



TRINITY CHURCH

Methodist, United Reformed, Church of England

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2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Trinity Christingle 2009

March 2010

WELCOME

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2009. This report tells something of the story of Trinity in 2009. As such it is different from recent annual reports. It is also much shorter! As Minister I believe God is calling us at Trinity to prioritise the development of our prayer life, our knowledge and application of the Bible in our daily lives, and to deepen our relationships with Him, through Jesus, and with each other. And, as 2009 has gone on, I've felt Him saying more and more that we really need to be getting to know our hearts much better so that we can grow in intimacy with Him. 2009, I believe, has seen us begin to really grapple well with this calling. For some this may have involved too much change, for others too little.

There is much to juggle in Trinity, and in our own lives, but two really really important questions to ask, at the end of 2009 and as we look forward to 2010, are, firstly, how much have we, and will we, grow in love and intimacy with God; and secondly, what needs to be done to put us on a mission footing so we become much more outward-looking?

The first of two key issues to highlight from 2009 is the improved financial position we are now in at the end of the year. This is very encouraging but, not surprisingly, if we are to see God's work develop, we'll need to continue to increase our income. This relates to the second issue to highlight which is the vision work which began to build momentum in the latter part of 2009. As this continues and we begin to catch and share a fresh vision for the future I'm confident we'll see the finances coming in so we can begin realising the vision. This vision setting work and our improved financial management position provide us with a really exciting opportunity and platform to build upon our sound ecumenical footing and, to become a much more mission-oriented, and, therefore, outward-looking church which enjoys wonderful intimacy with our Lord Jesus Christ.

My thanks and appreciation go to the whole family of God at Trinity and especially to those who share in the leadership – it's a challenging journey but I genuinely believe God is good and that He has an exciting future for us. We must make the most of the journey with Him, be joyful, have fun and not take ourselves too seriously.

Many thanks to all who've provided the bulk of the information that this report contains. This and your involvement in the roles you have is much appreciated. Please see the list of contributors at Annex One.

Every blessing,

Jon

March 2010

1. OUR WORSHIP

1.1 Worship together continues to be core to our life at Trinity. **On Sundays** our **main 10am Worship Service** on a Sunday morning has seen some new faces, across the age range, but also some others move on. On average we have about 120 adults and 25 children each week which is much smaller than our total membership (see below) and reflects emerging patterns of church attendance. Lots of people participate in leading and sharing in this service and our Congregational Team continues to take root. The occasions when someone has shared a testimony have been very powerful. Across a month we strive for a balance between more traditional and contemporary music (see below). We have Holy Communion once per month at 10am. All services are fairly informal and relaxed but the aim is to increase and improve our worship and praise of God. In this regard there will have been too much change for some but for others not enough. The fundamental question is have we become better worshippers of God during these services?

1.2 Four of these services were parade services, and in the course of the year 16 baptisms took place at 10am with some potentially good relationships developing with the families.

1.3 **Junior Church** mainly happens on Sunday mornings and important points to note are:

- Sarah Moore stood down and Joanna Hassan took over the role of Junior Church Co-ordinator in March 2009.
- SOS (Something on Sunday) is now the official title for our young people's group (13-18yrs). This is facilitated by Kay Slack, Sarah Brayshaw and Joanna Hassan.
- We are reviewing the CRB process for all staff in Junior Church.
- We are considering new ways in which the children and young people can contribute to services. Hopefully you enjoyed seeing Jon dressed as a Palm Tree and Scarecrow!
- We plan to ask the children and young people to share their views about church and the groups that they participate in. If your child attends Junior Church we would value your feedback on the things they enjoy and/or things that could be developed.
- The children and young people's group leaders are going to consider some challenges for themselves in terms of reflecting on their own Christian journeys and relationships with God.

1.4 We also worship at **8am and 6pm** on alternate Sundays in a month. These are typically more traditional services, and generally appeal to older folk. Attendance ranges from 3-20. Sometimes the evening service is more varied. One each of the 8am and 6pm services are Holy Communions.

1.5 On the other Sunday evenings we've run "**P3**" (Papers, Praise and Prayer). This is not really a service but an informal get together, with tea and coffee, which focuses on the Sunday papers. It's a time to browse them, highlight issues which are then prayed into, and the aim has been to praise God as well. Attendance has tailed off and in 2010 the future of P3 will need to be questioned.

1.6 **During the week** we have **Monday Night Worship** (previously Prayer and Praise) which is a lively time of praise and worship, sharing and encouraging faith, and prayer for one another and wider community. This happens twice a month. On average about 12 people come along. This is an opportunity to worship if Sundays are difficult. This is becoming part of our core service schedule.

1.7 Each Wednesday, in term time, we also hold a **Nursery Service**. This is a fun-filled activity for pre-school children and their carers. A short, interactive service, including songs, musical instruments, games and stories is followed by craft, play, refreshments and fellowship. There has been a fluctuation in numbers but overall growth throughout the year seeing a maximum attendance of approx 26 children and 23 adults. Following on from a summer picnic a monthly fellowship lunch has been started. These have been well attended and well received and provide a great opportunity for all concerned to build better relationships with those who come. The theme for 2010 will be '**Around the world**', incorporating food from other countries and focusing on Christian projects within those Countries. The Nursery Service is very much a 'Team' effort and there is always the need for more helpers.

1.8 Each **Wednesday morning** there is a short **worship time in the Chapel** which is mainly focused on prayer but includes a monthly Holy Communion.

1.9 Our worship during the year has been enhanced by some beautiful flower arrangements, two brilliant banners made at the Summer **Holiday Bible Club** (see below), and several visiting preachers, including from the Methodist Circuit. We held various additional services at key times in the year, including a well-attended (over 80) open-air service in the ASDA car park on Good Friday. It was great to welcome friends from other local churches.

1.10 At Trinity we continue to be blessed with many talented musicians who contribute to our worship, and this year, at the 10am services particularly, they have taken a greater part in leading our worship. The following is a **joint music report for Trinity Church**

- 1.11 Music during worship is being led on a rota system, managed by Keith Waite
- We have 2 bands (Trinity Band by Peter Whiteman and "E-Band" by Andrew Rixon). These overlap (ie some people play in both). The Trinity Band is targeting more junior musicians, while the "E-Band" caters for those who can play more experimentally (hence the "E") and without formal music.
 - We have 5 other people actively and regularly leading music during worship at all services.
 - The music during worship at 10am is often supported with worship singing leaders (with microphones).
 - A number of new songs have been introduced to worship during the year.
 - We are actively looking for new ways for integrating music into worship.
 - The Singing Group (around 20 people) sang again this year for the carol service and the midnight Christmas Eve service.

1.12 The planning and development of our services is facilitated by our **Worship Committee** which meets 3-4 times per year.

2. OUR PRAYER LIFE

2.1 There is a real need to endorse and encourage the prayer-life at Trinity and during the year we have worked at this.

2.2 There have been some changes to the Prayer Team; John Brimicombe, Margaret Evans, Martin Carrick and Cath Bethell are no longer able to participate – our grateful thanks to them. Laura Draper and John Lee have joined us, so our thanks to them also.

2.3 Mid-year Trinity hosted a 24/7 week of prayer on behalf of CTEER. This was the highlight and proved very successful. It is influencing future plans for CTEER. Our prayer team did a

fantastic and creative job in providing many prayer stations for personal focus in addition to the prayer stations provided by participating churches.

2.4 Intercessions during 10.00am services have introduced a variety of ways of praying, and have most certainly been Spirit-led by several people, including young people and small groups (which have been engaging in prayer and building people's confidence as a result when they meet mid-week). Feedback on the prayers has been very positive.

2.5 Late in the year, to try and encourage people to feel more able to request prayer, either for themselves or others, it was agreed to offer prayers before as well as after the 10.00am service as well as starting an email prayer chain. This would complement, not compete with, the existing telephone prayer chain and would commence in January, 2010. Other ways of encouraging prayer will also be explored.

2.6 Quiet Days will be planned on 4 separate dates during 2010, guided and/or led by members of the Prayer Team.

2.7 Each Saturday morning there is a short informal prayer meeting which concentrates on praying for Trinity and its way forward. Various words and pictures have come from this which have been fed into services.

2.8 Prayer is so important and it is great that momentum for exploring prayer further has developed during the year. We need to encourage this and seek out resources to help us. We could use our own *library* much more for this too.

3. OUR BIBLE LIFE

3.1 During the year we used the Bible as the basis for the following preaching series: Stewardship – lifestyle, tithing/giving, contentment, trust; the Alpha Course material; a selection of Books of the Bible – Exodus, Romans, Ruth, Mark, Jonah, Nehemiah, James; and then worked through the marks of a healthy church (to kick start the Vision exercise) before introducing the subject of “well-being” which will be picked up in 2010 and concerns forgiveness, healing, brokenness and our hearts. With some of these series notes were produced for individuals and small groups to use.

3.2 Different translations of the Bible have been used and Bibles have been put out on seats during main services and at one experimental service in September they were handed out on the way in instead of having an order of service. A minority bring their own Bibles. It has been encouraging to see some people making notes during sermons. Most weeks the Bible readings are digitally projected. It has been good that, though the *library* hasn't been used as much this year (44 books taken out), small groups, when exploring topics, have used material from it and contributed new material to it when they've finished with it.

4. OUR RELATIONSHIPS

4.1 Our relationships with God and each other, and those outside the church are so important. Through our worship we can certainly build our relationship with God but scope for doing this with each other in any depth is limited and we've come to recognise this more during the year. We have a range of groups at Trinity, ranging from various youth groups to mid-week small groups (as yet not specifically called anything else, but often referred to as cells or house-groups) which can help us deepen relationships with one another and God. These are reported on here, as well as

reports from our Pastoral Committee and our Education and Nurture Committee which have shared responsibility for pastoral care and nurturing.

4.2 Two new **mid-week small groups** started during the year and a number of people, from Alpha courses held during the year, are likely to form another group early in 2010. There are six on-going small groups with a total membership of approximately 65 people. The aim in 2010 is to provide much better support for the group leaders. The presence of on-going small groups in the life of Trinity has slowly increased during the year.

4.3 Our approach to our pastoral links is evolving as we explore having some small groups and what that could mean at Trinity. During the year **The Education and Nurture Committee** focused on looking at small groups and made visits to other churches to see how group structures work elsewhere. It is currently looking at amalgamating with the Pastoral Committee – there was one joint meeting of both committees – because there has been overlap between them. **The Pastoral Committee** also spent much time discussing the progress of the small group system, its growth, and the provision of pastoral care for those not in small groups. The Pastoral Links system has started to evolve too. This work in progress is to see whether it makes sense for small groups to take on a links list to share this responsibility which previously had fallen to one person, and for those people now in small groups to no longer be on a links list because their small group will be giving them friendship and care. This Committee has also received progress reports from Ann Baker, our Pastoral Development Worker, on the Nursery service and Toddler groups.

4.4 With our younger people we continued to run **Pilots**, which is a great opportunity each week for boys and girls between 8 and 17 years of age to have fun together and learn about Christian values and applying them in their lives. Numbers during the year ranged between 10 and 17. Three older Pilots assist Giles, the Pilots' Captain. Parents have also been very helpful.

4.5 We have continued to run **Youth Net** as well for the teenagers from Trinity and some other local churches but there is growing recognition that Trinity has not given sufficient attention and support to youth work recently. Youth Net has had a good year, studying the Sermon on the Mount and some of the less well-known characters from the Old Testament (Habakkuk was Mike's favourite!). Other highlights include: a Hawaiian themed end of summer term party which included limbo dancing, various non-alcoholic cocktails and throwing kiwi fruit to each other; taking over Trinity for the last night of the 24-7 prayer week, which was enjoyed by all despite the sleep deprivation. Bacon and fried egg butties in the morning even helped some of us to hang around for the 10am service!

4.6 Numbers have dwindled recently at Youth Net, both in terms of regular youth attendance and leaders (many of whom seem to have emigrated to Birmingham). However, we plan to remedy this by launching a Youth Alpha course in the New Year which will hopefully involve a number of local churches. The first session will be on January 13th, and is open to anyone in the 11-18 age range.

4.7 **The Boys' Brigade** has also continued at Trinity. The Company is small but still went to the annual camp. After many years of committed service Leslie and Ruth need to stand down as leaders and we are in the process of trying to sort this out.

4.8 Another way in which relationships have been encouraged is through the **Walking Group** which enjoys monthly walks with around 10-12 Trinity members and friends, and usually ends with a pub lunch. Their annual walking holiday was spent at Sedburgh in the vicinity of the Cumbrian Howgill range of hills and the group invites all who enjoy some healthy exercise in beautiful

surroundings to join them on future walks. There have also been a number of **Sunday Fellowship Lunches** during the year which several people have hosted. These have been much appreciated and enjoyed by those who attended.

4.9 Looking beyond Trinity to the wider church world Trinity is linked into various groups including the **Reading Deanery Synod** through 3 representatives (John Goddard, David Paine and Jon Salmon). Highlights in the year were presentations at the RBH on dealing with church members with mental health problems, and an exhibition of work by local churches and BBQ at Earley St Nicolas'.

4.10 We are closely related to the **Reading and Silchester Methodist Circuit**. A range of meetings were attended by Trinity representatives including Circuit Meetings. We tie in with the Circuit Service Plan and have welcomed a number of circuit preachers (lay and ordained) to Trinity during the year. Margaret Stephens, Keith Waite, Tony Bonnett and Jon Salmon are now trustees of the Circuit.

4.11 We are also represented by Wendy Keeley on the **Wessex URC Synod**. Wendy has attended the Synod meetings which keeps us in the loop with developments within the URC, and Jon Salmon attends some local staff meetings too. It has been great that through our links with the URC Development Officer, Peter Hurter, we benefited in the last quarter of the year from having John Lee, a final year URC Ordinand, at Trinity.

4.12 Trinity is also a part of **Churches Together in Berkshire (CTB)** and **Churches Together in Earley and East Reading (CTEER)**. Richard Cocks, our CTB rep. quotes Bishop Stephen (Chair of CTB) to highlight a flavour of the business of relationships with other churches. As Trinity engages with its vision work and seeks to identify fresh priorities for the future this is very interesting. Bishop Stephen says, "We have been particularly challenged in the past year to think about how traditional models for ecumenical partnership and involvement are breaking down.... The energy for Christian unity must now be seen in terms of 'co-operation in mission' rather than 'theological agreement' or 'locally covenanted partnership'. This is a real challenge for traditional ecumenism, and while there is much that is good about our seeking to discover our unity by working together for God's kingdom, there is also a danger that we lose sight of our Lord's prayer that, 'We will be one so that the world may believe' (John 17.23)"

4.13 CTEER has faced the kind of challenge referred to by Bishop Stephen and, at its AGM, decided to look afresh at its way forward. There were no CTEER meetings therefore during the rest of the year but a proposed way forward began to emerge which came out of the popular 24/7 week CTEER ran in June and which we hosted. The proposed future focus is much more on prayer based around 3-4 prayer events (24/1s) a year plus monthly leaders' prayer lunches.

5. OUR OUTWARD-LOOKING FOCUS

5.1 The church profile exercise we undertook at the start of the vision exercise at the end of the year showed our outward-looking focus to be marginally the weakest of the seven aspects of the church we looked at! The following are the areas of work at Trinity which do have an outward-looking focus.

5.2 We ran two full **Alpha** Courses, and an **Alpha Express** Course and part of the **Emmaus** Course was run by one of our small groups. In the region of 40 people took part in these. The majority were Trinity folk who'd not taken part before but we did have some newcomers and we've sought to welcome them subsequently into the life of Trinity, primarily through small groups.

There is growing awareness that follow-up is so crucial and small groups can be a real help. The Alpha Express group chose to continue as an on-going small group.

5.3 Both the **Monday morning and Thursday morning Parent & Toddler groups** are extremely well attended by members of the community. Ann Baker, our Pastoral Development Worker attends as often as possible to spend time with parents and carers, and good relationships have been built. She has also been pleased to help out and contribute to sessions throughout the year. It was very encouraging to see parents from both groups bringing their older children along to **Holiday Bible Club** this year but it would also be good to see parents and children from the Trinity congregation coming along to the Toddler groups and sharing fellowship with those on the fringes of our church family.

5.4 The **Holiday Bible Club** was an excellent day held in August with over 30 children attending. It was a fun-filled and action packed day focusing on Joseph and his amazing coat of many colours. The team who put many previous holiday clubs together are stepping down so we'll need to begin anew in 2010. A massive thank you to the numerous volunteers who've worked so hard on this.

5.5 For more senior members of the community **The Chalfont Club** continued to meet on Thursday afternoons. Numbers disappointingly have been in the lower twenties at some meetings towards the end of the year. We are discussing ideas for a new format to attract more people. As for statistics, there is no actual membership, but we have a list of 70 people, about 30 of whom come regularly. In 2010, four committee members, who have served from the start, are to retire at Easter. We thank them for their dedication.

5.6 We also visit three **local care homes** and hold monthly Holy Communion services, as well as visiting individuals. Through this we have regular contact with 20-30 people and have good relationships too with the staff. We've also been planning to set up a **listening service** (first discussed 3 years ago) and this should be ready to go in early 2010.

5.7 Trinity continues to be closely involved with the **REinspired schools work project**. Updates appear regularly in the magazine about Trinity's involvement. Gordon Guile is now a Trustee, and Joy Hooper has joined as part of the volunteer team. Apart from all the wonderful sessions done in schools, and at our local churches, a particular highlight has been Bob Hartman's return visit in October when he once again enthused and wowed some of the local schools and us with his story telling.

5.8 Locally we also have volunteers helping with the Contact Centre. Ann, our Pastoral Development Worker continues to forge a quasi-chaplain role at the Crescent Centre, and through Harvest (with Bishop Stephen) and carol services at ASDA, there does appear to be a more open relationship developing there.

5.9 We met our planned 10% mission giving target. See paragraph 7.4 for details. We ran two fayres during the year, supported Christian Aid Week and continued to support CTEER and RE-Inspired as well as Action for Children and Retrak. The highlight was the church really getting behind the amazing rowing exploits of James Thyse and Jamie Facer-Childs who entered the Guinness Book of World Records after completing the inaugural Indian Ocean rowing race and becoming the youngest pair to row any ocean. They were raising funds for Sparks and Headway.

5.10 And we also continue to support **Traidcraft**. This year we had a record turnover of £2847-worth of fairly traded food and drink. However, this was due to growth in sales at St Barnabas, that

we supply, outweighing a decline in sales at Trinity. It is quite surprising how many at Trinity either have no use for anything that we sell, or perhaps are able to find it fairly-traded elsewhere.

5.11 We have been keen to find ways to improve and maximize the impact of any information that we produce about Trinity. The main points are that we've focused on our **monthly magazine** which is now much slimmer; we've put up an **external community notice board**; We did not manage to put up a **'wayside pulpit'**; we (Alex Robinson, Chris Pugh and Jon Salmon) have also been working hard on a complete re-vamp of *our website* – using better technology, better graphics, a more modern style and better menuing. Unfortunately this ambitious plan has taken a bit longer than planned, but we plan to launch the new site early in 2010, and think you'll think it was worth the wait. So look out for that. We're grateful for the generous hosting offer and support we have had from Q1 Web Solutions (Helene Blanchonnet).

6. OUR MANAGEMENT

6.1 The two main management fora are our **Church Council** and **Church Meeting**. Business has continued with a lot of attention being concentrated on financial matters (see below). For most of the year, church Council has replaced its opening worship with an introductory course on eldership primarily for those who have recently become stewards. Two notable points related to Church Meeting are the introduction of refreshments prior to the start of the meeting as well as a more secret approach to elections when there is more than one nomination and/or where the appointment involves a voting seat on Church Council. Trinity is having to transition to charity status in 2010 and this began to occupy time this year.

6.2 The **Staffing Committee** only meets when there are significant staffing matters to discuss as was the case at the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009 with regard to staffing issues between two existing employees. It is likely the Committee will be meeting again shortly to consider the possibility of additional paid employees.

6.3 **Church Membership** is currently 184. In addition, we have 81 adherents and 80 children, giving an overall total of 345. This represents a 13% decrease on last year and includes the removal of 26 members (of those 9 moved home, 3 died, 4 resigned). The rest went as part of a 'spring clean' as some people had "left" us years ago. We gained two new members, Christine Paine and Jane Page, and 14 new adherents were added to the directory.

6.4 As ever our **property** took up time and energy (and money!) We gained a new Property Administrator in Richard Davis who writes, 'After taking over the Property Administrator job in September 09, and with the help of the Committee, quite a few things have happened and a lot of outstanding issues have been resolved. Many were of a relatively minor nature, but collectively they all contribute to the well-being of the Church as a whole. There are several items still to be done in the near future, viz. the Church central heating programme, clearing of cupboards and loft space as well as additional shelving to be put up etc. These are all in hand and hopefully will be completed/resolved in the time frame we have allowed'.

7. OUR FINANCE

Treasurer's Report

7.1 The Accounting rules for charities changed this year. Churches that do not have incomes above £250,000 do not need to include accruals and pre-payments. Therefore, these accounts do not have any this year and there has been an adjustment to the opening bank balances of £2291 due to 2007/08 accruals and pre-payments. A new computer accounting programme has been

used to record the accounts this year. It has been specially designed for charities by Data Developments of Wolverhampton. The accounting system provides all the detail required for our annual returns to the Methodist Church and presents the accounts as required by the 2005 Charities act. Income has been reported every month in our magazine. From October 2009 a full profit and loss statement has been posted on the Finance Board in the Church.

Review of Accounts

7.2 In December 2008 the Church accounts were heading for a fifth year of deficit and it was projected that by the year end the bank balances at Trinity Church would have been zero. A stewardship campaign early in 2009 brought a good response and increased our giving by £1,000 per month. Expenditure was also reduced and together these two actions gave us our first surplus on our General Fund in five years. The surplus on the General Fund was £8,198.44, but against that there was a pre-payment last year of £3,937.50 on the C of E assessment, so the actual surplus on the general Fund was £4260.94. However we were fortunate to have received £4551 from letting the Manse at 1, Strand Way, and this also helped us achieve a surplus. In the 2009/10 the Manse income will be entered into Designated Funds to create a fund for future repairs.

7.3 The New Building Fund was closed in 2008/09 and final payment of £5,389.73 was transferred to the restricted building fund.

7.4 We have given £9143 to various Mission Funds in the year meeting our policy to give 10% of our cash, Envelope, and Standing Order plus Gift Aid to others. The funds to benefit have been Headway £1,000, Sparks £1,000, Christian Aid £936.55, REInspired £2,540, Retrak £1,828.68, Kagando £1475.16, Children's Society £100.45, CTEER £165, plus some smaller gifts.

Reserves

7.5 Our Reserve policy is to have 50% of our annual turnover in reserve to meet future spending. Currently we have 30% and have a £20,000 short fall. This is a better situation than January 2009 when the projection suggested nil reserves at the year end. There is another way to look at reserves, if we ask ourselves 'do we put our trust in the Lord to provide through our members' or put our trust in a large amount of money in reserve? Could the reserve be used for the Lord's work? And so let's not get hung up on building up a large reserve but concentrate on our income and giving to meet our mission in Lower Earley.

Finance Team Operation

7.6 The past year has seen changes in the Finance team in Trinity. Norman Briggs decided not to seek a second 3 year term as Treasurer and Gordon Guile was elected to this post. Corinne Rees resigned in July 2009, and Sandy Godfrey resigned at the end of August 2009. Ros Exeter joined the team in October 2009 and is responsible for banking all cash takings, recording envelope giving and reporting income to the Treasurer monthly. Gordon has taken on the payment of all expenditure and producing the accounts. Thanks to Corinne and Sandy for all their time given to Trinity. John Medcraft continues to look after Gift Aid claims to the Revenue and Customs. Nigel Holloway has provided good advice and undertaken an independent audit.

2009/10 Budget

7.7 We had a Special Church Meeting in May to agree a new budget for the year 2009/10. It was agreed we needed to further increase our giving and raise £15,000 in the year. The largest part was a £5,000 target for a 'Special Gift to Trinity at Christmas'. A review of our current finances will be given at the March 2010 Church Meeting to see if we have achieved our aim to balance our books in the current year.

The Way Ahead

7.8 This year has been a difficult year for Trinity Church, but financially I think we are in an improved position thanks mainly to the membership increasing their giving by £1,000 per month. The year ahead will be challenging but once the Vision for Trinity is agreed we will be asking the question of ourselves, 'How can we meet the Vision?' Gordon is sure financial decisions will have to be faced but that we should pray for growth in our Church membership to help share the load of God's work here in Lower Earley. He will provide and the ride should be exciting!

Charity Registration

7.9 Trinity Church like many other LEPs with a turnover of over £100,000 now has to register with the Charity Commission following changes to the law on Charities. This process is ongoing and by the end of 2010 we will be registered as a separate Charity so that we can continue to enjoy the benefits of Gift Aid and meet our legal obligations. Next year's Annual Report will have to include full financial details, Audit Report, our compliance with CRB checks, and other information required by the Charities Commission. If anyone would like to see the final Accounts and the Audit Report, please see Gordon Guile, Treasurer.

8. OUR VISION

8.1 Working on our vision has been referred to in this annual report. The aim is to have a really good look at all we do and, through prayer and discussion, discern what God is saying to us about our priorities for the next few years. It seemed right to be clarifying the way forward at this time and to explore how we can more effectively "reach out". A Vision Team of 22 was formed, made up of volunteers both from the Church Council and appointed by Jon Salmon to be as representative as possible. This would spear head the vision exercise. The aim is to be as consultative as possible in Trinity and in the local area. The whole exercise is likely to take at least a year but then a phased introduction of any agreed steps would then take place.

8.2 The initial exercise was developing a church profile using The Healthy Churches' Handbook by Robert Warren. This involved using seven marks of a healthy church. Ninety two people from Trinity took part in this profile exercise in the last quarter of 2009, including the majority of the Vision Team. The profile generated was presented at the December Church Meeting and a review of this will be completed followed by a detailed audit of all we do at Trinity in the first half of 2010.

8.3 This is the profile we produced:

Aggregated	92 people						
Mark	Rated 1	Rated 2	Rated 3	Rated 4	Rated 5	Rated 6	Mean
Energised by faith	1	7	18	36	27	3	4.0
Outward-looking focus	1	26	31	19	14	1	3.2
Seek to find out what God wants	6	16	28	33	9	0	3.3
Faces cost of change and growth	5	14	18	31	24	0	3.6
Operates as a community	2	18	17	33	17	5	3.7
Makes room for all	2	15	22	21	29	3	3.8
Does a few things and does them well	5	14	21	27	18	7	3.7

And this was the scoring guide we used

1. **Weak and holding us back**
2. **Only a few signs**
3. **Some evidence of this**
4. **Making progress**
5. **Evidence of much of this**
6. **This is a strength**

8.4 As we do the audit we will factor in ideas and suggestions people have and will look carefully at needs and opportunities beyond our four walls. We will need to carefully and prayerfully weigh up what we believe God is saying to us. As discussion about this has evolved in 2009, we feel we need to be both very sensitive to where we've come from yet be bold too and prepared, if necessary, to stop some of the things we do, or change how we do them. This will be both challenging and exciting and needs to be rooted in prayer.

9. CONCLUSION AND LOOKING FORWARD

9.1 A report such as this can never do justice to all that went on at Trinity over the year. This is something of our story. Some will feel frustrated by it and others will feel excited, and some will feel both frustrated and excited. 2009 did see a fair bit of change and 2010 will no doubt see more as we seek God's way forward. Change is uncomfortable but this is preferable to staying in the same place because we are on a journey together. Our challenge is going to be really getting behind finding out what the way forward is going to be and trusting God for our future. In other words we need to be seeking how to put the 2 greatest commandments (Matthew 22:37-39) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) into practice, and holding onto the verses from Jeremiah 17:7-8 we started 2009 with where we read that those who trust in God and have confidence in him will be blessed.

List of contributors

Much thanks to the following people who contributed to the content of this report.

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Elizabeth Netherwood
Michael Newport
David Paine
Rosemary Reece
Andrew Rixon
Alex Robinson
Kay Slack
Keith Waite
Lisa Waite
Peter Whiteman