



Sunday 13th June 2021

Mrs Rachel Dowling
2nd Sunday of Trinity

THE TRINITY



Minister for Toothill Revd Rachael Wilson Tel: 01793764330

rev.rachael.wilson@gmail.com

To receive the newsletter each Thursday by email contact David at: david11hoar@gmail.com

Toothill Church website: www.toothillchurch.org.uk

For contacting, various groups see the front page of Toothill Church Website.

Welcome to everyone worshipping with us today; for those who have difficulty hearing there is a loop system in operation.

In Partnership (The Partnership Monthly magazine): <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/news>

This Sunday Mrs Rachel Dowling

We are pleased to announce this will be the second test service inside Toothill Church since March last year. Please observe covid regulations.

Next Sunday 10.30 Prayer walk round Toothill. Meet at the Church.

Sunday 27th 10.30 Mr David Hoar (Service in church)

Prayers for today

Do please let us know if there is someone you would like to add to the list for prayer, remembering that we must have the permission of the person for whom we would be praying. Please pray for Bill and Rhoda, Ann Beaumont, Graham's cousin Hayley, Norris and Ruth, Sarah, Hazel, and all those you know who are in need of God's special love, care and healing.

We pray for our ministers Clive, Rachael, Trevor and Teresa and all our children's and worship leaders and their families across the Partnership.

May God bless us all with wisdom and strength to face each day's challenges.

Please pray for your home congregation that they may be sustained as we start to meet together again, and for the continuing work with our children, young people and families in West Swindon.

We pray for Grace, Peace and a way forward in your Love in these uncertain times in our lives. May we continually thank God for his great Love and Faithfulness.

Restarting Church Activities

All these activities are subject to Government and Denominational Covid Regulations.

Music Group

Will be meeting on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month starting on the 23rd June.
Times: 10.50.-12.15. All are welcome to join the music group; please contact Nicola.

West Swindon Youth Club

Will be meeting every week on Monday during school term time starting Monday 21st June. Times: 5.00pm – 7.00pm for further information see our Facebook page, web site or contact Westswindonyc@gmail.com or telephone 07869171527

Toothill Tinies 0-5 years.

Will be meeting every Thursday Morning in school term time starting Thursday 24th June Time 10.00 - 11.30 for further information contact Becky Telephone 078 618 308 57

New Generation Dance

Will be every Monday and Tuesday starting 21st and 22nd June.

Times Mondays 6.30pm – 7-30pm. For ages 11 years upwards

Tuesdays 4.30pm – 5.30pm. for ages 4 -10 years

For further information contact: newgenerationbond@gmail.com

Friday Club

Will be meeting every Friday starting 25th June Times: 5.00pm – 7.00pm

Polish Church

First meeting will be Sunday 4th July then every two weeks until September.

Rev Rachael Wilson Reflection - Carlo Rovelli: Certainty and Uncertainty <https://youtu.be/zatKpuN48Ps>

I'm currently reading a book by the Italian physicist Carlo Rovelli called *There Are Places in the World Where Rules Are Less Important Than Kindness*. It's a collection of newspaper articles that he's written over the last decade, which in the Preface he describes as being "like brief diary entries recording the intellectual adventures of a physicist who is interested in many things and who is searching for new ideas - for a wide but coherent perspective." I've just read the 2013 article entitled, "Between Certainty and Uncertainty: A Precious Intermediate Space" which begins with a discussion of probability.

Traditional definitions focus on probability being determined by things like frequency and propensity, but Rovelli draws attention to the twentieth century philosopher and mathematician Bruno de Finetti who introduced the idea that probability does not refer to the system itself but rather to the knowledge I have about the system. Our ideas about the probability of things happening are based on our knowledge or ignorance of the state of things at the time. And our ideas are just as much shaped by our own opinions, feelings and ideologies as by any scientific material we may be presented with.

Rovelli writes, "We live in a universe where ignorance prevails. We know many things, but there is a great deal more that we don't know. We don't know who we will encounter tomorrow in the street, we don't know the causes of many illnesses, we don't know the ultimate physical laws that govern the universe, we don't know who will win the next election, we don't really know what is good for us and what is bad. We don't know if there will be an earthquake tomorrow. In this essentially uncertain world, it would be foolish to ask for absolute certainty. Whoever boasts of being certain is usually the least reliable. But this doesn't mean either that we are completely in the dark. Between certainty and complete uncertainty there is a precious intermediate space - and it is in this intermediate space that our lives and thoughts unfold."

As human beings I think we're much more attuned to the idea of uncertainty than we often realise. Very little in life is actually certain, and nothing remains the same as it was on the day we were born. We are used to changing - our bodies grow and develop and age and decline; the things we liked or didn't like when we were 5 years old are not the same things as when we are 25 or 50 or older; our ideas and opinions alter. So many things seemed black and white when I was a teenager, but over the last thirty years I have discovered that there are many shades of grey. By and large we cope with these changes - we can accept what is new and let go of what needs to be put aside and left behind. And even when it seems

that things have fallen apart, we usually manage to rebuild something from the rubble. Nothing is wasted. No life experience bounces off us without altering us in some way. We are creatures made for change. I recently watched an interview on YouTube with the actor William Shatner just a few days before his 90th birthday, although he could have easily passed for 50! He said, "Change is the unit of life" and that a good life is open to embrace those changes. He said, "A bad life is trying *not* to change" and I can understand this. I think that perhaps the times when we're most unhappy are those times when we're trying to fight against a change. And I think this is also true in church life. The times when church life seems bad are often those times when change is challenged and resisted and when our energy goes into trying to keep things the same. Those who want things to be different can be met with resistance, divisions can form and sadly sometimes things can get nasty. When we're resisting change with all our strength we're not living our best life. When we're clinging on to what has been, unable to let go and embrace something different we're not living our best life. We're not living lives of faith, but we're finding stability and security in the things we think we know

Some of you might be thinking, "Well, one thing *is* certain, and that's God!" and I agree with that. But the thing is, God is all about change! So if you're clinging on to an idea about God that means that nothing will ever be different then I think you might be mistaken! God is always with us, God always loves us, we are always precious to God. But that doesn't mean that things stay the same. God calls us to be different, God calls us to be transformed, God calls us to journey. God calls us to be open to the leading of the Spirit, who always seeks to push us beyond our comfort zones and to encourage us to step into pastures new. God says, "I'm doing a new thing!" Jesus offers us a new birth. In the Spirit we are a new creation. I can't see any of these things meaning, "so don't ever change"!

Being open to change doesn't make things any more certain. There are many times when we find ourselves in that space between certainty and uncertainty - that "precious, intermediate space" as Rovelli put it. If we're open to change then I think that's probably the space in which we live. At the moment I'm putting the finishing touches on the profile I have to write about myself as I go into the stationing process in a couple of months. As yet I have no idea where I'll be moving to in the summer next year, and I can't even say what kind of appointment I might be looking for or where I hope that appointment might be! I have no idea about any of that! I feel that I'm stepping into an intermediate space, but I have to say that I feel very safe. The more people ask me, "What kind of Circuit do you want to go to?" or "Where in the country do you want to be?" the more I come to realise that actually none of that seems very important to me right now. At first I thought this might be a bit of a problem. When people asked me these questions I began to be a bit hard on myself, saying to myself, "Come on, you need to focus and decide what you want. What's wrong with you?!" But then I realised that that's OK, because actually all I really want to do is serve God, wherever and in whatever way God wants. So it's not about me and what I want at all. It *is* about God and what God wants me to do and where and who God wants me to be. God might be calling me into something familiar or God might be calling me into something completely different, and that's OK. I feel that I'm ready for that, and I hope I'm open to say "Yes" to God when the time comes. For me, this intermediate space so far has been an affirmation. It's reminded me that I'm held and loved by God, and that it's OK to be me, it's OK to be a person who doesn't want to pretend to have the answers or to pretend to be super-organised or to pretend to be driven by processes and systems. It's OK to be me. From the security of the knowledge that God loves me and has made me this way I can look at the blank page that is the future and feel utterly excited that I know absolutely nothing about it!

So actually that intermediate space not as uncomfortable as you might think. In that space we can all look behind us to the certainties of the past, the things that have helped us, the things that have provided the ground from which we have been able to grow. In that space we can look forward to all the things we don't yet know, all the uncertainties of the future, and we can begin to learn to open ourselves up to whatever lies ahead. That space is the present moment - a time to discover more about who we are, an opportunity to discover more about who God is, and to rest secure in the knowledge of God's love. It's a moveable

space. In that space the Spirit gently moves us, changes us and broadens our horizons, preparing us for all that is yet unknown. It's like the platform from which the trapeze artist steps out into thin air, flying high, and it's like the catcher who waits at the other side. In this space we have the confidence, the grounding to know who we are and who holds us, and this gives us the courage to step off and lean forward into that which we cannot see.

I've been thinking about one of my favourite passages from Henri Nouwen which I'll end with now. "The Flying Rodleights are trapeze artists who perform in the German circus Simoneit-Berum...I will never forget how enraptured I became when I first saw the Rodleights move through the air, flying and catching as elegant dancers. One day, I was sitting with Rodleigh, the leader of the troupe, in his caravan, talking about flying...'The secret,' Rodleigh said, 'is that the flyer does nothing and the catcher does everything. When I fly to Joe, I have simply to stretch out my arms and hands and wait for him to catch me and pull me safely over the apron behind the catchbar.'

'You do nothing!' I said, surprised. 'Nothing,' Rodleigh repeated. 'The worst thing the flyer can do is to try to catch the catcher. I am not supposed to catch Joe. It's Joe's task to catch me. If I grabbed Joe's wrists, I might break them, or he might break mine and that would be the end of us. A flyer must fly, a catcher must catch, and the flyer must trust, with outstretched arms, that his catcher will be there for him.' When Rodleigh said this with so much conviction, the words of Jesus flashed through my mind: 'Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit.' Dying is trusting the catcher. To care for the dying is to say, 'Don't be afraid. Remember that you are the beloved child of God. He will be there when you make your long jump. Don't try to grab him; he will grab you. Just stretch out your arms and hands and trust, trust, trust.'

Sunday Worship in July.

All services will be in the church every two weeks until September when they will be weekly

Sunday 4th	No service
Sunday 11th	Rev Rachael Wilson
Sunday 18th	No service
Sunday 25th	Mr Mark Dowling

Sunday worship in August

Sunday 8th	Mrs Rachel Dowling
Sunday 22nd	Mr David Hoar

DG for J (Day-group for Jesus) Summer Programme to July 21st

Meeting at – 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Monday, 21st June 21 – Jesus & The Gospels – Leader Edward

Monday, 5th July 21 – Acts & The Church – Leader Angela

Monday, 19th July 21 – Revelation and Review – Leader Edward

For further details contact:

Edward Glennie – edglennie@hotmail.com - 07598482538

Peter Rogers – peter.rogers5599@ntlworld.com – 07500355201

*** We will be continuing with our Zoom calls until further notice. Zoom Meeting details are:

Click on link below to join meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92404636497?pwd=bFJLbFM5TFdsalppekdRV2o1QzJEZz09>

Meeting ID: 924 0463 6497

Passcode: 181042

Dial-in Number: 0330 088 5830

Motto:

The Armour of God - Ephesians 6: 10 to 11 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God

Note:

The dates for meetings can also be found on Holy Trinity Shaw's website:

Website: <http://htschurch.org.uk/>

Jess says- Peace begins with smile -



What kind of tree fits in your hand?

How do we know that the ocean is friendly?

What do ghosts like to eat in the summer?

What part of the fish weighs the most?

Why did the detectives show up at the concert at the beach?

A palm tree!

It waves!

I Scream.

The scales.

Something fishy was going on.

[Toothill Church website](#)

