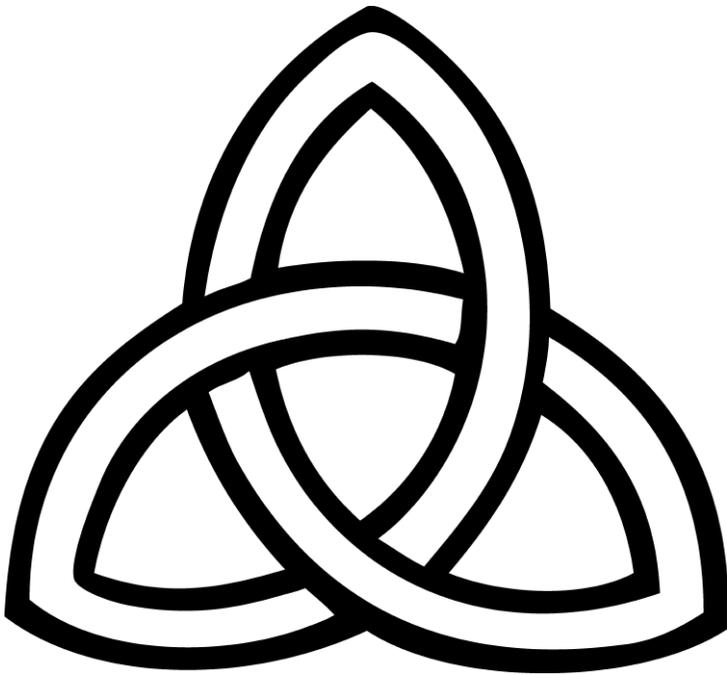


THE LINK

The Magazine of Portsmouth
Methodist Church



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Minister - Rev. John Mills - Tel. 02392 731858

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Message from the Manse

November, the month of remembrance. This year our service of remembering for loved ones actually takes place on All Saint's Day, November 1st, the middle day of the traditional season of Allhallowtide which encompasses Halloween and All Souls Day (November 2nd). Of course, on November 11th we have Armistice Day and this year Remembrance Sunday falls on November 8th.

I wonder whether this year there will be an added poignancy to remembrance as we look back across this year with the knowledge that some 43,000 people in Britain alone have died from Covid-19 and well over a million worldwide?

It can be a gloomy time, even a sad time. Even the weather may add to the atmosphere, it's often at the start of November that we get the first real wintry days.

However, it's a time that, faced with death, we can also celebrate and be thankful for life. An important part of Remembrance Sunday is the recognition that in dying those sailors, soldiers and air personnel of previous generations helped secure the life and freedoms we enjoy today. When we remember our own lost loved ones we can also give thanks for the life they gave us; literally in the case of our parents, more figuratively in the case of partners and friends. This year in remembering the NHS staff and other key workers who have lost their lives we can also be thankful that they were committed to preserving life for others, even at risk to themselves.

Ultimately, this time of remembrance brings to mind the death of Jesus, who in dying was raised to eternal life. His promises are for now, he promised that he came "that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). And through his death eternal life for all is possible. In the words of the funeral service (which I've had to say too often recently) we commit believers to God "in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ".

This time of year reminds us that life and death are inextricably linked, but that it isn't a simple linear path of living then dying. Life is given in the midst of death and the dead live on in the living. Let us give thanks for the life we have and those who have given life to us in whatever way, and give thanks to the one who is the ultimate giver of life and through whom we live eternally.

John

Service of remembering of loved ones

This will take place at Copnor on Sunday November 1st at 3pm. Please let John or one of the stewards know the name(s) of those you wish to remember. Their names can be read out and it will be possible to light a candle for them.

From the Team

When we relaunched the monthly Link 'post-lockdown' we said that

- a) we wanted to have 'other voices', not just bland information
- b) we intended to move towards themed issues.

In line with this later intention, we've already had a 'lockdown' issue and the aim is that our December issue, to be published at the end of November, should have a Christmas theme. These themed issues do help us achieve the first goal and also help make The Link more relevant to the period. It would be good if we could perhaps consider Christmas past, present and future - after all when December goes to press, we won't have reached the end of November, let alone Christmas! We've already had a few contributions, but we'd love to have so many that we have a problem printing The Link! You can send contributions to christine.snelling1949@gmail.com or, on paper, to Christine Snelling, ☪ Trinity Centre or via the centre contacts (Fran at Eastney, Barbara or Catherine at Copnor, Christine or Ralph at Trinity). We look forward to being inundated!

Around Our Centres

Margaret Hardman

Just before this magazine went to print, we heard that Margaret Hardman has died. Margaret worshipped at Trinity with her family some years ago, before moving home to live near Eastney, where she continued to worship. We hold all Margaret's family in our prayers.

David Danso-Amoako

David has been operating the PA system at Trinity Mission Centre for a long while now. However, in September we said farewell to him for a while – he has gained a place at Nottingham University and is studying Pharmacy. Hopefully conditions will soon improve for David; he is currently under lockdown!

We wish him all the best for his course and look forward to welcoming him back whenever he returns to Portsmouth.

Harvest Festival

Portsmouth Methodist Church Harvest Festival, on 4th October, was a joint service held at Copnor. This traditional service was a happy occasion. Each centre made their own collection of gifts for local causes and a collection was also made for 'All We Can' for those who wished to donate in that way.

Stephen Pomeroy sent us this picture of Copnor decorated for the service.



Preachers for November

<i>Date</i>	<i>Copnor</i>	<i>Eastney</i>	<i>Trinity</i>
1st November	Mr Mark McDermott	Rev John Mills	Local Arrangement
8th November Remembrance Sunday	Rev John Mills	Joint Service at Copnor	Joint Service at Copnor
15th November	Gathering for Worship	Mr Geoff Paffett	Rev Dr John Ilesley
22nd November	Gathering for Worship	Gathering for Worship	Rev John Mills Holy Communion
29th November	Rev Dr Beryl Wright	Rev Dr John Ilesley	Gathering for Worship

Please note that the Zimbabwean Fellowship are currently meeting via Zoom.

Also there is a Zoom service for everyone at 6.30 p.m. every Sunday. Please contact John if you would like to take part.

For Information ...

Christmas Cards

Trinity Mission Centre has packs of Christmas cards for sale. They were made by a member of the Craft Club during Lockdown and sell at £1.25 a pack. If you would like to purchase some please contact Shirley Haynes on 07802528627 to arrange collection via your own centres.

The packs contain 12 Religious Cards or 12 general Christmas pictures.

All money will be donated to the Church Funds

Walking Nativity

A message from Catherine Burt tells us that this year's Walking Nativity won't be taking place due to COVID-19 but plans are underway for an online/film version so look out for details coming soon!

Shoebboxes

Our friends at Milton URC are running the shoebox project again this Christmas. They are collecting boxes (full or empty) and items such as soap from November 8th and processing from the 16th to the 20th, Any help would be appreciated. Please contact Nicky or Gill for further details on gg.bailey@ntlworld.com or NICKYKAYG@yahoo.co.uk

Mission and Vision

Missioner and vision update

The 'God for all' Evangelism and Growth Strategy was adopted by the Methodist Conference in the summer. The strategy includes District-led projects to create new worshipping communities. The Southampton District has taken up our existing thinking on a missioner for Portsmouth to become its focus for this connexional year. Mark 'Tizz' Tizzard, the District's Intergenerational Mission Enabler is taking a lead on the project from the District. A project team is being put together, with representatives from District, Circuit and Portsmouth Methodist Church. This is an exciting prospect for Methodism in Portsmouth and something that need supporting and covering in prayer. There will be a local prayer network. It will involve sharing prayer points for the project and meeting up from time to time, actually or virtually. Please let John know if you'd like to be involved in that.

Vision Group

At the last Church Council, we discussed how a vision for the existing Portsmouth Methodist Church needs to run alongside the missioner project. Covid has underlined some of the challenges we face, but also has opened up opportunities as to how we might serve our communities and share the good news of Jesus Christ going forward. If you would like to be part of a group to do some thinking about this then, again, let John know.

Visiting

Our pastoral visitors have been doing a wonderful job keeping in touch with people over the last few months. However, we've come across cases where some people don't have an assigned pastoral visitor. Do please let us know if you have received little or no contact from the church. Some people are understandably wary about having visitors in their home, although currently (as of October 16th) the restrictions do allow for it. So, if you would like John to visit, please let him know.

And finally ...

Immortal Invisible

This mid-Victorian hymn has been a stalwart for years and has been parodied including by the press following Prince Charles when he was younger using the tune and style to reflect on the struggles they had following him when he was on a tour of northern Canada in the mid-70s.

Impossible, unapproachable, God only knows

The lights always dreadful and he won't d*** well pose

Written by a Minister in the Free Church of Scotland who despite the denomination and serving most of his ministry in Scotland, split between Edinburgh and Glasgow, had his first appointment at their chapel in Shadwell Street, London. That church is no longer there although the denomination continues to have a London presence. Reverend Walter Chalmers Smith was not a major hymn writer, rather he was mainly a poet (sometimes publishing under the names of Orwell and Herman Kunst) and ended up as Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland.

The hymn is based on the expression of praise in 1 Timothy 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (NIV). The hymn is unusual in that it neither focuses on issues, such as mission or justice nor interaction with a Christian event, such as Christmas or Easter. Instead it is purely focussed on God and thus in Hymns and Psalms was in the same number of hymns under God's Being and in Singing the Faith is under the Adoration of God. In this hymn we as humans are only there to bring attention to how different God is. We might have the life cycle similar to leaves on a tree – but “naught changeth” God.

The hymn also makes clear reference to the veil that Moses used because of the light that came from his face after speaking to God's (Exodus 34) and which Paul says we should no longer need to use (2 Corinthians 3)

The tune we nearly always use is a Welsh tune so this hymn reflects well the mixture of Britain.

Mark Barton



The following item has been sent by Maureen Kent who worshipped at Trinity for over 20 years before moving to North Wales in 2002. The piece is by Pam Worsey who lives locally to Maureen in Tywyn and it is reproduced with her kind consent.

The Boss

Matt.5:16 NIV "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven".

'The Lord is my boss. He gives me reviews, critiques, promotions and demotions.

He provides my benefit plan and my health insurance.

He can transfer me ...change my responsibilities ...develop all my goals and objectives.

I report to Him alone ...While my tasks change, my essential job doesn't.

I'm instructed to do His work and be His hands and feet in whatever position He assigns me'



Deadline

Contributions for our December Link are due in by 22nd November at the very latest please. You still have time to send in your Christmas thoughts to share with others!