



RINITY
Times



Trinity - a place to belong

Spirituality - Prayer – Community – Welcome

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

MARCH 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	12 & 13
Prayer pages	14 & 15
Who's Who	16

The next edition of Trinity Times will be published on 27th March. All contributions should be submitted by Friday 18th March.



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

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

Blue sky, lengthening days, birdsong and daffodils announce that winter is coming to an end (despite the cold nights) and that spring is round the corner. In the church's life we move through the season of Lent (an old Anglo Saxon word for Spring) towards the great celebration of Easter. We journey towards the cross of Christ – the 'wondrous cross' from which 'sorrow and love flow mingled down.'

On the way to Easter there is lots to do in the church's life. Night shelter and many other community activities continue. We mark Fairtrade Fortnight (29 February – 13 March) and Mothering Sunday (6 March). We continue our Lent worship series exploring the nature of God and that challenge to deepen our love for God and for our neighbour. We will also be taking part in the *trypraying* campaign, using a booklet to pray with ourselves and then passing it onto a friend or neighbour. Then on 15 March we hold our Annual General Meeting, recognising and giving thanks for all who contribute in so many different ways to the church's work and reflecting on the year past and plans for the future.

But through it all we are carried forward into God's Spring – the new life that blossoms through the sacrifice and victory of Christ. As the Easter hymn proclaims, 'Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.' That world changing event shifts our perspective on life around us, giving a deep hope, despite the pain and suffering we see in so many situations and in so many lives. We are caught up in the living hope described in the first letter of Peter:

'Praise be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who in his great mercy has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.'

May we journey onwards into God's Spring and find that living hope renewed within us to be lived out in what we think and do, say and pray.



News of the Church Family

Not included in this version

This month we would like to wish

Glyn E (4th)

Rebecca H (6th)

Joy S (16th)

Rose C (17th)

Andrew W (21st)

Pauline S (26th)

Samuel E (28th)

Marianne H (29th)

a Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity

and Best Wishes to
Marion & Michael M (25th)
on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

Worship at Trinity

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

6 Mar Mothering Sunday: Worship and Communion led by Terry Hinks

13 Mar Morning Worship led by Ann Maree Campbell

20 Mar Palm Sunday: All age worship led by Terry Hinks

27 Mar Easter Communion led by Richard Bittlestone

Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome

Celebration Service to launch 'trypraying' at St Peter's Church, Loudwater on 13 March at 5 pm (coffee and tea from 4.30 pm)

Please note: no Praise service at Trinity this Sunday so we can join in this special service.

Midweek Prayers at 9.30 am on Wed 2, 16 and 23 March in church (half an hour of prayer together)

Holy Week Services

Tues 22 Mar 2.30 pm Communion in the church sanctuary followed by refreshments (arranged by the Women's Group). All are welcome.

Thurs 24 Mar 7.30 pm Joint Maundy Thursday Communion at Wesley Church (preacher: Terry Hinks)

Fri 25 Mar 10.00 am Joint Good Friday Worship at Trinity (with Union Baptist Church) led by Terry Hinks Preacher: Malcolm Hazell

11.15 am Good Friday Churches' Walk of Witness

Holy Week Reflection

There will be prayer stations in church to help people reflect on the story of Holy Week. The church will be open on

Sat 19 March 11.30 am – 2 pm

Tues 22 March 2 – 4 pm (Communion Service at 2.30 pm)

Wed 23 March 9.30 – 11 am

Thu 24 March 11 am – 1 pm

Sat 26 March 10.30 am – 12 noon

If you can help staff the church for one of these sessions please add your name to the list at church or contact Kate.

What's on this month

LENT 2016

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

In March our series moves from the Old Testament witness to God's nature to that of the New Testament, preparing us for the good news of Easter and God's victorious love in Christ:

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

There are two more home groups to discuss issues raised by the series. All are welcome:

- Daytime session at 10.30 am on Thursday 10 March at home of John and Joy Standfield.
- Evening session at 8 pm on Monday 14 March at the home of Marian and Martin Drake.

'Getting fit for Easter' Ecumenical

Lent Talks at All Saint's Church on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to any of the final talks, which include discussion and refreshments:

2 Mar - Dawn Williams (from St Augustines RC Church) 'Pope Francis and Mercy'

9 Mar - Sister Sue (Minister Provincial, Community of St Francis) 'Get spiritually fit for Easter... in the way of St Francis'

16 Mar - Terry Hinks (from Trinity URC) 'Looking again'

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. Please bring the money you have collected to church on Easter Day (27 March) or the following Sunday.

What's on this month

Prayer Pattern for March

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

6 March Groups and hirers and Trinity Links

MOTHERS AND FAMILIES

13 March Groups and hirers and Trinity Links

TRYPRAING CAMPAIGN

20 March Marian Drake (and Martin) and their pastoral group

CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO THE TOWN

27 March Glyn Evans (and Marie Winning) and their pastoral group

NEW CHRISTIANS

Our Prayer Ministry is available after worship each Sunday morning.

Trinity Bookworms

The next meeting is on Wednesday, March 2nd at 2.00p.m. We shall be discussing "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd.

Trinity Birds

Trinity Birds will be meeting on Weds 9 March 10.30am at the home of Ellen M when she will be demonstrating 'table decorations'.

Women's Meeting

All meetings in LSR at 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday 1 March Looking at Cuba.

Preparation for Women's World Day of Prayer (*see page 13 for details*)

Tuesday 8 March Some Biblical Mothers and Sons

Tuesday 15 March About Us – looking back at special occasions.

(Brought forward from February)

Tuesday 22 March . Open Meeting. Service of Holy Communion –

Revd Terry Hinks (In the Sanctuary)

Tuesday 29 March NO Meeting

Cores End Church

YOUTH MATTERS in a digital age: the series of workshops for young people and parents/ carers concludes with a session on **Keeping safe** on Monday 7 March at 7.30 pm at Cores End URC (with refreshments available from 7 pm before talk begins)
For more information contact the minister Terry Hinks (01628 525076) or Alison Wheeler (01628 810961)

Open Book

The local parish church is building a team of people, drawn from local churches, to present bible stories in an engaging way in the local primary school. This is part of a national initiative by the Bible Society www.openthebook.net/

Maundy Thursday Communion and lunch

The Church will be holding a simple communion and bread and soup lunch on Thursday 24 March at 12.30 pm. If you would like to attend please contact the minister.

Good Friday Walk of witness

The village churches share in a walk of witness on Good Friday starting at 12.30 pm and ending at St Mark's parish church (where tea, coffee and hot cross buns will be served).

Children's Easter Fun Day

This is to be held on Saturday 2 April (10 am – 4 pm) at Cores End Church hall and is aimed at children aged 5 to 11. There will be craft, games, singing and cooking. The cost is £5 per child for the day. Numbers limited so please contact Ann Pendergast (01628 526865) for more information and to book a place.

Diary dates March 2016

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

Regular March events:

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
-

[See next page for Other Events during March]

Notice of AGM at 7.30 pm and church meeting at 8 pm – Tuesday 15th March

Our AGM will start at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 15th March in the sanctuary, followed by our regular church meeting at 8 pm.

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.

Other events

Tuesday 1st March	Trinity Elders' meeting	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Wednesday 2nd March	Trinity prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
Saturday 5th March	Saturday Cafe	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Thursday 10th March	Daytime Lent study group at John & Joy's	10:30 am - 12 noon
Sunday 13th March	Traidcraft	12:00 pm - 12:30 pm
Monday 14th March	Lent housegroup at Marian & Martin's	8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Wednesday 16th March	Trinity Prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
Thursday 17th March	Wycombe Sharing of Faiths AGM (Sanctuary)	6:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Saturday 19th March	Saturday Cafe	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
	Open church for Holy Week reflections	11:30 am – 2:00 pm
	Church of God Family Fun Day in Crendon Hall	2:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Tuesday 22nd March	Open church for Holy Week reflections	2:00 – 4:00 pm
	Communion Service	2.30 pm
Wednesday 23rd March	Open church for Holy Week reflections	9.30 – 11 am
Thursday 24th March	Open church for Holy Week reflections	11 am – 1 pm
Saturday 26th March	Open church for Holy Week reflections	10.30 am – 12 noon



Fairtrade Fortnight

29 February to 13 March 2016

TRYPRAYING

Trinity is taking part in the *trypraying* campaign together with about 35 churches in the High Wycombe area. Look out for the *trypraying* banners across the High Wycombe area, including on our church (together with displays on local buses).

trypraying is a booklet or phone app designed for the unchurched, non-Christian and spiritually diverse world in which we live. Presented in every day inclusive language, the booklet, through its 7 day plan, takes the reader on a spiritual journey using prayer, in which the ideas and concepts of the Christian faith are placed in everyday life. *trypraying* encourages the reader to talk and engage with God. The booklet is packed full of anecdotes, scripture, testimony and basic tips for effective prayer. Youth and children's versions are also available. The booklet is supported by two websites: www.thereishope.co.uk for information for churches, and www.trypraying.co.uk for those exploring faith.

USE IT AND LOSE IT

For churches, the simple act of giving someone a trypraying booklet is what 'Use it and Lose it' is all about. Many people have discovered prayer – and the love of God - really does make a difference to their lives.

USE IT: Everyone in church receives a booklet on **Sunday 13 March**. Spend a week praying through the booklet. Reflect on who you should give it to...and pray for that person.

LOSE IT: The following week (beginning 20 March) you pass the booklet on to whoever you have been praying for - a friend, family member or even a stranger. During this week – continue to pray for the person. And don't forget to share what happened (to you or them!)

CELEBRATION SERVICE

You are warmly invited to a special **Celebration Service to launch the 'trypraying' initiative with opportunity for worship and prayer on Sunday 13 March from 5-6pm at St Peter's Church, Loudwater**, with coffee and tea served from 4.30pm.

Change to “Gift Aid”

The Government allows the church, receiving a gift, e.g. Offertory, to recover the basic rate Income Tax (20%) which the giver has already paid on the Offertory. This is presently worth about £6,000 to the church, annually.

This has been tightened up, a little, and the form which a new giver signs now confirms that he or she has actually paid that much tax!

So:

1. Would those who have signed the old form – in some cases, many years ago / before, e.g., retirement – check if they still pay enough tax to qualify? If not, please let me know.

2. May I ask those who have not “gift-aided” their Offertory, to consider doing so and, if willing, to ask me for the form? This is the only way to maintain this vital part of the church's income.

Thank you.

Tony H
Gift Aid Secretary

Wycombe Sharing of Faiths events



Thursday 17 March 7.00 – 9.00pm David Sparrow of Art Beyond Belief will introduce us to some creative projects that open up inter-faith co-operation
<http://art-beyond-belief.com> AGM at 7.00pm
Programme starts 7.30pm followed by refreshments
Venue: Trinity United Reformed Church, London Road, High Wycombe HP11 1BJ

26 March – 24 September The Art of Islam festival across the county: a dazzling exhibition at Aylesbury Museum and supporting events at venues around the county. Register now on the county museum website www.buckscountymuseum.org to receive the programme of events.

ZIMBABWE



Zimbabwe experienced a poor 2014/15 agricultural season with over 60 days of dry spells, particularly in the southern parts of the country where Christian Aid operates. This resulted in a huge loss in agricultural production and subsequent loss of household incomes.

About 1.5 million Zimbabweans will be unable to meet their food needs during the 2016 hunger season which is about 16% of the rural population and 9.6% of the total population of Zimbabwe. This represents a rise of 160% compared to those facing food insecurity during the 2014/2015 hunger season.

Through joint humanitarian action a considerable number of households started to receive food aid, predominantly through cash based assistance. The World Food Programme has only managed to reach out to 53% of their projected assistance due to funding constraints by the beginning of January.

To compound the situation, the 2015/16 agricultural season has been very poor to date due to the adverse effect of the El Nino weather pattern. By the 10th of January 2016, most parts of the country had received below 25% of the average normal rainfall and in some areas planting had not even started.

The 2014/15 season drought and subsequent food shortages have directly impacted the poorest communities. Currently, government and NGOs have started food distribution and cash transfers to the most vulnerable members. Thus the response will be direct hand outs, while markets will be used for the better off to increase availability and access to food.

This month President Mugabe declared a state of disaster in rural parts of the country hit by the drought.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-35500820

Womens World Day of Prayer

4 March 2016 - Praying for Cuba

10:30 - Union Baptist Church

13:30 - St Michael's and All Angels, Hughenden

ALL are welcome



A prayer for Fairtrade

As I enter the street market
Wheel my trolley at the superstore
Leaf through a catalogue, or log on to the internet:
Be with me and help me
When I spend money
Be with me and help me to see the market place as you see it
As wide as the world you love so much
Be with us and help us .
To share the markets we share for all people.
As we live under your steady gaze,
So we can change, by your gracious love.
Amen.

God of love and justice, we give thanks for the gifts planted in all of us.
We remember the power we embody when we share these gifts: the
compassion and understanding, the fire, and the vigour.
We honour your Word living within us, inspiring people to protest at
greed, to work for justice, to passionately share their resources and
cherish all life.
Yours is the outspoken love,
Yours is the outrageous hope,
Yours is the extravagant mercy.
So to you be the honour and the power and the glory,
Amen.

Creator God,
You created a beautiful world for all your children.
As we taste and smell the fruits of this creation, help us to remember
those who farm the land to grow them. Help us live in a partnership of
love and support with those who produce our food and drink so that we
might enable others to feed their families and create a sustainable future.
Amen.

Prayers for March

“For , lo, the winter is past... The flowers appear on the earth... “
The Song of Solomon Chap 2. Vv11&12

Lord of all creation, as winter draws to a close, spring begins and nature prepares itself for the blossoming of summer, so prepare your children for the joys of Easter. Freshen their hearts and deepen their faith.

In Jesus' Name. *Amen*

God of love and compassion we pray for families at this time, for those who are separated from each other because of distance, disagreement, bereavement, domestic violence or war. We pray particularly for mothers who have lost their children and children who have lost their mothers. You know each by name, Lord. Hold them in your loving, everlasting arms. *Amen*

Forgive us, Lord Jesus, when like the two going to Emmaus we are unaware of your presence at our side. Forgive us if we doubt you as Thomas did or fail to recognize you as the disciples out fishing did. Reveal yourself to us as you did to them and send us on our way with work to do for you and with you. Thank you for your constant presence with us when we think we are alone. *Amen.*

The stone is rolled away; the tomb is empty; Christ is risen; **Alleluia!**

Who's who

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