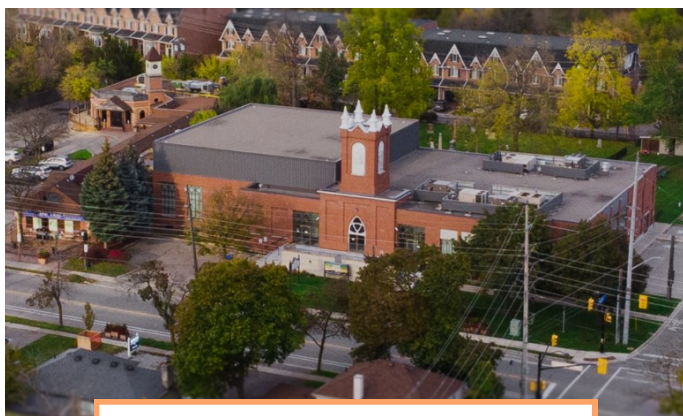


EXPLORING & RETURN

Dear Friends,

I have to say that it's great to go exploring and to see new things - but it's great to get back home! Trish and I had a very special time seeing family (and whales) and it was very special to arrive back to a quieter Corfu and to see again what a beautiful place this is... even if there is a lot of strimming to do after three weeks away! Some of the experiences of nature and the magnificent creatures we saw Trish will describe in a different article.

Apart from seeing the amazing beauty of Creation, we also had the opportunity of attending Holy Trinity, Streetsville; an Anglican Church on the out



<https://www.trinitystreetsville.org>

skirts of Toronto. As you may know, the Anglican church in Canada has been struggling with declining attendance as it has in the UK. Not so this church. A strong focus on welcome, engaging worship with a mix of contemporary and more traditional music, an encouragement to follow Jesus and to encourage each other in smaller "LIFE" (Learning, Insight, Fellowship, Encouragement) groups, a strong sense of community and outreach and clearly an active, confident and diverse leadership team. I guess there were about two or three hundred at the Sunday Services we attended. It was very encouraging to see.

Their journey to this point hadn't all been plain-sailing either. Around 25 years ago, the church building burned down in an arson attack. What I found most moving in their story, was not the 3.5 million dollars they need to raise (half from insurance the rest from donations and even borrowing part of it for a while) or the way the congregation continued to meet and work through all of the ensuing challenges, but the way they dealt with the arsonist, who was caught by the police. Listen to this part of their story:

"Exactly a year after the fire, April 25, 1999, Trinity witnessed a "Miracle of Forgiveness." A teary-eyed congregation applauded the 18 year old high school student responsible for the senseless arson, as he made his apologies to the congregation. He was ordered by the court to contribute 200 hours of community work; (setting up and taking down chairs for our worship service at the school), give 10% of his part time job pay to the church for two years and to publicly apologise to the congregation. Rev. Percy, the architect of the sentence, intended that it would be a healing, rehabilitative act, rather than retribution for the young offender. As Christians, it was indeed the right thing to do. It also provided an opportunity for healing for the whole congregation."

We were told that he did, of course, come to find Jesus for himself and be part of the church. It would be impossible to miss the reality of the Gospel in this. And when they rebuilt, they rebuilt with 21st century mission in mind.

So I found their story encouraging in many respects:

- I saw some real similarities between Holy Trinity, Streetsville and Holy Trinity, Corfu in

the sense that we are both trying to re-engage with the realities of the mission field in the 21st century. The importance of welcome and worship; trying to work out the “gospel” response to the challenges we face; encouraging each other to focus on Jesus and to be His people.

- Looking for ways to use the buildings we have to reach many and diverse groups. They are much further down the road than we are and in a different social context... but opening the doors and meeting people where they are not where we would necessarily want them to be(!) seemed very central to their approach... and, I hope, to ours too.
- The fact that their approach was working in drawing people to Jesus and encouraging them to follow Him. It felt affirming in the sense that there were some real parallels in their approach and ours. They were just further down the road.

And... I have to say, returning to worship on Sunday morning here in Corfu was truly uplifting. The sense of our Lord inhabiting the praises of His people, the amazing mix of people that were in the church and on zoom on that Sunday, clear teaching from Nigel and a strong sense of fellowship among those present - was wonderful. It reminded me of just how blessed we are here.

In November, we will be holding our third strategy and visioning day over the last eight years - this one looking forward in hope as we seek to fuel our passion to reach out to those we live among with the love of Jesus. Maybe the main thing I take from being part of this very different, but also similar church for a time is... that we should never underestimate what our Lord can do!

With every blessing,

Jules.



trinity
CHURCH STREETSVILLE



PULSE PRAYERS



Thank you, Lord, for having created us and given us each other. Thank you for being with us in all our joys and sorrows, for your comfort in our sadness, your companionship in our loneliness. Thank you for yesterday, today and tomorrow and for the whole of our lives. Thank you for friends, for health and for grace. May we live this and be conscious of all that has been given to us.

Dear Lord, enable your kingdom, all who bear your name to carry your light into the darkest of places.

We pray to you for all peace makers, may you gift them with spirit and wisdom. We ask you Lord for peace between Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, Syria, the Yemen and so many other places under regimes fighting for their freedom.

Protect, welcome and bless the poorest, the refugees and victims of every war. Keep us united in you, in the light of your hope and love. Restore hope to the suffering mend the hearts of the hurting, grant aid and provisions to those in need.

We pray for all those who have suffered natural disasters. For those who lost everything during the wild fires in Greece, Spain, America, France and Portugal. For the earthquake, flooding and drought victims. If this is our future Lord help us.

Lord, help government leaders recognise the climate emergency. Help us to follow their lead. May we all care for the world, be wise stewards over it, and preserve it for future generations.

We pray for our church leaders, clergy and laypeople. Grant the wisdom, and a deep sense of your presence as they work to do your will. Bless Robert and David, our bishops, pope Francis, Bartholomew of the orthodox church, Miltiades the evangelical minister and George Altouvas the catholic bishop here on Corfu.

Bless Jules and Trish may the holy spirit strengthen their faith and grant them wisdom and courage to overcome all challenges they may face.

We pray for King Charles and the royal family that they may be strong in their duty and service. God bless the king.

Lord, bless our church family and all those past, present and future members of Holy Trinity who have shared and will share in the life of this church. We pray for the outreach of the Logo Cafe and we thank you Lord that we have come so far with the alterations. We thank you for everyone who has helped with the refurbishment and we look forward to it being a great success and blessed by you.

Bless our council members especially Ann and Pauline our wardens and Jackie, our lay reader in Lefkada. We pray your blessing on their lives and all they do for our church.

Bless those who mourn Lord, with the comfort of your love that they may face each day with hope. May their memories become joyful. May family and friends help and comfort and heal their sadness.

We pray for those we care about who are ill or injured, or in pain. Please lord heal them, restore health of body, mind, soul and spirit. Stop cancer, heal broken bones, defeat infections. Please take a moment to pray for all those in your hearts.

Accept these prayers for the sake of your son our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

the **Plight** of the **Salmon**



Like the Christian walk life ain't easy for a salmon! This fact struck me as I watched so many magnificent fish struggle to swim upstream to return to the shallows where they had hatched. An unusually heavy downpour for the season had increased the water flow and as a result many salmon (too numerous to count) were struggling to pass through the rapids close to where we were standing. "They have already travelled many kilometres from Lake Ontario" a local salmon watcher told us. "It's late for them to still be on the move."

Seagulls and Canada Geese had strategically perched themselves on rocks or in the curve of a slight meander lower downstream ever vigilant to maximise this opportunity to peck at a distressed salmon passing by. After all, it's easy pickings here. Occasional corpses were visible on the opposite river bank.

At a certain time of year an unmitigated drive is awakened within the fish to commence the final and most significant expedition of its life. Against all odds it must traverse numerous barriers in its path to return to the place of its birth.

Is there a parallel to the path we as Christians must take? We are perpetual refugees. Always on a journey, always travelling towards our ultimate home. Sometimes scaling monumental and formidable obstacles to head towards our place of peace.

The salmon's life is focused on one goal. That is to reach maturity healthy and strong in order to make the return journey to the exact place where he hatched. Here the salmon will spawn and hence perpetuate the life cycle for the next generation. Once reproduction has occurred every adult dies in that place. Their work is complete.

The life of a Christian, as I see it, is also very focused. Once our lives are aligned in earnest towards the cross there is little else (we hope) that can distract us from the journey we embark on.

Not unlike the salmon we may take a wrong turn. And although it looks like safer, calmer water over there in reality it stops us progressing to our goal. Sometimes the current is too much for us and we are hurtled backwards. Even back to where we started. We have to begin again. Finding a different path or digging much deeper for greater strength in our very being to pursue that same route once again.

Along the way we acquire injuries and this makes the going more perilous. We may encounter others along the path who are stranded and struggling. Some haven't made it and never will. Stark reminders of how challenging it can be. With the help of friends the journey can be easier. By following the safe passage of someone who has gone before us and closely sticking by those who are heading in the right direction we stand a better chance of reaching our destination. The salmon know this too.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Once the adult salmon has either laid or fertilised eggs then it slowly dies from exhaustion and lack of nutrition as they never stop to feed during their journey home. The decomposing bodies provide valuable nutrients for the hatchlings and contribute essential chemicals to the river ecosystem. The last and ultimate giving act of the salmon's life cycle is complete. In one way it seems a tragic and poetic end as the parents never live to see their offspring. In another way a life so focused, motivated and goal driven has on one level an attraction and simplicity to it.



Whatever extraneous circumstances are going on around them they know what they must do and where they are going. The destination and direction are clear and unambiguous. The journey right up to the end is fraught with obstacles that must be overcome and they will die trying.

As I watched the salmon use every last ounce of energy they had left to travel upstream I felt moved and sad. Wanting to reach out and help them. I even called out to them "come on, you can do it." Or "just a bit further" or "no not that way you'll get trapped."

Being an observer all I could do was watch this one part of the intricate interconnectedness of the natural world playing out within a larger system.

It was humbling and emotional.

The plight of the salmon reminded me that if we keep our eyes on Jesus and help each other when we are strong and allow others to help us when we are weak we can all head in the right direction together.

Matthew chapter 7...

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

The NLT Application Study Bible says about this text...the gate that leads to eternal life (see John:10 7 - 9) is called narrow. This does not mean that it is difficult to become a Christian but that there is only one way to eternal life with God and that only some decide to pursue that road. Believing in Jesus is the only way to heaven, because He alone died for our sins and made us right before God. Living His way may not be popular, but it is true and right. Thank God there is one way!



CHRISTMAS FAIRE

Saturday, December 9th

If you would like to help in anyway, providing items to sell / raffle etc., or manning a stall, please contact:-

Kim, Kim.p.hall@hotmail.co.uk or
Jane. jane.lanfear1@gmail.com

SHOEBOX SERVICE

Sunday 17th Dec.

If you would like to fill a shoebox with presents for the ladies who are in Perama Home for the elderly, please contact Rhona. ☎ 26610 99244 rhona.barker@gmail.com





Violetta Teetor wrote some amazing poetry for the HTC course on forgiveness - one for each session.

With Violetta's permission we're reproducing them for you in Pulse.

The first one was published in April's edition, here's the next one...

Undeserving

*Hubris jumps out
in freshly, laundered clothing when the talk of the town
sends self-righteous ripples down our spine.
We love to know
that we would never
ever
dream of
imagine
stoop to
doing such a thing.*

*Our children are models of decency our men, stalwarts of society,
our friends have
integrity
and our church has standing and we, oh we,
not perfect
but tethering on the fringes hanging on for dear life
to our tropes of virtue.
Jesus is our saviour,
is he yours?*

*Standing in our high heels
teetering on the precipice
almost singeing our wings
on the edge of the sun,
until that day
when our ankle gives in and our wing gets burnt,
our song is silenced
and our heart breaks in two.*

*Keep me in the valley bring me to my knees
manifest your grace
fill me with your mercy.
Spread your arms wide so I can enter in,
taste of your healing honey and shelter
in your shadow.*

The Safe Space

Have you recently lost someone you love? Are you feeling isolated or anxious? Does the world seem overwhelming and scary since the pandemic? Is your mental well-being languishing or your self-esteem low? Then perhaps it would be beneficial to spend an hour in the "Safe Space".

The Safe Space is an informal Christian counselling setting where you can receive one-to-one confidential on-line space to explore your feelings



To book an appointment:

email Trish: trishmariawilson@gmail.com or phone: 0030 6986644271

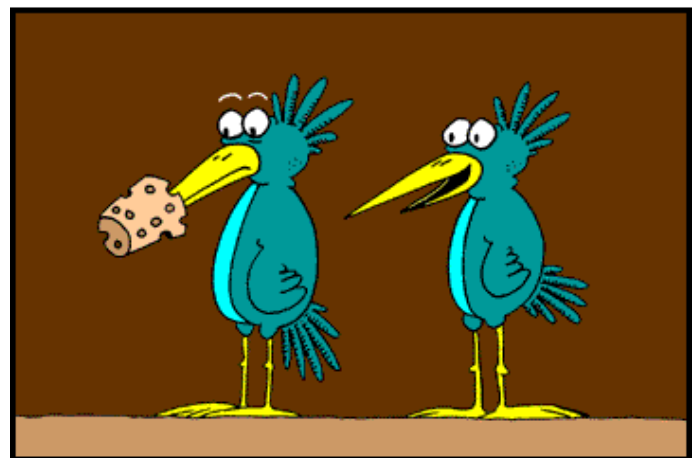
<https://sites.google.com/view/trish-wilson-christian-counsel/home>

Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



12-03-1998

MISSY USED TO BE A STEWARDESS



11-17-1998

Thanks to Lloyd Vandenbrink
OH STOP YOUR POUTING ... YOU WERE
THERE WHEN NOAH WARNED ALL OF US
WOODPECKERS

WHAT'S ON at HTC

Keep up to date with what's on at Holy Trinity Corfu by visiting our website calendar.

<http://holytrinitycorfu.bravesites.com/whats-on>

OR



Links



<https://europe.anglican.org/prayer-diary/prayer-diary>



<https://www.ics-uk.org/Pages/Category/prayer-diary>

The Agiot

<http://www.theagiot.com/>



<https://enimerosi.com/en>



https://www.facebook.com/groups/CorfuForum/?ref=group_header

We always welcome contributions to our publications; however, we will not publish any material which infringes copyright. When sending in items for inclusion please state your source and the name of the author.

We are happy to accept prayer requests for inclusion in Pulse or in the morning service. If you are requesting prayer for someone other than yourself please make sure you have their permission to be mentioned publicly.

*Please remember the submission **deadline for PULSE is 25th of each month**. Articles, news, information etc. received after this time may not be included and will be carried over to the next edition if appropriate. Thank you.*

Editorial: htccorfupulse@gmail.com



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