

Ministers Muse

Dear friends,

A new day has dawned. Whether we find it a good day or not depends on our own situation. Some youngsters may wake up today looking forward to a day of being out in the fresh air, of playing with their friends. Others wake with the knowledge that they must be a carer again today, perhaps for younger siblings while parent(s) work or for their own parent who is ill or disabled. These youngsters have wisdom beyond their years. Job says *“Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?”* I would agree, but I still think the younger ones have something to teach us.

Staying with the book of Job. *‘So Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite said: “I am young in years, and you are old; that is why I was fearful, not daring to tell you what I know. I thought, ‘Age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom.’ But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that gives them understanding. It is not only the old who are wise, not only the aged who understand what is right.’*

Perhaps as we get older we begin to think that we are always right, perhaps as we have been longer in the church we begin to think that the way we always do it is the only way. Perhaps we need to listen to new people coming into our church who have a new way of looking at faith or new ideas about church. The church is not a stagnant body, it is not a club for members only, it is a living, growing, body of people who are as ready to try new ideas as we are of welcoming new people. As we live and learn and grow together we will shape the church for the future, a people serving God in the world today.

God bless you all,

Your friend and minister,

Janet



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 Soap and facecloths, sweets, (no chocolate and sweets must be dated after March 2019) boys' hats and gloves, all ages, combs, balls, dominoes, and small games.

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

Shoe Box Packing

Sylvia will be packing Shoe Boxes on Friday 5th October from 10 a.m. Anyone who could help with this would be very welcome.

Deacons Muse

Dear Friends

Spirit of Truth

who reveals to us the things of God

we praise your name.

Spirit of Wisdom

who inspires the words we ought to speak

we praise your name.

Spirit of Power

who grants the courage we need to act

we praise your name.

Spirit of Love

who knows our nature and loves us still

we praise your name.

Taken from <http://www.faithandworship.com/Monday.htm#ixzz5PMNE1L5R>

The month of August for many is a time of holidays or laying aside the business of the year and taking time to reflect.

Trinity played host to our first ever 'Holiday at Home.' Along with our guests we began the day with memories of our favourite holiday destinations and remembering the fun things we have done. We then had opportunities to colour, do a jigsaw, read the newspaper, knit or as many of us did chat with each other. Our lunch menu was mince and dumplings with vegetables followed by trifle and strawberries. Everyone enjoyed eating together with many remarking how much their food tasted better when eaten with someone else. We then had fun with 'Ruki Sports' playing Ruki golf and Baccia. Then we were entertained with singing and storytelling from Paul and Stuart during which homemade cake and refreshments were served. Finally we ended with a roundup of the day which our guests thought was fabulous, energising and we hope it happens again. What a day we had showing God's love and having fun as Jesus did with his friends.

I have taken time out this month to go on pilgrimage in Scotland. Walking alongside others deep in conversation or having time to myself with my own thoughts has enabled me to be with God in a time of reflection.

These activities and times of doing 'something different' help us to grow as the family of God and enable us to go forward.

September is a season of change for all of us. It is the beginning of the new connexional year, young people go back to school in a different class. For the family at Allen Memorial this will be a month of mixed emotions as the final act of worship in a place they have known and loved draws closer. For the family in Trinity seeking to be a place where all are welcome as new people come and new groups begin.

We look forward to Messy Church at Trinity where this month our theme is 'Messy Friends.' We will be exploring what friendship means to us and what it means to be a friend of Jesus as we share food and activities together. There will be Toddlers at Trinity on Wednesdays as well as Thursdays enabling families in the community to have a safe, warm, welcoming environment to play in.

In all these changes please continue to pray that God will fill each of us with grace – filled living as we journey together in faith and trust.

May you know and be blessed by God’s extravagant love poured out for each one of us as we continue to be pilgrims together on a journey.

Tis Jesus, the first and the last,
whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
we’ll praise him for all that is past,
and trust him for all that’s to come.

Joseph Hart (1712 – 1767)

With every blessing

Deacon Gail

Sad, but Hopeful.

It is with great sadness that we approach the final service of Allen Memorial Church at 6 p.m. on 30th September.

The picture on the front of the magazine shows Allen Memorial in all it’s glory when it opened in 1904. Complete with spire that unfortunately is no longer there.

In those 4 to 5 generations, how many happy couples must have been married there, how many children baptised, how many people introduced and welcomed into the Christian faith. And how many loyal members funerals have taken place there?

I don’t have any of the answers, but I do know that they will be large numbers.

I’m sure that on Sundays when the church opened you would have had difficulty getting a seat if you didn’t turn up early enough for service and that was when the upstairs gallery was in use. Unfortunately, only 4 to 5 generations later, in all our churches, it’s very difficult to fill them even for special services at Christmas etc, and at normal services numbers are counted in the lower 10’s instead of the upper 100’s. The inevitable result is lack of funds and an inability to maintain the buildings.

BUT, we should not be too sad. The silver lining in the cloud is that hopefully the present members and friends of Allen Memorial will transfer into other local churches and help to bring new life into them. I’m know they will be welcomed at Trinity and other churches and will immediately feel at home and a part of that congregation.

Some of the organisations from Allen Memorial are coming to Trinity, Messy Church, Allen Toddlers, LD North East, Line Dancing, and we welcome them into the family of groups that are already based at Trinity. We do need rubber walls and a very flexible time table, but, if we all work together I hope that there will be a very smooth transition for the members of all the groups.

On behalf of everyone at Trinity I extend a very warm welcome to anyone coming to join us, whether it’s in our congregation or in groups that are moving in, please feel part of our family.

Alan Barker

Church Steward

Ministry in Morocco

By Claire Smith, Freelance writer.

“I will make the wilderness a pool of water , and the dry land springs of water” Isaiah 41, v 18b (ESV)

The Bible Society in Morocco runs a Christian discipleship course, but not as we know it. The list of topics covered does not include an overview of Bible books for new believers, and guidance on reading different types of writing. But “telling your family about your faith” is the subject of one session. There’s a talk on how to respond to the police (“Don’t show fear” is the advice, and “always be brave”) And participants even receive tips on memorising Scripture so they can lean on God’s word when they’re in prison.

“It’s not the kind of thing you’d cover on a church course in England” says our colleague, in a huge understatement. But for him, it’s normal- because this is Morocco, where simply giving someone a Bible can land you in jail.

The man who leads our ministry in Morocco has seen the inside of several prison cells during his 17 years in charge. It comes with the territory. And it means we can’t tell you his name or share a picture of him. In fact, so much of what we do is secret only a few people within our network are allowed to know the details. But we can tell you about this courageous work, and the extraordinary impact of the Bible in this northern African nation.

Almost everyone- 99% of the 34 million-strong population- in Morocco is a Muslim. It’s the state religion and the King of Morocco claims his position as a descendant of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. Christianity is seen as the foreigners’ religion and the Bible is considered to be distorted and corrupt. Despite this, the church in Morocco is growing.

Every week, Bible Society receives around 100 requests from people who want a Bible to find out more about Christianity. It’s thought there are up to 40,000 Christians in the country today, though some say there are tens of thousands more hidden believers who keep their faith a secret for fear of repercussions. The Church is also predicted to keep growing – in number, involvement and bravery.

Bible Society has been in Morocco for decades, leading Scripture translation. The first Moroccan Arabic New Testament was produced in 2012, and 6,000 were provided in 2017. More recently, Bible Society has started running Christian discipleship courses- “Bible Weekends” for new believers.

Every seeker who contacts the team, as well as receiving Scripture, is linked up with their local Christian community. Our staff visit churches to teach basic concepts and doctrine to those with no prior knowledge of Christianity.

Our colleague, himself a Muslim-background believer, gives suggestions about how to tell and how not to tell, family about your Christian faith. His own faith was revealed by accident and it led to a painful stand-off with his older brother. Practical advice on responding to police interrogation is also on the agenda. Already the fruits of this work are becoming apparent, and whole families are being changed by Christ. Our colleague says, “I have known one family for years. First the mother came to faith after watching Christian TV, and I provided her with a Bible and connected her with a pastor. Her husband was a tough, family ex-military man, feared by his family. But now he too is a Christian. Their four boys and one daughter are all believers and some are training to be house church leaders. When you see this family together, they have love and kindness among them”

Our colleague added, **“To see people reading the Bible, coming to know Christ and being changed for good.....this is where my heart is. All the danger, all the heartaches, the security and the risk, is all for that”**

The first complete Moroccan Arabic Bible is due for completion by 2021. And there are other plans to grow the ministry to keep pace with the expanding church. But if you ask our colleague about his long term plans for Bible work in Morocco he laughs and says that is a Western question. “We don’t know what will happen even tomorrow with the police and government. When you look at the situation, you get discouraged. So we fix our eyes on God’s promises. God will make the wilder ness a pool of water ,and the dry land a spring (Isaiah 41. 18) and this ministry is what he will use to do it”

Article from Word in Action, Summer 2018.

Prayer in Action

- Please pray for our colleagues in Morocco who we cannot name. Pray for courage, safety and encouragement in the dangerous work they are doing to share to Bible in their country.
- Pray for Moroccan Christians who daily deal with fear and feelings of insecurity. You can’t trust anybody....police, family. And when you live like that for a while it’s stressful. From time to time people get arrested. Pray that they will be encouraged and the experience will make them stronger in their faith.
- Please pray for the Bible Society in Morocco, for our programmes, for our protection, for our people, for funding, for the development of new staff and leadership. We want to grow so we need more staff.
- Pray for the translation team of five people, working on translating the Bible into Moroccan Arabic. We have been working on this since 1999. In less than 3 years they are going to be finished, which means that they will have no income. Many of the translators are not young, and they are worried about their future.

Word in Action: News from the Bible Society

Bible Society has stepped up its efforts to provide the Bible to marginalised, overlooked communities in Africa. That means going to the hard-to-reach places and countries at war. It means standing with Christians under pressure and seeking out those on the edge of society. Here are two reports- from Alan Kember in Mozambique and Ken Dachi, who visited Mali.

Mozambique is a huge country. From Maputo the capital in the south, to Pemba in the north, it's 1500 miles. That's Land's End to John O'Groats and back again. And with only one office in the country, reaching the whole nation with the Bible was a huge challenge.

So, over the last few years, we've set up two Bible hubs- one in Tete, in the north west, and one in Massinga, on the south east coast. These are essentially bookshops and offices which can be used as a base for translation, distribution and literacy work. They might be just buildings, but they are transformational.

In Tete, I met pastors who told me it used to take them two days to get a Bible. They travelled into Malawi or Zimbabwe and brought back as many as they could. They said people used to peddle Bibles in the market for double the cover price, such was the demand. Imagine not being able to order something from the Internet and have it delivered!! Because of the Bible hub, Bible ownership has shot up. One pastor told me that 50 people in his church bought a Bible in the first few months of the bookshop opening- and families are reading God's word at home.

Bible work in Mali is challenging. Firstly the Church is under pressure. The population is 90% Muslim with less than a million Christians in the country, and extremist groups from the north are trying to exert greater influence. Landlords won't rent office space to Christians, and we can't open a Bible bookshop because it would be vandalised.

Our people simply don't have the right set up. They are working in the corner of an incomplete building, in unbearable choking heat, with an old computer, no internet, and just a motorbike to deliver thousands of Bibles around the country. But Bible work is happening. Last year the team provided 11,000 full Bibles and 12,000 New Testaments and booklets.

Then there were the abused women I met, who are learning to read using the Bible and discovering their self-worth in Jesus. These women have been raped or abused, assaulted by their husbands or have fled their homes as extremist groups arrive- but they are finding hope in God's word.

Scripture can make a big difference in volatile, unstable, difficult countries like Mali. With your support we'll build on the momentum of Bible ministry in Mali and reach more people with God's word.

From Word in Action, Summer 2018

An Obituary printed in the London Times- Brilliant !

(We've had something like this before but it is still relevant today)

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:-

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6 year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death,

- by his parents, Truth and Trust.
- by his wife, Discretion.
- by his daughter, Responsibility
- and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers:-

- I know my Rights
- I want it Now.
- Someone else is to Blame,
- I'm a Victim
- Pay me for doing Nothing.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

Nicaragua News – August 2018

Hello dear family and friends,

As many of you are wondering what the political situation is like at the moment, I thought the easiest way is to send another newsletter.

There is an improvement in that the roads are now open, but the government forced the protesters to take down the barricades and sadly this resulted in many deaths in the process. But the shops are virtually stocked back up after three months of nothing getting through, so we are able to buy whatever now. I have enjoyed having my salads and ice-cream again, which I was having withdrawal symptoms over!

I asked one of the locals what the situation is really like at this point of time throughout Nicaragua and this is what she wrote:

"Right now there is uncertainty in the whole country. People are scared to come out of their houses and of being seen, because they are being watched by the police. (The police have names and photos of those protesters who took part in the riots, defending their country and president Ortega now wants these people found and killed or put in prison and tortured). This is mostly in the whole country, except the Caribbean Coast which isn't so much affected (which is where I am thankfully)

Right now the Government is saying we are in complete peace and everything is normal, but we know it's not. If you lived in the capital, Managua, you would see.... students afraid to go back to university, moms who have lost children, children who have lost parents and people afraid of being caught because they had taken part in the protestations.

Hundreds of doctors and nurses have been sacked from their hospital positions if they were seen to be treating any of the injured!

Thousands of Nicaraguans have left the country because they want to protect their lives and their families, mostly to Costa Rica. 25,000 of our people are seeking asylum in Costa Rica.....and is this normal to them???"

So that's it in a nutshell. We can't see an end to any of this, because Ortega won't step down and as he makes the rules for the country, no one can make him!

The USA are really supporting Nicaragua and have taken away Ortega's visa, as well as his family's and his co-workers so they can't enter the USA. They are also talking of trying to freeze his assets and stopping any business deals with Nicaragua, which will virtually cripple the country and only Ortega can do anything about this.

It is now over four months since I sent my passport to Managua to have my yearly courtesy visa added on and I still don't have it back. It's not such a good position to be in with no ID and to be living in the country illegally, but SIFT is dealing with the lawyer and so I am leaving it all in their hands.



As most of you know I give out bags of food rations to our SIFT families every two months and I was getting concerned that the roads might not be open for me to buy all that I needed in time. Thankfully the shops had enough of the items that I usually put in the bags, so the families were delighted last week to receive their packages.

Thank you for your messages of concern and your prayers, they are both much appreciated.

Love *Margaret*

For Caribbean folk who left

This was originally written in Jamaica as a thanksgiving song for the Jamaican Mission to Britain, to which so many have given their working lives since the 1940's. Obviously many came from other islands in the Caribbean and from Guyana too, so it's been widened into a song that gives thanks for travelling Caribbean's.

1. For Caribbean folk who left to start new lives in Britain,
for all they faced and risked and found, give thanks for their devotion.
2. For those who kept their faith in Christ despite surrounding coldness,
who prayed and sang and witnessed here, give thanks for Christ-like boldness.
3. For babies born and families made, and churches filled with singing,
for children who received the faith, let thankfulness keep ringing.
4. For years of faithful service given in church and in the nation,
a gift to Britain in Christ's name. let's offer our ovation.
5. For those retirees, here or there, whose faith is ever-living,
let's ask for active, grace-filled years to crown their lives of giving.
6. And for our faithful, loving friends, who served, but left for glory,
may we give thanks and honour them, remembering their story.

Written by Rev'd John Campbell, a minister in Tottenham, London. He writes new hymn words to existing tunes as part of his ongoing exploration of ways to help the Bible come alive for today's urban believers.

Suggested Tune: The King of Love my shepherd is (69 in Hymns and Psalms. "Dominus Regit Me")

The Way I See It

Different
is
Beautiful

The two people were chatting while waiting at the bus stop when suddenly the younger one, focusing on a young girl passing by said in a low voice, 'Just look at that! What a mess! She looks awful!'

The older woman smiled and replied, 'When anyone criticizes what you wear, you always say that people should feel free to wear what they like. So obviously she's wearing what she likes.' The younger one conceded with a smile, saying that she wouldn't wear it but then she has a different fashion sense. We might think someone looks nice or not because of what they are wearing, while they might see

it differently. As the saying goes, 'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder'.

On a less flippant note, my nephew's young son often likes to play at role reversal - his father/grandmother being him and he being them. He really is rather good at remembering things that they have said or done and playing them back to them as he sees it, reliving situations and conversations. It really is an eye-opener on just how he sees them and how he interprets what they say. Children so often manage to encompass in their playing what sometimes goes unnoticed to us. Things that we



don't give a second thought about might come across to them as something they take notice of and remember sometimes in great detail to the point that we can wonder, 'Am I really like that? Is that how I said that?'. Children have an innocence that penetrates through all social etiquette and niceties to reveal just how things really are, at least as they appear to them.

BE YOURSELF
Nobody can do it
BETTER

TALAY WHEEL

We all see things differently, simply because we are all different, unique. We cherish our uniqueness yet at the same time struggle to accept another person's different approach and opinion. Often when someone says, 'The way I see it ...' they really mean that they think the other person is wrong and they will tell them exactly how it is and what is the right way. We can become quite intolerant of those who don't do or think as we do, thinking smugly, 'They really don't have a clue and they are just so wrong'. There is a built-in sort of arrogance that we can't be wrong, it must be them. Is there not

just a possibility that both are right - in their own eyes? It all depends on how you see things. This often can depend on your circumstances, your cultural background, your emotions and feelings at a given moment. It seems strange that restaurants, shops, the entertainment business and so on cater for our different views and tastes in food, clothing, holidays, home decor, hobbies/interests and TV viewing so why, oh why, is it so difficult for us to accept that people just might have a different spiritual opinion from us? When it comes to God, it seems, we are always and totally right as though somehow we are in the privileged position of having a monopoly of the truth!

I remember one holiday in Scotland when we climbed up a hill through some woodland. Every so often there was a gap in the trees and a seat where you could rest awhile and take in the scenery. What we discovered was that we saw different things at different stopping points. Some objects became hidden



from view while others became clearer. The overall picture was constantly changing depending on where we were on the hill. That has always remained with me over the years as an important life lesson. People are different, each one unique, as we so often like to say. So why is it so hard to accept another's point of view, another way of looking at things, another angle, another's belief system or spiritual leaning? God has an overall view while, as the apostle Paul says, we only see in part. In the same passage, Paul says that as a child he thought and acted in a certain way but as he grew, his thoughts changed. We are constantly changing as our view on life changes, as we experience different situations. So let's show a little more tolerance and acceptance of others. At least, that's the way I see it. (Maybe someone will tell me I'm wrong!).

Mavis Andradez

Who needs committees?

- A committee is a group of the unprepared, appointed by the unwilling, to do the unnecessary. *Fred Allen, American comedian, 1894-1956.*
- Church committees consist of three types of people.....those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who haven't a clue what's happening.
- A committee is a group that keeps minutes and loses hours. *Milton Berle, American comedian, 1908-2002.*
- The minister was recovering from an operation and his assistant came to visit him. "How was the Church meeting last night?" "The good news is that we passed a vote to wish you a speedy recovery and offer you this basket of fruit" "And the bad news?" "The vote was passed by seven votes to five".
- Nothing is accomplished by a committee unless it consists of three members, one of whom is sick and the other on holiday.
- God so loved the world that he did not send a committee.

And some more church signs...

- God answers knee mail.
- Seven days without prayer makes one weak.
- Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.
- Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world.
- A sign outside a church creche: 1 Corinthians 15, 51. "Behold, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep but we will all be changed."

From "Bloopers and Blessings" published by TLM Trading Ltd.

Prayers for the World

God and Father of all,
in your love you made all the nations of the world to be a family,
and your Son taught us to love one another.
Yet our world is riven with prejudice, arrogance and pride.
Help the different nations to love and understand one another better.
Increase among us sympathy, tolerance and goodwill,
that we may learn to appreciate the gifts that those of other nations bring to us,
and to see in all people our brothers and sisters for whom Christ died.
Save us from jealousy, hatred and fear,
and help us to live together as members of one family at home in the world,
sons and daughters of one Father who live in the liberty of the children of God;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.
Adapted from dailyprayer.us

A prayer of the church

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. They sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?" Matthew 22, 15-18. NRSV

We all love praise. None of us are so secure we can live without it. However, there are many reasons for offering praise. Someone might praise you because they'd like a compliment from you in return. If you want someone to do an awkward job, first tell them how well they'd do it.

Then again, as here, someone might be using flattery to get close to you, in order to betray you- praising you for your wisdom, to lure you into making an ill-judged remark they can then use against you. Jesus, of course, is not fooled.

Rightly speaking, there is only one who deserves praise, and that is God himself. But the most valuable people in church are the encouragers. Encouragers are those taught by the Spirit to praise other people, genuinely and generously. Their kind words make it a joy to serve. Pray to be an encourager.

Prayers for Allen Memorial and Trinity

God of past, present and future, help us to remember all you have done, to rejoice in all you are doing, and to trust in all you will yet do. Teach us to put our hands into yours and to walk with you wherever you may lead, knowing that you will walk by our side, this day and always.

May the peace of Christ overcome your anxieties. May your hearts remain open to his call. May the Spirit fill you with his love. May God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you. Amen.

Points to Ponder

- What might change if I awoke each day with the attitude, “I can’t wait to see what God is going to do today!”
- You only have so much emotional energy each day. Don’t fight battles that don’t matter.
- Just a reminder: in case your mind is playing tricks on you today and you are feeling down. You matter. You’re important. You’re loved. And your presence on this earth makes a difference, whether you see it or not.
- Always leave people better than you found them. Hug the hurt, kiss the broken, befriend the lost, love the lonely.
- “Make allowances for each other’s faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others”. Colossians 3, 13.
- It’s never too late to get back on the path. *radicalgrace.com*
- The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy. *Martin Luther King Jr*
- Jesus doesn’t care about how many Bible verses you have memorised. He cares about how you treat people.
- Integrity is choosing courage over comfort. It’s choosing what is right over what is fun, fast, or easy. It’s choosing to practice your values rather than simply professing them. *Brene Brown*.
- The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion.
- Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad, and a soul that never loses faith in God.
- If you want to do the work of God, pay attention to people. Notice them - especially the people nobody else notices. *John Ortberg*
- Sometimes the most ordinary things could be made extraordinary, simply by doing them with the right people.
- To make a difference in someone’s life, you don’t have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect. You just have to care.

Bible a Month: Syria

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me”. Psalm 23.4 (ESV)

Syria is a country of the Middle East and has borders with Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon. It covers an area of 185,000 sq km, approx. 76% of that of the UK, and it has a population of 18 million, which is around 27% of the UK population. The literacy rate, people who can read and write, is 86%. Languages include Arabic, Kurdish, Armenian, Aramaic, Circassian, French and English.

It is hard to believe, but Bible Society’s bookshop in Syria has been open almost every day of the seven-year conflict in the country. George Andrea, who leads the team in Syria, said, “When you are being bombed and shelled, you will die whether you are at home or work. The risk is the same; you depend on God. So we continue our work”

Thanks to your support, a record 184,309 Scripture items were distributed in Syria during 2017. Over Easter this year, 25,000 children were given Bible activity books. They feel it’s special for them, a gift from God.

George, who lives in Aleppo with his wife and teenage son, added, “I feel overwhelmed at times, yes, but I can’t put on a sad face. We should all the time give people hope. God’s message of peace, love and reconciliation is for all people”

Prayer Pointers

- Pray for all people in Syria; for those who are suffering, those who are displaced, those trying to rebuild their lives. Pray for the rebels and the leaders, for the soldiers, the doctors, the teachers and the politicians.
- Give thanks for George and his team of staff and volunteers. Praise God for their courage and perseverance, and pray for protection over them and their families.
- Ask God to bless all those who received Scriptures and Bible activity books. Pray that they will be comforted, encouraged, and assured of God’s love for them.
- Above all, please pray for peace in Syria. George said, “The biggest losers are the people....we’re the ones who get hurt, the punishment is on us”

Smile !

Science reveals that women have cleaner minds than men.....due to the fact that they change them every 10 seconds or so.

A lorry load of snooker tables has crashed on the M25. The driver is under a rest, and the cues go on for miles.

Remember when plastic surgery was a taboo subject? Now you mention Botox and nobody raises an eyebrow.

We're having Chicken Tarka tomorrow night. It's like Chicken Tikka, only a little 'otter.

There was a recent study that tried to pinpoint the effect that alcohol has on walking....the result was staggering.

I'm going to a deodorant party tomorrow.....Roll on Saturday.

Just finished the box set of Chubby Checker's life story. I don't want to spoil it but there's a twist at the end.

Just back from Blackpool. Never again. On the seafront I saw a guy and a woman having a shouting match until the woman hit the feller on the head and they started fighting. Then a copper turned up and he started whacking the man with his baton. In the end, the man got the baton off the policeman and started hitting him AND his wife with it.....then this crocodile turned up and pinched the sausages.....

I ate at Mary Poppins' Restaurant last night. Super cauliflower cheese but the lobster was atrocious.

With thanks to LIVErNEWS, the Liver patient support newsletter.

Nursery Rhymes updated for the 21st Century.

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
The structure of the wall was incorrect,
So he won ten grand with Claims Direct.

Jack and Jill went into town
To fetch some chips and sweeties.
Now he can't keep his heart rate down
And she's got diabetes.

It's raining, it's pouring
Of course it's global warming.

Tackling Poverty in Assam

We all love a cup of tea but do you ever stop to think about where the tea that goes into making your favourite brew comes from? Take a look at the back of your pack next time you make a cuppa and you might find mention of Assam, a remote area of northern India. In Assam most tea is produced on large plantations or estates and is picked by employed workers. It is also grown on small plots of land by smallholder farmers who sell their freshly-plucked green leaf to plantations or tea factories for processing into black tea. Tea from Assam is prized for its strong robust flavours which is why so many of the biggest tea brands in the UK use it in their blends.

You may have seen Assam in the news recently with a number of reports highlighting low pay and poor conditions on tea plantations. Fairtrade has been working with Lab, an International Labour Organisation (ILO) project and key people from the tea industry. We looked at the context plantations are having to operate in and the problems they are facing, as well as exploring the role that both state and national governments play. Problems include the very low prices which are paid for tea on local and international markets. Tea from India does not just go to the UK – most of it is sold in India itself, and large volumes are sold to countries such as Russia. Without fair prices across the market the money to improve pay and conditions is lacking.

Local laws relating to plantations, including the Plantation Labour Act and wage legislation, are extremely important if we want to change the lives of plantation workers for good. An improved legal framework could help introduce better wages and living conditions across all plantations, not just those which serve the UK market. Reform of laws on wages and conditions is intensely debated between plantations, business associations, the government and civil society groups. Sadly, while this debate continues pay and conditions will continue to stagnate. Fairtrade is keen to explore any opportunity to engage with the local authorities on wages and working conditions at tea estates to bring about the transformative change that is needed.

The Fairtrade Minimum Price has set a global benchmark for many years and has protected producers from the worst excesses of price volatility. We're using this position to ratchet up progress towards a living income for farmers and a living wage for workers.

Fairtrade views a living wage as vital for a decent standard of living. Across products that carry the Fairtrade Mark, we are leading efforts to move from minimum wages to living wages as soon as possible. If workers and farmers are to increase their wages and incomes in a way that does not put them out of business, it requires everyone – plantation employers, trade unions, buyers, supermarkets and shoppers – to make a joint effort. Fairtrade is bringing these groups together to do just that. We started working in Assam more than 20 years ago. Today, Fairtrade plantations in Assam sell a small percentage of their tea on Fairtrade terms. There are more than 800 tea estates in Assam with 10 being Fairtrade certified – at some estates as little as 2-5% of tea grown is sold on Fairtrade terms. This means that the financial benefits that Fairtrade purchases bring (through Fairtrade Minimum Price and Fairtrade Premiums) are not having the impact on the ground we'd like to see.

Even with low sales we are still making a difference.

In Assam, Fairtrade Premium generated by sales has contributed across key areas including;

- Health services: improved sanitation, mosquito nets, clean water supply, upgrade to medical equipment.
- Education: Fairtrade Premium has funded school fees, improved school facilities, and teachers' wages.
- Housing and community infrastructure: funds have gone towards housing upgrades, improvements in lighting, flooring, and other community infrastructure.

However certification is not enough, you also need remediation. It's not good identifying a problem you also need action to find a solution. Fairtrade does this in two ways: we require compliance to Fairtrade standards and employ expertise on the ground to help producer groups uphold standards and re-gain compliance should they ever fall short. Additionally we work with companies on bespoke programmes to address intractable issues.

Worker debt, loan sharks and debt bondage are all too common features for people in many developed nations. One of the benefits of Fairtrade has been that producers have often formed their own community groups and organized micro-loan facilities at preferential rates.

Sales on Fairtrade terms are crucial to delivering change. Each Fairtrade cup of tea you purchase has a positive impact on the farmers and workers who grow it. We need more consumers to demand more Fairtrade tea to ensure greater financial benefits trickle back down to the people who need it.

Fairtrade blog

A Few Interesting Facts

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes.

When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase..... 'goodnight, sleep tight.'

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service.

'Wet your whistle' is the phrase inspired by this practice.

- Now....

Don't ignore this just because it looks weird. Believe it or not, you can read it.

I cdnuolt blveiee that I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd what I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid Aocdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in what oredr the ltteers in a word are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is that the first and last ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it wouthit a porbelm.

This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Amzanig huh?



Preachers and Services

Allen Memorial

Trinity

September

2 nd	10.45 a.m.	Canon Peter Dodd.	10.45 a.m.	Rev Glynn Lister Covenant Service
	6 p.m.	Rev Paul Cleever-Thorpe		
9 th	10.45 a.m.	Rev Janet Jackson	10.45 a.m.	Deacon Gail Morgan
	6 p.m.	Mrs Pat Gurr		
16 th	10.45 a.m.	Mrs Chris Carroll	10.45 a.m.	Mr Keith Jones
	6 p.m.	Rev Janet Jackson Communion Service.		
23 rd	10.45 a.m.	Pastor Tom Leighton	10.45 a.m.	Rev Janet Jackson Communion Service.
	6 p.m.	Mrs Margaret Harrison		
30 th	10.45 a.m.	No Service	10.45 a.m.	Mr Michael Ball
	6 p.m.	Rev Janet Jackson and Deacon Gail Morgan		
October				
7 th			10.45 a.m.	Deacon Gail Morgan Harvest Festival

Allen Memorial Parent Toddlers

12th September 9:30 to 11:30
at Trinity Church

Allen Memorial Prayer Corner

Wednesday 19th September 6:00-7:00pm
at Allen Memorial Church
All Welcome.

Allen Memorial Messy Church

13th September 3:30 -5:15
at Trinity Church
Worship, Crafts, Food

Allen Memorial Steward Rota

September 10.45 a.m. Services
2nd Alan Emery
9th Anne Gallagher
16th Martin Edworthy
23rd Alan Emery

Door Rota: Ann Humphries

Trinity

	Audio Visual Operators	Church Steward
Sept 2 nd	Alan Barker	Bill Filmer
9 th	Mark Burdon	Alan Barker
16 th	Susan / Lynda	Susan Bewley
23 rd	Mark Burdon	Mark Burdon
30 th	Alan Barker	Bill Filmer
Oct 7 th	Mark Burdon	Alan Barker

Flower Rota

Sunday 2nd September
Zvide Mudekwa

Sunday 9th September
Renata Burley

Sunday 16th September
Allan & Pamela Fender

Sunday 23rd September
Susan Bewley

Sunday 30th September
Lorna Morgan

Sunday 7th October
Bill & Shirley Filmer

During the last months our Communion Table Flowers have brought their beauty and our thoughts and prayers to Janet Scott, Olive Lindsay, Mick & Zoe Watson, Lorna Morgan, Lynda McQuillan, Tope & Gemma Alibi and Rev Janet Jackson.

Articles By ?

All articles for the October magazine MUST be handed in by Sunday 23rd September.

Trinity Door Stewards Rota

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

September
2nd Mr R Falcus.

9th Mr L Lawson

16th Mrs J Scott.

23rd Mrs S Aston.

30th Mrs S Filmer.

October
7th Mrs L Morgan.

Coffee Morning Rota

September
1st Maureen Mills &
Lorna Morgan

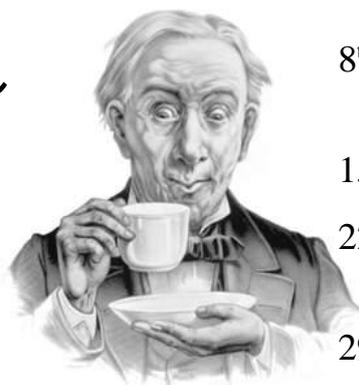
8th Sylvia Aston &
Janis Duff

15th Mick & Zoe Watson

22nd Susan Bewley &
Lynda McQuillan

29th Maureen Mills &
Lorna Morgan

October
6th Sylvia Aston &
Janis Duff



DELICIOUS COFFEE!

Final Act of Worship at Allen Memorial:

You are warmly welcomed
To the final act of worship
In
Allen Memorial
Methodist Church
On
Sunday 30th September 2018
At 6pm