

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.
Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

[Matthew 28 v6]



April 2015

The Recorder

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An edited version of this magazine is available on the Church Website.

(Personal details are NOT included)

Church web site: <http://www.trinity-urc.org.uk>

Trinity - a place to belong

Spirituality - Prayer – Community – Welcome

Dear Friends

The end of March is the time that Trinity gives up its role as one of the seven churches in Wycombe to feed, entertain and give shelter to some of the unfortunate people in Wycombe who, for no fault of their own find themselves with no address and no job. I don't know if any you tried standing outside for five minutes before going to bed last month as suggested in March's Recorder (or whatever its new name might be, Trinity Vision, Trinity Times, URC Reports, Next Month..... Any more ideas? The choice is yours!) There is a difference between standing for five minutes and standing, thinking "It will not be light again for another six hours"

By the time you read this letter many of us will have attended services through Holy Week and have been on the Good Friday Walk of Witness through the town with members of other local churches showing our witness of Christian belief. The Easter Day Service will be over and we all be looking forward to a new beginning, no longer having to say to visitors "No, we don't have a minister at the moment, is there anything I can do to help?" On Saturday 25 April at 3.00pm we are all invited to Trinity to join in the induction service and celebration to welcome Revd Terry Hinks to be the minister of Trinity URC and Cores End URC. We also welcome his wife Elizabeth. This will be a joyous occasion for all of us as we enter another phase in the life of both churches. Please don't forgot to inform Kate as to whether or not you intend to be there, so we can have enough chairs etc.

Following the induction of Terry, what might happen in the future? This is a question that will depend on us all. Will our churches grow and continue to grow under the guidance of Terry? Will younger families find refuge in our Sanctuary? Will some organisation want to rent large parts of our building during the week on a long term basis? These are questions that we shall know answers to when we welcome all new visitors to this church building in Christian love and charity.

My calendar tells me that now is an ideal time to plant lily bulbs and on Easter Sunday daylight saving time ends in New Zealand and Australia, except Western Australia, Northern Territories and Queensland, if any of you are interested, but in this country all the signs of Spring are around us with flowers, lambs, longer days and warm summer days to look forward to.

May I wish you all a Happy Easter and a joyous Spring time.

Glyn

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April Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am unless otherwise stated

Sunday 12 th April		Morning Worship - Habib Nader
Sunday 19 th April		All Age Worship - David Reynolds
Saturday 25 th April	3.00 pm	Induction of Terry Hinks as minister of Trinity & Cores End - The Moderator of Thames North Synod
Sunday 26 th April		Morning Worship - Amersham Free Church Worship Team
Sunday 26 th April	4.00 pm	Afternoon communion The Revd Terry Hinks

Rotas for April

Not included in this version

What's on in April



Monday 20th April - 10.30am -
Planting tubs and baskets in preparation for summer!!-
. (Hostess Ellen M)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 7th April *No meeting*
Tuesday 14th April Chiltern Hills (3)
Tuesday 21st April Quiz
Tuesday 28th April Chit-chat



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Diary Dates

Sunday	12th April	Prayer ministry in vestry	Noon - 12:30 pm
Wednesday	15th April	Vision 2020 prayer	9:30 am - 10:00 am
Monday	20th April	Housegroup	8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Wednesday	29th April	All Saints' Parish Church - Election Hustings meeting	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Regular April gatherings:

Every Tuesday in April:

- Movers and Shakers Chinese Style (Kitchen, Lower Schoolroom, Sanctuary)
10 am-1 pm
- Women's Meeting (Lower Schoolroom), 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Every Thursday in April:

- 2nd High Wycombe Trinity Guides (Crendon Hall), 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
- Choir (Lower School Room), 8:00 pm

Every Friday in April:

- Movers and Shakers, Caribbean style (Sanctuary, Lower Schoolroom, Kitchen),
(10 am start)
- Rainbows (Crendon Hall), 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm
- Brownies, 2nd High Wycombe (Crendon Hall), 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm

Not included in this version



Chiltern Area Committee Newsletter – March 2015 (edited)

News from the churches

DEANWAY UNITED CHURCH, CHALFONT ST GILES

All pre-Christmas events went well plus fundraising fair in late November 2014, a very successful Poetry evening and a well attended Candlelit Carol Service. We were able to donate generously to the Ebola Crisis as a result of these events.

We have been looking forward to our Churches Together in Chalfont St Giles Lent Courses on Prayer with a different speaker at each session. These include Charismatic Prayer: Contemplative Prayer within the Benedictine Tradition: Prayerful silence from the Quaker Tradition.

During March we will be holding our Spring Community Lunch for about 40 senior citizens from our village churches – always a busy and fun time for all!

On 21 March we have a Coffee Morning and Sale in aid of Church Funds and 'Clean Water and Sanitation in Uganda', which is the Methodist Circuit Mission Project for 2015/2016.

We look forward to our Minister's Spring Course of Lectures in May. This will be Revd Dr John Parry's third series at Deanway, always well attended.

AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

The beginning of the new year has been marked by further improvements in the vestibules and entrance area of the buildings following the building works which took place in 2014 as Phase 2 of the Church's Vision for the Future. Two information screens have been installed on which details of current and future events are shown alongside a message of welcome; new notice boards and leaflet display panels have been erected, and a number of comfortable modern chairs have been added to encourage people who wish to linger to do so. Still to come is the replacement of the original main entrance door from the car-park with a modern framed-glass door, and some new exterior lighting to enhance this and increase safety.

Membership numbers were increased by the admittance of six adherents to membership in December.

Summary of AGM & Church Meeting held on Tuesday 17th March 2015

(Full minutes are available from Kate on request)

AGM

1. **Annual Accounts 2014 – Treasurer’s Report:** Sue presented the figures for last year.
2. **Election of Elders:** Margaret Lewis was elected for a second three-year term
3. **Appointment of Postholders:** Updated and approved (*see separate summary of Postholders on pages 12 - 14*)

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CHURCH MEETING

1. **Terms of Settlement for the Revd Terry Hinks**
 - Revised wording approved.
 - Agreed to offer Terry’s current joint pastorate £350 for his existing laptop.
 - Delay with tenants moving out of Cores End manse – option for Trinity’s manse temporarily if required. Vote taken on additional expenditure if required.
2. **Spirituality & Prayer**
 - **Terry’s induction service Saturday 25th April at 3 pm**
We are expecting well over 240 people with the gallery in full use too. Buffet tea will be in Crendon Hall and Lower School Room. Will need 12 stewards (sanctuary & gallery) in case of emergency evacuation.
 - **News from Churches Together – Lent Talks at All Saints:** these have been well-attended.
3. **Property**
 - **Quinquennial repairs:** scheduled and agreed repairs are complete. All invoices in. Hope to reclaim all the VAT through Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.
 - **Manse garden**
No news.
4. **Employment Policy:** Agreed as it’s good practice. Copy will be in big yellow file in vestry.
5. **Funding application for a Thursday mental health well-being Pilates class:** Agreed to submit this to MIG. Unanimous vote to support this.

Date of next Church Meeting: **Tuesday 19th May 2015**

IMPORTANT - The Lobbying Act and local churches



Keep calm and carry on! The Lobbying Act, the General Election and local churches

The Lobbying Act regulates campaigning activity in the run-up to the General Election. This short briefing looks at what the Act is likely to mean for local churches.

Methodists have long seen political engagement as part of their Christian discipleship. The 1995 Conference Statement on Political Responsibility stated "the commitment of individual Christians to work for social and political change should be recognised as a fully legitimate form of Christian discipleship". Christians are to be found voting for, campaigning for and even standing for almost every political party.

As a charity, the Methodist Church and local churches must ensure that they do not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The Methodist Church has to ensure that its political engagement, carried out primarily through the ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team, is in line with its charitable objectives.

Under the Lobbying Act, unless it registers with the Electoral Commission, it also needs to ensure that it does not spend more than £20,000 on "regulated activity" which explicitly or implicitly could be reasonably regarded as being intended to influence how someone votes. The Church has received legal advice about its activities.

What local churches can continue to do:

- **Organise hustings/question time meetings** - the Electoral Commission advice and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland advice will be available soon. It will be important to hold "non-selective" hustings. These are hustings to which all candidates are invited, or if that is not practical then the decision not to invite certain candidates is taken on objective not subjective grounds. For example if 12 candidates are standing locally, you could invite five from the parties with the highest poll ratings, so long as there is a rational, objective reason which is not based on your attitudes to parties' policies. The Joint Public Issues Team will be producing a briefing on a range of issues from housing and the economy to children and religious freedom to help you reflect on election issues
- **Talk about the election in services and encourage people to vote** - the Joint Public Issues Team will be producing four short videos, together with bible notes and prayers, which can be used in the services before the election to encourage people to reflect on election issues through the biblical lenses of justice, peace, truth and well-being.

Things churches will need to be very careful about:

- **Putting out statements which encourage people not to vote for particular parties** - this is regulated activity under the Lobbying Act and unacceptable under charity law. You would need to be cautious before signing up to such statements. Statements encouraging people to use their vote but not stating how are more likely to be acceptable.

Further information is available from The Electoral Commission, The Churches Legislation Advisory Service and CTBI (Churches Together in Britain & Ireland)

The Joint Public Issues Team (URC, Baptist, Methodist) **Love Your Neighbour: Think Pray Vote** election resources will be available from www.jointpublicissues.org.uk (where you can also sign up for their regular newsletter).



ZIMBABWE- Using local markets to improve livelihoods.

The economic and political environment remains stable enabling smooth project implementation. However, availability of cash is still a challenge in rural communities and barter trade has become common as an adaptive strategy. Local leadership and stakeholders actively participate and support project activities. The rainy season started well and the seasonal yield forecast is good. Improved production of better quality small grains and vegetables is evident.

Labour saving mobile solar water pumps

This initiative responds to the gender and labour challenges facing communities in Matabeleland region. Most middle aged and labour active males emigrated to neighbouring South Africa and Botswana to look for employment, leaving the elderly and women with the heavy work. 18 gardens, each with an average of 15 households are using the solar pumps. 207 smallholder farmers are improving their vegetable yields and plot sizes because of improved irrigation methods and extension support they get from Dabane Trust and local extension workers.

Mechanising Conservation Agriculture

There was an increase in the number of conservation agriculture farmers who now planned to grow sorghum and cowpeas for processing and getting value addition at the processing centre. A local private metal fabricator is supplying labour-saving potholing implements and providing back up service to the producers.

CENTRAL AMERICA - Nicaragua

Enterprise inclusive markets' create the right conditions for growth for small producers who sell locally, although some do sell to International groups. In Nicaragua, Hibiscus is sold to large American supermarkets whilst coffee beans from SOPPEXCA are exported as Fairtrade goods. These Christian Aid partners are looking to transform the coffee trade in Nicaragua by marketing the coffee in their own coffee shops. This would be a real step forward as it would add value to the product. Conscious of the need to diversify, the groups are also looking to produce more cocoa.

Christian Aid partners are also working on climate change adaptation and advocacy. Vital education is needed to help farmers understand the implications for the future of their crops because of the changes in climate they are experiencing. Research is also needed to find drought resistant seeds and crops. It is the range of variations in the weather, with drought and then flooding, that is causing so many difficulties for the farmers.

Mining

When the Nicaraguan government opened its doors to the first International Mining Congress, over 1,000 people from communities affected by mining projects were barred by police from travelling to the capital city to participate in a march organised by Christian Aid partner Centro Humbolt* in defence of the environment. Partner Movimiento Comunal, member of the Matagalpa Strategic Mining Alliance, declared that "the government has violated articles of the constitution which permit free mobilisation and expression in defence of public goods."

*Centro Humbolt promotes environmental development and management. Their strategic objectives include influencing public environmental policies and promoting efficient environmental management. They empower different sectors of civil society to provide information, to help build capacity and to carry out monitoring and research on environmental impact.



Not so much a programme
More an experience

Imagine with TLS

Training for Learning and Serving (TLS) is launching its new period of enrolment by encouraging people to take time to imagine – a different world, a different church, and a different you – as part of a practical learning experience.

By engaging with these ideas TLS aims to explore creatively how some of these possibilities may be a positive influence in a person's life, church and community.

Stanley Jackson, TLS coordinator, said: "In October 1971, John Lennon released his record 'Imagine'. While some find the lyrics paint an over-sentimentalised, unrealistic and unachievable ideal, others view them as offering a hopeful and inspirational vision for the future. Whichever way you see it, the song highlights the potential of human imagination, touching upon one of the most creative forces of existence."

"Imagine... a different world... a different church... a different you. If you can catch the vision and potential of such thoughts you will understand why Training for Learning and Serving is launching its new period of enrolment by focussing upon what possibilities there are if people start to use their God-given imaginations."

TLS offers opportunities to: Examine your faith - Enrich your discipleship - Explore your calling
To make a difference in your life, your church and your neighbourhood

WHAT IS TLS?

It is

- A spiritual journey
- A variety of courses on subjects related to Christian life and discipleship
- A diverse learning experience with opportunities for
 - Reflective and practical work
 - Personal and group study
 - Local and residential gatherings
- A fellowship of friendly people

YOU CAN DO TLS

- Just out of personal interest, to help you be more understanding and effective in your Christian discipleship
- To explore opportunities to serve God in the future
- To help you acquire United Reformed Church Assembly Lay Preaching accreditation
- Because it doesn't matter whether you have some academic experience or none.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Watch the video at <http://tinyurl.com/TLS-Video> and then follow the adjacent links for more details, including this year's Prospectus

OR

Contact the TLS Administrator, Mrs Heather Skidmore, at:-
27 Yew Tree Road, Elkesley, Retford, Notts. DN22 8AY
Tel: 01777 838634 E-mail: tlsskid@btinternet.com

who will be happy to send to you the TLS Prospectus and Application Form.

Did you know that WHC now does ALL THIS?!



Our staff and trained volunteers in **WHC's advice and support centre** are now providing support on over 2000 occasions per year. The number of people coming for help for the first time has doubled in the last year – recently, the highest number seen in a single day was 25.

Homeless people lose hope, so **WHC's "Inspire" programme** aims to remind them what they want out of life and empower them to take steps towards achieving it. This innovative service is spearheaded by Ali Preston and includes life-skill sessions ranging from cooking to dealing with changes, as well as films showing people succeeding against the odds.

During 2014, Bryony Albery developed **WHC's tenancy support service** and trained a group of volunteers. We are now offering this vital service to all guests resettled into independent living accommodation. The aim is to help them stay in their accommodation – and avoid repeat homelessness! Tenancy support is also vital to the following important initiative.

WHC believes homeless people with no special support needs should not be accommodated in hostels, since, when housing is short, people cannot move on and hostels simply fill up and become useless. Rather **WHC supports the "Housing First" approach** which aims to place homeless people in long-term mainstream housing, including private rented accommodation. WHC is setting up a scheme to tackle two important obstacles to resettlement in private rented accommodation.

Firstly, rent is paid in advance and housing benefit in arrears, so a new tenant has to find money to start a tenancy. DWP crisis loans used to help, but were abolished in 2013. **WHC is working with local agencies and Bucks County Council to set up an alternative scheme.**

Secondly, many landlords do not take people on benefits, as payments can be suspended by every change of circumstances. **We are looking into ways to cut that risk and also to use tenancy support to give landlords confidence to take WHC guests.**

Three hundred volunteers signed up for the eighth season of the life-saving **Wycombe Winter Night Shelter**, many old hands, but a good number for the first time. Some of the shelter guests have significant needs and as usual, a period of stability is proving key to providing support.

Support WHC in Prayer

WHC is a Christian charity serving those of any religion or none. We value prayer to support our work, so if you pray, please pray for:

- those who seek our help: to recover hope, to overcome obstacles to independence, to make wise decisions
- an increased supply of suitable accommodation, especially for landlords to take people on benefit
- the smooth operation of our tenancy support service
- better government understanding of homelessness
- the health and resilience of our dedicated staff
- a continuation of the remarkable funding that has met our bills every year
- give thanks for our remarkable and multi-skilled volunteer force
- give thanks for suitable premises, for the support of churches and many other community bodies

Hot news from Wycombe Homeless Connection

As we draw near the end of the 2015 night shelter season, we'd like to thank all those who have donated time, money and prayers to keep helping people rebuild their lives, right here in High Wycombe.

As some will know, we have been honoured with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. We had an opportunity to celebrate on Sunday 8th March when Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire presented a commemorative crystal and certificate signed by Her Majesty. Over 100 of our amazing volunteers came along for a delicious afternoon tea reception at Hall Barn in Beaconsfield.

None of us volunteers expect to receive accolades, but it's great when it happens. This prestigious award is in recognition of the "outstanding work" our volunteers do every year to help more than 400 local people in housing crisis. A huge "thank you" to you all!

Moving on

Born in Wycombe and raised in Amersham, Ian was 13 when his parents split and he left school. Although he lived and worked in various places and was involved in drugs from a young age, he managed to build an independent life for himself. However, in December 2013, after a relationship breakdown, Ian found himself homeless in Watford. He used the shelter and day centre there – but found there was a lot of drug use. Eventually Ian got a place in the YMCA. However, when he found work, his rent almost tripled, and he fell into arrears and was evicted. The local CAB advised him (wrongly) that he might get official help in Wycombe, his birthplace, so Ian came to Wycombe Homeless Connection; this was in December 2014. WHC arranged for Ian to spend Christmas week at Crisis, and suggested he consider joining an Emmaus community. Ian was keen to make a new start, so he joined a community that carries out furniture recycling, working in their warehouse and on the vans. Ian enjoys having his own room and being able to get a shower. On the downside, since the community is a social enterprise, evening conversations are usually about work! Ian hopes to find a job and move on. Says Ian: “A lot of my problems were due to drugs. Drugs don’t get you far in the long run.”

Please note that there will be an Election Hustings on the evening of Wednesday 29th April at 7.30 pm at All Saints Parish Church, as a public meeting to hear all the local candidates standing for parliament.

Further details will be available

A Lecturer - Explaining - Stress Management:

A lecturer, when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked...

"How heavy is this glass of water?"

Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g...

The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter..."

It depends on how long you try to hold it...

If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm.

If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance...

In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on..."

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden."

"So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of the day down.

Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow.

Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can."

So, my friend, why not take a while to just simply RELAX...

Put down anything that may be a burden to you right now...

Don't pick it up again until after you've rested a while...

Life is short. Enjoy it!

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Not included in this version



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Lesley B (5 th)	Katie H (19 th)
Norma G (9 th)	Erin L (21 st)
Sam G (13 th)	Yan W (24 th)
Rebekah S (15 th)	Colin L (27 th)

a very Happy Birthday



Congratulations

With Best Wishes to

Linda & Grant C (20th)

on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

with love from us all at Trinity.

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 26th April.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 17th April*

Recorder Editor : e-mail : editor@trinity-urc.org.uk

Church web site: <http://www.trinity-urc.org.uk>

prayer page

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your son to live, to suffer, to die and to rise again showing your mercy and love for this sinful, weak and suffering world.

Amen



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2015

Jesus Christ, Risen Lord,

Walk with us into the spring-time on the dewy grass of morning, under the budding trees and the songs of the birds,

Walk with us in the exhaust fumes of the traffic, the noise of aircraft and the drone of machinery,

Walk with us on the dusty pavements, the uneven flagstones, the treacherous potholes,

Walk with us as we greet our relatives, friends and neighbours,

Walk with us in the crowded streets and markets where there are so many strangers,

Walk with us in the wedding procession and the funeral cortege,

Walk with us through the good times and the bad times,

Walk with us through life to death,

With you beside us we have nothing to fear.

Amen

Lord Jesus on earth in Palestine so many years ago, teacher and preacher with no fixed home, feeder of the hungry, healer of the sick, friend of the outcast, washer of your disciples' feet, unjustly and cruelly executed we pray that your risen presence will be with the homeless, the hungry, the marginalised, the foot-weary and the unjustly and brutally imprisoned and executed in this twenty-first century.

Amen

Holy Spirit, spring-clean the church, sweep into its hidden corners and crevices and blow away old prejudices and outworn practices. Revitalise its commitment to its Lord so that it goes into the future exploring new ways of bringing its many branches together to work in harmony and confidence to bring hope to this troubled world. In Jesus' name,

Amen

As this month we move into a new phase in the life of our fellowship here in Trinity, let us all pray in our own ways for what we see and hope the future will bring.