



RINITY
Times



Trinity - a place to belong

Spirituality - Prayer - Community - Welcome

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

FEBRUARY 2016

Table of contents

Pastoral letter	3
News of the Church Family	4
Details of this month's services	5
What's on	6 & 7
The Cores End Page	8
Church Life	9 to 12
The Wider Church	13 to 17
Prayer pages	18 & 19
Who's Who	20

The next edition of Trinity Times will be published on 28th February. All contributions should be submitted by Friday 19th February.



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

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

Remember learning to drive? Having taken three attempts to pass many years ago it is well ingrained in my memory; the pre-test nerves, the stupid mistakes, the mastering of a new skill and then the delight of removing the L plates and being a fully fledged (new) driver.

Learning is part of the Christian Way too. The tests are there along the way, but it is a lifetime exercise. We do not drop our Christian L plates. We remain learners for life, disciples, followers or pupils of Jesus, learning by our successes and mistakes, by the teaching and example of others and the discovery of our own gifts and talents. Two key elements of learning are:

- Listening (and for Christians that will mean listening to words of the Bible on the one hand and to each other and the world on the other).
- Practice (trying things out, putting into practice the teaching of Jesus, turning words into action).

Lent begins on Wednesday 10 February, a time in the church's life when we focus on discipleship as we move towards the great Easter celebration. It's a time not just to give something up but to learn new things too. You can find out more of what we are doing for Lent on page.....

During Lent our Sunday worship will be exploring what we believe about God. In a world where for many God seems a delusion or a devil, we turn to some key stories in the Bible that picture God as real and living, as creative and compassionate, as mysterious and wondrous, loving and true. There's a prayer from the Iona community that prays for 'those who need to forget the God they do not believe in and meet the God who believes in them.' That is the God Jesus shows through his story telling, his words and actions, his sacrifice on a cross and victory over death, his presence here and now. He is the good Saviour; he is also the great Teacher, pointing us in the right direction and enabling us to truly live life.

So wherever we are on the Christian journey, let's remain learners, listening and practicing, growing in confidence in the One who gives and teaches us life.



News of the Church Family

Not included in this version

This month we would like to wish

Grant C (5th)

Nathan C (9th)

Matthew H (9th)

Gwenda D (24th)

a Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity

Worship at Trinity

Worship at 10.30 am (with activities for children):

- 7 February Worship and Communion led by Terry Hinks
- 14 February Morning Worship led by Geoff Cronin
- 21 February Guides Thinking Day: All age worship led by Terry Hinks
- 28 February Morning Worship led by Amersham Worship Team

Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome

Afternoon Communion is on 28 February at 4.30 pm

Next Afternoon Praise Service at 4.30 pm on 13 March

Worship for all led by Marian and Martin Drake

.....

Midweek Prayers at 9.30 am on Wednesday 3 and 17 February in church. (Half an hour of prayer together)

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday Worship (20 March) at 10.30 am led by Terry Hinks

Maundy Thursday (24 March) 7.30 pm Joint Communion at Wesley Church

Good Friday (25 March) Joint Worship at 10.00 am at Trinity
(with Union Baptist Church)

Good Friday Churches' Walk of Witness at 11.15 am

Easter Sunday (27 March) Easter Communion at 10.30 am led by Richard Biddlestone

What's on this month

Do please pray for the Winter Night Shelter being hosted at Trinity on a Saturday evening through to Sunday morning, finishing on Easter Sunday.

Wednesday 3rd February

- Trinity prayers 9:30 am - 10:00 am
- Trinity Elders meeting 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday 6th February

- Saturday Cafe 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Wednesday 10th February

- Worship planning group 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Sunday 14th February

- Traidcraft 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

Wednesday 17th February

- Trinity Prayers 9:30 am - 10:00 am

Saturday 20th February

- Saturday Cafe 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Sunday 28th February

- Prayer Circle for Healing 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- Afternoon communion 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm



Fairtrade Fortnight

29 February to 13 March 2016

What's on this month

Womens Meeting

All meetings in LSR at 2.30pm.

Tuesday February 2nd. An Ordinary Life – Olive Shepherd

Tuesday February 9th Shrove Tuesday. OPEN MEETING You are invited to join us for pancakes and for thoughts about Lent and what it means to us.

Tuesday February 16th About Us – looking back on special occasions.

Tuesday February 23rd. Picture Quiz.

Trinity Bookworms

See detailed information on page 11

Trinity Birds will be meeting on Weds 17 Feb at 10.30am at the home of Barbara M. Everyone is invited to bring a holiday souvenir.

Regular February gatherings:

Every Tuesday:

- Movers and Shakers Chinese Style 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Women's Meeting 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Every Thursday:

- 2nd High Wycombe Trinity Guides 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
- Choir Practice 8:00 pm

Every Friday:

- Movers and Shakers, Caribbean style 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Rainbows 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm
- Brownies, 2nd High Wycombe 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm

Cores End Church

Events at Cores End

The Quiz Evening on Saturday 23 January went well, with thirteen people attending from Trinity. Proceeds from the evening are going to support the work of Wycombe Homeless Connection.

Shared Lent Series: Like Trinity, Cores End is following a series of themes for worship during Lent, focussing on the nature of God. The church's Wednesday Fellowship group will be exploring the readings further. The church will also be raising money for WaterAid through the *Jars of Change* scheme.

YOUTH MATTERS in a digital age: a series of 3 workshops for young people and parents / carers addressing issues that matter in the 21st century:

Monday 22 February: **Social Media and Technology** with guest speaker Dr Bex Lewis, author of 'Raising children in a digital age.'

Monday 29 February: **Emotional resilience**

Monday 7 March: **Keeping safe**

Each session will begin at 7.30 pm at Cores End URC (with refreshments available from 7 pm before talk begins)

There is also a workshop for youth workers with Bex Lewis on the Monday afternoon – 1.30 – 3.30 pm on 22 February.

For more information contact the minister Terry Hinks (01628 525076) or Alison Wheeler (01628 810961) or visit the church's website www.coresendurc.com/youthmatters

Focus on Prayer in February

Prayer Pattern for February

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

7 Feb Glyn Evans (and Marie Winning) and their pastoral group
HOSPITAL AND GP SURGERIES

14 Feb Kaye Yates (and John Hilson) and their pastoral group
THOSE PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

21 Feb Margaret Lewis (and Marian Mole) and their pastoral group
GUIDES AND BROWNIES

28 Feb Sue Thorne (and Joan Smith) and their pastoral group
LENT TALKS AND GROUPS

Our Prayer Ministry is available after worship each Sunday morning

AGM – Tuesday 15th March at 7.30 pm
Followed by Church Meeting at 8 pm

Annual Reports

Angus is compiling the Annual Report from contributions received from various individuals and groups. **The deadline is 15th February, please!**

Nominations for Elders

No Elder is required to stand down this year but we are still seeking two additional Elders to serve the church. As per our Constitution, nominations must be given to the Church Secretary in time for a list of nominees to be published at least one week before the AGM. Nomination slips are available now – please ensure you have the agreement of the nominee before proposing their name with someone to second the nomination.

Did you know?

There is a very convenient way of paying for parking in the car park beside the church which avoids the need for having the right coins, or standing pushing money into the machine when the rain is lashing down. Payment can be made on-line - either on a one-off basis, or by registering your car. Simply go to <http://www.veripark.co.uk/> or scan the code on the right for further details. This system also applies in other council run car parks in the town.



	3	8					9	
9					2			5
		5				6		
		6	2		5			4
8							3	7
5			7		3	8		
		2				1		
1			3					6
	6					4	5	

Trinity Bookworms

Trinity bookworms has been active for three and a half years. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm. in members' houses. We are fortunate that Wycombe Library is very supportive of Book Clubs and we borrow sets of books from their current list which fills eleven pages of A4. We choose the titles which appeal to us – everyone having the chance to suggest books.

At the moment there are seven of us in the group. Each set of books contains ten copies sometimes with a Large Print Edition and/or a CD. The library recommends ten as the ideal number for a group.

Our meetings are informal. There is no obligation to finish (or even start) a book if it does not appeal. We are not working for an examination but are interested in each other's reactions to the book. Sometimes general discussion follows on subjects of interest or relevance which the book has raised. We end the meeting with cups of tea and biscuits. It is usually possible to collect in the book which has been discussed and give out copies of the one for the next meeting.

We are reading "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens this month and will be discussing it on Wednesday February 3rd at 2pm.

The books we have lined up for yhe next five months are:

- February - The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd;
- March - The Girl at the Lion d'Or ny Sebastian Faulks;
- April - The Lincoln Lawyer by Michael Connelly;
- May - Regeneration by Pat Barker;
- June - The Snow Goose by William Fiennes.

There are three copies being unused so if you would like to join us or need more information, get in touch.

Olive Shepherd

LENT 2016

Lent Worship Series: Talking of God....Exploring the nature of God

This Lent we're talking of God. In a world where the word 'God' is often misused and abused, we explore God's nature through some key Bible passages. In a world where there is much hatred, scepticism and distrust we renew our trust in the loving God made known in Christ.

7 February 1. God calls out – the story of the burning bush [Exodus 3. 1 – 11]

14 February 2. God knows us – the witness of the Psalms [Psalm 139]

21 February *Thinking Day Service with the Guides and Brownies*

28 February 3. God is for everyone – Isaiah's vision [Isaiah 42. 1 – 9]

6 March 4. God reaches out – a story Jesus told [Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32 (8 – 10)]

13 March 5. God's love in Christ – the testimony of Paul [Romans 8. 31 – 39]

Lent learning and growing

Why not come along to a Home Group Meetings, an opportunity to discuss issues raised by the Worship Series:

Daytime – 2 sessions at 10.30 am on Wednesday 17 February and Thursday 10 March at home of John and Joy Standfield.

Evening – 3 sessions at 7.30 pm on Mondays 8 February, 29 February and 14 March at the home of Marian and Martin Drake.

There are Ecumenical Lent Talks at All Saint's Church on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm beginning on 17 February. There are five sessions on 'Getting *spiritually* fit for Easter, with talks by leaders from the High Wycombe churches, discussion and refreshments. All are welcome.

Lent Challenge

To deepen our love for God and for our neighbour.

Jesus said "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." (Matthew 22.37-39)

Lent Prayer

Lord my God, be at the centre of my life,
radiating your love in and through all I am and do.

Lent Action

'Jars of change' raising money for Water Aid in its work to bring safe clean water to villages in Africa. More information (and a label for your jar) will be available at church.

ZIMBABWE



Extracts from a letter by a Jesuit priest in Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile, we are still waiting. Waiting for the rains, with the meteorologists warning us that this year's El Niño threatens us with a record drought. Waiting too for an old man to retire or go to his reward, with no certainty about what will follow that.

A programme of daily 18-hour power cuts was announced recently, but we are getting electricity all day some days. To be able to do that, they have to keep the Karib river running and if there isn't good rain very soon, and a large increase of water in the dam, the level will drop below the turbine intakes around the end of the year. The heavy rains on the upper reach of the Zambezi take a couple of months to reach the lake, so unless it's raining well there now, our power cuts will last indefinitely. We've had to drill a borehole for our schools, as the municipal water is unpredictable, rare, either green or brown in colour and smells bad. We have 1500 children in the two schools, primary and secondary, on about 1 hectare and the borehole uses an electric pump. Most people use some kind of well right here in town, some with hand pumps, some electric. On a bad day, the queues at the pumps are long.

The Lord's Prayer from Nicaragua

Our Father, who is in this our land, may your name be blessed In our incessant search for justice and peace. May your kingdom come for those who have for centuries awaited a life of dignity. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven and in the church in Central America, a church on the side of the poor.

Give us today our daily bread to build a new society. Forgive us our trespasses, do not let us fall into temptation of believing ourselves already new men and women and deliver us from the evil of forgetting that our lives and the life of this country are in your hands. Amen

United Church of Papua New Guinea – Theological College rebuilding project

The Revds Gwen and Bernie Collins returned at the end of December from their 18 months of voluntary service at the Papua New Guinea (PNG) School of Theology & Mission and visited Trinity on Sunday 10th January to give thanks for the money raised for the two rebuilding projects.

The college was seeking funding to repair some of the buildings:

- **Project 1**, to create a dorm for 9 families along with a shower and toilet block sinks for dishwashing and laundry, and repairs to roof, doors, floor, windows and foundations at a cost of **£3,000** for building materials (students would contribute labour)
- **Project 2** to replace a duplex unit with living space for two staff families at a cost of **£2,500** for the cost of concrete and plumbing materials (labour contributed by staff and students).

Gwen reported that materials had been purchased and that work is due to start soon, and she has asked the college to keep her informed of progress. She said that the financial support was a huge encouragement to the staff and students, both practically and spiritually.

Total funds raised from Trinity, Cores End and a contribution from the Wycombe Rotary Club came to £3409.30 (£319 coming from Cores End).

Sunday 14th February 2016 11am to 4pm
West Wycombe Park, Bucks. HP14 3AJ



Thanks to the generous support of Sir Edward and Lady Dashwood we will once again be holding our annual Snowdrop Walk. It is a special day to remember the babies and children who have died and the children who are bereaved each year.

Snowdrop Planting

Individual snowdrops are available for you to purchase on the day where you can plant them at the Temple of Venus within the park.

A Book of Remembrance donated by a bereaved family will be in a quiet corner for your individual entries.

Children's Scavenger Hunt

Join in the fun to help Hetty the Elephant find all of her missing picnic items throughout the walk and receive a fun-filled goody bag at the end from Hetty!
£1.00 to play.

Refreshments

Refreshments and hot food will be served in the village hall at the end of your walk. There will also be some children's activities taking place including colouring and puzzle building.

£2.50 Adults

£1.50 Children and concessions.

Children under 3 FREE.

Enjoy the walk on the day anytime between 11am and 4pm. Last entries at 3:00pm

Only guide dogs and hearing dogs are permitted within West Wycombe Park.



For more information call 01494 568912 or visit childbereavementuk.org

"Please support Child Bereavement UK's Snowdrop Walk. It's a lovely way to shake off the cobwebs at this time of year and enjoy the fresh air. By planting a snowdrop in memory of a loved one, you will be helping Child Bereavement UK support bereaved families and children, helping them to rebuild their lives after the devastation of child bereavement." - Alan Titchmarsh, Patron, Child Bereavement UK

The following has come from Revd Dr John Parry, (part time minister at Deanway United Church in Chalfont St Giles,) and his wife Yvonne who are currently in India.

Thanks to Qatar staff at Heathrow who know us from our chaplaincy there we had very comfortable seats both to Doha and from there to Bangalore where we arrived at 2.30 in the morning of 7th January to be driven through almost deserted streets to the South Asian Institute of Advanced Christian Studies a wonderful haven in which we have been made to feel most welcome. Our accommodation is basic but homely and comfortable. We take all our meals with the students (as do all the staff) and not once have we been disappointed with the quality of the food.

Electricity comes and goes, as does the water. That's not college's fault, it's due to 'load-shedding'. We're never without a torch! I'd also almost forgotten about bathing using a large bucket of water and a measuring style plastic jug, splashing as much as possible on one's body rather than the floor – basic but effective. Truth to tell, however, we normally are able to take a shower. Our bed is huge and nights are comfortable on supportive mattresses, nothing like the half-inch thick mattresses we had in Bangladesh years ago!

The students are remarkable. Most are studying in what is their third language, English. Both Greek and Hebrew are compulsory and many prayers of thanksgiving are given for the Bible software that is available in this day and age – I had to make do with dictionaries and counting the dots of Hebrew vowels ruined my eyesight when I was a student. Questions in class demonstrate that folk come from significantly different backgrounds with varying assumptions. It's an evangelical college, so contextual theology is regarded with suspicion by some and a delight by those who question the Western domination of the theology of their teachers. It is that same Western influence which has undermined issues of self identity. Trying to find ways of expressing the faith which reflect authentic Indianness are seen by some as putting culture before Gospel and others as enabling them to be truly Indian Christians.

Many of the students come from North East India, an area quite distinct from essentially Hindu India. It was an area in which the Presbyterian Church of Wales worked alongside American Baptists. The people talk of their tribal origins but please don't think in terms of primitiveness. These are fine thinkers, possessed of an inquisitiveness that makes for fine research students, one of the tutors did her PhD in Princeton. From these same folk we hear of the way in which thousands of tons of rock are being mined in the north east and taken to other parts of India. Concern for the environment

reflects the close links with creation which is at the heart of the tribal world views and no less within our Christian understanding.

We've twice been to Sunday services and on both occasions were in a packed church. In one we were treated to crypto American, guitar-led choruses – they still do nothing for me. In the other the liturgy would not have looked out of place in any English parish church. Had we been in Assam we'd have had a hymn sandwich with Welsh tunes. We've all exported the faith in the garb of our origins! Of course, we've all claimed that ours is the default position! Sort that out ...

And so from God to mammon. In our early days in the sub-continent Hindustan Ambassadors (Morris Oxfords) were the only cars available. Now Mercs and BMWs are made in this country as are Skodas, Toyotas and Hondas. Everyone drives in the middle of the road, avoiding collisions by the skin of their teeth, see a space and aim for it is the driving fashion. Clothing fashion is essentially Western now except on formal occasions when ladies tend to wear saris or shalwar-kameez – long tunics with trousers. We went off into Bangalore to kit out Yvonne with the latter, and fine she looks too. I'm after a sleeveless Nehru style jacket.

There is a new middle class here which hardly existed when we first came to India in the 1970s. IT professionals are amongst the best paid and have driven the cost of housing to astronomical levels. All very well, but some who come from poorer backgrounds have been driven to suicide unable to cope with their wealth. Life style coaches are making a good living and restaurants do nicely from newly emerging sources of expendable income. Thai, Chinese, European and American cuisines are readily available. Our first Sunday lunch was at a Chinese buffet – the place was packed.

At the end of next week we'll take four days in Ooty, a hill station once popular with the British. I was concerned about how we would get there, but was then told that we could hire a taxi and driver for ourselves at 3000 Rupees a day. Lots of zeros like that leave me rather anxious, then one calculates the exchange rate to arrive at £30 a day!! Admittedly it would cost less by public transport, but hey now, journey ... no problem. We'll be staying at an old Raj place called the Montauban. I gather it was favoured by missionaries seeking the solace of the mountains. I'm rather hoping for a ride on the narrow gauge hill railway – must look for my anorak.

We've had nearly two weeks here and it's been wonderful. More news just before we go to Amritsar.

A prayer from Commitment for Life

Prayer of commitment

Lift up our hearts
To give thanks and praise
To respond to your call
To live out the good news
And to be salt and light in the world
**All: So that together, we can say;
Hallowed be your name**

Give us the courage
To pursue peace
To act for justice
To work for freedom
And to prepare the way of God
**All: So that together, we can say;
Your kingdom come, Your will be
done, on earth as in heaven**

Challenge and inspire us
To live simply
To share what we have
To offer hospitality
And to welcome strangers
**All: So that together, we can say;
Give us today our daily bread**

Give us the wisdom
To be open to questions
To recognise our failings and our gifts
To seek unity
And to rejoice in your image in others
**All: So that together, we can say;
Forgive us our sins**

As we forgive those who sin against
us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
May we know the love of God,
Grow in the likeness of Christ
And be open to the Spirit
**All: For yours is the Kingdom, the
power and the glory
Now and forever more. Amen**

©Rosie Venner

Prayers for February

Father God, this is the month when the festivities of Christmas and the New Year have faded into the distant past, and summer days seem too far in the future for comforting thoughts. Strengthen your children so that they remain steadfast in faith, resolute in doing good and constant in prayer, always praising you.

Amen

Lord Jesus, as we enter the period of Lent when we remember your time in the wilderness we pray for all people in or entering their own wildernesses. We remember the refugees far from home, seeking a new life but caught up in a physical wilderness of cold and hardship. We pray for those who have lost jobs and homes; for those lost in a wilderness of loneliness and despair; for those whose families have been broken by dissension or bereavement; for those who see no point in life; for those whose faith is being tested by the dark night of the soul when they cannot reach God; for all in distress, physical, mental or spiritual.

You have experienced all these, Lord, and we place our hurting brothers and sisters in your care.

Amen

Holy Spirit, refresh our hearts and minds so that we give thanks for the good things that happen this month. The sun rises a little earlier each day and sets a little later. There are meetings with friends, anniversaries to celebrate, particularly in this Leap Year for those whose birthday or other important occasion falls on the 29th. Teach us to see the joy in life we pray.

Amen

Who's who

Minister <i>minister@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	01628 525076
Secretary <i>secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	07818 853069
Lettings <i>lettings@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	01494 440965
Treasurer <i>treasurer@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	01494 564635
Magazine editor <i>editor@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	01494 444560
Junior Church <i>juniors@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	01494 464152
Women's Meeting <i>womens.meeting@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	01494 531943
Bookworms <i>bookworms@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	01494 531943
Trinity Birds <i>trinity.birds@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	01494 528041
Choir <i>choir@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	01494 473140
Prayer Circle <i>prayer.circle@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	01494 711967
Prayer requests <i>minister@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	01628 525076
Home Groups <i>home.groups@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	01494 524028
Guiding Units (all sections) <i>guides@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	01494 522965

Church contact number
☎ 01494 520365 (answer phone)