

## Annual Report

### Trinity Methodist Church, Bury St Edmunds

For the year 2015 – 2016

Trinity Methodist Church is registered with the Charity Commission Charity Number 1129116 and is managed under the Constitution Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The Church Council is responsible for overseeing the life of the church and delegates its responsibilities to various groups and the leadership team consisting of the minister, treasurer and the stewards. The main groups are World Service and Mission, Pastoral, Finance, Property, Events Co-ordinating Committees and the Worship Consultation which contribute to church life in worship and proclaiming the message of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks are expressed to all who exercise leadership and who have served the church in the past year.

The address of the church is Brentgovel Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1EB. Correspondence should be addressed to the church secretary: Dr Barbara Chipperfield, 6 Westbury Avenue, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3PZ. The Church Council forms the list of trustees of the church and is available from the church secretary.

#### OUR AIM AND VISION

Our Mission Statement is ... ***To witness to our Christian faith by sharing the love of God with all, through worship, learning and service***

The Church Council has adopted this **Vision Statement:**

**Mission:** Our task is to proclaim and explain the Christian faith and help people to become disciples of Jesus Christ. We do this by showing God's love in the way we care for one another and live our lives both as individuals and as a community.

**Worship:** We are committed to offering worship which is attractive and joyful; warm and inclusive, thoughtful and reflective; challenging and converting. We want our worship to be full of wonder, love and praise. Our music draws upon the best of traditional and contemporary forms. We value preaching which feeds God's people.

**Advocacy:** We want to be a church which helps its members and friends to express what we believe as Methodist Christians in an authentic, natural and loving way. This will allow space for honest doubt. Small groups (especially house groups) have an important role to play in building confidence to do this.

**Friends of All:** We want to be a friendly church where "all are welcome"; caring for children, young people, parents and families whilst ensuring that people of every generation, background and Christian belief are valued and involved.

**Generous Life:** We want to be a church which recognises and celebrates what God is doing in our lives and respond generously in the use of our time, our abilities and treasure. We recognise that this will take many forms within and beyond the institution of the church. We acknowledge that we have different and special gifts so sometimes we will need to be released from doing something we are doing already to do something new or different.

This annual report describes how we seek to achieve that aim and realise our vision. It has been compiled from submissions made by those organisations which wished to report on what they saw as new work or developments in the past year. The absence of a report in no way diminishes the significance or importance of what has been done in the last year.

**The Leadership Team:** The Leadership Team comprises The Minister, The Church Treasurer and the six Church Stewards. We meet every month for Fellowship, Prayer and attending to the Business of running the Church on a day to day basis. The Stewards are responsible for ensuring that the Church is ready each week for the Sunday Services and to assist the Preacher in the preparation and conduct of Worship.

We are very grateful to Eyo Inameti who has been a steward for six years and we are very sorry to lose him from the vestry. He is retiring at the end of June.

We were very pleased to welcome Rev. Debbie Borda as our new minister in September along with her husband Freddie. Sadly due to Freddie's illness we were not able to get to know him before his untimely death in March. Along with the District and the Circuit we are doing our best to support Debbie through this difficult time. We are very pleased to have her in our midst and thank her for all she has achieved despite having to look after Freddie as well as all of us.

Being a steward is a very important role and without the leadership team the church and our services would not run smoothly. Perhaps you could help Trinity run even more smoothly with new ideas and fresh energy. If so please speak to one of us. Although I shall remain as a steward for another year, I am standing down as Senior Steward at the end of June and will be handing the baton to John Davies.

*Phil Colton, Senior Steward*

## **WORSHIP**

Worship distinguishes us from other organisations where people gather together for the common good. The paragraph in the vision statement aptly describes what we seek to do in worship. All that follows in this report flows from our worship. It is our reason for being and we are blessed by the willingness of so many people to be involved.

**Worship Consultation Group:** The worship consultation has met once with Debbie since her arrival. The leadership team had asked that we think about learning more about our faith outside the context of regular worship and we would like to have people's views. All are welcome to join in discussions on worship and related topics and all your views are welcome. Look out for a consultation date to be announced.

*Josie Keys  
Consultation convenor.*

**Messy Church:** Messy Church continues to challenge, excite, exhaust and educate. We have some new families and our regular team is boosted by willing and invaluable "reserves" that are vital to our sessions when people are away. We never turn away offers of help and some of our talented parents are able to help with music and technology. The highlight was the Messy Christmas Christingle that was so ably and sensitively led by Debbie and wonderfully supported by our extended Church family who mingled amongst our M C families to celebrate this joyous occasion. We hope to provide further opportunities for both congregations to join and share our Christian love in craft, worship and food. New families who joined us for that occasion have become regulars and we have become more aware of the significance of our church website in providing accurate and up to date information as more and more families check out what is available, by searching online. If you type in Messy Church in Bury St Edmunds, Trinity is at the top of the links. Businesses pay top rates for such prestigious listing! Recently, I received an email enquiry and a telephone call following an internet search. Both of these queries were as a result of their children wanting to find out for themselves what M C is all about. If we can engage the child then it's a good way in for accompanying adults who have little or no church experience but are curious to see what it's all about.

We look forward to working into our 7<sup>th</sup> year in May, with Debbie's expert knowledge and experience to support us. A regional meet up in June and feedback from the first

international conference in May will provide useful insight into the local and worldwide Messy Church organisation, in our own continuing development in faith and practice.

*Sue Robinson*

**Choir:** The Choir continues to provide leadership in hymn singing and also additional items to enhance worship, such as regular introits and Communion motets and occasional anthems. In this, the year has gone as every other year: on most occasions we can do that which we hope to do but sometimes we have had to acknowledge that absence has made the choir unbalanced to the extent that those additional items have had to be dropped.

A high point in the year is always the Carol Service and this year was no exception. We try to sing choir carols that are less well known and are unlikely to be sung congregationally. We also try to introduce one new item each year. We usually also welcome extra voices to make sure we are indeed balanced and this year we welcomed Charlotte Colman and David Balaam, both of whom sing at the Cathedral. Charlotte led us beautifully in Harrison Oxley's interpretation of 'Es ist ein Ros'.

Three other high points saw us provide the backbone of the Circuit Choir: to say 'farewell' to Rob; to welcome Debbie, and to support the Chairman of the District in his visit in February. Singing with other voices from the Circuit is always exciting and, even, fun! I am very grateful to those members of other churches who willingly join us; not only do they bolster the numbers but of course they enable all of us to sing pieces that would not be sung by a smaller choir.

By the time this report is read, we shall have said 'Goodbye' to four much loved members. Eileen Fox, after many years service, has decided that, because of ill health, she is unable to attend church, at least for the time being. Marlene and Dennis Heath have moved to High Wycombe to be closer to Rachel and her family, and Donald Campbell shortly will move back home to the Isle of Lewis where he will be closer to his family. This is all a great loss to the choir. All of these singers are very competent and experienced and will be missed. I thank them very much for their friendship, service and devotion.

We could not function without the support of excellent pianists and organists and I thank, as ever, Anne, Barbara and Val for their support on the rota or on Friday nights.

*David Dean*

## **CARING AND LEARNING**

**Pastoral Committee:** Trinity has a strong team of 18 Pastoral Visitors who meet four times a year to coordinate the Church's pastoral care and continue to encourage, support and visit members and friends of our Church. A good part of our meetings are taken up with "networking" and sharing news and this enables us to deepen and extend the care we offer. During the year we have thought about the care of vulnerable adults and are currently exploring how we can support those suffering from dementia and their families.

Since our last Church Meeting, Doug & Maureen Wayman and Eva Richardson have retired after many years' faithful service. Jan Goodwin has re-joined the Team and we have also welcomed Kath Hopper.

Our membership currently stands at 145. During our Church Meeting we will remember those who have died during the year: Moreton Peck, Kathleen Bonnett, Elizabeth Buchanan, Eric Orton, Grace Lees, Jean Trussell, Janet King, Iris Berwick, Janet Stamper, Freddie Borda and David Rogers. We will pray for those who mourn their passing but also rejoice that, in the words often used by the Salvation Army, they have been "promoted to glory".

*Vaughan Tong*

## **Adult Learning and Fellowship:**

**Trinity House Groups:** Two groups continue to meet on a regular basis, one being an evening group and the other a morning group. It is encouraging to see that numbers have slowly been increasing in both groups. We have an opportunity to look at God's word and its relevancy for today's world.

These are valuable times of meeting together informally. The groups have recently explored the York Lent Course and the other Encounters with Jesus. If you would like to join a group, speak to either Vaughan Tong, Josie Keys or David Wakeford.

**Trinity Prayer Group:** Trinity members far and wide continue to pray for those that make Prayer requests known to us. In the past months we have received over thirty five requests, both from within and outside Trinity. The requests are either e mailed or telephoned to the members of the group. These members respect the confidentiality of those who make requests.

This is an important part of the spiritual life of the church and if you think you could become part of the group, please have word with Betty or David Wakeford.

*David Wakeford*

**Forum:** We are now into our third year as Editors of Forum and can genuinely say that we do enjoy the job. It has its moments, particularly around deadlines, but overall we find it to be a rewarding task. We are always grateful to receive contributions and thank all those who have sent in items over the past year. We do appreciate those who provide copy by email, and especially those who have taken the time to learn how to use email. We will, of course, continue to accept hand-written copy but nonetheless it's always worthwhile learning a new skill. And rewarding too!

Our primary role is to act as Editors but in fact it is more than just receiving and editing copy. Next is the publication stage where we liaise with the printers, send off the completed magazine and collect it from Thetford. Finally there is the whole distribution stage where Members' copies are put out in the Church as well as posting and delivering individual magazines where necessary.

We thank you for all your support over the year and please do keep on sending your items in. Our ongoing objectives are two-fold: firstly, to provide and communicate essential information within the Church; and secondly to really be a 'Forum' for discussion of important and relevant issues within Trinity and beyond. It is the latter objective, in particular, that we would like to see progressing more in the future.

If you have any comments or observations to make about the magazine please let us know. We are constantly looking to improve what we do.

*Keith and Catherine Reynolds – Editors*

## **SERVICE**

**Tuesday Group:** For the last two years we have run without a Chairman, taking it in turns amongst eight members to conduct the opening, and hold things together, under a Co-ordinator. We have a Programme secretary, but no General Secretary, and the programme has somehow managed to fill the weeks. Generally I think being enjoyed. We have had about 25 paid up members this year (£10) and offers to supply refreshments once or twice during the year are thankfully received. I am running out of ideas and energy, and it would be nice to have a more permanent set-up. We have our Annual Meeting in June and hopefully people will come forward. In June also we will be hosting the Annual "Network" Supper, when our own minister Debbie is booked to speak.

*Audrey Hodson – Programme Secretary*

**Wednesday Coffee Morning:** Last year the takings from Wednesday Coffee morning were down by £750. I ask two questions:-

Do we still need it? If you look at Finance report the obvious answer is YES.

The Coffee morning started to raise funds for the building of Northumberland Ave church, and raising money is still a big part of the need, but there is a fellowship which has developed over the years, and includes several regular customers, who are happy to meet here each week, for unhurried chat and feel at home even though they have no other Trinity connection , so we must value that as part of our outreach.

Can we sustain it? With roughly half of the people keeping it going being now in their eighties, how much longer can they continue. We need more younger/more active people to take over, not just helping but, taking a turn as team leaders. It used to be that not many people could handle the ancient, and irreplaceable coffee machines, but now several others have learnt the mysteries of the system , would one Wednesday in 6 or 7 be too much to ask?

We know there is one person who picks up every request for help whether Coffee morning , Luncheon Club and other one off events. This is not fair, we are all in this together!!

*Audrey Hodson - Organiser*

**Trinity Occasional Catering Team (TOCT).** In 2015, TOCT catered for 19 events: 4 lunches (3 at Trinity); 6 funerals; 3 birthdays (one double 50<sup>th</sup>, one 96<sup>th</sup> and one 100<sup>th</sup>); one all-day staff training day; one tea for a visiting coach party; one Golden Wedding; one Diamond Wedding; one Harvest Supper and one Film and Food evening. TOCT's initial purpose was to cater for visiting coach parties but we are now also enjoying the challenge of outside catering at people's homes or other public venues.

We are sad to lose Marlene and Dennis Heath from our team as they move away, but have been glad to welcome Val and Chris Spencer as they move back to Bury, and Chris Clarke, whose mother is a member of Luncheon Club.

Our financial contribution to the church from the year August 2014 – August 2015 was £2,562. This does not include money raised from events beyond August 2015.

An evening is being organised when team members and others who wish to do so can update their Food Hygiene Certificates.

We are very fortunate to have a team with such a high level of expertise, of standards of presentation and of commitment, and are grateful to them for all that they do and have done.

*Anne Dean.*

**Trinity Luncheon Club:** Luncheon club continues to be a popular meeting place for food, friendship and fellowship. Our membership is 28 at the moment as transport is always difficult and we have to ask our members to make their own way to the lunch. This can be quite trying for some. Our charge is £3 for a home-cooked 2-course lunch with tea or coffee and after expenses were taken we gave £200 to church funds. We are grateful to all our volunteer helpers who give of their time and skills to keep this outreach project continuing. The West Suffolk college prepared and served a meal one week for which the members were really thrilled. We hope they will visit us again. God's love is 'Work in Action', long may we show this love at Trinity.

*Janice and John Davies*

**Treats – Trinity Railway Enthusiasts And Travel Society** – meets during the 'dark' months of the year, on the second Saturday at 7:30pm. We are a friendly ecumenical group who enjoy seeing films about railways worldwide, and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or a bun. Books and magazines are available for folks to borrow. It's all free of charge but we accept donations for Action for Children and in the last year sent them over £100. New members are always welcome.

*John and Janice Davies*

**Action for Children.** Action for Children continues to be supported by Trinity in many ways. We are linked particularly to West Suffolk Shared Housing, where youngsters are given the support and encouragement to begin independent living, after care or fostering in their early years. Our Harvest gifts in 2015 were given to this cause and received with gratitude from the support team. Gift include tins, packets and boxes of food, toiletries and cleaning products, all aimed to give the young people a start in a new home of their own. Through donations and collecting boxes £1000 plus has been sent this year to this worthy cause.

*John and Janice Davies*

**Events and Social Committee Report.** Several years ago when we were in the midst of raising funds for essential building works, the Fundraising Committee was formed, for the purpose of organising events. Over the years the emphasis of the committee changed, raising money became less important and creating opportunities for people to meet socially became the primary objective; although nearly all events managed to show a profit. Over time the committee fell into disrepair, there was probably more than one reason for this, but the main one was simply that we had worn ourselves out and had in effect used up all our ideas. Some things like the successful film nights carried on, largely because they had become part of Trinity tradition. Of one thing I am certain, it is essential that Trinity has a social life; so when Debbie asked me to resurrect the committee, I was pleased to do so.

The committee itself is very much a think tank, and with an influx of new members fresh ideas have been put forward and added to our diary. On occasions we will ask others to organise and run events on our behalf, but will always be there to offer both practical and emotional support. Already we have held a successful Trinity Quiz Night, organised by David and Anne Dean ably supported by committee members. Dennis Heath has organised a concert by the Bury Male Voice Choir and Chris Spencer has taken on the role of arranging monthly walks the first of which has already taken place, if you are interested in joining a walk contact Chris for dates and venues, transport is arranged for those without cars. In June and August there will be two special walks, one ending with a picnic in the Abbey Gardens and one concluding with a pub lunch; in between there will be a coach outing to a place of interest, and the film evening returns to its November slot.

We realise that not every event will suit everyone, but we hope that within the programme there will be something of interest to each and every one of you, and if there isn't then do tell us and perhaps suggest something that you would like to be included – we will do our very best to bring it to fruition.

*John Chambers*

**Christian Aid.** Thanks to the support that Christian Aid receives at Trinity with folk being generous with their time and money, we raised £1712.14 during Christian Aid Week 2015.

In addition we had a stall selling muffins in Bury market and also a “bucket collection” around the market which proved a good way of raising money by all the Bury churches.

Christian Aid's special project for maternal health care in Nigeria was also well supported and raised over the £2,000 pledged by Bury Christian Aid which “pump-primed” a grant from the EU, bringing it up to £10,000. Trinity alone contributed £400 to this project from the proceeds of our ‘Open Gardens’.

This year Christian Aid Week is May 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> and we will have, in addition to the street collection, a “bucket collection” outside Tesco's on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

This year's special project is for Women's Health & Education in Ethiopia which will help women to hold their rightful place in Ethiopian society. Bury has pledged £4,000 and, if raised, will again “pump prime” a grant from the EU to make it £20,000.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Deanna Tong*

**Circuit Mission Action Team:** Adrian Romano is still receiving the World Church Relationships Bulletin from Sarah Friswell by email each month and duly forwarded this around the Circuit – to ministers and various office holders, so that hopefully it will reach as many people as possible.

The Circuit Mission Action Team met on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February at Trinity Methodist Church. Highlights from the last meeting:-

- Trinity, Bradfield, St John's (Sudbury), Northumberland Avenue, Ixworth and Stowmarket Methodist Churches were all represented;
- It was proposed that churches could submit written reports for future meetings, as a significant number of churches in the Circuit were not represented;
- Feedback from the Circuit Event on Saturday 17/10/2015 –
  - Andy from Christian Solidarity Worldwide gave a thought-provoking talk about the persecuted Church.
  - This incorporated the relationship between faith and politics plus specific types of oppression people face in different parts of the world.
  - Additionally, Andy touched upon how hard mission can be in supposedly "Safe" places.
  - There were 27 people attending the talk with 24 for the meal beforehand.
  - A good range of literature was available, which was well-received.
  - The event covered its costs, with Andy receiving £152.00 including mileage plus a £50.00 donation towards the work of CSW.
- Proposed Future Circuit Event: The next Circuit event was proposed for Saturday 29/10/2016 - 6:30pm at Trinity. This will centre on Fair Trade, with John Boardman speaking following his recent visit to Sri Lanka and also featuring Diocesan Fair Trade Representative Richard Stainer and his wife Christine, who have recently been to Nicaragua.
- Mention was also made of a Kenyan tea plantation manager visiting Bury for Fair Trade fortnight (29/02/2016 – 13/03/2016), who will speak at Trinity on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March.
- Proposals were made for moving away from the traditional assignment of Mission in Britain Sunday on the first Sunday in Advent. Instead, a Circuit Mission in Britain event will take place on 26/02/2017, with a big event in February the following year plus World Mission envelopes being distributed in October 2017, but with no World Mission event.
- Reports from Churches on Mission were received from Ixworth, Trinity, Stowmarket, Northumberland Avenue and St John's, Sudbury.

*Adrian Romano*

**Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Annual Sponsored Cycle Ride:** Last year was another very successful year for Trinity with the SHCT Sponsored Cycle Ride, also known as "Ride and Stride". This took place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big "Thank You!" to everyone who assisted by staffing the church on the day and for sponsorship – a grand total of £564.00 was raised.

As you will probably know already, half the money raised goes to Trinity, and half to the on-going work of the Trust. You may be interested to know that around £137,000 was raised throughout the County last year, and this is seen as a fine sum by Cycle Ride Chairman Patrick Grieve.

As always, the ride takes place at the same time as the Heritage Open Day in Bury St Edmunds, when people can access buildings of historic and/or architectural significance that are not normally open to the public. Last year, we also ran a successful book sale in the downstairs hall which drew a lot of people onto the church premises.

Preparations are already under way for 2016's event, which will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> September. Marian Shaw, the SHCT Thingoe Area Local Organiser, has been in touch

earlier in March by email with the Parish Return forms. I have duly filled these in and delivered them in anticipation of Trinity's taking part in this year's ride.

This means that later in the year I will be on the lookout for people to staff the church as Recorders plus anyone willing to participate as walkers or riders? I am not able to participate as a rider this year owing to a significant family event taking place on 10/09/2016, but still wish Trinity to play our part in supporting this inter-church event with a view to being able to participate again as a rider in September 2017!

*Adrian Romano - SHCT Local Organiser*

**Churches Together:** Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding area plays an important part in witnessing in the town. Many organisations come under the umbrella of Churches Together. The newest venture has been the Drop In Centre for those seeking help, which provides food and assistance.

The Good Friday Walk this year due to various reasons was on a smaller scale; however almost record numbers filled the Cathedral before walking to the Abbey ruins for a short service.

Ecumenical Prayer Breakfasts continue to be held every two to three months: an opportunity to share fellowship over a meal. Trinity will be hosting a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June. 8am-10am.

The popular Study and Share will return for four Wednesdays commencing 20<sup>th</sup> April. A diverse range of subjects will be brought by local leaders for thought, for study and discussion. All are welcome - each study is a stand alone study. Come when you can.

*David Wakeford*

**Property Committee:** The most significant matter to have been dealt with in the past year was the damp proofing work to the South wall of the church. This appears to have been very successful and enabled good use of the adjoining spaces and much improved appearance on the fire escape stairs and rooms behind the kitchen and boiler room.

Advertisement permission was obtained and two new Notice boards erected in front of the Church hopefully making our presence more noticeable and our notices more effective.

New accessories including more efficient hand driers have been installed in the toilets.

Later in the year the Quinquennial Inspection was carried out. This reported no evidence of major structural defects but commented on a number of areas which would benefit from redecoration or new finishes. These were already under consideration by the Property Committee. There are two minor areas of dampness at low level in the old external wall in the corridor from the new fire escape, but these are not thought to be significant. Repairs to the boundary walls will be considered carefully once issues of ownership are investigated. New floor coverings are being considered for the staircase areas and various other rooms including covering rather than replacing the old thermoplastic tiles. Other minor works in the Urgent category are already being dealt with.

The other particular issue for us are the seals on the double glazed windows which have failed to a large extent. The possible treatment to remedy this is likely to cost some £4500 but with an anticipated life-span of only 5 years or so will need to be considered carefully.

The meeting in March was the final meeting for Dennis Heath who is moving. Brian De'Ath and John Moore agreed to join John Chambers and John Davies as property Stewards.

*Dennis Heath*

*Chair of Property Committee*

**Room Bookings at Trinity:** Trinity continues to welcome a variety of groups and organisations onto its premises each week, as well as providing rooms for church and circuit meetings.

We are pleased to continue to welcome to Trinity Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous, Thai Chi, Bury St Edmunds Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society and Bury Fair Ladies Morris

Dancers all of whom meet weekly. Many of these groups have met at Trinity for some years now.

Other groups who meet less often include Trefoil Guild, Bury St Edmunds Male Voice Choir, and the Cathedral staff. The pupils and staff of Priory School are also regular visitors when they meet at Trinity for their end of term service. We hope they feel at home here.

We do still have some gaps in our bookings diary, so if you hear of anyone wanting to hire a room in Bury St Edmunds, please tell them about Trinity and what we have to offer. My telephone number and email address are on the church website or in the church directory, and I would be pleased to hear from them and show them around if necessary.

If you do need to use a room for any purpose, please do check that it is available first. It is important from a safety point of view that we know who is using our building and when. If I am not available, the members of the Leadership Team also have access to the diary.

*Clare De'Ath*

**Financial Review** for year ended 31.8.15

The year ended with a deficit of £3085, against a surplus of £1155 last year. The main reasons for this were:

- a) Increase of £3000 for Circuit Assessment
- b) Reduction in gift aid of £700
- c) Fall in number of lettings of £900

Our main income – Offertories and gifts remained the same.

Due to a number of deaths and people moving away, our regular giving will be down by approx. £5000 in the coming year, and the Circuit Assessment will increase by a further £3000. We need to encourage members to re-assess their giving.

*John Hodson - Treasurer*

**Report assembled by Andrew Walker, Trinity Methodist Church Steward  
April 2016**