

# CONNECT

Issue 3 November 2017



Church is ..

a human connection of love,  
not a building

a lifestyle, not a weekly  
activity

an act of service, not a  
service to attend



Minister  
Rev Helen Lambert

## Welcome to Trinity Rawdon!

At the heart of our ministry here at Trinity, Rawdon is the welcome we extend to all and so we are really happy that you have made this connection with us.

Whether you are searching for answers to the big questions in life, exploring your faith, or looking for a new home church, we hope that we may be able to draw alongside you as you make your journey.

Our church family is made up of members from our local community of Rawdon, Yeadon and Guiseley. Trinity has existed in its present form for over forty years – since the Baptist, Methodist and Congregationalist (United Reformed) churches in Rawdon came together to form one church, hence the name Trinity – in the unity of the Father, the Son and the Spirit.

We like to think that no two

Sundays are alike at Trinity Rawdon and we enjoy exploring new ways of journeying and drawing closer to God in worship.

Although we may have our own individual denominational identities, what unites us is the belief that church is who we are, not where we go, not just a building, but also the act of sharing God's love.

### Connect with us:

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invigorate  
inspire  
inflame  
relieve  
refresh  
cheer  
animate  
relax  
relieve  
rouse  
stimulate  
reassure  
strengthen  
comfort  
hearten  
**encourage**

### Tuol Sleng, Choueng Ek, Kaing Guek Eav and Chum Mey – a story of remembrance and forgiveness

Three names that might not at first sight mean a lot to us, nor even if expressed in another way: a primary school, a Chinese cemetery, and an ordinary man with an extraordinary and horrific story to tell, but one with a message of remembrance, forgiveness and hope. However if you are a Cambodian, these names are engrained into your psyche.

As the Khmer Rouge swept into Phnom Penh on that terrible day 17<sup>th</sup> April 1975, all the people were forced out of the city. Within two days the capital was virtually empty. They commandeered this primary school and it was re-named S-21, "S" for Security and "21", the contact/communication number. Forever after it is a euphemism for a place where between 12000 and 20000 innocent people were brought for interrogation and where "confessions" would be extracted under the most brutal torture imaginable. Once the false admissions had been documented, these sick, emaciated, damaged victims would be transported under cover of darkness, bound and blind-folded, the 15kms to Choueng Ek, the "Killing Field", once a Chinese cemetery and now prepared as a mass grave. They would be kept shackled in a large shed until it was their turn, one by one to meet their inevitable fate. The Khmer Rouge guards, the "cadres" became adept at their task of despatching their unfortunate victims. Bullets were not used for fear of revealing this terrible secret and because they were expensive. They employed a variety of agricultural implements: hoes, axes, palm knives to end so many lives, before they toppled them into the pit. I cannot bring myself to write of horrors even worse than this that befell some of them.

Chum Mey, a mechanic by trade, was arrested in 1978 and found himself at S21. After 12 days and nights of brutal torture, a "confession" of all his contacts with the KGB and the CIA was extracted and he was earmarked for despatch and execution. He was spared, only because it came to light that he was a fixer and that he could mend broken typewriters, such a crucial weapon in the armoury of the Khmer Rouge. As the leadership's vision of an agrarian utopia where all people worked on the land, with no possessions or money began to evaporate, the noose applied around the capital by Vietnamese and rebel Cambodian forces started to tighten and they fled. The few remaining prisoners were slaughtered and Chum Mey was himself taken to Choueng Ek. He was by chance briefly reunited with his wife, child and a friend, but as they met their deaths, he was able to slip away.

Many years on and to be exact, on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2107, I find myself sitting next to this extraordinary man, one of only 7 known to have survived until this day and I clasp his hand, unable to speak other than to say "Bless you". Chum Mey says that visitors come and they cry when they learn what happened here and he cries too. He cannot understand how he lived through a thousand threats on his life and still survived. He does not blame his captors or his torturers, because he cannot say that he would not have done the same in their position. A refusal to carry out the orders would result in the same fate. However he did rejoice on the day of the conviction of the camp commandant, Kaing Guek Eav... alias "Duch". He is the only one to have admitted guilt for these unspeakable crimes against humanity. Perhaps he was hoping for a shorter sentence, but if so he would have been disappointed: the original sentence of 15 years was increased to 35.

Is there something or someone you find hard to forgive? Does the account above enable you to achieve a different perspective? Jesus tells us not to forgive 7 times but 77 times (Mt 18:22).

The hope is that we listen to this story and that we heed Paul's words to the Romans:

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil... Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath. "It is mine to avenge; I will repay". On the contrary: If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

The evil of the Khmer Rouge happened in my lifetime. So has that of the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Yemen, and now Myanmar. When will we ever learn?

## The editor reflects ...

## Worship in November



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 9.30 Communion with Helen Lambert  
10.30 Worship with Helen Lambert**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 11.00 Remembrance  
at the Memorial Stone**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 10.30 Remembrance Day  
3.00 Act of Remembrance  
at the Peace Garden**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 10.30 Worship with the Worship Team  
and Communion with Helen Lambert**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 10.30 Worship with David Skeet**

### People to Pray for:

Lord, may those named be wrapped in Your love, found deep in Your everlasting wings, carried and kept, safe and cherished.

May the healing power of Jesus breathe across them all. AMEN

Betty's family  
Joan  
Gordon  
Marion  
June  
Doreen  
Rev Micky Munroe  
Irene's Grandson Joel

### Connect with us this month as we gather for:

**Trustees' Meeting** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November at The New Manse (32 Micklefield Lane) 7.30pm

Join us to watch **The Shack** in room 2 after church on November 5<sup>th</sup>, refreshments will be supplied but please bring your own lunch. A small donation towards costs would be greatly appreciated – see Helen for details.

**Trinity Christmas Buffet** provided by The Billing Tearoom, Rawdon – an opportunity for food and fellowship at Christmas – Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup> after the service. Costs £9.00 per head. Please see Helen to book your place – booking deadline December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please could all members with email accounts please email Pete on [petelambert57@gmail.com](mailto:petelambert57@gmail.com) so we can put you onto a Trinity mailing list.

**Hit it now!** ..... our new website is LIVE !!! [www.trinityrawdon.co.uk](http://www.trinityrawdon.co.uk)

### Connect with God

Last month we began a new sermon series entitled "Holy Habits", where we started to go back to basics as we explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus.



## Connect with us in fellowship

**Walk and Talk** meet each Friday for a short local walk lasting approximately one hour, exploring areas that many of us had forgotten existed. We have a good chat and enjoy a cup of tea to finish with. You would be most welcome to join us! We meet each Friday outside the church at 2pm.



**Knit Café** meets every week on Tuesdays 2.00pm at Browns Green Vegetarian Café, 3b Harrogate Road, Rawdon, Leeds. We love to knit, chat and of course eat cake! All are welcome, not just knitters, people who want to learn and those who want to make new friends.

**Prayer Breakfast** gather once a month (fourth Saturday) at 8.30am for a short time of fellowship and prayer at The Manse. This is followed by a simple breakfast. We ask only that people bring their prayers, concerns and thanksgiving, either spoken or silent, be they personal/family matters, Church or local issues or situations in the world which require God's intervention.

**Life Groups** Our Life Groups meet in homes in order to share life together and study the Bible. This is where people really get to know others and discover the value of their prayers and practical support. It is also the place to chew on difficult issues and to unpack further what the preacher may have been saying the previous Sunday. Please contact Helen or Pete to find out more.

## Connect with our community

### Missions Team News

Thanks to everyone for their contributions to the 1% Appeal and for filling jam jars. £87.50 was collected in coins which is a fantastic start to the 1% collection.

The Missions Team would like to remind you of the following events this month:

25th Nov: Messy Church Christmas party - please pray that the families who attend this are touched by the true meaning of Christmas

Shoebox Appeal: please bring any items to fill shoeboxes / filled shoeboxes to church by as soon as possible. Items that can be included are small toys, school supplies, hygiene items (Toothbrush and toothpaste, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel) and other items such as hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, wrapped sweets (best-before-date must be at least March of the following year). Deadline November 5<sup>th</sup>.

### 9th Dec: Church craft fair - we will need:

- full bottles of virtually anything for the bottle stall
- empty Nutella jars (or similar) with a large opening and a plastic lid
- raffle prizes
- tombola prizes
- cakes and buns for the cake stall
- volunteers to man stalls

Christmas service preparations: please pray for those involved with planning Christmas services and events at Trinity, and also that those who attend them catch hold of something of the reality of Christ for their lives which is not only for Christmas