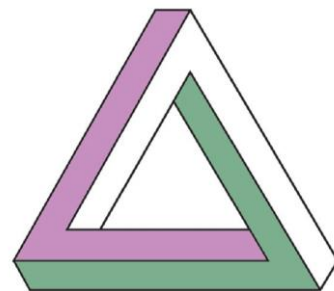


# Perspectives of Paradox

**Life puzzles** (2<sup>nd</sup> in the series inspired by Northumbria Community Prayer Guide 2024-25\*)



***\*‘Paradox is not necessarily a puzzle to be solved, but two opposite truths to be held simultaneously. We ask God to give us the strength to bear the tension creatively and the willingness to learn from it.’\****

Artists have long sought to illustrate impossible situations. This image of a triangle challenges us visually. So too does the concept of the holy trinity.

Is God One or is God Three? Or One in Three, or Three in One? Or all four?

The paradox challenges preachers every Trinity Sunday. How to explain? St Patrick used the Irish clover leaf – three leaflets in one stem.

Celtic art envisages the trinity like an unbroken cord - as a circle (a hieroglyph of eternity) entwined as a triangle.



Whilst it may help us to grasp the idea – it still defies our understanding and always will. Does it matter? Not really – for God is mystery above all knowing.

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.*

God is transcendent and also with-us. Were we to have full knowledge of God in this life we would be unable to bear the ice and fire of almighty extremes, nor fathom its depths and heights, nor navigate its complex labyrinth of energy. The story of the Garden of Eden teaches us this.

Our humanity is protected by limitations of understanding, set in place by our creator for reasons we cannot yet know. Yet in the fullness of God’s love, we shall know. Trevor Miller of Northumbria Community once said:

***\*‘Paradox is living in the mystery of simultaneous opposites, equally true, that have to be lived, not necessarily resolved.’\****

*‘Now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.’*  
1 Corinthians 13.12

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