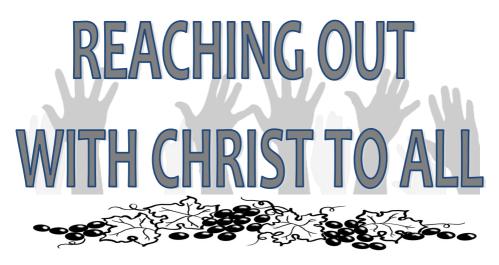


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DIARY PAGES DECEMBER 2020

You are very welcome to join us for our Zoom services – please contact the office or one of the clergy for the link

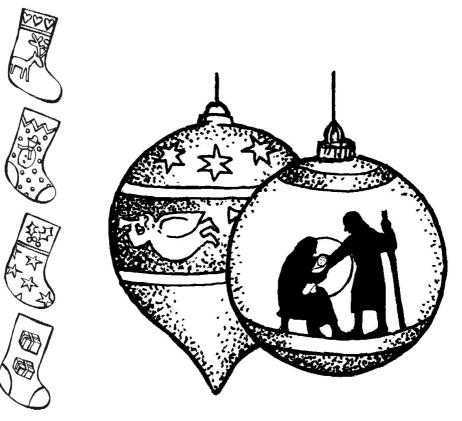
DECEMBER

	Matrimony (Erskine & Beswick Group <i>(via Zoom)</i>				
)-10.00pm	Extended Worship in church (led by				
n 24/7 Cheste	er)				
SUNDAY OF	Y OF ADVENT				
)am Paris	h Eucharist and service of light				
Evening Pr	ayer (via Zoom)				
)pm Bible	Group <i>(via Zoom)</i>				
	Opm Bible O-10.00pm In 24/7 Cheste SUNDAY OF A Oam Paris Evening Pra				

SUNDAY 13th 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.30am Parish Eucharist

Weds 16 th	5.00pm	Evening Prayer <i>(via Zoom)</i>
Thurs 17 th	7.30pm	Bible Group <i>(via Zoom)</i>
SUNDAY 20 th	4 th S	UNDAY OF ADVENT
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
	5.30pm	Carols on your doorstep (see page 11)
Weds 23 rd	5.00pm	Evening Prayer (via Zoom)
Thurs 24 th	CHRISTMA	AS EVE
	6.00pm	Crib Service (in church)
	11.30pm	First Eucharist of Christmas
Fri 25 th	CHRISTMA	AS DAY
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
Sunday 27 th	No s	ervice this weekend
JANUARY 202	1	
SUNDAY 3 rd	2 nd 5	SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
Weds 6 th	5.00pm	Evening Prayer (via Zoom)
Thurs 7 th	7.30pm	Bible Group (via Zoom)
SUNDAY 10 th	1 st S	UNDAY after EPIPHANY
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
Weds 13 th	5.00pm	Evening Prayer (via Zoom)
	7.30pm	PCC meeting (via Zoom)
Thurs 14 th	7.30pm	Bible Group <i>(via Zoom</i>)
SUNDAY 17 th	2 nd S	SUNDAY of EPIPHANY
	9.30	

Weds 20 th	5.00	pm	Evening Prayer (via Zoom)
Thurs 21 st	7.30	pm	Bible Group (via Zoom)
SUNDAY 24 th	3 rd S	UNDA	Y of EPIPHANY
	9.30	am	Parish Eucharist
Weds 27 th	5.00	pm	Evening Prayer (via Zoom)
Thurs 28 th	7.30	pm	Bible Group (via Zoom)
SUNDAY 31 st	4 th S	UNDA	Y of EPIPHANY
	9.30	am	Parish Eucharist
Weds 3 rd Feb	5.00pm	Even	ing Prayer (via Zoom)
Thurs 4 th Feb	7.30pm	Bible	e Group (via Zoom)



Paws for worship

It's not only adults who have roll of honour missed meeting at Holy Trinity. and sporting a Children in Blacon's schools have very beautiful also missed out. We haven't been poppy at the able to go in to take assemblies as Remembrance we usually do. And, the children assembly. have not been able to hold their celebrations and end of term services in our building.

church. So we decided to bring behind the altar and pretending assemblies into the classroom to preach at the lectern. I don't with help from our friend Max.

Max had trouble understanding why he needed to share his fruit during the harvest assembly. Though he enjoyed reading the



Max models care for his community – he wears his mask and washes his hands. But he can We can't bring the children into be cheeky – doing handstands know about the children, but I'm looking forward to finding out about his next great adventure. Maybe he'll get to make a Christingle, lets hope he's careful with the candle and all that fur.



ADVENT 2020

Advent is a time for watching and waiting for the coming of Christ. Tina and Clive are putting together four videos for the four Sundays of Advent, to help us reflect on what this means for us. They have the following themes:

> November 29th He is coming – foretold December 6th He is coming – for what? December 13th He is coming – for whom? December 20th He has come – Part 1



PCC NEWS

When PCC met in November, there were a number of matters discussed, which included:

BOILERS PCC talked about the need for new boilers in the church. Rev Louise Annison has a wonderful working party, including Jim Middleton and Colin Jones. See the item which they have produced about this.

CHRISTMAS PCC discussed services in church at Christmas. This was a difficult conversation, since the nation was in lockdown at the time of discussing it. However, we resolved that if regulations allowed, we would want to hold (with suitable social distancing in place) a crib service at 6pm on Christmas Eve, and a 'midnight' Communion at 11.30pm. In addition, we will hold a (said) Communion Service on Christmas morning.

There had been a communication from Bishop Mark and Bishop Keith to all parishes, which gave permission to dispense with the requirement to hold public worship on Sunday 27th December. After discussion, PCC decided that would be a sensible policy (for this year only).

SABBATICAL Those of you with good memories may remember that the Rector was due to take a sabbatical this autumn. Due to the Coronavirus emergency, she decided to postpone that, and is now taking it after Easter 2021. PCC were alerted to this, and also to the needs that will arise to cover some of the work which the Rector has been undertaking (which is not necessarily the role of a Rector!). We will be discussing this in further detail at our next meeting in January.

READER PCC agreed to the transfer of a Reader licence to this parish, for Richard Price. He and his wife moved into Blacon from Vicar's Cross over two years ago. Tina explained to PCC that his Reader ministry is an

be leading worship on Sundays, as signed now, it is not currently for example Sarah Dutton does. Richard will be asked to introduce himself to the parish in a future edition of the Parish News.

unconventional one, so he will not Although the paperwork has been clear when his licence will be formally made over to this parish (from St Luke's, Huntingdon).



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CHESTER CAROLS ON YOUR DOORSTEP

The whole city is taking part in this event: sing along with your neighbours on your own doorstep.



Chester Churches have joined with Dee Radio to share a message of hope this Christmas.

Sunday, 20th December

5.30pm



Tune in on the day: Chester's Dee Radio 106.3 FM

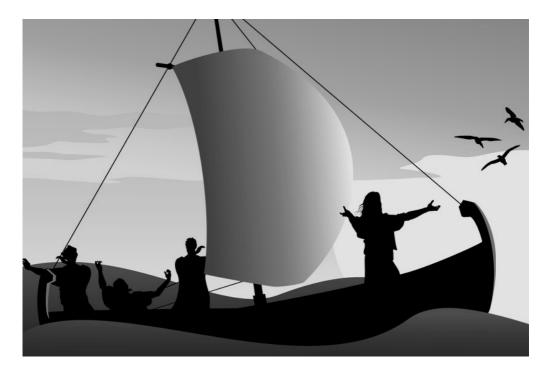


Don't forget your festive jumper! Carol Sheets available online: <u>www.linkup.uk.net</u>

CONTINUING OUR MISSION IN BLACON

Holy Trinity Church relies on donations to provide care and support to everyone in this community. Now more than ever, <u>please consider</u> <u>giving generously to support our mission and ministry</u>. You may wish to take the opportunity to set up a Standing Order with your bank to ensure we continue to receive regular donations at this time. A form is on the opposite page, which you should pass to your bank.

Thank you for your support.



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To bring some Christmas cheer this Advent, the dioceses of Chester, Manchester and Sheffield have teamed together to launch the Ultimate Online Advent Calendar.

Every day from 01 December until Christmas Eve, a new video will be released to bring some Advent Calendar action, a daily dose of chocolate, and a meaningful reflection for young people, and adults for that matter!

The Ultimate Online Advent Calendar will make the long wait for the festivities of Christmas that little bit easier, and create the opportunity to think about some important Advent themes too.

Follow the Ultimate Online Advent Calendar at <u>www.youtube.com/user/manchesterdiocese</u>, on Twitter @DioManchester and on Instagram @mandioyouth

Prayers at this time

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. Amen.

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Trinity's Boiler Bunnies need YOU

Dear Friend,

You may have noticed a certain chill in the air at Holy Trinity.

Our heating system is broken it will cost £9,500 to fix it and keep Holy Trinity warm, and keep on supporting our community. We don't have £9,500. So we are asking for your help.

If 100 people gave £100 each the bill would be paid. £100 sounds like an enormous amount. But it is just £2 per week over a year, about the price of a takeaway coffee.

Your donation can keep Holy Trinity warm and open. If you would like to help please contact Linda in the office to set up a standing order If you are unable to support us financially you can still support us in prayer. Please ask

for our prayer partners form, we are truly grateful for your support.

We are hoping that someone may be able to loan us part of the money while we wait for donations. If you think you might be able to help please contact Linda in the office to make arrangements on 01244 376085.

It's an amazing thing see God's generosity at work. Twelve months ago our heating system began to fail. We were quoted £18,500 to repair. By the grace of God, the generosity of our heating engineers who are keen to support our work (and the charms of Jim Middleton) this is almost halved to £9,500. Whether we are able to take advantage of this generous offer depends on you.

Jim M, Colin J and Louise Annison

warm and to continue to support and expectation. our community, please help.

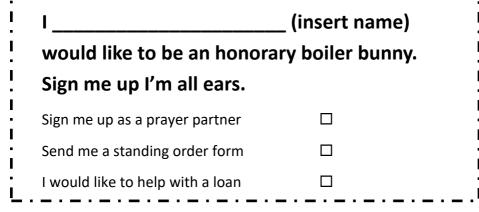
are Holy Trinity's boiler bunnies. land God waited until the priests Jim has negotiated an outstanding carrying the ark of the covenant discount, Colin is applying for had got their feet wet before he grant funding and Louise, well, parted the waters (Joshua 3). So, she's mostly decorative. We need we getting all the relevant permisyour help to keep our church sions from the diocese in hope

Thank you, the boiler bunnies

We trust that God has a way to make this happen. When Joshua led the Israelites to the promised



Please complete this form and pass to Linda in the office.



Praying for Blacon



"When rightliving people bless the city, **it flourishes**" Prov 11:11 The Message As part of an inter-church prayer focus for Blacon, please could you pray, commencing on these Sundays, for the residents living in these roads:

	6 December	Hereford Place, Worcester Place, Ludlow Road & Mayfield Road
7	13 December	Willow Drive, Naomi Close, Dentith Drive & Egerton Road
	20 December	Provan Way, Saughall Road, Westbourne Road & Cranleigh Crescent
	27 December	Palmerstone Close, Meadowside Mews, Highcliffe Avenue & Sherwood Road
	3 January	Norris Road, Trinity Gardens, Lynwood Road, Burton Road & Norman Way
	10 January	Onslow Road, Springwood Close, Overwood Lane & Melverley Drive
	17 January	Imperial Avenue, Embassy Close, Bristol Close & Virginia Drive
	24 January	Woodside Road, Oakfield Road, Highfield Road & Foxcote Close
	31 January	Bowyer's Close, Ashfield Crescent, Glenside Close & Longdale Drive



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> Single person membership £3 per week Family membership £5 per week Contact us for more information

Holy Trinity Church hall, Norris Road, Blacon Monday 11:00-12:00 Thursday 10:30-12:00

www.blaconbeacon.org Phone/text: 07851870078



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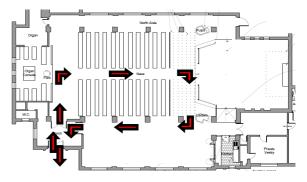


We are looking forward to worshipping together again. But Covid is going to remain a risk for the foreseeable future. Help us to keep everyone safe during Sunday services:

- Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds.
- Wear a face covering during the service. Sadly we won't be serving refreshments initially.
- Use alcohol gel on your hands when you enter the building.
- Stay at least 2m apart from anyone who is not in your own household or bubble. This is why some pews are not in use.



- 5. Sadly we won't be able to include sung worship at the moment
- 6. There will be some changes to the way that we take communion: We will not be able to shake hands during the peace, communion will only be taken in one kind (wafer). These will be kept covered until they are distributed. Tina will use alcohol gel and drop the wafers onto your palm to avoid physical contact.
- Follow the new one way system as you move around the building



Tidings of comfort and joy

I started a new job a few years ago where my colleagues adored the John Lewis Christmas advert. Weeks beforehand they wrote the release date on the calendar. When the day arrived, they crowded round the screen to watch in excitement.

This was their Christmas tradition. Their piece of hope for the festive season. This was their main reflection on the true meaning of Christmas. A contrast to the chaos of present buying, cooking, and parties.

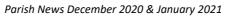
The irony is that for them John Lewis made a better job of inspiring love and hope than the church. Of course, the subtext – the way you show that love is by shopping at John Lewis or Waitrose was not lost on them. However, the commercialism didn't detract in any way from my colleague's faith in the power of that message. It makes me sad. The angel Gabriel showed up to teenage girl in a poverty-stricken backwater of the Roman Empire he announced

'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus' (Luke 1:30-31)

Gabriel didn't go on to say:

'He will encourage people to be a little bit nicer to one another in the hope that injustice seems acceptable. Desirable even. It doesn't matter that most people will never be able to afford to get their Christmas shopping from Waitrose. Or that some will struggle to provide food or gifts for their family at all. They can still enjoy the dream that, if they could, their lives would be perfect.'

[Continued on page 35]





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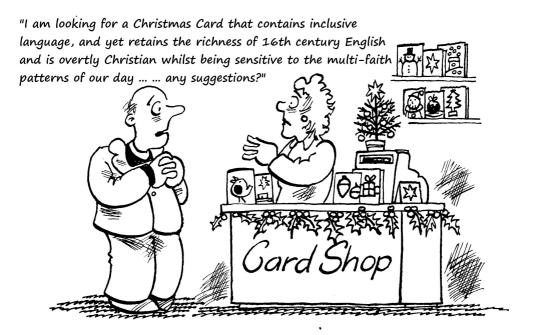
charges for one insert each month for a year, starting at any time, are quite modest:

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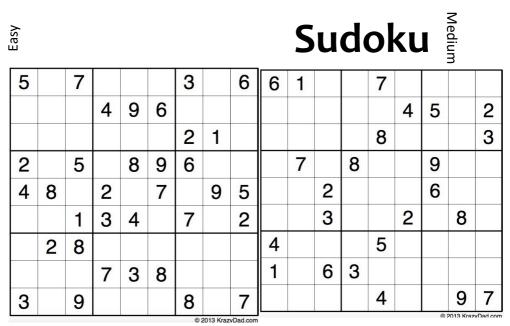




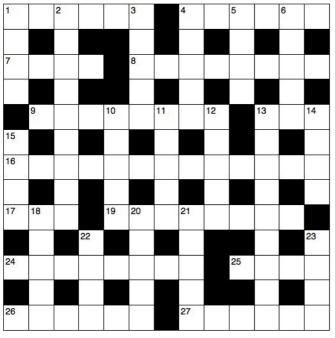
The February issue of the Parish News will be available on or about Sunday, 31st January
2021. All contributions should be submitted to the Parish Office by Thursday, 14th January

2021. Thank you. If you would like to subscribe to our magazine please contact the Church Office on 01244 376085

NO CHARGE DURING THE PANDEMIC.



Crossword



Across

1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when He had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)

4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and His — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)

8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)

9 Also known as

Abednego (Daniel 1:7)

Crossword Clues

(7)

10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7) 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5) 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)

17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5) 19 Roman province to which

Paul returned after

evangelizing it on his first

missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)

21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)

22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)

23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John10:3) (6)

24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Down

1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6) 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)

3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)

5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)

6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)

7 A three (anag.) (6)

9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)

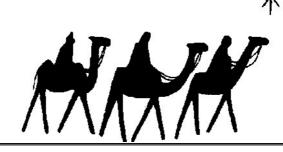
13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7) 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)

15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)

```
16 See 6 Down (6)
```

18





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From the Registers

FUNERAL J J H (63 years) 10th November

'May she rest in peace and rise in glory'



Christmas Crib

Cribbed and confined in stable place - look! this little child has brought down rulers from their thrones to kneel in straw, as there they offer gold and frankincense and myrrh - look! this little child in swaddling cloths has lifted humble shepherds up and made them kings' companions! Here in this stable place he's making all things new and when he comes again, swaddled in glory, the kingdom of this world will be all overturned thrones will tumble, heads will roll, the hungry fed, the dead be raised! Rejoice! Here in this stable place the die is cast, all will be well, and all be well, just as he promised!



[Continued from page 26]

No, the angel said:

'He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' No matter what Mary thought about the permanence of the status quo 'nothing will be impossible with God' (Luke 1:32-33, 37).

Nothing will be impossible with God. God came to be with his people incarnate in human form. To live and love, to celebrate and mourn, to suffer and die. We can die to the lie that you are what you earn. That the value of a human life is determined by its purchasing power. And in that death we can be resurrected into God's kingdom.

No wonder Mary burst into song praising God. She knew that Jesus, God incarnate, Lord of lords and King of kings had come to save his people. To scatter the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. To bring down the powerful from their thrones. To lift up the lowly, fill the hungry and send the rich away empty (Luke 1:46-56). Everyone who accepts Jesus in their heart is made new by his Spirit.

The kindness illustrated so beautifully in the John Lewis ad is not something Christians attempt for its own sake. It is the natural consequence of hearts transformed by the love of Jesus. Sounds too good to be true? No wonder Gabriel needed to remind Mary that 'nothing is impossible with God.'

Merry Christmas

Louise





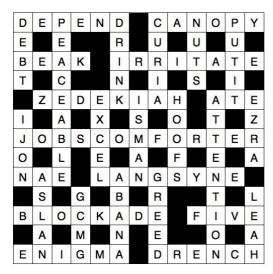
Sudoku Solutions

Easy

Medium

					-			
5	9	7	8	1	2	3	4	6
1	3	2	4	9	6	5	7	8
8	4	6	5	7	3	2	1	9
2	7	5	1	8	9	6	3	4
4	8	3	2	6	7	1	9	5
9	6	1	3	4	5	7	8	2
7	2	8	9	5	1	4	6	3
6	5	4	7	3	8	9	2	1
3	1	9	6	2	4	8	5	7

6	1	5	2	7	3	8	4	9
3	8	9	1	6	4	5	7	2
7	2	4	5	8	9	1	6	3
5	7	1	8	3	6	9	2	4
8	4	2	7	9	5	6	3	1
9	6	3	4	1	2	7	8	5
4	3	7	9	5	8	2	1	6
1	9	6	3	2	7	4	5	8
2	5	8	6	4	1	3	9	7





"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think that the Angel of the Lord Zooming with the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."

Growing Good

At the end of November, the new Archbishop of York, Most Rev Stephen Cottrell spoke of his vision for the Church of England in the next few years, "to become a more simple and humble church, returning to its roots, which is Christ-centred and Action and Discipleship in the Church of England' by Hannah Rich, see <u>www.cuf.org.uk</u>). In the foreword, he says "I long for us as Christian sisters and brothers to be a church vibrantly fulfilling its mission to form disciples who are compelled to love their neighbours. This will evident itself in a variety of ways, from small

Jesusshaped". He longs for the church to become focussed on its networks

Longing for the church to become more simple, and humble,...Christ-centred and Jesus-shaped.'

and unsophisticated acts of kindness to the large-scale charitable projects in which many of our church communities are engaged. As

and neighbourhoods, which is younger and more diverse than we are currently. Above all, to be a church which has Jesus' priorities in how we go about things, and which is humbler, simpler and bolder in how it lives out and shares the Gospel of Christ.

This came just a week after the publication of a really important report, which he wrote the foreword to ('Growing Good: Growth, Social Christians, we can't help but show our love in this way because God, our Heavenly Father first loved us."

This report was published by a working party (called the GRA:CE project). They describe research which was carried out over the last three years by Church Urban Fund and the Christian Think-tank Theos. As well as looking in detail at Church of England statistics, they also interviewed church members in all kinds of different parishes. They are looking particularly at growth in churches, churches encouraging people to become disciples, and how being involved in events and other things within the community (what they call social action) has an influence on both church growth and discipleship.

This particular report is I think of much more importance to the life of Holy Trinity Blacon than many other reports I have seen over the vears. This is because it was describing exactly what we have seen in our church community. Over recent years, we have seen the footfall in our buildings grow hugely. Just before lockdown in March, the church hall was in use 6 or 7 days and 5 or 6 evenings each week, and the church itself was in use across 4 or 5 days every week. Indeed, the numbers of people coming into the church building on weekdays had grown to become way more than double the numbers (of all ages from newborn to very elderly) we ever had attending on Sundays. This



was the case even if we held a large Baptism service on a Sunday, and was partly because of the very large numbers attending our thriving parent and toddler group on Thursdays.

The report shows a link between community involvement, growth in faith, and growth in numbers involved in the church (in whatever way). They show that churches grow in size and also in depth of faith the more they are seen to be present in, and connected to, their local area. It is also exactly what the Archbishop describes in his Foreword. The more we behave as Christ's hands and eyes and feet in the world, the closer to him we grow and the greater we allow Him to be at work among us. And, it works the other way round too. The closer we grow to God, the more we allow Him to work through us in our day-to-day lives, and in the way we behave towards others, and also in the ways we connect to our neighbourhood and local community. Moreover, the research also showed that when the church is involved in acts of generosity (such as freely giving meals to the homeless, which we were involved with in recent winters) - giving freely in the same way that God freely gives to

us – that also allows God's work to grow in a community, and his growth to become known in the church.

The research quoted some

fascinating numbers about the influence churches have around the country. Church of England Churches are involved in about 35,000 projects, and over 10 million people in this country say they access some service through the church (not including worship services) in a year. The involvement of church buildings has been shown to contribute an estimated £12.4billion in economic value each year (of which about £10 billion is the value of the contribution to social or mental wellbeing). These figures were all calculated before

Churches grow through

social action

the current pandemic and since then, many churches have become even more involved in providing for their communities.

So, although across this country fewer people are engaging with

worship in the Church, (and the fall in attendance on Sunday mornings has been far more startling in some congregations than we have experienced) the nation remains deeply connected to the church through its social action. The report makes the point that real growth in numbers in the church do happen as a result of social action, but not instantly. It takes time, just as a conversation we may hold with somebody might in the end lead to them coming to faith, but it is possible that the end result might not be seen for some years.

The study shows how churches grow through social action, because relationships are built with people which might not otherwise have been formed. And through those relationships. people then begin to become connected to the church and might then come to a point of belonging to the church community. We have seen this with the involvement of certain members of the community in the life of our Outreach Project, and that then in turn led to some of them coming to be involved in our worshipping community. Indeed, in recent months we have had two people confirmed who first came to us through the Outreach Project.

We should not be surprised that the church building has become a focal point for the ways in which we connect with the community. The theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote *'the space of*



the church is the place where witness is given to the foundation of all reality in Jesus Christ' or as someone in the research is quoted as saying "the church as a building really speaks about the love of God". If we want to demonstrate God's love to people in acts of service, then the church is the most appropriate place to do that. It should not surprise us therefore that the Meeting Place Café was so much more successful when it moved from the hall to the church building in 2014.

As I write this, due to lockdown, the Meeting Place Café has sadly not met for a while, and I cannot say for certain when things will restart. However, I do know that God is at work in Blacon, and He is

using us at Holy Trinity to do some of that work for him. The feeding of the community that happens through the charity Blacon Beacon, and through the work of West Cheshire Foodbank, and through the holiday meals and activities we provide, are examples of the generosity and hospitality which displays God's grace at work. Similarly the individual conversations each of you is having with friends and family day by day, are also everyday demonstrations of God's love working through you in the community. That way God's love is being made known to those who might not otherwise know it. That way each of us grows in our knowledge and love of God. That way God's kingdom is being

grown. That way the Church grows.

Tina Upton





