

# PALACE AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH

## ‘NEWSLINK’

### JUNE/JULY 2018

Dear Friends

#### **Does the Trinity matter?**

Traditionally, the Sunday after Trinity has been designated ‘Trinity Sunday’ and for many years Sundays between Trinity and Advent (the first Sunday after and including 27 November) were counted as ‘Sundays after Trinity’. Over the years, I have tried to prepare a service for Trinity Sunday but I know that many people do not, saying that it is too difficult. ‘Trinity’ is not a word that appears in the Bible, so an interesting question has to be, ‘Does the Trinity matter?’

The word ‘Trinity’ comes from the Latin word *Trinitas* (three-ness), which sums up the essential nature of God and is a short answer to the difficult question, ‘What is God like?’ He is a being who exists eternally as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The three-ness of God must, however, always be complemented by his one-ness (or unity) – ‘Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one’ (Deuteronomy 6:4). This Old Testament verse is strongly echoed in the New Testament, ‘There is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live’ (1 Corinthians 8:4-5).

From our reading of the Holy Scriptures, Christians conclude that in the Godhead, three distinct and co-eternal ‘persons’ exist. The word ‘persons’ (Gk *hypostases*) is not the most helpful for our understanding, but we are stuck with it. These distinct and co-eternal persons are of one indivisible, divine essence (substance). The one indivisible, divine essence or substance is described as ‘consubstantial’. God did not make himself known in three modes or forms, but in three ‘persons’ each co-existing with the others, each eternal, each almighty, none greater or lesser than another, each God and yet together being but one God.

I have more than a hunch that today’s Christians do not ponder the Trinity too deeply. I don’t know if that is because we want simple answers to big questions but I am relieved that we are not confined to the theory alone, we can also think about what the doctrine means to us. The Trinity certainly helps us to make sense of a reading that we have traditionally associated with Christmas Eve:

But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:4-7).

An important theme in each of the four gospels is the identity of Jesus Christ. In another Christmas reading the evangelist announces, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning' (John 1:1-2). The evangelist continues, 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth' (John 1:14). These and other verses seem to teach the divinity of Christ, which will later be illustrated throughout the Gospels. It is important to note that the saving work of Jesus is the saving work of the Tri-une God. It is only the doctrine of the Trinity that enables us to understand how both God the Father, whom we associate with creation, and the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son, whom we associate with redemption can be one in essence and yet separate in person. The third person, the Holy Spirit, is sent as an advocate for believers, providing an assurance of the presence and power of God.

For us, 'spirit' can be an impersonal feeling or mood but in the Bible the Holy Spirit is personal.

The New Testament writers often link Father, Son and Holy Spirit together, not least in the baptismal formula that we associate with the Great Commission, 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 28:19) and in the apostle Paul's great prayer that we call 'The grace' (2 Corinthians 13:14) - The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Does the Trinity matter? Our understanding of the Trinity is vitally important. God has always loved. Eternally, the Holy God has existed perfectly, in one substance (divine essence) and in three persons. There is one God – the Father, who created through the Son and by the Spirit; the Son, eternally divine, Saviour, redeemer, Lord and God; the Spirit, personal, divine, and giving the new birth and the new life that we may be holy.

God bless you throughout this season that I still like to think of as 'Trinity'.

**John Haley**  
**Minister**

### **How Do We Know?**

The wind is blowing. How do we know? We can't see it but we can feel it. We can't see it coming towards us but we know it's there. It blows in our faces when we stand on a cliff top. We know it's there because it blows our hair. It might make us cold in winter, but in summer it is a deliciously cool feeling, refreshing, stimulating. It brings with it a taste of salt on our lips, a smell of the sea. In autumn the wind brings with it the smell of woodsmoke and last summer's leaves. We hear the sound the wind makes, sometimes strong and compelling, maybe soft as a whisper, or musical as a voice raised in song. We can't see the wind but we can see what it does as it kicks up the leaves and tosses them into the air for joy. We don't need to see the substance of what we feel all around us. We know without question that it is there. How do we know when we can't see? It brings our senses alive with the promise of the season.

Lord, we long to see you, to reach out and touch you, to hear you speak to us. With Thomas we say "If only I could see". Help us to open our spiritual eyes to see you in the people around us. Let us hear your voice in the words of love and kindness we hear. When we reach out to care for one another, help us to understand it is you we reach out for. Make us aware that we can reach out and find you whenever we are afraid and alone.

And yet, believing in you goes above and beyond our senses. Our belief is deep within, not relying on superficial feelings which come and go, but in a simple trust which takes a risk, and commits itself to you.

How do we know that you are there when we can't see you? You bring our spirits alive with the promise of heaven.

*Taken from 'Take Time Out' by Morwenna Bennett.*

## **Psalms rewritten by Disciple 1 Group Members 2003**

### O Lord How I Long

O Lord how I long to have the strength of a tree  
With its roots firmly planted in thee  
Watered by your living water to be living fruit for thee  
The fruit that says I belong to you  
The wonderful creator God.

### Alleluia

I look at the mountains in awe and wonder,  
The beauty of the earth, the roaring seas and mystical skies given by God, the creator.

My magnificent God who has created me and has chosen me to be with Him forever. No matter where I am, He is with me, He looks after me day and night, guiding, protecting, comforting, but above all loving me.

I am so sorry that this love can be one-sided when I sin against God and my neighbours in thought, word and deed, and this sin forms a barrier between God and myself - please forgive me, Lord.

So let me worship my God - with joy and thanksgiving for His unfailing love and goodness, and humbly bow before Him in penitence and praise.

Alleluia.

## **Southfield Methodist Church**

Southfield Chapel is the oldest nonconformist place of worship in Paignton. It has been a place of Methodist worship since 1884, but it began as an independent chapel in the Congregational tradition in 1818.

In 1816, a small group of Congregationalists had begun to meet in the kitchen of Lashbrook, a property in Kirkham Street which included the building now called Myrtle Cottage, under the leadership of the Revd. T.W. Windeatt, minister of a flourishing Congregational church in Totnes.

Nonconformism was strongly opposed by the Church of England, and to begin with the group met in secret. However, it was not long before some members were not only speaking out publicly about their membership of the congregation, but also providing land and funds for

the building of a chapel.

A member of that small house-church wrote that:

‘The Lord raised up one or two persons of respectability and influence to cherish this infant cause and in a public and decided manner to declare their determination to assist in providing a place for the preaching of the gospel’.

Local landowner, Richard Hunt, provided a plot of land surrounded by Kirkham Street, Chapel Street and Long Cross Lane, and foundation stones were laid on 24th February 1818. He transferred ownership of the property to the trustees of the chapel on 14th March 1823.

Richard Hunt (1777-1849) is interred in a vault beneath the chapel, and commemorated by a memorial plaque in the chapel.

On Thursday, 5th November 1818, less than nine months after building began, the completed chapel was dedicated for ‘the worship of Almighty God and the preaching of the gospel. On Saturday, 7th November, 19 men and women gathered for a solemn dedicatory service conducted by Revd. Mr. Windeatt, and the building was constituted an Independent or Congregational chapel.

*Taken from ‘Southfield Methodist Church—a Brief History’ 1818-2018*

PALACE AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH

# BAZAAR

IN THE CHURCH HALL  
TOWER ROAD, PAIGNTON.

SATURDAY 23rd JUNE

10AM - 1PM

**\*FREE ENTRY\***

Good quality Bazaar items

Gifts, Crafts, Toiletries

Bric-a-Brac, Books, Toys, Puzzles,

Games, Food, Cakes.

# Refreshments Available

## Plenty of Bargains For Everyone

### **A Very British Summer**

A British summer is a wonderful thing,  
A wee bit of autumn and a wee bit of spring.  
A few rays of sun and we relish the heat,  
Baring our arms and baring our feet.

We plan for our picnics and barbecues too  
Praying for sunshine and skies powder blue.  
Garden parties on lawns are part of the dream,  
Regattas and tennis with strawberries and cream.  
Floaty dresses and sandals and daylight till late,  
Summer fruits, arts and crafts, at a nice country fete.

We continue regardless when the skies turn grey;  
A light summer shower won't get in our way.  
A gazebo here or a tent over there  
Continues the fun till the weather turns fair.

With the winter ahead and the nights so dark,  
No more strolls on the beach, lovely walks in the park.  
We make the best of these salad days  
Before going back to our wintry ways.

But on days when the sun shines through skies clear and bright  
The British Summer's a glorious sight.  
We'll tarry outside for the slightest of reasons  
To revel and cherish our warmest of seasons.

### **Methodist Women in Britain**

About a year or so ago, a representative of Methodist Women in Britain came to speak to us at Wednesday Fellowship.  
Methodist Women in Britain is a charity within the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

#### **Its aims are three-fold:-**

To bring women together, encouraging one another to know Christ and to make him known, as Methodist women and as part of the wider Church in the world.  
To encourage, resource and train women members of the Methodist Church, equipping them to participate more fully in the wider church and in society.

To connect women in Britain with women overseas, working in partnership with others to raise awareness of and act upon issues of social justice around the world.

**It does this by:-**

Providing fellowship and training events, including residential conferences and one day events.

Producing resources and publications, both printed and online, for worship and spiritual growth, and for advocating and providing information on issues of social concern.

Highlighting areas of need and raising funds or providing other goods to support partners and agencies working to alleviate poverty and injustice.

*The above information has been taken from the Annual Review of MWiB activities for the year 2016-2017.*

### **Church Family News**

**Please pray for:-**

Mandy R's grandson Jacob, who has been in hospital and is now recovering at home, and also for his parents, Natalie and Richard, and his brother Ethan.

Jessie K's son Stephen, who is unwell and in Newton Abbot Hospital.

Jenny, who has a neurological condition, and also for her husband and children.

Roy & June Kennedy's daughter, Anita.

Carole R's friend, Ann.

Jim McC.

Will's friend, Trish.

Edward and Jonathon Q.

Judith, Ian and Rachel S.

Gill L..

John H's dentist Richard and his daughter Jemima.

Also for anyone who is unable to attend church for worship at this time.

**Congratulations** and best wishes to Ian D on his appointment as Chairman of Torbay Council. The Civic Service will take place at Palace Avenue Methodist Church on Sunday, 30th September 2018 at 3pm.

### **Action for Children**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Action for Children Coffee Morning, which raised £138.50, plus the loyal boxholders who gave another £158.

Carole R.

### **Praying Together - Monday, 16th July, at Palace Avenue 10.30-11.00 am**

Come and join us for 30 minutes of prayer followed by a time of fellowship over coffee.

Please continue to pray for 5 minutes each day at either 9.00 am or 9.00 pm for the future of our church and circuit.

**Big Bake Coffee Morning, 10.00 am-12.00 noon, on  
Saturday, 9th June, in aid of Rowcroft, at Palace Avenue**

Outside stalls and raffle. Any donations for these will be greatly appreciated.  
Rosemary & Roy M.

**Palace Avenue Bazaar, Saturday, 23rd June, 10.00 am-1.00 pm  
In the Hall Free Entry.**

Come and grab a bargain at our summer Bazaar, there will Many Stalls, Beautiful  
Homemade Crafts, New and Nearly New Gifts, Many Preloved Goods, Toys, Puzzles,  
Books, Plants, Cakes and Foods, a Good Raffle and also, Light Refreshments will be served  
throughout the morning with a free smile.

We would love to see you there.

**Mirror Images**

Like a mirror that reflects  
Treasured memories.  
Memories sublime.  
And ones that stood the test of time.  
Nothing that ever will replace  
Or one's heart erase.

Footsteps that led me to  
Nature's domain I once knew.  
Flowery meadows of nodding heads.  
Stover and my Foxglove dell.  
I remember well.  
My spirit will forever be  
Steadfast in its infinity  
As God is in His eternity.

Elizabeth Jefford

**Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund**

On 23rd May, our speaker at Wednesday Fellowship was Revd. Graham S., who is a frequent visitor to Zimbabwe. He told us that, despite the removal of Robert Mugabe from power, the people are no better off under the new leader. Zimbabwe's agricultural base has been destroyed and the economy is in a mess, reducing most of the people to dire poverty and hunger.

In 2002, as the suffering intensified, the Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund was set up to provide a life-line to some of those most at risk. Christian friends in the UK welcomed the opportunity to give in support of a relief feeding scheme for some of those close to starvation. Over the years, the partnership between donors in the UK and some of the incredibly dedicated team of volunteers on the ground has strengthened.

Now, 15 years on, the suffering continues. The Support Fund sustains a good many feeding

programmes across western Zimbabwe. At the same time, following a special appeal, a nutritional feeding scheme is being funded for children who are so severely malnourished that they lack the energy to walk to school or are fainting at school for lack of food.

We are asked to pray for:-

Those in authority to be persuaded to “loose the chains of injustice”;

The National Peace & Reconciliation Commission to act in an open, non-partisan way;

The corrupt election practices of the past to be swept aside;

The fulfilment of the promise that their light will “break forth like the dawn” in the lives of those humble servants of God, like the ZVSF partners and volunteers, who stand in solidarity with the poor, the hungry and the dispossessed.

*The above information has been taken from ZVSF leaflets.*

### Palace Avenue Diary

#### June

2	Sat	9.00 am	Men's Breakfast
4	Mon	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
5	Tue	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
6	Wed	2.30 pm	Wednesday Fellowship - Derek E - Desert Island Discs
9	Sat	10.00-12.00	Big Bake Coffee Morning in aid of Rowcroft
11	Mon	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
12	Tue	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
12	Tue	2.00 pm	Cabbage Patch Crafters
13	Wed	2.30 pm	Wednesday Fellowship - Quiz
18	Mon	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
19	Tue	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
20	Wed	2.30 pm	Wednesday Fellowship - Viv & Stan - Memories of their holiday in India
23	Sat	10.00-1.00	Bazaar
25	Mon	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
26	Tue	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
26	Tue	2.00 pm	Cabbage Patch Crafters
27	Wed	2.30 pm	Wednesday Fellowship - Anne M.

### Palace Avenue Diary

#### July

2	Mon	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
3	Tue	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
9	Mon	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
10	Tue	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
10	Tue	2.00 pm	Cabbage Patch Crafters
16	Mon	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
16	Mon	10.30 am	Praying Together in Church followed by a time of fellowship and coffee/tea
17	Tue	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
19	Thu	2.00-4.00	Cream Teas served in church foyer
23	Mon	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
23	Tue	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open



24	Tue	2.00 pm	Cabbage Patch Crafters
26	Thu	2.00-4.00	Cream Teas served in church foyer
30	Mon	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open
31	Tue	10.00 am	Coffee Morning/Church Open

### Palace Avenue Preaching Plan

#### June

3	10.30 am	Rev. J. Haley - Holy Communion
10	10.30 am	Mrs. I. Cochran
17	10.30 am	Mr, A. Hills - Alternative Worship
24	10.30 am	Mr. L. Mason

#### July

1	10.30 am	Mrs. H. Barrett
8	10.30 am	Rev. J. Haley - Holy Communion
15	10.30 am	Ms. J. Simpson - Alternative Worship
22	10.30 am	Mr. W. Matthews
29	10.30 am	Rev. J. Haley - Holy Communion

### Southfield Preaching Plan

#### June

3	10.30 am	Mr. Pointon Flowers donated by Miss F.
10	10.30 am	Rev. P. Williamson Flowers donated by Mrs. W.
17	10.30 am	Mr. I. Lister Flowers donated by Mrs. M.
24	10.30 am	Rev. J. Haley (S) Flowers donated by Mrs. C.

#### July

1	10.30 am	Rev. G. Chambers Flowers donated by Mr. E.
8	10.30 am	Major D. Brine

Flowers donated by Deacon J. V.

- 15 10.30 am Rev. G. Thompson - Chapel Anniversary  
Flowers donated by Mrs. C.
- 22 10.30 am Rev. P. Williamson  
Flowers donated by Mrs. M.
- 29 10.30 am Mr. I. Somerville  
Flowers donated by Mrs.V.
- 29 6.30 pm CTiP United Service at Collaton St. Mary

SOUTHFIELD METHODIST CHURCH  
CECIL ROAD, PAIGNTON TQ3 2SH

CONCERT BY

**BURRATON MALE**

**VOICE CHOIR**

**SATURDAY, 2ND JUNE**

**7.30PM**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## Southfield Diary

### June

1	Fri	10.00 am	Morning Service
1	Fri	10.30 am	Coffee Morning
2	Sat	7.30 pm	Concert by Burraton Male Voice Choir
5	Tue	2.00 pm	Line Dancing
12	Tue	11.00 am	Service at Little Oldway
12	Tue	2.00 pm	Golden Oldies
		3.00 pm	Line Dancing
15	Fri	10.00 am	Prayer Circle
15	Fri	10.30 am	Coffee Morning
19	Tue	11.00 am	Service at Cornerways
19	Tue	2.00 pm	Line Dancing
19	Tue	7.30 pm	Circuit Meeting at Southfield
26	Tue	11.00 am	Service at Tudor Court
26	Tue	2.00 pm	Line Dancing
27	Wed	11.00 am	Service at Burnside Court
29	Fri	10.00 am	Morning Service
29	Fri	10.30 am	Coffee Morning

Happy Birthday to Mrs. Stella D.who will be 92 on June 13th.

June 2nd - Concert by Burraton Male Voice Choir.  
Everyone welcome. (This concert was cancelled in March due to bad weather.)

## Southfield Diary

### July

3	Tue	2.00 pm	Line Dancing
10	Tue	11.00.am	Service at Little Oldway
10	Tue	2.00 pm	Golden Oldies with Irene Cochran
		3.00 pm	Line Dancing
17	Tue	11.00 am	Service at Cornerways
17	Tue	2.00 pm	Line Dancing
24	Tue	11.00 am	Service at Tudor Court
24	Tue	2.00 pm	Line Dancing

25	Wed	11.00 am	Service at Burnside Court
27	Fri	10.00 am	Prayer Circle
27	Fri	10.30 am	Coffee Morning
31	Tue	2.00 pm	Line Dancing and Cream Tea

**END**