



And God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world. Then he made the world round ... and laughed and laughed!

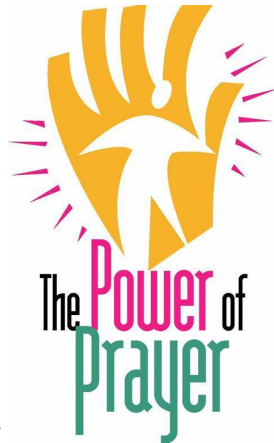
Trinity

	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Elder</u>
1st	Revd C. White (HC) <i>Harvest Festival</i>	Beryl
8th	Revd P. Green	Frances
15th	Revd C. White	Catrina
22nd	Miss C. Blackburn <i>Leprosy Box collection</i>	Ray
29th	Revd M. Rigden	Barbara

St Columba's

	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Stewards</u>	
1st	Songs of Praise, Janet	Cathy	Trish
8th	Revd G. Poucher (HC)	Allan	Matthew
15th	Ministry Team, <i>Harvest Festival</i>	Janet	Ann
22nd	Ministry Team	Cathy	Matthew
29th	Ms L. Drew	Allan	Sue A.

Prayers for October Trinity URC & St. Columba's



Elaine shared the news that Ermine URC building is now completely empty of furniture.

CAMEO has been warmly welcomed by Father Philip and St Matthias Church and had their first meeting in very nice facilities. We pray that this group will continue to meet and provide friendship for people.

We continue to pray for Trinity people – Eileen, Izzy, Heather and David, Stewart and Val, Ishbel (now at home), Jeff and Janice, Christine and Phyllis. Florence and family as they mourn the loss of Eric. It has been nice to see people in church recently who have returned after a time away.

For St. Columba's we remember Paul and Val, David Denise and sons, Audrey, Ann and Elaine.

We pray that our ministers and worship leaders have been refreshed physically and spiritually over Summer and we thank them for their work and commitment to our churches.

Pray for young people as they start new schools, university and work. Many changes and adjustments in their young lives to experience.

Sheila, Elaine and Cathy plan to meet on Monday October 16th. Please let us know if you wish to be included in the prayers.

Trinity News

With Thanks

As many of you attended Eric's Thanksgiving service at Trinity on Monday 18 September 2023 you will recall what a truly incredible send-off he had – **all thanks to you** – my Church family. I thank each and every one of you for making this a truly memorable day.

The organisation that went into the day was an absolute inspiration from the careful setting up at the Church, the simply beautiful floral displays, the refreshments for the families, Rod for performing the music, Roy managing the sound system, Barbara for her lovely tribute, the door greeters and all of the Elders who made this all possible. Of course, a very special thanks to our Minister Cecil who performed two wonderfully warm services on the day to give comfort to me and my family and guide us through this difficult time.

Those that attended will remember that we were blessed with the appearance of over 20 members of Eric's choir, Harmony Lincs, who uplifted us all to the heavens with their take on "How Great Thou Art". It goes without saying that Eric would have strongly approved of the choice of music, hymns and readings since, well, they were all his choice! How Great Thou Art was the hymn in his throat at the very end.

I have been overwhelmed by everyone's efforts and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your love, prayers and support, not just on Monday, but also over the past months of Eric's illness and at his passing. I am indebted to you all. Thank you.

Florence

Eric Newton

As I personally am aware Eric could be relied upon to speak at birthday celebrations and memorial funerals with fondness, admiration and respect for the person. I hope I can now do him justice with this tribute to him from the folk at Trinity URC.

Eric and Edna Newton started attending Trinity URC or St. Andrews' with Newland as it was then, in 1985 when Alasdair Walker was our minister. Both Edna and Eric became Elders a few years later.

Eric continued to serve this church for the rest of his life. When, many years later he retired as Elder he unexpectedly found he was to be Elder Emeritus. He was so surprised and for once lost for words! His was a bright cheerful voice welcoming all into Trinity and a kind, wise man in time of trouble.

He became Lettings Secretary, the person who met with those wishing to rent our halls and rooms. For Eric this was never about business transactions, he met regularly with those using the building and they became good friends of the church thanks to his welcoming, friendly persona. As at present I am dealing with the Lettings in the church I am speaking, literally and over the internet waves, to the organisations and single person businesses who have had contact with Eric. The sorrow and sense of loss they feel at his passing is evident. They have also expressed their feelings about Eric – “He was a real gentleman to work with and took genuine interest in the lives of others”; “I’ve lost a good friend”; and “Eric was very popular with our members”.

As a firm believer in forming good relationships with other denominations, he was Trinity's representative at Churches Together in Lincoln and District, ensuring that our Church took part in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the Walk of Witness down the High Street on Good Friday. In 2015 Eric and I led the prayers at the service held at the War

Memorial on Good Friday.

Eric was also a member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee which oversaw matters relating to church finance and the building. His warm personality extended to our malevolent heating programmer which obviously did not always respond in kind! On Sunday mornings he could be found muttering in the old kitchen, his glasses on his head, as he attempted to programme the timer for the coming weeks events.

The Tuesday Club enjoyed many talks given by Eric when he would share photos and stories about his travels to many parts of the world. Due to reduced numbers and lack of someone to arrange speakers the club closed for a while, but Eric initiated the revival saying it was important for members and friends to meet in a social setting not just on a Sunday. It is good to see our small group, in turn producing an idea for us to focus on, to learn about new places and tax our brains with quizzes. This is all thanks to Eric. He supported church fairs, standing outside, at the top of the High Street Christmas Market weekend ringing the bell to draw people into the church hall for refreshments – our little band of brothers taking it in turns to freeze whilst ringing a bell. There are pictures of him at the Haggis Supper dancing with great enthusiasm. Maybe not enthusiastic about the actual Haggis but happy to support and enjoy. He was often cajoled by Margaret Hammond into making Impromptu announcements or to deliver speeches at other events, giving much thought about what he was going to say. We shall miss the tap, tap of his walking stick on a Sunday morning, drawing our attention to someone's birthday coming up in the following week and that it is time to sing to that person.

He was always proud of Trinity, producing the beautiful colourful booklet for the church's 50th Anniversary of the building in 2013 which was sent far and wide to friends who have moved away. Eric was a great support to many of us at Trinity. He was only too happy to offer transport not just on Sundays, but in other areas of life and at times this was a godsend. He took me to Glenfield Hospital in Leicester to pick up my husband

after major lung surgery – I could have driven but Eric realised it was better for John and me if I did not.

Eric will be greatly missed by us all. We send our love and support to Florence and the family in their time of loss. We give thanks for the privilege of knowing Eric and being able to call him a friend.

Eric and Florence have been fully supportive of Trinity's Twinning with the Pauluskirche in Hambach, Neustadt an der Weinstrasse, making several exchange visits with German friends over the years. I would like to finish by reading a quote from Matthias Claudius, a German poet and journalist in the late 18th Century. It was sent to Frances Caldwell and me by our German friends in Hambach, to comfort us when our husbands had died. ".....and at the end of my journey, the Eternal takes my hands , and He beckons and smiles softly and the journey is at an end".

Barbara Moses

Gathering Prayer at the Start of the Service

At the recent Church Meeting it was agreed that the Elder on duty will say a prayer with the congregation two or three minutes before the start of the service and ask the congregation to remain quiet until the minister and the bible come in. This will be and start at the beginning of October.

Catriona

Eco-Church

Paula, Samantha and I have had our first Eco-Church meeting and the survey which has to be completed on our quest for a bronze award is going to require some input from you (the members of the congregation).



The survey comprises "Worship and Teaching" "Buildings" "Lifestyle" and "Community and Global Engagement". Our next meeting is on 5th November,

Roy

Bulb planting in St Martin's Square

To mark the 60th Anniversary of Trinity United Reformed Church we will be planting Spring-flowering bulbs and selected flowering perennial plants in St Martin's Square garden, Garmston Street, on Tuesday 10th October, from 2-4pm (weather permitting). If you would like to help please let Samantha or Cecil White know by Sunday 9th October. Bulbs, plastic gloves and general tools will be provided but if you have extra bulb planters or trowels we'd be grateful to borrow them. If you have offered perennial plants please arrange for Samantha to collect them from you in advance, thank you.



Tuesday Club

The Tuesday Club will met on 17th October at 2.00pm - programme to be decided.

Digital Hymnary

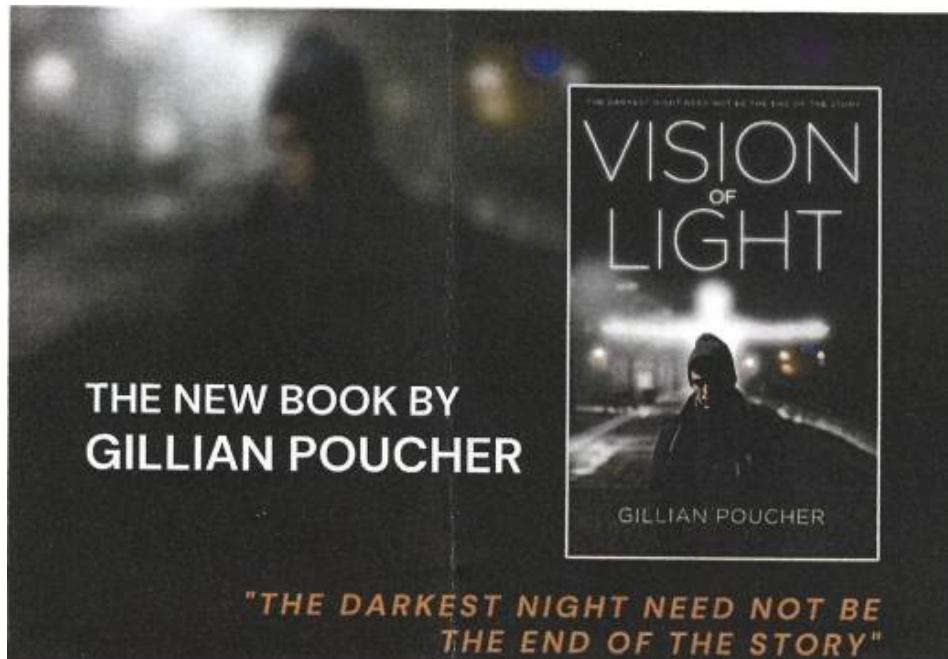
Looking for someone who would like to be able to set up and play the Digital Hymnary on the occasional Sunday when Rod is not available.

Roy

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AUTHOR EVENT

Book Signing - Saturday 21st October
11.00am - 12.30pm
Trinity URC



Gillian Poucher will be holding a book event at Trinity URC on Saturday 21st October 2023 11am-12.30pm for her third novel 'Vision of Light.' Signed copies of 'Vision of Light,' published by Instant Apostle, will be available to buy at the event at the discounted price of £10 (cash or card).

During the event, Gillian will talk about inspiration for the novel, give readings and hold a Q&A session. Tea/coffee will be available.

'VISION OF LIGHT': THE BLURB

Estranged from his family, divorced and in debt, Noel Reilly has nowhere to turn. When his pregnant ex-partner is murdered and he is viewed as a suspect by the local police, he contemplates taking his life – before a mystical riverside encounter offers a glimmer of hope.

Still doubting his mental state, Noel can't deny the strange events that begin to unfold, and is bewildered when an elderly neighbour with dementia seems familiar with the visionary figure he has seen. Learning that his home town has a violent and troubled past, Noel discovers he has a key role to play in the life-and-death struggle overshadowing it.

Bravely confronting his childhood trauma, Noel will need help from unexpected new friends if a deranged killer is to be stopped, and if healing is to be found for his family and the benighted town.

For further information, please visit Gillian's web-site: www.gillianpoucherauthor.co.uk and/or follow her Facebook page 'Gillian Poucher Author.'

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From the Minister

As global citizens and as a Christian people, I draw to your attention a country that warrants our focus and concern: **BANGLADESH**. This year, at its Harvest Thanksgiving (October 1st), Trinity URC will be focussing on Bangladesh through Commitment for Life (a partnership with Christian Aid).

A particular focus of our prayer and giving is through the **Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB)**. This aims to

support women who have long been second class citizens in Bangladesh . With limited access to education they are often forced into marriage at a young age and are then trapped in traditional roles in society. For these reasons women are often the poorest of the poor in Bangladesh . This is why CCDB aims to meet the needs of women as a priority. Working through local forums CCDB offers non formal programmes of leadership training as well as savings and loan programmes that enable women to transform their lives.

Musamud Kamrun Nahar's story: Five years ago she borrowed from the savings and loan group to start a shop in her village in north Bangladesh . She has been able to repay her loans and is now the manager of a thriving little business.The shop is in a tiny wooden hut crammed with everything from oranges, eggs, rice, and flour to matches, string, and children's exercise books. It is open from 7am to 10pm and earns her £20 per month. Her husband works as an agricultural labourer but he could not earn that much even if he were able to find work for every day of the month. Her business has bought Musamud better social status as well as self confidence.

On meeting her eldest daughter coming home from school she said 'in ten years I want to meet her coming home from college'. In a society where women can easily be left out that is quite a dream. But it is a dream shared by CCDB, whose work with women helps them to challenge their position in society. This empowerment of women extends far beyond their personal lives.

Bangladesh is home to 130 million people and is one of the least developed and most densely populated countries in the world. The GDP per person is one of the lowest in the world. Whilst the last two decades have seen some improvement in the overall standard of living, poverty remains deep and efforts to relieve it continue to be hampered by environmental disaster and debt.

Education for Ministry

Please Note that the Minister is on his Education for Ministry programme for the week 2 - 8 October. In the case of a pastoral emergency please contact Revd Dr Gillian Poucher or any of the serving elders.

Churches Together in Lincoln and District

The next Open Meeting of Churches Together shall be on Wednesday 11 October at St Hugh's Roman Catholic Church Hall, 7pm. All are welcome.

Synod Ministers' Retreat

The Area Ministers, Gillian and Cecil, will be attending the Synod Ministers' Retreat in Derbyshire from 18 - 20 October.

The changing face of Harvest Festivals

Although there is no official date assigned for our Harvest Festivals it is often celebrated in Churches on the first Sunday of October, which is also usually the closest Sunday to the Autumn Equinox that marks the start of Autumn. It is time when we thank God for the, hopefully, plentiful supply of food -and was traditionally held at the end of the harvest season when the country was much more reliant on home-grown food.

The festival, as we know it today, is attributed to Rev Robert Hawker who, in 1843, invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service in

Morwenstow, Cornwall. As well as thanking God, gifts of produce and flowers were brought to church to be shared among the less fortunate in the parish.

These celebrations date from about 3,500 years ago in Old Testament days when God gave Moses instructions for seven annual feasts (*Leviticus 23*) which included three harvests: First Fruits in spring for the barley harvest; Weeks in early summer for the wheat harvest; and Tabernacles, or the ingathering, in the autumn when thanks was given for all the year's crops and prayers offered for the coming year.

As well as wheat and barley, the other main Biblical crops were grapes, figs, dates, olives, and pomegranates. These seven foods are sometimes called the 'Seven Species' of the Bible. They are those God told the Israelites they would enjoy when they arrived in the Promised Land.

In Rev Hawker's days most of the UK population relied totally on growing their food locally and a good harvest was vital for their wellbeing throughout the coming year. Today, few people in the UK rely on home grown food or source it entirely from within their community, so the underlying nature of Harvest Festival has changed significantly. While some people still take home grown food to church for their local Harvest Festival it is becoming more common for gifts of dried and tinned food which can be distributed via foodbanks, and/or cash collections for local, national or international charitable causes, such as the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal.

A Reflection: What in God's name?

When naming a newborn child, or changing our name for whatever reason, it is not unusual to turn to a book, or more likely today to search online, to check what the name means. In Biblical times, names were taken much more seriously and would usually reflect the child's ancestry

and what that child was expected to achieve in the future. Very often we find that when someone was called by God to serve him, God would change their name to reflect their new calling, for example, Abram became Abraham, Sarai was changed to Sarah, Jacob became Israel, Simon became Peter and so on. This tradition of changing your name when called by God continues today in convents and monasteries when nuns and monks take on a different name from the one they were called in the world outside.

It's not surprising, therefore, that when Moses was sent by God to rescue the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt, he asked God for his name so that he could tell Pharaoh who had sent him. The name in Hebrew that God gave Moses was YHWH, a name that is unpronounceable in Hebrew or any other language. It was probably because God's real name is unpronounceable that it became a Jewish tradition that the name of God must never be written down or said out loud. Even the word 'God' would be written, and is still written today by some people, as G_d.

However, as time went on vowels were added to YHWH and this led to YahWeH (pronounced yarway) which evolved into Jehovah. We are told in Exodus 3:14 that God answered Moses' question about what his name is by saying, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'" The name 'I am' implies that God has existed since before time began, that he exists right now and will continue to exist forever, and that his name will not change.

Moving on to the time of Jesus, you can see why the names that Jesus called himself angered the Jewish leaders. Seven times – seven being the Biblical number for completeness - Jesus declared that he was I am, the name of God that is so Holy that no-one was allowed to say it, or indeed, write it. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says: 'I am the bread of life; I am the light of the world; I am the gate; I am the Good Shepherd; I am the resurrection and the life; I am the way, the truth and the life; and I am the true vine. Jesus clearly identifies himself as God's son, I am.

As such Jesus reveals that he existed with God before the Creation, exists now, and will exist with God the Father for ever.

But you may ask, what will God call me? Revelation 2:17 tells us that Christians are promised a white stone with a new name written on it as a reward for their persevering faithfulness:

'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.' [New King James Version](#)

The Harvest Supermoon

Harvest Moon is the name given to the full Moon that appears closest in date to the first day of autumn. In the northern hemisphere it is also known as the Autumn Equinox when day and night are the same length of time. Last year, for example, the Harvest Moon occurred on 10 September 2022 and this year it was on 29 September.

The Harvest Moon is one of four 'supermoons' during 2023. The name 'supermoon' became popular in March 2011 when the Moon's orbit brought it unusually close to the Earth, the distance being 221,565 miles. This was only 271 miles greater than the closest it can ever come to the Earth and was a very rare occurrence. The next time this will happen will be on 6 December 2052. All supermoons are full moons that come their closest to the Earth during the year.

The four supermoons are July's Buck Moon, August's Sturgeon Moon, which is followed by a Blue Moon and September's Harvest Moon. They are caused by the elliptical shape of the Moon's orbit around the Earth and the positions of the Sun, Earth and Moon which causes the appear-

ance of the Moon to change its size, hence we see full, new and various sizes in between. When the Moon is full it is exactly on the opposite side of the Earth from the Sun and so reflects more sunlight than at other times. Supermoons appear when the position of the Earth, Sun and Moon are such that the moon appears brighter and larger than at any other time.

Hymn Stories – John Newton (1725 – 1807)

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*



John Newton crammed a lot of living into his 82 years. His mother died when he was six years old, and he joined his father at sea when he was eleven. He served his apprenticeship as a sailor, and rose through the ranks until he became the captain of a slave ship. He abandoned the religious training that he had experienced as a child, and revelled in the dissolute life of a slave trader. He was noted for his profanity and his cruelty, and was even known as 'The Great Blasphemer'.

But one stormy night off the coast of Donegal, when his ship had been holed and was in danger of sinking, and he was in danger of drowning, Newton had a real change of heart. Newton called out to God as the ship filled with water. After he called out, the cargo flowed out and stopped up the hole, and the ship was able to drift to safety. It might have been his religious training at his mother's knee surfacing after all those years — or it might have been his love for Mary Catlett, a Christian woman whom he later married — or it might have been his reading of the book, *Imitation of Christ*, by William Law — or it might

have been all three. In any event, Newton had a real conversion experience. However, as he was to admit later, *"I cannot consider myself to have been a believer, in the full sense of the word."*

For a while, Newton continued on his slave ship, but he began to treat both the slaves and his crew with a good deal more compassion. Finally, convinced that the slave trade was wrong, he left his ship and took a job onshore.

He then felt a call to the ministry, and was ordained at age forty and assigned to a church at Olney, Buckinghamshire. Newton wrote many hymns, including *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds* and *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*, but he is best remembered for *Amazing Grace*, which is in a sense Newton's own story. It was amazing grace that saved him, and it was amazing grace that was the focus of his preaching.

He continued in ministry through the rest of his long life, even after failing eyesight made it impossible for him to read. Newton never ceased to be amazed by God's grace and, nearing the end of his life, told his friends, *"My memory is nearly gone; but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour."*

Eddie Newall

Lincoln Frequency Festival

October 26 - 29

An international festival of digital creativity, hosted in the historic city of Lincoln! The Frequency Festival programme is bursting with family-friendly activities and interactive experiences for people of all ages!

For four days in October, traditional venues, cobbled streets and shopping centres will be transformed by innovative and immersive digital

experiences as international and emerging artists takeover the city.





Don't forget that British Summer Time finishes at 2am on Sunday 29 October, the clocks 'fall back' by one hour, so we all have an extra hour in bed before going to church!

Rejoice
in all that God has given us

Refuse
to believe the adverts

Reduce
buy less, travel less, worry less

Reuse
avoid single-use items

Repair
don't bin it, fix it

Rent, borrow and share
ownership is over-rated

Recycle
as a last resort

let the Earth rest

Green Christian

About: Green Christian is an organisation for Christians concerned about care of the environment.

We welcome new members. Join us!
greenchristian.org.uk/connect.join-us/

Aims: To share green insights with Christians and Christian insights with people in the green movement.

Events: Conferences, retreats and workshops.

Campaigns/Projects incl: Joy In Enough; Way Of Life; Rainforest Fund Project; LOAF.

Resources: annual **Storm of Hope Pamphlet**; **Leaflets** for use in Churches; twice yearly **Magazine**; monthly **Prayer Guide**; free **email newsletter** for all; **Members' email discussion group**.

Contact: Ruth Jarman, Information Officer.

T: 0345 459 8460

E: info@greenchristian.org.uk

 **@greenchristian_** (underscore at end).

Green Christian, 10 Kiln Gardens, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire RG27 8RG.

Thanks to Louise Cook who wrote this leaflet.

You are welcome to photocopy this leaflet.
Please acknowledge Green Christian.

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The

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Practical tips for
respecting and protecting
God's Creation


GreenChristian