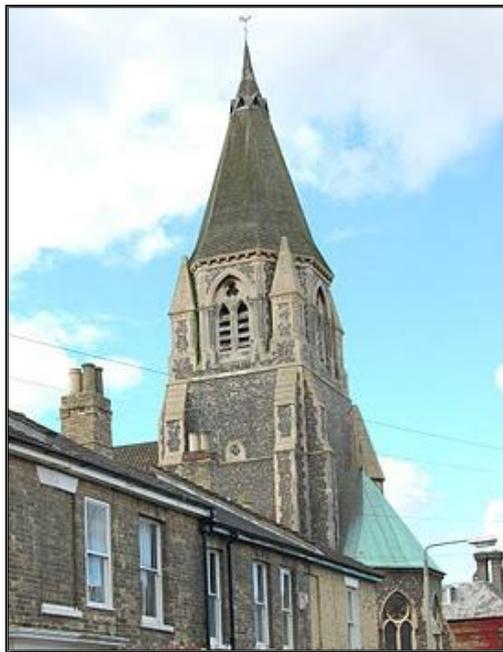


Holy Trinity Church Annual Meeting 2016 Group Reports



Vision

A church that reaches out with confidence,
in God's power,
growing more like Jesus Christ,
loving one another,
serving our networks and local communities,
so that, by 2020, there are multiple congregations
established or grafted from Holy Trinity.

Reports

Steppers.....	3	Women's Focus.....	8
Trekkers.....	3	Unwind.....	8
Explorers.....	3	Men's Curry Club.....	9
Pathfinders.....	4	Fit for Life.....	9
The Club.....	4	Young at Heart.....	9
CYFA.....	4	Trinity Trekkers.....	9
CYFA Girls' Bible Study.....	4	Birdwatching Group.....	10
CYFA Boys' Bible Study.....	5	Community Meal.....	10
Noah's Boat.....	5	Catering.....	10
The Bridge.....	5	Creative Textiles.....	11
7 th Norwich Brownies.....	5	Music.....	11
Holy Trinity Pre-school Playgroup.....	6	Cell Group.....	12
Bible StorySacks Project.....	6	Drop-In Art and Craft.....	12
Open the Book.....	7	Somerley House services.....	12
Holy Trinity Students.....	7	Melbourne Cottages services.....	12
20s + 30s.....	7	English+.....	13
Dads' Breakfast.....	8	Besom.....	13
Small groups.....	8		

Introduction

At a moment of leaving Holy Trinity to minister in another part of God's church, it would be easy to adopt the character of Young Mr Grace. Older members will recall that he was the chairman of Grace Brothers in the sitcom "Are You Being Served?", 1972-1985. Ancient himself, his only role was to appear at the stairs, and then totter out, announcing that "You've all done very well" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6ddSA9lrkc>). And the reports here show the enormous amount of effort and "doing well" that has gone into our groups over the last year. Mr Grace's comment would be entirely true, and I'm glad to make it and mean it.

But we might imagine pulling back from the Groups scene, to try and look at the whole picture. There may be failures then visible that are not so apparent at the smaller scale. And we can never quite get rid of the feeling that "We're Christians, so it's supposed to go well, with God's blessing". But the logic of that would be that, whatever we decided to do must flourish because God is on our side. And life, even church life, is not like that.

As the church turns towards seeking my successor, supporting the Council with thought and prayer in the preparation of a profile, it will be important to acknowledge failure and look it in the face. Perhaps I think of that, not only because I'm leaving (and am therefore aware of all the shortcomings of my own ministry), but because we have just had Easter. The joy of resurrection is only available to those who fully face the "failure" that is the Cross. Yes, we rejoice that the Cross successfully pays the price of sin, but the cost of the Cross is the rejection, hostility, pain and shame that Jesus would know. By every legal, spiritual, moral and psychological standard of how we humanly look at things, the Cross stands as a complete failure – that is, in one way, the point. Only if it is fully faced is there the opportunity of seeing full redemption as God looks at the crucifixion and resurrection together.

So I commend the report of the 20s + 30s, in which it's recognised that an ambition for mission has not succeeded as was originally hoped. Once that is recognised, it becomes possible to cast around and consider what might work better – which is exactly what they've done. Only when we face the failures in our common life can we come before our God and ask for the success in mission that we long for. It's true a little as we look back over a year's worth of work in groups – but it holds even more true as we look forward, seeking to discern the way forward for years to come. That way, we can look for his real blessing, and receive the only "Well done" that matters.

Alan Strange

Steppers

Looking back over the last year in Steppers some things have changed, others have stayed the same. Vicki Hibbins has taken over coordinating Steppers from Philippa Baxter and will continue the legacy that she started. Natalie no longer helps and Vicky Currie and Sumudu Edwards joined the team of fantastic leaders – Louise Cumberland, Lindsey Nettleton, Jo Courtier and Isabel Liu. Children (around 18 months old) have joined us as they outgrew the crèche, and others have outgrown Steppers and moved into Trekkers. Currently there are 10 children on the register and most weeks there are about 7 children in the group.



Steppers has continued to provide a place where young children can learn more about God and the Bible through carefully chosen play based activities, crafts, singing, prayers and storytelling using puppets, Duplo, etc. Many parents stay with their young children and it a pleasure to work alongside them.

Looking to the future, Steppers need more adults to join the team in order to run Steppers at every 9.30 service. We would love to have those of grandparent age to assist with the group. We also look forward to welcoming all the children who will be old enough to join us during the year.

Vicki Hibbins

Trekkers

The Trekkers group has been running successfully for a year now since merging the Scramblers and Climbers groups last Easter. We have thirteen children on our register, aged from four to seven, and we regularly welcome between eight and ten children on a Sunday morning.

Along with the rest of the children's groups we use The Gospel Project for Kids which is taking us through the Bible, starting from Genesis, and each week it relates what we have learnt to the gospel message. The material is detailed and thorough and has the benefit of a video representation of the story which the children enjoy watching. We also explore the topic with fun activities such as painting, colouring, craft, play dough and drama. It is amazing how much the children retain from our lessons each week and it is a joy to see them grow in faith and love for the Lord.



Thank you to those who currently lead each week: Doreen Brookes, Paul and Catherine Henery, Jane Chng and Chris Bolton. We are also grateful to Sienna Sexton and Jemima Malcolm who helped us last summer. Special thanks also to Helen Gosling who has recently stepped down as a leader after twelve faithful years working with the children.

If anyone would like to join our happy team we would always welcome an extra pair of hands! Please speak to Lucy Winn in the first instance.

Chris Bolton

Explorers

This year we have had a shift in the average age in explorers and now have a younger group which is mostly made up of girls. The children work together well and are enjoying finding Jesus in all areas of the Bible. There can be anything from 3 to 12 children on a Sunday morning and we are fortunate to have a very flexible team.

We have switched over to new material and, as a team, are finding it a beneficial change. It allows us to prepare gospel focused sessions with great ideas and well-made resources.



Our current team is made up of myself (Tom Winn), Sandra Isaac, Aimee Gedge and Becky Horton. We are excited to have Jenny Bunter joining us after the Easter break. The team are a pleasure to coordinate and I am thankful for their passion, flexibility and commitment to the Gospel.

Tom Winn

Pathfinders

Pathfinders have looked through different bits of the Bible and learnt more about Jesus this past year. We try and address some of the up's and down's that life as a young teenager now has in this culture, especially for one who follows Jesus. It's a privilege to walk alongside Christian young people with the goal of helping them see Jesus more clearly and follow him more nearly.



Ben Artis

The Club

This past year we have been up and down in attendance, since Christmas we have settled on around 20 children. It has not been an easy year, but it has been a joyful one. We have loved talking about Jesus and seeing real growth in the children. We've gone from a place where all the stories we told them from the Bible were completely new, to a place where lots of them are recognised – we constantly strive to be creative and fun. We have great relationships with many parents and families. It's fantastic to provide a safe, fun space where children and their families can hear about Jesus.



The struggle has mainly been seeing some of our children in very difficult situations, situations that children as young as 5 or 6 up to 11 years old should not have to face. At least we know a God who understands the contours of our lives and who intercedes in them. Jesus has been the rock on which we built The Club and he continues to sustain this Gospel work.

Ben Artis

CYFA

CYFA is a great group of young people in Years 10-13 at school who get together each Friday night for some sort of food, games, laughs and teaching from God's Word. We are currently in our 4th week of a 4-week Bible overview. The theme has been God Moving In: How a holy God comes to dwell with his unholy people. It's been staggering looking over the whole story of the Bible and seeing God's graciousness and persistence in wanting to dwell with his people, who continually turn their backs on him. We are about to start a study of 1 Peter. We've also had some tough questions and had a look at the book of Esther. In the teaching time we have discussion questions and prayer time.



Martin Cottam, Rebecca Nunn, Sam Thompson and I are grateful and humbled by the openness, and honesty of the young people, as well as by their desire to grow in faith. Praise God for the CYFA members who serve in many areas of the church: in music, doing teas and coffees, on the PCC, on the prayer and reading rotas, in the children's groups and in our outreach groups.

Lucy Winn

CYFA Girls' Bible Study

On a Tuesday night in term-time if you come to The Meeting Place, you will find a group of 7-8 girls from Years 10-13 meeting together for hot chocolate, Bible study, prayer and lots of tangent-y questions! We currently have three girls who come along who don't come to CYFA. Currently we're studying the Cost of Discipleship. Looking at passages from the gospels and Paul to highlight how following Jesus is the highest privilege, but comes at a high cost. This has caused a lot of open and honest discussion, as it is incredibly hard to be a Christian in school/college nowadays.

Rebecca Nunn and I pray that the girls can take what we learn together and apply this so these young people can be witnesses in their situations. We also spent 6 weeks studying Romans Chapter 8, which was incredible. There is so much to learn about the gospel from this one chapter alone. It's a joy to really see the girls growing. A couple of them lead the CU at their school, one has recently written a quiet time booklet to go alongside our next teaching series at CYFA, and they also look out for and disciple each other too.

Lucy Winn

CYFA Boys' Bible Study

Discipleship is the name of the game here at Boys' Bible Study. We meet once a week on a Thursday and have, as one of the boys said, "chips, chats and church". After munching our way through excessive amounts of carbohydrates and mayonnaise, we open up the word and discuss, learn and pray collectively. We've been through various books and topics this past academic year, it's been a great time in fellowship. At the heart of our discipleship is a longing to know God more and see Him at work in our lives, and so we have prayerfully strived together, as a fellowship, to do this. We have really focused on our fellowship being focused on our relationships, to God and neighbour, and entering more into his word. As Spurgeon said, we never outgrow it, we just realise how much deeper it goes, that's exactly the attitude we take every week.

Ben Artis

Noah's Boat

Helpers – Carole Crouch, Rosie Chapman, Hilary Beach, Moira Cooper, Moira Spokes, Janice Smith, Iris Newcombe, Colin Crouch.

Noah's Boat is a baby and toddler group that meets every Monday afternoon between 1.30-3.30 pm during term time, in Cambridge Street Hall. We have more than forty families registered on our books and regularly have between 15-20 families attending. My dream for the coming year is that we will have more church families coming along to befriend our regular attendees. At the moment one church family attends regularly. We would also like to offer Parenting Classes and hold events where we join with the Men's Breakfast for a few special activities. I see this as a way of developing our work with non-church children and families. We are walking with these families as they journey towards faith, often from little or no knowledge of God's love for them.



Over the past year we have become more confident about reading a Bible story with our families, attempting to offer a related craft activity and offering prayer support to those who want it. We thought this approach might deter some people but they seem to appreciate our care and support. They continue to come and frequently share needs and worries. As leaders we are passionate about sharing the Good News with these families and we would love it if we could find a team of people from HT willing to pray regularly for us and for this work.

Carole Crouch

The Bridge

The Bridge for young people in years 6-9 is an exciting and growing ministry. William Atkins, Andy Bunter, Liz Jones, Jemima Malcolm and I run themed activities each Friday evening for roughly 30 minutes followed by 30 minutes interactive teaching time.



We are currently doing an overview of the whole Bible, and seeing where we fit into God's big plan. It is exciting to see young people from the Vauxhall area come along and bring new friends, and one young person has even said that he now considers himself a Christian! Praise God! The plan is for the Year 9s to move up to CYFA in the summer (including one un-churched girl). Please pray for that transition. One thing I would love a new Rector to do would be to help us find our identity as a church – who are we and what is God calling us to? This would then help to create an overall vision and strategy that those of us ministering in outreach groups could see ourselves fitting into. Ideally, this strategy laid out for those of us working with everybody who comes in contact with church, so we know "what's next" for them, in terms of discipleship.

Lucy Winn

7th Norwich Brownies

We meet in the church hall on a Monday evening with just under 40 girls from 7-11 years old. Over the past year we have cooked, indoors and out, done lots of craft, played games, both noisy and quiet, learnt about various countries in the world and celebrated special days including St Andrews, Burns night, Commonwealth Day, Thinking Day, Leap year. We joined with other units in the District to celebrate Thinking Day when we made crafts and played games from different parts of our worldwide organisation.

Our leader team is Doreen Brookes, Anna Fuller, Gemma Williams, Sally Heasman, Julie Brown and Sarah Hardie and this year we have welcomed back 2 former brownies as young leaders, Isis Stevens and Rachel Durban.

Our pack holiday took us to Pattenon Lodge where we enjoyed a train ride to Wroxham followed by a lovely trip on the Broads, we did a trail round the site and did a pirate challenge badge.

This year we are beginning to plan our pack holiday in July when we are off to Thetford Forest to stay at the Bidwell centre. With the weather getting warmer, we are looking forward to getting out and about with time spent in the local parks.

Doreen Brookes

Holy Trinity Pre-school Playgroup

Our Pre-school Playgroup is really good, and Ofsted think so too! Following our recent Ofsted inspection we were graded as GOOD, which is a real testament to the excellent work done by the staff team. Local families want to send their children to our Pre-school Playgroup which gives us a fantastic opportunity to share God's love with the local community. At the moment we have about 35 families with children at playgroup.



Our Christian faith is central to our work at preschool which is why our Christian celebrations are so important. At our Easter and Christmas celebrations, families join with the children and hear Christian stories, children sing Christian songs they have learned, and a member of the Church comes and prays with the families. At the end of the year before they start school there is a "graduation" service in the Church, with a Christian story and age-appropriate activities and all the children are presented with their own Bible. We have informal links with the other Trinity younger children's work, such as Noah's Boat, Dad's Breakfast and The Club and are planning to do more to promote these to our families, as well as the Church celebrations, for example at Easter and Christmas.

This year's playgroup highlights, as well as our fantastic Ofsted report and Christian celebrations, have included trips to Lowestoft and the Jenny Lind Park, appointing a new Chair and a new committee member to our management committee, and making a small surplus in what has been a very tough year financially.

How the Church can help even more? We love having volunteers from the Church at Playgroup – would you enjoy reading to our children, could you help by making snacks during the session, or helping out at occasional events like our Easter and Christmas celebrations?

Would you pray for us? We'd love to send you our prayer letter, or look out for us in the monthly prayer sheet.

Would you be willing to support us financially? We are specifically looking for funding for a new piece of indoor physical play equipment and financial support for our Christian celebration events.

Who is involved? Staff team – Carolyn Pinnock, Sadie Goldspink, Gemma Mitchell, Lorraine Cole, Bridget Barne, Alice Merrywest, Jenny Bunter; management committee – Charlotte Bonnett, Jane Chng, Fiona Painz, Louise Cumberland, Anna Lloyd, Richard Leggett, Mark Jones; regular volunteers – Rosie Chapman, Liz Parfitt.



Charlotte Bonnett

Bible StorySacks Project

Team Members – Hilary Beach, Sue Beverley, Rosie Chapman, Moira Cooper, Ruth Joyce, Moira Spokes.

Sadly, we haven't produced many more sacks this year, for various reasons, but our library of 10 or so titles been used regularly to aid story-telling sessions at the weekly toddlers meeting of Noah's Boat.

This year we have only managed to meet as a team on a couple of occasions, to stock-take and talk through ideas for continuing the project's original vision of "Taking God's Word Out" to families with young children via the use of age-appropriate Bible stories and linked activities supplied within the StorySack.

We hope to follow our vision by exploring ideas to use/lend out the Sacks more in sessions at Noah's Boat and Pre-School Playgroup; running story-telling events for families and maybe linking up with Open the Book to take into local schools/nurseries.

If you are interested in joining the team we would love to hear from you! We would especially welcome any young mums to help with ideas for appropriate contents for the StorySack titles and those with creative/design skills to help produce the StorySacks. Or, in fact, anyone with a heart for working with young families!

Rosie Chapman

Open the Book

Our Team is Richard Aldridge, Linda Arnold, Ben Artis, Philippa Baxter, Sue Beverley, Martin Cottam, Jo Courtier, Barbara Drake and Jackie Hoey.

Painting scenery, finding 11 head dresses for Josephs' brothers, making sure the tree in the garden is still attached to the backdrop. These are a few of the things we have been doing since we began Open the Book last September.

We are visiting Bignold School every three weeks, presenting an acted out Bible story to the whole school assembly on a Wednesday morning. We are learning as we go, but are really enjoying the challenges, as well as the enthusiasm of the children as they get to recognise us and look forward to the morning's presentation.

The Head Teacher is very enthusiastic, so we are praying that we will be able to continue right through the Bible narrative. We praise God and give thanks for the developing relationship with the school. We would value your prayers for the future that the Lord would touch children and adults with these words and that we might find others to join us.

Sue Beverley

Holy Trinity Students

The students work at Holy Trinity has gone from strength to strength, as we continue to meet on Sunday evenings after the evening service for supper, study and fellowship. This year we began our studies in the Sermon on the Mount, being challenged by Jesus' vision for life, and then spent time in Daniel exploring what faithful Christian living looks like in a fallen world. Outside of Sunday nights, we continue to place a high priority on personal work with individuals, and encouraging and supporting the witness of the CUs. Will Warren has been a regular speaker at UEA CU, in addition to serving on the UCCF Board of Reference for UEA CU. He has also spoken at a houseparty for Norwich University of the Arts CU in November. It has been a great joy to see a number of HT students serve on the committee.



We have had excellent support this year from Charlotte Hellmich, from our evening congregation. If we are to continue growing, we will need to explore the options of recruiting another LPA or equivalent. We hope that our next rector is someone with a heart for our strategic and historic mission to students, and with a vision to support and resource it as it continues to grow.

Will Warren

20s + 30s

The 20s + 30s this year have undergone a period of transformation. The group now complete ministry through a monthly Bible study and a monthly social event. There are around twenty 20s + 30s that are in some way connected to this ministry and it is seen by most if not all as a source of refreshment, learning, discipleship and friendship.

20s + 30s

The group have relocated to the York Tavern and have developed a great relationship with the staff at this location which we use for free and can thankfully report back on a comfortable, free and appropriate space for this age group.

The 20s + 30s group have also tried and failed in some attempted pioneering initiatives this year. We have tried to hold a families event on an evening and provide food for the attendees. The food was late, the people (due to various bedtimes) were few and the children were tired. This responsibility has now been approached through 'takeaway packs' which, provide our families with a £5 voucher, Bible study and challenge, and, is now much more successful in resourcing families. 20s + 30s also attempted to hold an outreach event called 'Invited'. The idea here was that the 20s + 30s would invite their friends to an event that is none threatening, social and seeker friendly. This completely failed. The 2 events were poorly attended and will not continue as part of this ministry. An assessment of this outreach ethos has led to a recommendation that 20s + 30s move to sit under discipleship, not mission, where its central aims and available support can be better provided.

The new volunteer team of 4 people (Adam Moore, Aimee and Adam Gedge, Rebecca Moreland) have stepped up to replace, but still be mentored by, LPA Andy Bunter in an continued effort to enable the church to lead its own groups. This has gone well and the 20s + 30s have had chance to feedback their desires for the group's future and have a chance to work with this new leadership to continue to grow disciples, leaders and Christ like 20s + 30s in our neighbourhood and networks.

Andy Bunter

Dads' Breakfast

Dads and their 0-7-year-old kids get to play, eat breakfast and chat the first Saturday of every month. The regular helpers are Rob (he does the 'breakfast' part, with Johnny), Mark (gets the newspapers), Phil (greeting/support), Jack and Lucy (great with the kids), Andy (setting up/support). We've been going since the end of 2013 and the format has hardly changed. Drink, bacon butties, food and play area for the kids and craft activities, newspapers. A relaxed environment. We have talked about whether this should be more 'outreachy' or if it should stay as it is and allow it to be a way of inviting anyone interested to go to other more faith-centred events. The latter was the preferred approach. We're now discussing what that means. We're dads. We move, but in a relaxed, Saturday morning sort of way.



Ian Nettleton

Small groups

Small groups are such an important part of our church life and it is wonderful to know that there are nine evening groups and four Tuesday morning groups that meet either weekly or fortnightly. Will, Alison and I would like to thank the leaders for all they do for their groups.

The main purpose for the groups meeting is to study the Bible, have time for prayer and fellowship, social times and some groups plan outreach events. The groups would aspire to grow to be more like Jesus and learn how to serve him better.

This past year the groups have taken part in a preparation for Christmas 'Coming of the Saviour', made a start on the Gospel Project and a Lent course based on the prayers of Paul, amongst studying other areas of our Christian life.

Looking to the future we would love to see the profile of small groups becoming increasingly important and more people wanting to be in a small group where they can learn and grow in their Christian life.

Jackie Hoey, Alison Vinall, Will Warren

Women's Focus

Our 2 small groups continue to be much blessed as we meet on Tuesday mornings for Bible Study and prayer. They are times of real fellowship and learning as we discuss the Scriptures together. One member said recently: "Our study, along with attendance at Sunday Service, is the spiritual highlight of my week." We long that each day we will grow closer to Jesus, and that our words and actions will speak of his presence in our lives.

Over the past year we have had some changes. After several years of ably leading groups both Scilla Gavita and Margaret Patrick have taken a break. So the groups who meet at Trinity have joined together as one and Beryl Brown has become their leader. I continue to lead the other group which meets in Mandy Davison's home on the 13th floor of Winchester Tower!

It's been lovely to welcome new women too, so if you'd like to join us, do let me know.

Elizabeth Scott

Unwind

Unwind is a monthly social event for church ladies and their friends. We meet in a local pub where some have food and others just drinks. The aim is to provide friendship and support for each other and especially to introduce new members of the church to a smaller group of people than they might be faced with on a Sunday morning. It is suggested that we bring non churched friends but on the whole it is mainly church members who come. Eight to ten

usually come but there were twelve of us at The Mad Moose for Christmas dinner which was a good time for all! This year we are hoping to try different pubs in the parish.

Ruth Joyce

Men's Curry Club

The men's curry group have continued to join in a meal most months, enjoying an evening of conviviality together. Despite the name, we quite often eat non-Indian! Guests are welcome and encouraged. Eating together is an excellent way to get to know each other better and strengthen our Christian fellowship. If you are male and feel like a civilised, companionable and nutritious night out from time to time, please contact Peter Bussey, who will be very pleased to add you to the contact list.

Peter Bussey

Fit for Life

Our ladies exercise class happens every Tuesday evening during term time in Cambridge Street Hall at 7.30 pm. We are a real mixture of ages, fitness levels and abilities. We come from a range of backgrounds. Most of us live nearby or within cycling distance. It is great that a good number of the ladies attending regularly are not church goers and it is certainly the place to meet new people and make new friends.



We are led by a qualified and experienced fitness instructor who likes to offer varied and fun classes, so we have one week of aerobics and one week of circuits. No two weeks are the same and this keeps us motivated and challenged. It is such a great opportunity to keep fit whilst having fun and forming new friendships. I can strongly recommend it to anyone wanting to get fit and feel physically stronger. New members are always given a warm and friendly welcome.

Carole Crouch

Young at Heart

Members of the team: Margaret Patrick, Elizabeth Scott, Jenny Lunn, Trisha Hursey and Lynn Garner.

We have had an excellent year at our Young at Heart meetings. An average of 25 people have attended every 2 weeks. The program has been interesting and diverse with Food for thought following our monthly meal and entertaining demonstrations or discussions on the alternate week.

Our Outreach program consisted of YAH hosting English plus at our Christmas party where the Christmas story was told. We have just finished a nine week course on Pilgrims Progress where 8 members of our group attended each session. I know that during those 9 sessions my faith grew and my prayer is that this happened to the 8 who attended.

I would like to thank all who have been involved this year for making it such a "happy" group to belong to and I look forward to the next session.

Margaret Patrick

Trinity Trekkers



As I look back over the last 13 years, it is both pleasing and satisfying to see how the numbers have grown on the Trekkers walks, over the last two years. Trinity Trekkers is the HT walking group, open to all and serving our local community. The group continues to grow in numbers with 22 on the last walk, compared with 6-8 in 2003-2013!



We comprise both HT members and non HT folk, who mix well and enjoy the monthly exercise and fellowship.

Several folk also walk with other groups, which is proof of the growing interest in this form of healthy exercise. We have a programme of walks (six monthly), shown on the HT website, printed programme cards, in the Meeting Place, and in the weekly sheets. The walks are between 5-8 miles, including some city walks. We have some indoor lunches, rather than always eating outdoors in any weather!

We feel that we particularly support the single folk in our community; who enjoy the trip out, as well as the chats on the trail and breaking bread together.

Phil Lunn

Birdwatching Group

We meet on the 1st Saturday of the month, weather permitting. We go to a different place each month, with visiting some of our favourite places twice in the year. We all enjoy seeing and learning more about God's creation and all the wildlife that can be seen around Norfolk and Suffolk.

The group consists of members from Holy Trinity and those from outside the Trinity family from other churches in Norwich. We are a mixed group of Christians and non-Christians and welcome anyone who enjoys the pleasures of nature and God's creation.

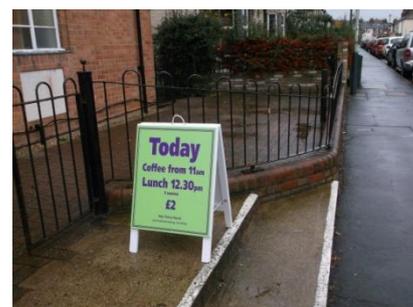
Dave Appleton joins us as often as he is available and we all appreciate his vast knowledge of birds, birdsong and all aspects of wildlife. He is very patient with us teaching the difference between the birds we see. Thank you, Dave. We offer support to all members of the group at other times during the month.



Jos Baynes-Clarke

Community Meal

For about the fifth time in 20 minutes he asked me what time it was. We inched our way up from the bottom of Cambridge Street to the church hall; stopping every few steps while I put an invitation to a 'Norfolk Lunch' at the next Community Meal in each letterbox. He was difficult to talk with – couldn't seem to remember something that had been said a minute or two earlier. But he had been to a church or two; he knew something of Christianity – good and bad – and from his repeated question, "What should I do?" it seemed as if he wanted to put himself right with God. With all the invitations delivered we made it through to Trinity Street but he wouldn't come as far as the church for a drink or a longer chat. We parted after he again asked for the time.



The following Saturday we had our 'Norfolk Lunch'. It went well. A lady from Cambridge Street, who had an invitation through her door came along for the first time. And of the young man? Well, oddly enough, he sat in at an evening service a couple of weeks later. One of those puzzling encounters just advertising a Saturday Lunch. Another moment or two and our paths might not have crossed.

Brings me back to the question as to how we share the gospel with the small number of people who come to the Church Hall for a meal, but have no faith. Just imagine someone coming to eat with us who is gifted in evangelism and can gossip the gospel to others.

Ann Sherburn, Bente Elsworth, Carolyn Pinnock, Catherine and Paul Henery, Chris and David Fairbourn, Jess and Johnny Glauert, Jonathan Piesse, Lesley and Nic Carver, Rowan Jones, Sally Worrall.

Nic Carver

Catering

Main Events: Harvest and farewell to Steve Wilby (catering for 150 people) in October – full team effort which went pretty smoothly and within budget; Hog Roast for farewell for Alan and Natalie Strange (catering for 250 people).

Ongoing events: Young at Heart monthly meal, led by Jos Baynes-Clarke and team – two course hot meal prepared within budget.

Ad hoc: 18-30s group, various events, CYFA – opportunities for more support.

Challenges: large events require use of the two kitchens (hall and church); the team would be considerably larger if volunteers were able to prepare food at home (not within hygiene guidelines); providing food for UEA events – haven't achieved this.

Training: Ongoing programme of on line training – basic food hygiene and allergy courses.

Helen Gosling, Jos Baynes-Clarke

Creative Textiles



With thanks to Jo Courtier, Tammy Davidson-Thompson, Natalie Strange, Aimee Gedge, Alison Finch, Vicki Hibbins, Jo Pye, Martin Cottam and Nic Carver.

Vitty Danino-Appleton, Rachel Leggett

Music

This last year had been a time of interesting reflection for music at Trinity. It's fair to say that there is a wide range in preference amongst the congregation as what music at Trinity should look like. These differences of opinion carry across generations and through our three services, which was evident at through the last survey. Training for our musicians was put on hold last year following the survey while I reflected on it and spent time in prayer and the Word discerning what God has to say. Being part of a diverse family is one of the things I love about worshiping at Trinity. Our corporate worship is not about our own personal preferences and wants, but about coming together united in praise giving glory to our Heavenly Father.

There are churches in our city and nation whose music would not be out of place at a professional concert or on a polished CD. Our music may not always match that, but I thank God that we have a team of musicians who deliver something that is genuine and with a servant heart. I also wholeheartedly thank Richard for his continual service as our organist and everything he brings to the role.

I'm excited to see how our younger musicians continue to develop and look forward to seeing them come more to the fore of our bands. This year training is back on the agenda and I am in the process of getting this finalised for the autumn. We are always looking for more musicians and singers so please do speak to me if you feel able to serve on our music team. And as always I'm more than happy to speak to anyone who would like to discuss music at Trinity in a constructive way.

Mike Hill

Cell Group

The cell group meets in the Vauxhall Centre and was established as a Holy Trinity Community Outreach Group (COG) following the completion of the Tear fund Catalyst programme. This group responds to the need for 'church' on the North East of our Parish, a demographic that has been historically difficult to reach. The group is a relaxed, informal but structured group that meets for one hour and benefits from an input in welcome, word, worship and witness.

The group is steadily growing in numbers, equipment and reputation and has allowed us to have a permanent presence in the parish's only community centre, the Vauxhall Centre. The aim of the group is to grow and become a platform to launch a congregation in the North East of our parish. Allowing ourselves to dream, I would say this group will grow into a significant size with later evolution to involve celebration of the sacraments allowing for its own recognition as a Holy Trinity Norwich congregation.

The new members of the group wish to call the cell group 'New Beginnings' and are keen to advertise under this name locally from April 2016. Group members and leaders describe the group as a relaxed and informal version of church where the word is preached and there is a tangible presence of God in every meeting. Seeker friendly, gospel focussed, people oriented and Bible based.

I believe that of the 9 attendees, 4 are Holy Trinity planters, 2 are coming to a real faith for the first time although have had previous experiences of church, 2 have come from a rocky previous faith and are benefiting from getting stuck into the Bible. One further person is brand new to faith and is currently receiving pastoral input and will be asked to come and join the group. If this happens the group will be an eclectic 10.

Andy Bunter

Drop-In Art and Craft

The Holy Trinity Drop-In Art and Craft Group began last October with a vision to provide a welcoming loving environment for the lonely in the parish, and to share the good news of Jesus with them. We are thrilled by the way it's taken off.

The first Tuesday we prayed for 6 people to come – and 24 turned up! We were quite overwhelmed. Now we average 18 each week – of various cultures and ages, and they just love it!

June Boys, Rosie Sexton, Kate Webb, Sarah Wormald (and Lauren Hennerly when she's in UK) assist me in providing a choice of different art and craft activities each week. We also have a guest artist table where Margaret Todd has been great in teaching crochet. We are now looking for others willing to come and share a creative skill for just a week or two.

The group is bringing those of other faiths (and none) into the church building, so we are talking about our faith in Jesus where we have opportunity, and at Christmas and Easter we've simply shared our Christian faith with the whole group. As to the future... well, we know the Lord is in the driving seat, and we're open and excited to see where he takes us!

Elizabeth Scott

Somerley House services

I am not sure if you know that Somerley Care Home is closing and the residents moving to a lovely new home in Bowthorpe. This means that as a church we will no longer be taking the regular monthly services that we have done for a number of years. Beryl Brown who heads up the services has asked for prayer. Our last service there was on Wednesday 30 March and then the residents all leave on 12th April. Beryl has asked for prayer for the residents that they will settle in soon and also I think for the new team at Bowthorpe Church who will be taking over the services.

Office

Melbourne Cottages services

I find it a joy and privilege to organise the services at Melbourne Cottages. After the last service I had a telephone call from the residents to reiterate their thanks. This was very pleasing as numbers fluctuate. Some residents are now in nursing homes and/or have serious health problems. Two newcomers have recently joined in, one welcomed while waiting for her washing to dry in the room next to the hall.

Will and Andy from the church ministry have given me tremendous support and my deputy Beryl Brown, Mary McKenzy, Sally Harnett and Jenny Cockaday. Joe Dade is much missed. Florence Liu adds an extra dimension on the keyboard. The speakers I have asked have all been excellent. The Epiphany party helped to draw in the numbers.

Catherine Mapes

English+

After nearly 5 years of running weekly English language classes for adults in the Meeting Place we continue to grow and God has faithfully supplied the necessary teachers. People from 30 nationalities have come to English+ activities this last year, approx. 50 students attend the Monday classes (at St Augustine's) and 40 on Thursday to Trinity. Also we assist at the Tuesday Drop-In Art and Craft group run by June Boys and Elizabeth Scott, and several students come to that. Community lunches are always well attended and more relaxed, and with the summer activities programme create better opportunity to get to know students.



As well as providing English classes we help in practical ways with issues that people are facing; phone calls, understanding letters and medical visits, or by directing people to others with the necessary technical expertise. English+ is a great way in which to get to know and help people at many different and difficult times in their lives, provide a Christian witness, opportunity to pray with people and provide the support and friendship that so many don't have living in an "alien land". There are 20 volunteer teachers, including Paul Beverley, Moira Cooper, Gill Malcolm, Liz Parfitt, John Cooper and Lauren Henery and Sarah Wormald have also been involved. Barry Joyce has been providing invaluable assistance with administrative issues and gaining trust status.

Rosie Sexton

Besom

Besom aims to link Christians who want to give with people in need across Norwich. A few people from Holy Trinity take part.

We have three families who make a regular financial contribution that allows us to buy essential items such as cookers and washing machines and our much requested start up packs for people who find themselves re-housed in an emergency. We also use the money to tax and insure and to buy DIY materials for our project team.

The project team goes out most weeks to decorate or garden for people unable to do this for themselves. Last year one small group from our church helped a lady who lives in the parish with some decorating. Members of Holy Trinity donated Christmas Treat boxes last year. These gifts bring much joy to the people who receive them.

The future? We would love to see Trinity become a church with a real heart for the practical and spiritual needs of those who live in our parish.

Members of Holy Trinity involved regularly with Besom: Barry Joyce, David Lawson, Richard and Hilary Beach.

Hilary Beach

Other groups

Other groups not included above:

- 7th Norwich Guides
- 34th Norwich Holy Trinity Brownies
- Mum's the word