya Angelou famously wrote, “A caged bird stands on the graves of dreams.”

While some companies were ignorant of the men and women working in their supply chains, often for poverty wages and in appalling conditions, Fairtrade has always championed the voices of those people. We recognised this as a means of ensuring empowerment from day one. Our view from the outset has been that the fight against poverty starts with those who themselves are in poverty. In recent years inequality – of voice as well as income – has been identified by powerful groups, from the World Economic Forum to the IMF, as a major threat to global stability.

To become Fairtrade certified, farmers and workers are expected to be organised into groups and to be able to prove their organisations are well-run, democratic and transparent. Representative decision-making is more than a just nice to have, over the past twenty years it has ensured that producers decide how to invest their profits according to local priorities.

Fairtrade is well-known for ensuring that, in addition to a minimum price for their goods, producer organisations receive an additional premium investment which they decide among themselves how to spend. Over the years this has helped transform communities – from improving food security through enabling farmers to hedge against the price of maize to bringing water and power into producers’ homes and villages.

More than €117 million of Fairtrade Premiums were generated last year from global Fairtrade sales – there is a generation of farmers and workers in 75 countries who are now less likely to go hungry, are more able to access decent healthcare and education, and have at the same time been able to invest in their farming futures.

Increasing producers’ confidence, through having a voice and taking control, is not just good for the farmers and workers themselves. It also helps ensure strong farming communities who in turn become better suppliers and longer-term business partners. Putting farmers first is good for business. In a recent study of banana farmers in Colombia, 98% of them said they felt more confident about their farming futures because of Fairtrade. The clear financial terms that producers see through Fairtrade enables them to plan, to take risks, to invest in farms and communities. Outside of Fairtrade, that confidence falls to just 9%. There is no incentive for producers to take such risks if they have no sense of what the price of next year’s harvest will be. Price volatility is an ever-present threat to producers: this year alone the global cocoa price has fallen by 30%, a pattern also seen over recent years in coffee, tea and cane sugar.

But the most inspirational impacts of Fairtrade are also the most subtle, and are inextricably linked to producers having a voice. Kuapa Kokoo, the Ghanaian smallholder cocoa farmers who supply Divine Chocolate among others, say “Fairtrade has made us players”. The right to earn and control premiums has enabled producers to strengthen their negotiating position and look global brands and retailers in the eye as equals. Fairtrade has helped producers become price setters, not just price takers.

The strong community-based organisations at the heart of Fairtrade have also ensured that the rights of others have been heard, even on issues that would traditionally have been taboo. By having local control, producers have responded to needs that would not otherwise have been raised. For example, girls in the Athi River district of Kenya were repeatedly missing school because they had no money for sanitary towels, so Harvest Flowers, the local Fairtrade producer organisation, provided for the school headmistress to give out free sanitary towels to girls who came to school. The results go beyond attendance – not only did it end absenteeism due to periods, but it also changed the attitude of the boys to the girls, giving the girls more confidence and improving their authority in the classroom.

In many ways we are just getting started in Fairtrade, and we are constantly learning, but we are building on incredibly strong community foundations laid over the past twenty years. As producer organisations grow, as they take care of their basic needs, so we can see a new generation of social enterprises beginning to emerge, led with confidence by farmer and worker leaders. More and more groups are investing their premiums in added value activities such as processing (sugar smallholders in Paraguay, tea farmers in Kenya, coffee producers in India) and diversification (Swaziland sugar, West African cocoa).

And many are giving their children more choice by investing in education: I remember meeting a worker on a banana plantation in Colombia, selling to a major UK supermarket, who told me his producer group had used some of their premiums to fund him to study accountancy at night school. He was in his third year and about to graduate. His dream had been to get out of working on a plantation and his community had listened to him and enthusiastically backed him.

And this approach has ensured that marginalised groups are also represented which is important when the rights of so many workers in supply chains are ignored, particularly if they are migrant workers, women, or both. This is an exceptionally difficult problem to tackle, but Fairtrade works hard to ensure that our hired labour standards are best in class.

In India's Tamil Nadu region one of the areas workers at United Nilgiri Tea Estates Company Limited decided to invest in was education, meaning that children across 27 villages benefit from quality IT, science and English teaching and many former students have graduated and gain employment in IT and engineering. This is an industry renowned for trapping tea workers in indentured labour but the Fairtrade system has enabled communities to invest in the next generation.

Fairtrade is twenty years ahead on empowerment – we are still the only standards system to be 50% owned by producers. At every level in the Fairtrade system farmers and workers have the opportunity to make decisions, and not just at the local level. Producers sit on our Boards, they share responsibility for maintaining Fairtrade's standards and impact. They will be present in great number this month at Fairtrade International's annual General Assembly in Germany.

Global sales of Fairtrade now top \$7bn a year. To base this on the needs and voice of poor and marginalised producers seemed reckless to many when we started. Big business had rarely operated that way. The next generation of consumers are clear they want to see more transparency and accountability from big business. Where better to start than by being owned by the men and women who grow the products we buy?

*Fairtrade Foundation blog*

# Smile !

(These are genuine signs seen inside/outside vets surgeries).

- If cats could text you back, they wouldn't.
- Dinosaurs never went to the vet. Look what happened to them.
- Dogs have owners. Cats have staff.
- What do you call a dog magician? A Labracadabrador.
- It's all fun and games until someone ends up in a cone.
- We're against animal testing. They get nervous and get all the answers wrong!
- Unattended children will be given an espresso and a free puppy.
- A cat is always on the wrong side of the door.
- My alarm doesn't have a snooze button. It has paws.

## And.....

- The current wife said I had OCD....I soon put her in her place.
- Our Wi-Fi wasn't working last night so I sat and chatted to the missus for a change. I'm surprised to hear she no longer works at Woolworths.
- Thieves broke into the Bradford Police station car park and stole all the Sat Nav units over the weekend. Police are still looking for Leeds.....
- I found out I'm colour blind. I'm shocked- it came totally out of the purple.
- Someone keeps dumping topsoil on my allotment, been going on for a while. The plot thickens.
- Ice cream van just crashed on Saltwell Road, area coned off....
- After insulting her food once too often, the current Mrs G's not cooking for me tonight. Well, either that or the smoke alarm's bust.
- I was woken by the window cleaner ranting and swearing this morning. I thought, "Crikey, he's lost his rag"
- Been quoted £40 to repair a puncture . I said, "It was only £30 last time!". "That's inflation for you," he said.
- I used to work as a fisherman but, after tax, I couldn't live on my net income.
- My son took his first steps today. The window cleaner was livid!

## Shoe Box Appeal 2017

Each month we are asking for donations of items to go in our Shoe Boxes for Christmas. As we now have many items to go in the boxes we are asking for financial contributions towards the shipping costs of the boxes. There are envelopes available for anyone to give a donation.

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

### Variety and Nonconformity

In the news lately, we have been advised that taking a brisk walk every day even for only 10 minutes, will keep us healthy. So this morning I decided to go for a short walk around the estate where I live. I don't know how often I'll do this, but at least it will be a start! After I'd finished doing some chores in the house and had put a load of washing in the washer, I went on my way.

I passed a garden with beautiful flowers, all colours, shapes and sizes making a wonderful display. Further along I passed a hedge trimmed very neatly and next to it a neighbouring hedge that was obviously well tended but one twig stuck out. It made me smile. Nonconformist! In just two gardens it seemed that I was being reminded of some great truths. The beautiful display was a combination of many different plants, different formations of flowers, different sizes and colours but together making the garden a very pleasant place. The hedge reminded me that even in creation, there are those things that don't always conform to what the majority are doing and that's ok. Variety is accepted and tolerated.



It reminded me of the time I with my two sons were visiting family in Argentina (in 1999) and we went to visit one niece/cousin who met us at the airport with her husband and two daughters (the third daughter was born a few years later). We went to a small cafe for something to eat and the youngest daughter Cata (Catalina) just couldn't sit still. Her father kept saying, 'Cata, sit down.', 'Cata, don't do that.' Eventually he asked, 'Cata, what do you want?' Immediately, without even thinking about it, she replied in her childhood innocence, 'I want to misbehave.' Well, we didn't know whether to laugh or look away and ignore the comment. Her father then explained that she couldn't misbehave here as other people wouldn't like it. Of course, I'm not advocating we misbehave but how often children in all innocence question why they must conform to what other people expect of them. She is now a lovely young lady who probably doesn't even remember that occasion.

Thank God, that He doesn't create clones! Creation shows us that variety and difference go to make life beautiful and that we are all individuals who contribute to the success of the whole. Even those who don't conform to what the majority want have a place and make life interesting, often bringing a different approach and way of seeing things. All parents will vouch for the fact that all their children are different, each special in their own way. It's when others don't always do things the way we like or insist on being just that bit different that we find it hard to accept. Patience! I'm working on it.

Mavis Andradez (from her blog)

## **Bible a Month: 40 years. 1977-2017**

Bible a Month, the Bible Society's scheme for supporters to give a Bible, month after month, is celebrating 40 years.

In that time, Bible a Month (BAM) members have raised more than £35 million- which is the equivalent of providing more than 7 million people around the world with a Bible.

The programme, originally called Bible a Month Club, was launched in June 1977. Back then, prospective members were told, "It's the book club where you don't get a book- you give one every month" and were invited to donate £1.50 a month. Within 6 months the club had 1,500 members and by the end of 1978 it had doubled to 3,000 regular givers.

Today, there are 23,162 Bible a Month supporters, who give on average £8 a month each- enough to cover the £5 cost of translating, producing and distributing a Bible. Together, these supporters donate more than £2 million every year to Bible work. This ministry has reached millions of people with God's word and has changed many lives, for good.

### **Bible Book Club**

Bible Book Club, a new resource launched at the end of January, encourages people to read through the Bible one book at a time. Over the past 6 months, over 3,000 people have been downloading Bible Society's helpful guides and setting up their own Bible Book Clubs. Amazingly, our guide to Leviticus, the last popular book according to a recent Bible Society survey hosted on Bible Society's website, has had the most downloads.

The top ten downloaded guides since January 2017 are :- Leviticus, Genesis, Matthew, Ruth, John, Romans, Mark, Esther, Luke, Jude.

One of the key aims of Bible Book club is to encourage people to explore lesser known books as well as more familiar ones and it takes less time than you think. Obadiah, Haggai, and Nahum can all be read in under 10 minutes. New Testament books like Philippians, Colossians and 2 Peter can be read in under 15 minutes.

The Bible Book Club has easy-to-use guides for all 66 books with lots of information including genre, background context, and tricky issues. There are also questions for small groups intended to develop conversation as you gather to reflect on your personal reading experience. The emphasis is on reading one book at a time rather than reading a few verses or small sections of Scripture.

If you're not sure which book to start with, Bible Society provides you with a variety of tracks to help you get going. If you want to explore the poetry of the Bible you could try reading Psalms, Proverbs or Ecclesiastes. If you want to revisit Sunday school stories you could go to Genesis, Exodus, or Judges. Or how about exploring some of Paul's writing in Romans, Corinthians or Ephesians?

It's free and all the information you need is available at [biblesociety.org.uk/biblebookclub](http://biblesociety.org.uk/biblebookclub) or call

01793 418222 for further details.

## **Bible a Month: Mozambique**

*“Then he told them: Go and preach the good news to everyone in the world” Mark 16, v 15 (CEV)*

Mozambique is a country on the east coast of Africa, and has borders with Tanzania, Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Swaziland. It covers an area of 799,000 sq km, which is approximately 3 times larger than the UK. It has a population of 25.9 million- about 40% of the UK. The literacy rate- people who can read and write- is 58%. Languages include Portuguese, Emakhuwa and other local languages.

Forty three languages are spoken in Mozambique, making Bible translation one of the primary focuses for our team there. Currently, there are ten translation projects underway. One of those is a translation project for the Changana language group based in southern Mozambique.

There are an estimated 2.1 million Changana speakers in Mozambique- that’s roughly two thirds the amount of people in the whole of Wales. Changana people have a passion for their language and are longing for their first ever complete Bible. It is expected that the first Bible will be launched in 2019. The team in Mozambique hope to distribute at least 7,500 copies every year after the launch.

The new Bible will increase accessibility and Bible literacy for the Changana tribe. It will help them grow in faith and discipleship. Thank you for your regular gift which will help bring the Bible to life for so many people across Mozambique.

### **Prayer Pointers**

- Pray that the translation team would be energised as they work to translate the Bible into more languages.
- Pray for protection over the Bible stock as the main warehouse is at risk of damage by leakage from the faulty drainage system. Pray that the leak would be fixed.
- Pray for wisdom for the local team as they set up their regional Bible hubs to reach more people with the word of God.
- Give thanks for the many opportunities for mission across this vast country and pray for the team as they grow.

## **Eyewitness Report from Mozambique by Ken Dachi**

I arrived in Masputo in the south of Mozambique, to meet our team there for the first time at the end of last year. Maputo is a beautiful modern Africa city. It's full of warmth and energy, overlooking the Indian Ocean .

We have just begun a new partnership with the team in Mozambique which I'm really excited about. It will mean more people have access to the Bible, more Bible translations and more help for the marginalised and displaced. And this has been made possible because of your generous gifts. But there are many challenges affecting Bible work in Mozambique.

Firstly, this is a huge country. From Maputo to Pemba in the north, its 1500 miles. That's Land's end to John O'Groats and back again. Around 26 million people live here and altogether they speak more than 40 languages. Our team in Mozambique has only two working vehicles to cover the entirety of this vast country. So effective Bible distribution is a pressing issue. Areas in the north are currently looking to the neighbouring countries of Malawi and Zambia to get Bibles.

With so many languages spoken across the country, translation is also one of our primary focuses for the team. Ten translations are currently underway.

On a very basic level, our team lack infrastructure. They are scattered between an office in downtown Maputo, a warehouse and Bible shop, and an apartment used by translators. Bibles are stored in a warehouse located at a residential block. Due to the faulty drainage system there's persistent leakage which could certainly destroy the Bible stock.

I spent three intense days with the team preparing their 2017 project plan for Bible work. We pulled out a map and talked about what we could do right across the country. They told me they had prayed for this kind of support and its thanks to your gifts that it's now possible. Our plan is to create regional hubs to help Bible work grow across Mozambique- offices that replicate the Maputo operation- to run Bible distribution, translation and literacy programmes as well as contextualised programmes.

For example, in Tete, in the north, we'll run Bible based trauma healing groups to minister to the many displaced people who fled there during the civil war. In Beira, a strategic port city towards the middle of the country, we'll run programmes which share the Bible with those of other faiths.

This way, we won't just have a Bible Society of Maputo, we'll genuinely have a Bible Society for the whole of Mozambique. We want to set up the first hub in 2017 and have at least two others by 2022.

The opportunities for mission are enormous. We're right at the beginning of our five year programme with our colleagues there, and there is huge potential. But it will be a big challenge.

*Thank you for your gifts, which are enabling this partnership to grow. And please hold the team in Mozambique in your prayers as together we approach this major expansion and growth, to share the Bible more widely in Africa.*

## A Topical Last Laugh !!

While walking down the street one day a Member of Parliament is tragically hit by a bus and dies.

His soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance.

‘Welcome to Heaven,’ says St. Peter.

‘Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a high official around these parts, you see, so we’re not sure what to do with you.’

‘No problem, just let me in,’ says the man.

‘Well, I’d like to, but I have orders from higher up. What we’ll do is have you spend one day in hell and one in heaven.

Then you can choose where to spend eternity.’

‘Really, I’ve made up my mind. I want to be in Heaven,’ says the MP.

‘I’m sorry, but we have our rules.’

And with that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he went down, down, down to hell. The doors open and he found himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a clubhouse and standing in front of it are all his friends and other politicians who had worked with him.

Everyone is very happy and dressed in evening dress. They run to greet him, shake his hand, and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of the people.

They played a friendly game of golf and then dined on lobster, caviar and champagne.

Also present is the devil, who really is a very friendly and nice chap who has a good time dancing and telling jokes. They are having such a good time that before he realizes it, it’s time to go.

Everyone gives him a hearty farewell and wave whilst the elevator rises....

The elevator rises and the door opens in heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him.

‘Now it’s time to visit Heaven.’

So, 24 hours pass with the MP joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and, before he realizes it, the 24 hours have gone by and St. Peter returns.

‘Well, then, you’ve spent a day in hell and another in Heaven. Now choose your eternity.’

The MP reflects for a minute, then he answers: ‘Well, I would never have said it before, I mean heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in hell.’

So St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down and so on down to hell.

When the doors open he’s in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage.

He sees all his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags as more trash falls from above.

The devil comes over to him and puts his arm around his shoulder. ‘I don’t understand,’ stammers the MP.

‘Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and clubhouse, and we ate lobster and caviar, drank champagne, danced and had a great time. Now there’s just a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable. What happened?’

The devil looks at him, smiles and says, “Yesterday we were campaigning...

... Today you voted”

## Launch Assembly of Tyne & Wear Citizens

An opportunity to show solidarity with the people in our area who suffer injustice of one kind or another and with those committed to taking action to make Tyne & Wear a better place for us all:

Join us at the **Launch Assembly of Tyne & Wear Citizens**, the local Chapter of Citizens UK, on **Tuesday 7 November** at the Tyne Theatre and Opera House, 117 Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. Doors open at 5:30pm, seats to be taken by 5:45 ready for a prompt 6pm start, ending at 7:30pm. Tickets for the event are free, but you will need to have one to gain entry. They can be accessed at the following link:

[www.eventbrite.com/e/tyne-wear-citizens-launch-assembly-tickets-36189090544](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/tyne-wear-citizens-launch-assembly-tickets-36189090544)

The Launch Assembly we will be seeking respect and recognition from key decision makers including local MPs, Council leaders and local officials. We need them to see that local people are concerned about social justice – so we need a full house! Will you be there to support us?

Anyone who has difficulty in downloading a ticket can contact Kath on 07747 561 826

*This message is from Wallsend Churches Working Together who recommend this Launch Meeting to you.*

## Big Ben Silenced

Crowds clapped and cheered as the Houses of Parliament burnt to the ground on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1834. Watching the blaze was the artist J.M.W. Turner and an architect, Charles Barry. Little did Barry know that, sixteen months later, he would win a competition to rebuild the Palace – a task that was to take him 24 years and was still not complete at this death.

Of all the many contretemps in which Barry was involved, the most futile and longest drawn out, concerned Big Ben. It straggled over 15 years. Although the Queen's Clockmaker was asked to prepare designs in 1844, he did nothing about it. Eventually the task went to tender and 6 years later the contract was awarded to Messrs E.J. Dent and Co, after having fulfilled many stringent conditions, including that the first stroke of each hour must be right to within a second- almost impossible for a clock with four two-hundredweight minute hands exposed to the weather.

When Queen Victoria opened the new Parliament building in 1852, the clock tower was still just a stump of 150 feet (against a final 316 feet). It wasn't until 31<sup>st</sup> May 1859 that the hour bell tolled for the first time. Two months later, the bell, known as Big Ben, cracked under the weight of the hammer. For the next three years the hours were struck on the largest of the quarter bells. Eventually a lighter hammer was installed and the great bell, the largest ever to be struck by the Whitechapel Bell foundry, was given an eighth of a turn to present an undamaged section to the hammer. The crack gives Big Ben its distinctive but less than perfect tone.

Repairs to the Queen Elizabeth Tower (formerly St Stephen's tower) and to the clock itself has resulted in Big Ben being silenced for the next 4 years, except for special occasions. The BBC, who have broadcast live the chimes for about ninety years, searched for a replacement. The hour bell nearest to the sound of Big Ben is in Nottingham. However, there is a

drawback. The clock doesn't chime at night. Therefore a recording of the Westminster chimes will be broadcast for the duration.

*From "The Bell", a pamphlet by Stainer and Bell Ltd, music publishers.*

## **It's Autumn Again**

Autumn is a unique time of year.

It's neither hurried and hot like summer should be,

Nor is it like winter, with its chills and its cold.

It's certainly not spring, for there's little new to be seen.

No, autumn is different- sort of stuck in between.

If the season were traffic lights,

Then while winter means stop, and spring and summer say go,

Autumn is a kind of get-ready- either to stop or go.

The harvest is gathered, and all seems completed-

But there are the seeds of the new crop that will be sown come next spring.

No, autumn is different, and some like it best.

There are leaves on the ground that rustle and snap,

And when you walk through them they get stuck in your shoes.

Autumn seems gentle, like nature thinking aloud;

As if, Lord, you are saying as you look back over the year,

"Well, that went well, just look what was achieved!".

So, Lord, thank you for autumn, its trees and its bright-tinted leaves.

No artist could create that- until you showed them how.

Thank you for time to reflect, and prepare. Amen

*David Clowes: 500 More Prayers for all occasions. Published by David C Cook, Kingsway Communications Ltd.*

## Memorable Quotes

- Would you call me a cab? Yes, but not a hansom one *Anon*
- I was driving along and I saw you through the window. Oh - do you have a car? Well, I don't just have the window. (*Bob Ferris and Terry Collier, Whatever happened to the Likely Lads*)
- My licence plate says PMS. Nobody cuts me up. *Anon*
- Somebody actually complimented me on my driving today, They left a note on the windscreen, it said, "Parking Fine" (*Tommy Cooper*)
- Anybody going slower than you is an idiot and anybody going faster than you is a maniac (*George Carlin*)
- SLOW. NO HOSPITAL (*Road sign in USA*)
- CAUTION. Water on road during rain (*Road sign in USA*)
- The quickest way to make a red light turn green is to try to find something in the glove compartment (*Billy Connolly*)
- The slowest drivers in the world are those people who are getting out of the parking space you want to get into. *Anon.*
- The next train has gone ten minutes ago *Punch Magazine.*
- I knew I'd chosen the wrong airline when the flight attendant warned us to keep our hands and arms inside the aircraft while it was in motion. The airsick bag was printed with the Lord's Prayer. *Les Dawson*

## New Heaviest Element Discovered

Oxford University researchers have discovered the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element, Governmentium (symbol=Gv), has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called pillocks

Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected, because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact.

A tiny amount of Governmentium can cause a reaction that would normally take less than a second, to take from 4 days to 4 years to complete Governmentium has a normal half-life of 2 to 6 years. It does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganisation in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places.

In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganisation will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes. This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a critical concentration.

This hypothetical quantity is referred to as a critical morass. When catalysed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium (symbol=Ad), an element that radiates just as much energy as Governmentium, since it has half as many pillocks but twice as many morons.



## Preachers

October		
1 <sup>st</sup>	10.45 a.m.	Mr David Filmer Harvest Festival.
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 a.m.	Rev. Neil Cockling Holy Communion.
15 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 a.m.	Mr Keith Jones.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.45 a.m.	Deacon Gail Morgan.
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 a.m.	Rev Paul Clever-Thorpe
November		
5 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 a.m.	Rev Janet Jackson Shoe Box Service.



## Door Stewards Rota

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

October	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs S Aston.
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs S Filmer.
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs L Morgan.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs D Kirkley
29 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs M Mills
30 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs M McCullough.
November	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Mr R Falcus.



## Coffee Morning Rota

October  
7<sup>th</sup> Susan Bewley &  
Lynda McQuillan

14<sup>th</sup> Maureen Mills &  
Lorna Morgan

21<sup>st</sup> Sylvia Aston &  
Janis Duff

28<sup>th</sup> Mick & Zoe Watson  
November

4<sup>th</sup> Susan Bewley &  
Lynda McQuillan



## Audio Visual Operators

October  
1<sup>st</sup> Alan

8<sup>th</sup> Susan / Lynda

15<sup>th</sup> Alan

22<sup>nd</sup> Susan / Lynda

29<sup>th</sup> Alan

November  
5<sup>th</sup> Susan / Lynda

12<sup>th</sup> Alan

19<sup>th</sup> Mark

26<sup>th</sup> Alan

## Flower Rota

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October  
Bill & Shirley Filmer

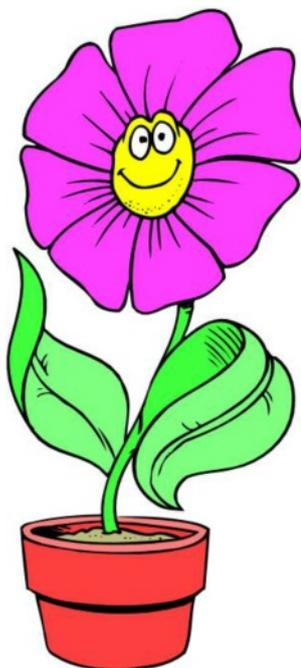
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October  
Joan Keltie

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October  
Bill & Agnes Paterson

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October  
Lynda McQuillan

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October  
Olive Lindsay

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November  
Janis Duff



During the last month our Communion Table Flowers have brought their beauty and our thoughts and prayers to Shirley Filmer, Janet Jackson, Jan Scott, Janis Duff and Doreen Kirtley.

## Articles By ?

All articles for the November issue of Trinity News MUST be handed in by Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.