



Trinity - a place to belong

Spirituality - Prayer – Community – Welcome

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

DECEMBER 2016

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The next edition of Trinity Times will be published on New Years Day.
All contributions should be submitted by Christmas Eve..



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

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

What a year it has been! What with Brexit here (and a change of Prime Minister) and Brexit plus plus in America (with the shock election of Donald Trump), the world feels a more uncertain place than it was at the end of last year. How will people respond to that uncertainty? With fear and prejudice? Or with courage and determination? It is difficult to say at this stage.

The huge challenges facing the world in terms of conflict in the Middle East, the millions of displaced people across the world, the huge inequality between rich and poor and the growing damage humanity is inflicting on this planet can feel overwhelming. Yet hope can be discovered in countless numbers of projects and actions responding to human need and changing people's lives. When politics causes us to tremble we need to look for those signs of God's kingdom in the ordinary. That is what the Christian faith in the incarnation does; it brings God close, reminding us that Jesus is 'the Word made flesh' and 'Emmanuel' (which means 'God with us'). God is not distant and removed from this world, but in our midst. God's kingdom in Christ is found both among us and within us, if we but have ears and eyes and hearts to recognise it.

Key to this is hope – a central theme in the season of Advent, as we journey towards the celebration of Christ's birth. A 20th Century Swiss Reformed theologian, Emil Brunner, wrote: 'What oxygen is to the lungs, such is hope for the meaning of life.' Today many feel disillusionment and cynicism about all human institutions, including the church. Settling for a quiet hopelessness can sometimes seem safer than taking the risk of hoping and working for change. But we need that oxygen of hope in our lives and communities, the church included. Hope filled action can bring real and lasting change. We can see many examples of that in our church's life, each expressing our belief in the worth of every human being and our hope for their future and our own. So let's learn in this Advent time to look and learn – to breath deeply that hope which is God's gift in Jesus. In the words of Paul, 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope.'



News of the Church Family

Not included in this version

This month we would like to wish
A Happy Birthday to

Diane H (1 st)	Barbara M (19 th)
Audrey R (2 nd)	Edna W (21 th)
Marian M (8 th)	Anne H (30 th)

and Best Wishes to
Margaret and Colin L (7th)
on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

with love from all at Trinity

Worship at Trinity

Sunday Worship at 10.30 am (with activities for children):

4 December	Worship and Communion led by Terry Hinks
11 December	Gift Service led by Junior Church
18 December	Worship led by Terry Hinks
25 December	Christmas Day worship at 10 am (see below)
1 January	Worship and Communion led by Terry Hinks

Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 18 December 4 pm Carol Service (with refreshments)

Christmas Eve (24 Dec) 11.30 pm Midnight Communion led by Terry Hinks

Christmas Day 10.00 am (please note time)

Short all age Worship led by Terry Hinks

Midweek Prayers at 9.30 am on Wednesdays 2 and 16 December in church (half an hour of prayer together).

Our Prayer Ministry is available after worship each Sunday morning. For more information please speak to Marian Mole or the minister.

Prayer Circle will next meet after morning worship on 15 January (rather than 22 January afternoon). Please note new date.

Prayer Pattern for December

Our weekly pattern of prayer (praying for members and church groups) during November is as follows (with wider concerns in capitals):

4 Dec	Churches, Brownies, Guides, Bookworms etc and links HOSPITAL AND GP SURGERIES
11 Dec	Marian D(and M) and their pastoral group LOCAL POLITICIANS AND MPs
18 Dec	Sue T (and Joan S) and their pastoral group SOCIAL SERVICES AND FAMILIES IN CRISIS
25 Dec	Christmas Day THE CHURCH ACROSS THE WORLD
1 Jan	Kate Y (and John H) and their pastoral group NIGHT SHELTER

Prayer requests can be added to the list at the Prayer Table in the sanctuary.

What's on this month . . .

Wed 7th	Trinity prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
Sat 10th	Cores End URC Charity Coffee Morning & stalls	10:00 – 12 noon
	Night shelter venue familiarisation session	11:00 am - 12 noon
Sun 11th	Traidcraft	12 noon - 12:30 pm
Mon 12th	Coffee & Chat group Christmas lunch	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
	Crown House School Nativity Play	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
	Crown House School Bazaar	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Tues 13th	Night shelter venue familiarisation session	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sat 17th	Saturday Café	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Sun 18th	Carols by Candlelight followed by refreshments	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Wed 21st	Trinity Prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
Sat 24th	Midnight Communion	11:30 pm - 12:30 am
Sun 25th	Christmas Morning Family Worship	10:00 am - 11:00 am
Sat 31st	Church of God New Year's Eve Praise service	9:30 pm - 1:00 am

. . . and next (January)

Wed 4th	Trinity prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
	Trinity Elders meeting	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Sat 7th	Saturday Café	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Sun 8th	Traidcraft (2nd Sunday of month)	12:00 pm - 12:30 pm
Sun 14th	Macmillan Coffee Morning at Sue's	10 am to 12 noon

What's on . . . this month

Trinity Bookworms

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, December 7th, at 2pm. We shall be discussing "The Invisible Woman" by Claire Tomalin.

Coffee & Chat

The group will be chatting over a Christmas meal at the Boot & Slipper in Amersham on Monday 12th December at 1pm. (They promise to include some coffee!)

Tuesday Meeting

Both meetings in LSR at 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday December 6th Christmas Quiz

Tuesday December 13th Mince Pies and Carols.

We are now on holiday until January 3rd.

Regular events

During December, some of these will NOT meet every week.

Every Sunday where possible: Prayer ministry after the service

Every Tuesday: Movers and Shakers Chinese Style 10 am – 1 pm
The Tuesday Meeting 2.30 - 4.30 pm

Every Thursday: Pilates well-being class 1 pm - 2 pm
Choir Practice (church choir practises Sunday's hymns) 8.00 pm

Every Friday: Movers and Shakers, Caribbean style 10 am – 1 pm

To find out more about any activities held at Trinity, please talk to the Minister or Church Secretary

Cores End Church

Remembrance Poppies

Beryl Britt and her team of Link up ladies knitted over a hundred poppies that were displayed as part of the Church's marking of Remembrance Sunday. Poppies and rosemary were also used to decorate the outside cross and a new pulpit fall was dedicated.

Shoe box Appeal

42 boxes were brought to church (along with donations of £90) to be taken to desperately poor families and elderly people in Eastern Europe (through the work of Link to Hope). Perhaps Trinity could be involved next year?

Tribute to Ken

Friends and family of Ken Rankine gathered in church on Sunday give thanks for his life. The key element of the event was the Jazz music that Ken so loved, played by some of his friends. Ken was a great support of the Heart Foundation and so a retiring collection was taken for this and then people shared refreshments in the hall.

Children's Craft Day

This is being held on Saturday 3 December for children aged 5 to 11 with a mixture of craft, games, singing and cooking.

The Christmas Charity Morning

The Coffee Morning is on Saturday 10 December (10 am – 12 noon) at the church, with refreshments and stalls, all in aid of charity – the Bethesda Eye Hospital and PARC (Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee). Do come and support the event

Burns' Supper.

The church is holding a Burns' Supper on Saturday 21 January at 6 pm. The menu for the night is:

Cock-a-leekie soup

Haggis with mashed potatoes and neeps (turnips), (with a vegetarian haggis alternative available)

Trifle followed by coffee / tea and shortbread.

It would be great to have people from Trinity coming to the event. The charge for the evening is £10 (and bring your own bottle). For more details contact Muriel Wilson (01628 523622) or the Hinks.

WHC Big Sleepout – monies raised

Thank you to those who supported us (Tim and Julia Sparks, and Kate and Alan Yates) by sponsorship or by prayer. The night of Friday 18th November was frosty but dry, and our cardboard shelters provided essential warmth and protection. It was a very noisy night as the Antelope pub had loud music playing until about 4.30/5.00 am – the whole experience gave a small insight into how awful it is for people to sleep rough night after night, with nowhere to store their few belongings safely.



At the time of writing this we don't know how much will have been raised by the 135 or so people sleeping out overnight both in Wycombe and Marlow but it is many thousands of pounds. We'll let you know the figure when more information is available.

This will make a huge difference to Wycombe Homeless Connection and the work they are able to do. The charity couldn't operate without the many volunteers who give of their time, skills, fundraising and prayer, and every penny is spent wisely.

Thank you!

Calling all pray-ers!

At our November Worship Planning Group meeting we agreed it would be really good if members of the congregation led prayers of intercession on a regular basis, whether Terry is leading the service or whether we have a visiting preacher. Obviously there may be times when the service leader would wish to lead the prayers of intercessions themselves, but if you would be willing to do this please let me know.

Several of the congregation were on a rota for this some years ago and it would be good to revive it.

Thanks

Kate

Reverse Advent Calendar – make a difference this Christmas!



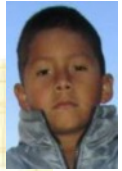
The Reverse Advent Calendar is a really simple idea and a great way to help others who might need a little help at Christmas.

This year, alongside opening your traditional Advent calendars, we're asking that you... your family, group, organisation, company... **put aside a box and on each day of Advent pop a can or coin in the box.**

Please bring what you have collected so far to the Junior Church Gift Service on Sunday 11th December, and then keep collecting and bring along to church each week. Junior Church will be at Trinity from 10.30 – 11.30 am on Saturday 24th December for any final donations. We will then take all our Trinity Reverse Advent boxes to One Can ready for Christmas Day.



Thank you for your support.
Junior Church



Lo Que Más Me Gusta

What I Like Best

Lo que más me gusta hacer con mis amigos es...
What I like best to do with my friends is...

jugar

La tarea más me gusta es...
The one I like best is...
Escribe tu respuesta (¡menciona por qué amas!)

barrer el piso
sweeping the floor

lavar los platos
washing the dishes

regar las plantas
watering the plants

Lo que más me gusta del Proyecto es...
What I like best about the Project is...

el personal del proyecto son amables
the project staff, because they are kind

las actividades del proyecto son muy divertidas
the weekly learning activities because they are very interesting

comida, porque es delicioso
food, because it's delicious

otra (otras):

1. Play.
2. Watering the plants.
3. The weekly learning activities because they are very interesting.
4. Is to go out on a camp day.

110-10-1011-2

Hello beloved sponsors Trinity United Reformed Church,
We greet you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Cristian is very happy, he wants to tell you that in his classes, he played a soccer game and they won 3-0. He says that it was very fun. Also says that in the project, they learned to colour the moon, the sun and the stars. Everybody helped, some cleaned the paint brushes and others painted and everybody participated and supported each other and he says that it was fun. Cristian says goodbye sending you many hugs

Summary of church meeting held 15th Nov 2016

Finance update – £89,500 in the bank at 31 October (£22,000 is ring-fenced). Jan-Oct offertory is £21,050. Church-related hire income is £13,305 and Commercial is £9,000.

2017 budget – approved.

Review of The Bible Course – 8-week course has finished. Follow-up 22nd November. Very good attendance. People enjoying coming together to talk in a relaxed atmosphere about some of the challenges of faith and the Bible.

Review of Hot Potato Café –second one held, on Peace and Peacemaking, with food and discussion. Would love more of congregation and others involved in future.

Night Shelter 2017 – start hosting Saturday 7th January, ending on Sunday 26th March.

Wycombe Refugee Partnership – A new charity, formed this year, from “High Wycombe Helping Others”, has housed five families who have been granted asylum, with a sixth in process. From small beginnings they’ve done some huge work, primarily through social media, e.g. “we need a bed” and a bed appears. They raise some funds to start the renting of a property, then furnish it and support the family as they settle.

Mission/Evangelism and Church Growth: where next? – we looked at some aspects that might inhibit us moving forward, e.g. not taking risks, keeping on doing the same thing, not trusting God, being loners. Mission Strategy Group will think further on this.

Christmas Giving – agreed to give £100 to seven charities (we have already supported Lighthouse as our 8th charity).

Church website – looking at updating this.

Updating the Lower School Room –project team has met twice. Further discussion needed before a plan comes to church meeting. Work anticipated for summer 2017.

URC Past Case Review – churches have been asked to publicise Phase 2 – an open invitation for anyone to raise concerns about the behaviour or conduct of anyone affiliated with the URC since its formation. See leaflet on noticeboard, or visit <http://www.urch.org.uk/past-case-review.html>

Not included in this version



A Japanese proverb:

The go-between wears a thousand sandals.



Don't lose Reform!

At a recent meeting of Mission Council, Peter Knowles, convenor of the communications committee, and Steve Tomkins, Editor of *Reform*, gave a short presentation on the subject 'Don't lose *Reform*'!

They thanked Mission Council for all the appreciation *Reform* receives, but made it clear that, although *Reform* has a lot of readers, it needs more buyers if it is still to be here in five years. When churches buy one magazine and pass it round everyone, or distribute photocopies, Steve said, 'that's good fellowship, and we like being shared, but we need to get the message out: 'If you value *Reform*, please pay for a subscription.'

Peter suggested *Reform* could be a gift to readers from the URC. Steve said: 'It is! The URC already invests generously in *Reform* to keep the price down, but we need to be good stewards of that investment and do our part too.'

Peter asked Steve if he bought *Reform* himself. Steve said that he reads it quite thoroughly before it comes out, but he has bought digital subscriptions 'for friends, family and passing acquaintances'.

The pair concluded by reminding delegates that they can buy gift subscriptions to *Reform* using the form in the November issue of the magazine. As Peter put it: 'Read it. Buy it. Don't lose *Reform*'!

As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder. -

John Glenn

I'm not a paranoid deranged millionaire. I'm a billionaire. -

Howard Hughes

A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing. -

Emo Philips

HELPING HANDS PROJECT

SUPPORTING. HELPING. LOVING



What is the aim of the project?

The project will support Schools within the Wycombe area through the help of individuals and churches.

How can I help?

Christmas Hampers

This Christmas we want to bless the staff at the local schools by providing the Staff Rooms with a Hamper. Can you help by providing any of the following:

Biscuits, Instant Coffee, Tea, Fresh Coffee, Sweets, Cakes, Hot Chocolate, Specialty Teas, Chocolates or any other goodies.

Deliver to Wycombe YFC Office on Monday 5th December (10am-3pm) or pop along to our Christmas Open Evening on Tuesday 6th December at 7.45-9pm.

Wycombe Youth For Christ, Kingfisher House, 109A West Wycombe Road
High Wycombe, HP12 3AB. Tel.: 01494 522777

Email: office@wycombeyfc.org.uk

Web: www.wycombeyfc.org.uk

Twitter & Facebook: @WycombeYFC

Things to make you ponder !



1. You spend the first two years of their life teaching children to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.
2. Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.
3. Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young.
4. Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
5. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.
6. We childproofed our homes, but they are still getting in.

VOICE MAIL



Be grateful God doesn't have voice mail.
Imagine praying and hearing the following:

Thank you for calling Heaven. Please select one of the following options:

Press 1 for Requests

Press 2 for Thanksgiving

Press 3 for Complaints

Press 4 for all other enquiries

I am sorry, all our angels and saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and we will answer it in the order it was received. Please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to:

God - press 1

Jesus - press 2

The Holy Spirit - press 3

To hear King David sing a psalm while you are holding - press 4

To find a loved one who has been assigned to Heaven - press 5
then enter their Social Security number followed by the hash key (if you get a negative response, please hang up and try area code 666)

For reservations in Heaven, please enter J-O-H-N-3-1-6

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, life on other planets and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive.

Our computers show that you have already prayed once today, please hang up and try again tomorrow.

The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Please pray again on Monday after 9.30am.

If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your local Pastor.

From a church magazine in Christchurch, NZ

[Submitted by Marian M]

The future of the Windermere Centre

The future of the Windermere Centre, one of the United Reformed Church's four Resource Centres for Learning was discussed during four separate sessions of Mission Council recently. The discussion was wide-ranging and careful, and included the Centre's financial position. Mission Council considered three options:

1. To pursue a partnership with an ecumenical hospitality provider;
2. To continue to operate on the current model and;
3. To close the Centre.

The conclusion was that of the three options, Mission Council was minded to favour the third option to close the centre. With sadness, Mission Council considered that the financial challenges of keeping the Centre open are too great and it did not wish to continue underwriting the costs of maintaining the Centre. The finance and the education and learning committees, noting that the final decision about the Centre has not yet been taken, have been tasked with looking at the full implications of closing the Centre. The two committees will bring a report to the next meeting of Mission Council in May 2017, and it is expected that the final decision on the future of the Windermere Centre will be made then.

A clear call was made to Mission Council to use the Centre as much as possible between now and May 2017. There was absolutely no doubt about the high regard which members of Mission Council have for the staff at the Centre, with many people speaking of the great hospitality and service provided by the Centre.

Mission Council, the education and learning committee and the Human Resources office at United Reformed Church House are mindful of the importance of:

- The pastoral care of the Windermere Centre staff
- The legal requirement for proper consultation with the staff
- To consider any alternatives suggested in that consultation
- The value of the work of the Resource Centre for Learning to the denomination
- The need to consult with the URC Trust, the Windermere management committee, the North Western Synod and Carver United Reformed Church.

Mission Council asked the education and learning committee to bring to the May 2017 meeting of Mission Council creative proposals for the continuation and development of the work that the Windermere Centre has been involved in, specifically its pioneering work on digital discipleship and iChurch.

Mission Council fully recognised how distressing this uncertainty is for staff, and is committed to keeping them as well informed as possible throughout the coming weeks and months.

For the full text of the resolution visit <http://www.urc.org.uk/media-news/2195-the-future-of-the-windermere-centre.html>



ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe Peace Project

Christian Aid partner Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) collects information on human rights abuses based on reports from ZPP long-term community based human rights monitors, who observe and record cases of human rights violations in the constituencies they reside. ZPP deploys a total of 420 community-based primary peace monitors (two per each of the 210 electoral constituencies of Zimbabwe). The monitors compile reports that are then consolidated at the national office into the ZPP Monthly Monitoring Report.

Silveira House

Commitment for Life has supported Silveira House on the outskirts of Harare for 25 years. Through the partnership with Christian Aid, Silveira House has developed into an effective Church-based organisation that carries out a number of poverty reduction, local development, peace building and women/youth empowerment projects. It has built strong relationships with government ministries, local district councils and local NGOs. Furthermore, it has developed good relationships with polytechnic colleges and the ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, both of which now offer accreditation to our beneficiaries trained in technical vocational skills.

The partnership with Christian Aid has also helped Silveira House to transform the lives of thousands of poor people over the years. In the past 15 years or so, support from Christian Aid enabled the organisation to navigate the country's economic challenges, by continuously supporting organisational development and support. With support from Christian Aid and others, Silveira House has developed from having a special focus on peace building and advocacy, to a wider, multi-sectoral and more effective program that has;

- Built the capacity of thousands of unemployed poor people with technical skills for employment and income generation.
- Accompanied and empowered communities to influence changes in local and national level policies on labour, small enterprise development (formal and informal)
- Contributed significantly to building peace and managing socio-political conflicts

One distinct achievement of Silveira House has been the official recognition in the constitution and in schools, of minority groups and minority languages like Tonga and Venda. These are now taught in primary schools and some teacher training colleges are now training teachers for that.

Prayers for December

As we approach the shortest day, Lord, be with those people who find the darkness at this time of the year depressing and hard to live with. Remind them that the days will grow longer again and light up their lives. May they feel your presence and know your eternal light is always with them. In the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

Lord Jesus, in this time of Advent, the time of your coming, bless hearts and minds so that they remember:

The promises made to Abraham,

The prophecies of Isaiah,

The song of Mary, and

The witness of John the Baptist.

In their joyful celebration of your first coming may they remember your promised second coming and be ever alert and watchful.

Amen.

Heavenly Father, as the birth of your Son into this world is remembered, bless all children; it is their time. Bless those who have exciting parties and presents with family and friends around them. Bless those who have a quieter time, fewer presents but are still surrounded with loving family and friends. Bless those in harsh circumstances who have lost family and friends or who may have family and friends around them who have nothing to give but love. Bless those neglected, abused and unwanted children for whom Christmas could be a nightmare of fear and pain. Please add the names of individual children and pray for them. In Jesus' name. *Amen*

Christ has come. Immanuel is with us.

Who's who

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Prayer Circle

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Guiding Units (all sections)

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