



# TRINITY TIMES



**Trinity - a place to belong**

**Spirituality - Prayer - Community - Welcome**

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

**JANUARY 2016**

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Welcome to this first edition of the new-look magazine of Trinity URC, High Wycombe.

Nothing is yet set in stone, so please let your Elder, the minister, or me know if you have any suggestions which we should consider for the future. As I type this note, we are having a bit of difficulty in getting the printer to do what we know it can do, but refuses to oblige! Changing the page size has already created a few hurdles which we had not expected - but we hope to have overcome them all. If not - we will try harder next month!

*Angus*

## ***Pastoral letter***

Dear friends,

The New Year brings with it resolutions (soon forgotten?), hopes and fears. So many conflicts and problems in our world remain unresolved. Yet there is hope too in the progress made at the Climate talks in Paris, the UN peace plan for Syria and the huge efforts made by so many to bring help to those suffering from poverty or disease. At Trinity we give thanks for the many people who are giving their time and talents to make a difference to people struggling with health issues, homelessness or loneliness. All reflect something of that living hope we find in Jesus Christ.

Hope is something to live out in practical action, but it is also sustained by prayer, that placing of life before God – life with all its joys and heartaches, our life and the life of our world. January is to have a special focus on prayer here at Trinity and you can read more about that later in the magazine. Within the month we mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18 – 25 January) and remember how Jesus in John's gospel prays for the unity of his followers, 'May they all be one, Father, that the world may believe...' This is a time to celebrate our oneness in Christ, seek God's forgiveness for the ways we damage that unity and pray that unity may be deepened not simply for the church's sake but that we may better serve and witness to our community and world. How can a divided church truly point to a reconciling God?

So please pray for the unity of Christ's church, here at Trinity, in High Wycombe, in our nation and across the world. That unity is described by Paul as like a body where each member is interconnected, sharing the pains and joys of life and discipleship. The theme of the Week of Prayer for Unity this year is the call to Christians to be 'salt of the earth' – hidden yet effective in bringing healing and flavour, hope and peace to the life of the world. May we be hope-builders in 2016.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the name 'Ten' with a stylized flourish underneath.

# News of the Church Family

**Not included in this version**

*Kate*

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**Minister's Hour** each Wednesday in January from 10 – 11 am (after Trinity Prayers). Terry will be available at church. Do call by for a chat or a cup of coffee; or phone to arrange a home visit instead.

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We would like to wish

Barbara R (9<sup>th</sup>)

Linda C (12<sup>th</sup>)

Joan S (16<sup>th</sup>)

Seraya (31<sup>st</sup>)

Xavier (31<sup>st</sup>)

A Very Happy Birthday  
With love from all at Trinity

# Worship at Trinity

## Sunday Worship

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

3 January New Year Communion with Terry Hinks

10 January Morning Worship led by Barbara Sparks  
(Methodist Local Preacher)

*[also - see below for afternoon service]*

17 January All age worship led by Terry Hinks

24 January Morning Worship led by Revd Kirkcaldy  
(retired URC minister)

31 January Morning Worship led by Major David Scott

*Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome*

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10 January **4.30 pm Afternoon Praise Service**

Worship for all led by Marian and Martin Drake

**Next afternoon Communion is on 28 February at 4.30 pm**

**Midweek Prayers each Wed at 9.30 am in January in church**  
(half an hour of prayer together)

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## Countdown to Lent

Easter is very early this year (27 March) so Lent begins early too – on 10 February. During Lent there will be a special sermon series, together with opportunities for discussion and reflection; more details to come.

# 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 from 2nd January through to Easter Sunday.

## **Saturday 2nd January**

- Saturday Cafe 11.30-1.30 (Lower Schoolroom, Kitchen), 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

## **Sunday 3rd January**

- Short meeting at back of church for anyone interested in joining the prayer circle 12:15 pm - 12:30 pm

## **Wednesday 6th January**

- Trinity prayers (Sanctuary), 9:30 am - 10:00 am
- Minister's hour (Sanctuary), 10:00 am - 11:00 am
- Trinity Elders meeting (Lower Schoolroom), 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

## **Wednesday 13th January**

- Trinity prayers (Sanctuary), 9:30 am - 10:00 am
- Minister's hour (Sanctuary), 10:00 am - 11:00 am

## **Saturday 16th January**

- Saturday Cafe (Lower Schoolroom, Kitchen), 11:30 am - 1:30 p

## **Sunday 17th January**

- Traidcraft (Lower Schoolroom), 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

## **Wednesday 20th January**

- Trinity Prayers (Sanctuary), 9:30 am - 10:00 am
- Minister's hour (Sanctuary), 10:00 am - 11:00 am
- Church of Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith (Lower Schoolroom), 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

## **Wednesday 27th January**

- Trinity prayers (Sanctuary), 9:30 am - 10:00 am
- Minister's hour (Sanctuary), 10:00 am - 11:00 am

# What's on this month

## Womens Meeting

Tuesday January 5<sup>th</sup> Preparations for New Year Party  
Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup> New Year Party in the Sanctuary  
Tuesday January 19<sup>th</sup> Speaker: Marian Mole  
Tuesday January 26<sup>th</sup> A.G.M.

## Trinity Bookworms

On Wednesday January 6 at 2pm we shall be discussing "Sea Glass" by Anita Shreve. Hostess - Marian Mole.

Trinity Birds will be meeting on Wednesday 13 January at Norma Garden's home to enjoy a New Year quiz. All are welcome!

## Regular January 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 Cores End Church was beautifully decorated in the lead up to Christmas. Special events that have happened or are coming up in 2016 include:

**The Christmas Bazaar** on Saturday 5 December raised £750 for three charities – the Papua New Guinea College, MacMillan Nurses and PARC (Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee). The Cores End members especially appreciated the support given by Trinity members – thank you for calling by.

**Christmas Joy** was a real highlight of the church's celebrations with wonderful music, beautiful readings and a very full church.

**A Quiz Evening** is planned for Saturday 23 January. It starts at 6 pm with a supper with dessert (bring your own preferred tippie although soft drinks are provided) . Quizzing will start at about 7 pm. Ann Pendegast one of the organisers comments: 'It is a very varied, fun quiz - hard enough to exercise our brains but not so difficult as to leave us disheartened.'

The charge for meal and quiz is in the region of £8. Members of Trinity Church are warmly invited (space is limited so do book a place soon). Why not gather some friends to make a team?

**YOUTH MATTERS in a digital age:** a series of 3 workshops for young people and parents/ carers addressing issues that matter in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They will tackle social media and technology, emotional resilience and keeping safe. They begin on Monday 22 February with guest speak Dr Bex Lewis, author of 'Raising children in a digital age.' This will be at 7.30 pm at Cores End URC (with the next two workshops on the following Mondays.) For more information contact the minister Terry Hinks (01628 525076) or Alison Wheeler (01628 810961).



## Focus on Prayer in January

January will be a special time to focus again on the prayer life of our church. Plans include:

- The Prayer Circle will be holding a brief meeting after worship on 3 January to explain their work and update their prayer list. All are welcome to join them at the back of church after worship over coffee.
- Wednesday Prayers in church will be weekly at 9.30 am during January – come when you can for this half hour of stillness and prayer.
- Our Prayer Ministry (available after Sunday worship) will be restarting this month.
- The Week of Prayer for Christina Unity takes place in January (18 – 25 January) – a time to pray for the other churches in High Wycombe, our work together and our underlining unity in Christ.
- Our weekly pattern of prayer (praying for members and church groups) during January is as follows (with wider concerns in capitals):

3 Jan Margaret Lewis (and Marian Mole) and their pastoral group  
NIGHT SHELTER

10 Jan Sue Thorne (and Joan Smith) and their pastoral group  
LOCAL SCHOOLS

17 Jan Groups and hirers and Trinity Links  
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CENTRAL HIGH WYCOMBE  
(Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)

24 Jan Groups and hirers and Trinity Links  
ALL THE CHURCHES IN HIGH WYCOMBE(WP for CU)

31 Jan Marian Drake (and Martin) and their pastoral group  
LOCAL URCs (Area Meeting on 6 Feb)

## **NEWS UPDATE FROM GWEN & BERNIE COLLINS** 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015

School of Theology and Mission – Rarongo  
United Church College of Higher Education, Papua New Guinea

Graduation was a wonderful culmination of the year's activities at Rarongo. But it wasn't the only event in the closing weeks as we celebrated the completion of study programmes, the friendships formed through the variety of college activities, and the growth of faith and readiness to respond to God's further calls to service.

At close-up parties of Staff and of Masters students, for example, we were kindly given these shirts specially made by a colleague who had helped with our laundry, and a *bagi* red shell necklace similar to those used in the Papuan Island kula trading ring that we had studied in the social anthropology course.

At a special chapel service the new bus bought with a grant from the Methodist Church in Britain, was dedicated in prayer led by Bernie, and opened by Wande Ebofin, the Methodist mission partner, before she transfers to Manggai High School, New Ireland. Another grant was gratefully received from British Methodists for STM Library internet connection, but installation has to wait for Telikom to lay new cables.

Leaving Rarongo friends was emotional, but we were in company with Gwen's brother Bob and his wife Ruth, and went to visit Highland friends, including Bishop Wesis Porop, and Bishop-elect. Hun Morris who will take over in a year's time.

***After more farewells in Port Moresby, we leave Papua New Guinea tomorrow via Hong Kong to London, arriving on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>.***

With so much gratitude to God for the amazing experiences of his love and guidance in PNG, we look forward to being with family and friends again in the British Isles, and to the further service the URC has called us to as a chaplain to the Moderators 2016-18 (Gwen) and Convener of Mission Committee 2016-20 (Bernie).

Many thanks for your interest in our news of God's work amongst people in PNG. With their greetings to you, and ours,

*Bernie and Gwen*

## Crossword solution from last month

### Across

4. **CHEDDAR**—Hard cheese
6. **READING**—The only one of the educational three that really is!
8. **MARCH**—Stride meaningfully
11. **CHARD**—Burned
13. **AYR**—It is all around us (fortunately)
14. **MOLD**—Bacterial growth
15. **WELLINGTON**—Large boot
17. **SETTLE**—Allow to rest
20. **EGYPT**—Middle east near High Wycombe
22. **BATH**—Large domestic tub
23. **CARDIGAN**—Woollen garment
24. **KIRKCALDY**—Reverend former Trinity elder
25. **KEW**—A line of people
27. **BEVERLEY**—One of the singing sisters
28. **HASSOCKS**—Anglican kneeling pads

### Down

1. **ISLEOFDOGS**—Canines surrounded by water
2. **BEAN**—Coffee or French?
3. **MOUSEHOLE**—Access to a rodent's living quarters
5. **RHUM**—Sailor's tippie
7. **BROADSTAIRS**—Wide treads
9. **FLINT**—Hard silica stone
10. **STREET**—There is one in every town or village
12. **DUNDEE**—Rich fruit cake
15. **WEYBRIDGE**—Where HGV's go for measurement
16. **STAINES**—Stubborn marks
18. **EIGG**—Go to work on one
19. **HULL**—Part of a boat
21. **WICK**—Part of a candle
23. **COWES**—Milk providers
26. **EYE**—Optical organ

# High Wycombe Helping Others



As the current refugee crisis in Greece increases and worsens, our team is offering aid to the thousands who are currently stranded on tiny islands struggling on a daily basis to survive.

## **CLOTHING (mens, womens & children)**

New underwear & socks

Trousers (hard-wearing) - Jeans, Joggers

Jumpers / Fleece - thick & warm

Waterproof / warm Jackets

Shoes - please tape in pairs & write EU size on tape

Children's clothing - please sort into age sizes

Scarves Hats Gloves

## **Other items**

Pushchairs - lightweight & foldable

Baby carriers / Baby Slings

Nappies & Wipes

Wind-up torches / Head Torches

Sleeping bags (in pouch for travelling)

Tents Tarpaulins Ground Sheets

Warm Blankets / Foil Blankets

Backpacks, Wheeled Trolley Bags

Sleepmats / Yoga Mats

PLEASE bring items ready sorted according to gender, size & item (ie men's trousers size 32) in BOXES if possible - not bags

## **Money Gifts**

Cash donations are vital as items such as water, food and medicines can be bought in Greece saving on transportation costs and boosting the Greek economy.

[www/TotalGiving.co.uk/mypage/greecemigrantcrisis](http://www.TotalGiving.co.uk/mypage/greecemigrantcrisis)

High Wycombe – Donations for Refugees is a community project, bringing people together from different faiths, cultures and groups, all working together, united in the desire to help those displaced from their homes through war and conflict.

Working alongside the charities One Nation and WISE, the group has so far sent a 40ft lorry and 5 transit vans full of aid and building materials to Calais, two 40ft containers full of aid to the heart of Syria plus a large pallet of aid to Lesbos, Greece. On top of this over £8,900 has been raised in funds.

<http://highwycombehelpping.wix.com/hwhelpingothers>

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/HWDONATIONS/](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/HWDONATIONS/)

Call for our High Wycombe Warehouse Address: 07955 271173

## **Churches Together in High Wycombe TOWN CENTRE**

Brin Dunsire from St Augustine's Church is the new chairman of Churches Together and led opening worship on the theme of God's promises and the Advent hope amid the hardships of the world. He read from the book of Baruch (from the Apocrypha) which opens with the words: 'Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.'

Having had an update on Wycombe Workplace Chaplaincy and Christmas preparations, the group considered a series of future events, including:

**Lent Talks on Wednesdays** at All Saints Church 'Getting Fit for Easter' more details soon.

### **Publicising each other's Holy Week and Easter Services**

**The Good Friday Walk of Witness** with three or four 'tableaux or stations on the route

**The Daws Hill Development** was discussed. Sheila Stevenson from the Quakers updated the group on recent developments in terms of community facilities for the new estate. Sheila was tasked to get more information on the development and the Community Hall, including the facilities, potential meeting dates and the timescale of events.

**Syrian Refugees** – John Richey from Wesley Church raised the recent events surrounding the Syrian Crisis and the decision to be made by Wycombe Council as to whether to receive refugees in the area. The group decided to draft a further letter, to meet together for prayer and discernment and to send representatives to the Council Meeting. In the event, despite the pleas of many, the Council meeting on the 14 December rejected overwhelmingly the motion to consider welcoming some of most vulnerable refugees to the district.

Churches together will reflect further on this at its next meeting on 23 February 2016.

# A prayer from Commitment for Life

We pray for:

God whose love is seen in justice.

Greed cuts down the trees that breathe life,

Waters rise; oceans worm, homes are lost to violent storms

Let me speak, of change.

Violence stalks the alleyways of San Salvador,

Thirst haunts the Palestinian hillside,

Arrogance walks tall in Harare,

Peace can only come with justice.

Let me speak of change.

Hate, opens wounds, recalls a history of pain and separation.

Anger, brings retribution, revenge and slaughter,

God whose love is seen in justice

Let me speak of change.

Sticks and stones, and broken bones,

Lead the way to fist shaking brawls,

God whose love is seen in justice,

Let me speak of change.

Above the storms, of life we share,

Another's hopes and deep despair,

Your still small voice can still be heard,

Your presence in a living word.

We need not seek for here you are,

Beside the ones who bear life's scars,

God whose love is seen in justice,

Let me speak of change.

© *Glenis & Eric Massey*

## Prayers for a New Year

For this New Year,

Thank you, Lord.

For each new day,

Thank you, Lord.

For every minute of each new day,

Thank you, Lord.

For every good new thought,

Thank you, Lord.

For every new challenging beginning,

Thank you, Lord.

For your constant presence in all new things,

Thank you, Lord.

As we travel into the new year may we leave behind all the sad and unhappy memories and look forward to the tasks and pleasures to come as the Lord Jesus leads us on and surrounds us with his love. In his name we pray. Amen

Holy Spirit, mighty wind blow through the consultations of governments so that this year real steps are taken to limit global warming. Holy Spirit, tongues of flame, burn away the suspicions and fears nations have of each other so that they may learn to live together respecting each other. Holy Spirit, dove of peace, scatter your tenderness and peace over the bitter wars raging on this beautiful planet.

# Who's who

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