



Trinity - a place to belong
Spirituality - Prayer - Community - Welcome



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

FEBRUARY 2017

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 11
The Wider Church	12 to 14
Prayer page	15
Who's Who	16

The next edition of Trinity Times will be published on 26th February
All contributions should be submitted by Sunday 19th February.



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

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God.

1 Peter 2 (The Message)

The Church is spiritual temple, made up of living stones rather than a physical building – a community of people united in Christ, rather than a collection of bricks and mortar. And yet buildings can play a significant part in how churches fulfil their calling to be light and salt in the wider community.

12 years ago Trinity began a journey to renew its buildings to better serve its life and mission in High Wycombe. The aim was to provide a welcoming and flexible space for worship and for community activities. An accessible side entrance and the redevelopment of the sanctuary has helped to fulfil some of that original vision. Many different community groups and churches use the building, some with strong links to our church, others much more tenuous. How we deepen those connections is one of the challenges we face as a congregation.

The upper half of the building has remained largely untouched and requires our thought and prayer in the year ahead. The recent Quinquennial inspection will no doubt also raise issues and challenges. Work is planned to renew and update the Lower School Room (and we hope that we can come up with a new name too!) This is a small part of our continued stewardship of a valuable but also demanding resource. Do come and get involved in the work day with DIY jobs around the church building on Saturday 25 February (any time between 10 am and 3 pm).

In all this we need to keep that clear vision of the building serving the purpose of mission, rather than being a burden that limits and frustrates that work. Ways need to be found both to lighten the burden and to improve the resource, for God's mission here and now. We have prayed that Trinity may be 'a place to belong'; may it also be a place in which to grow – a place vibrant with the life and love of Christ.



News of the Church Family

Not included in this version

This month we would like to wish

Grant C (5th)

Nathan C (7th)

Gwenda D (24th)

a very Happy Birthday

with love from all at Trinity

The Women's World Day of Prayer this year is on Friday March 3rd,
Service at The Salvation Army Citadel at 10.30.am
Subject: "Am I being fair to you?" prepared by the Women of the
Philippines. Everyone welcome.

Worship at Trinity

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

- 5 February Worship and Communion led by Terry Hinks
- 12 February Morning Worship led by Amersham Worship Team
- 19 February Guides Thinking Day: All age worship led by Terry Hinks
- 26 February Morning Worship led by Colin Hutt

Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome

Midweek Prayers at 9.30 am on Wednesdays 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 on 12 March at 4 pm. The circle is committed to pray regularly for people in need. If you would like to join the group (or have prayer requests) contact Terry Hinks or Audrey Richardson.

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):

- 5 Feb Churches, Brownies, Guides, Bookworms, Coffee and chat and links HOSPITAL AND GP SURGERIES
- 12 Feb Marian Drake (and Martin) and their pastoral group WYCOMBE REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP
- 19 Feb Sue Thorne (and Joan Smith) and their pastoral group GUIDES AND BROWNIES
- 26 Feb Kate Yates (and John Hillson) and their pastoral group LENT GROUPS

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

What's on this month . . .

Wed 1st Feb	Trinity prayers Trinity Elders meeting	9:30 am - 10:00 am 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Sat 4th Feb	Saturday Cafe Night Shelter	11:30 am - 1:30 pm 6:00 pm – 9 amn (Sun)
Wed 8th Feb	Worship Planning Meeting	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Sat 11th Feb	Night Shelter	6:00 pm – 9 am Sunday
Sun 12th Feb	Traidcraft (2nd Sunday of month)	Noon - 12:30 pm
Wed 15th Feb	Trinity Prayers Joint elders' meeting	9:30 am - 10:00 am 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Sat 18th Feb	HUM (Hirer & Users meeting) Saturday Cafe Night Shelter	10:00 am - 11:00 am 11:30 am - 1:30 pm 6:00 pm – 9 am (Sun)
Sun 19th Feb	Thinking Day Parade Service	10:30 AM
Sat 25th Feb	Church DIY Day Night Shelter	10:00 am to 3:00 pm 6:00 pm – 9 am (Sun)
Wed 1st of Mar (Ash Wed)	Trinity prayers Trinity Elders' meeting	9:30 am - 10:00 am 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm



Is this you? See page 11

What's on . . . this month

Trinity Bookworms

Our next meeting is on Wednesday March 1st at 2pm and will be discussing "The Sea Lady" by Margaret Drabble.

Coffee & Chat

The next meeting of Coffee & Chat will be on Thursday 23 February at 10.30am at the home of Marie W when we'll be talking about 'Who I am'.

Tuesday Meeting

All meetings in LSR at 2.30pm

Tuesday Feb 7th Florence Nightingale and Claydon

Tuesday Feb 14th Elijah (5)

Tuesday Feb 21st The Philippines – Introduction to Women's World Day of Prayer on March 3rd

Tuesday Feb 28th Shrove Tuesday and Pancakes. Come and join us!

Regular February events

Every Sunday where possible

Prayer ministry

after the service

Every Tuesday

* Movers and Shakers Chinese Style (light exercise, talk/activity and lunch)

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

* The Tuesday Meeting (small, friendly fellowship group)

2.30 - 4.30 pm

Every Thursday

* Pilates well-being class

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

* Choir Practice (church choir practises Sunday's hymns)

8.00 pm

Every Friday

* Movers and Shakers, Caribbean style (light exercise, a talk or activity and lunch)

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

Supporting Christian Aid

The Carol service at Cores End on 18 December went well and a collection raised £514 for the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal.

Bethesda Hospital Fundraising

The church was able to send a cheque for £816.22 to support the work of the hospital, the result of fundraising at harvest and the Christmas charity morning.

Burns' Supper.

The Burns' Supper on Saturday 21 January was an enjoyable and well attended evening, with a number of friends from Trinity attending. The evening ended with Scottish country dancing and the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Out in the community

From February the church is planning to run a monthly meeting at a local pub to discuss issues that are important to people and how Christian faith helps and guides us as we respond to them.

Trypraying

The Church has agreed to be fully involved this year and plans to display a banner at the front of the church.

DAILY SCRIPTURE OPPORTUNITIES

At a recent Mission Strategy meeting we were discussing ways to share our faith and encourage each other. We realize that sharing a simple text can be very uplifting but this does require us to know what might help in any particular situation.

I shared that I have on my phone 2 apps that give a text a day, One called Daily Bible, the other Words from Jesus daily. They are both free and really good, just a short word each day. We thought it would be helpful to share this at the start of the year as something anyone can benefit from . I hope you try it for yourself.

Marian D

LENT 2017

RECEIVING CHRIST in 5 different ways

'To all who received him ... he gave power to become children of God.' (John 1.12.)

An opportunity to explore just how we can 'receive Christ' and the practical implications for our day-to-day lives.

The Course uses an audio presentation by four leading Christian speakers, a Course Booklet and plenty of Group Discussion.

Tuesdays at 7.30 pm beginning on 28 February 2017
here at Trinity United Reformed Church

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 28 February | 1. Receiving Christ: as children of God |
| 7 March | 2. Receiving Christ: in the stranger and the needy |
| 14 March | 3. Receiving Christ: in Holy Communion |
| 21 March | AGM / Church Meeting |
| 28 March | 4. Receiving Christ: through prayer and fellowship |
| 4 April | 5. 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' <i>Colossians 1.27</i> |

If you would like to come add your name to the Sign up list at church or contact Terry Hinks 01628 525076 or minister@trinity-urc.org.uk

Other Lent Courses:

Why follow Jesus? An exploration of the costs and joys of following Christ

led by Revd High Lewis on Wednesdays 8, 15, 22 and 29 March at 7.30 pm at the Vicarage, 6 Priory Avenue, HP13 6SH

'Receiving Christ' course on Thursday evenings, at 7.45 for 8pm, commencing on 9th March and ending on 6th April, run by Alan Gibson

Church AGM – Tuesday 21st March at 7.30 pm followed by church meeting at 8 pm

Nomination and Election of Elders

- Kate Yates and Marian Drake can be nominated for a further three-year term
- We would love to have some more Elders nominated and elected – if you would like to find out more about what is involved, talk to Terry or one of the Elders.

Annual Report

If you usually contribute a piece from your group for this, please would you let Angus have your contribution by 26th February **at the very latest.**

Postholders' list

The current list is available to peruse. Please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to relinquish any role or post you currently hold. Likewise, if you would like to take on something new, please come and talk to me!

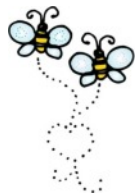
Thanks
Kate Y

HUM (Hirers & Users meeting) – Saturday 18th February 10-11 am

We will be holding a HUM (hirers and users meeting) on Saturday 18th February from 10-11 am in the church sanctuary.

Refreshments will be available.

We hope that one or more representatives of groups that hire and use Trinity – as well as our Trinity Links – will be able to attend to share thoughts on our plans to improve the Lower School Room (and to rename it). We would also like to hear views on how other parts of the buildings can be improved for those who use the premises.



Please let Kate Yates know if you hope to come.

Church DIY Day – Saturday 25th February 10 am to 3 pm

Having stopped the regular Fifth Brigade DIY mornings in the latter part of 2016, we intend to have occasional “DIY Days” over a longer time span so that people can come along for an hour or more (hopefully!) when they can during the day.



This should enable us to have a really good go at cleaning, mending, fixing, sorting and clearing throughout the building and outside, whilst not interfering with our regular Saturday morning hirer in the Crendon Hall.

So, if you are able to help in any way, please put this date in your diary. If you could let Marian Mole or Kate Yates know that you are available on that day and at what times that would be incredibly helpful. It would be lovely if we could have a few more people to help with the upkeep of our building in this way.



Marian and Kate

Leftovers?!

Answers to last month's crossword

Across

3. Transport usually associated with ringing devices - *Sleigh*
7. Nuts - *Crackers*
9. North Mediterranean country - *Turkey*
10. Usually in a set of 52 - *Cards*
11. European capital city - *Brussels*
12. Found in a cushion - *Stuffing*

Down

1. Scared - *Chicken*
2. Walk affectedly (5) Savoury contained in pastry (3) - *Mince Pie*
4. Offal - *Lights*
5. Waste material - *Trimnings*
6. Spruce - *Fir*
8. What a seed does when germinating - *Sprout*

Coming up . . . at Westminster College

Quiet Day *Who are you?* A day away in Lent Saturday 4th March 2017, 10am-4pm Suitable for new and experienced retreatants, this day will focus on our identity as Christians, drawing on the wilderness experience of Christ and the writings of the desert fathers and mothers.

Quiet Day *Soul Food:* A day of nourishment for Church Leaders Saturday 22nd July 2017, 10am-4pm Suitable for ordained and lay people normally engaged in church leadership. We will be creating space and time for you to stop for a while and enjoy the hospitality Westminster has to offer.

Embracing Eldership Monday 3rd- Wednesday 5th April, Wednesday 5th-Friday 7th July or Friday 7th -Sunday 9th July 2017

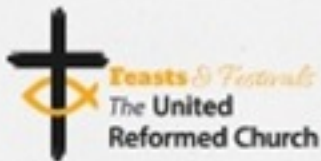
Suitable for new and experienced Elders in the United Reformed Church, this three-day gathering is an opportunity for you to meet fellow elders with your hosts, Val and Rod Morrison. Sessions will be tailored to the needs of the group. Share experiences, learn new skills and find resources for you and your church.

Please see Kate if you are interested

In addition to the item on page 8, here is another opportunity to get daily inspiration.

Every day of the year, early each morning, the URC sends out, by email, a Daily Devotion consisting of a reading, reflection and short prayer. You can read them on your computer, phone, or tablet and they provide inspiration in your inbox! The Devotions are written by a team of over 90 people (including Alan Yates!) from a range of perspectives and places within the URC. If you would like to receive them, you can sign up by going to <http://tinyurl.com/URCDailyDevotions> and filling in the form."

[Thanks to Harry for this informatiion]



Big Day Out!

As part of the URC's Feasts & Festivals focus for next year, do consider coming along to the **Big Day Out at Warwick Castle on Saturday 20th May from 10 am to 5 pm.** It's for the whole church, and is being organised by the Pilots.

There will be many things to be excited about, including:

- worship for everyone, with live music
- access to Warwick Castle and attractions
- the chance to meet with friends, old and new from all over the country

A duffle bag for use on the day, and special edition Feasts and Festivals Badge are all included in the price.

Admission prices are:

17+ years £16.50 per person

4-16 years £11.00 per person

Under 4s Free

There is also 1 free adult place for every 10 paid child places.

Each group or family is responsible for making their own travel arrangements. Car parking charges at Warwick Castle will be around £9 per car.

If you are interested in going, please see me. Alan and I will be going. The deadline for booking is 31st March.

Kate Yates

Contact the Pilots Desk on
pilots@urc.org.uk



ZIMBABWE



Current statistics show that over 4 million people in Zimbabwe are food insecure as a result of the El Nino induced drought, especially as the peak of the hunger season sets in. Food is therefore the major priority for rural households at the moment, at the expense of some longer term programme work geared towards building long term resilience. This means projects such as gardening projects are being neglected due to both water shortages and households spending. Much time is spent looking for food.

The majority of crops planted during 2015/16 season were a complete write off. In Binga, where the programme is focussing on formal and informal education, drops in school attendances are being reported where there are no complimentary school feeding programmes. Unfortunately, the programme has not managed to get sufficient funding to integrate food assistance in all its areas of operation. The current emergency funding has been raised through the ACT Appeal process and is available up to the end of December 2016. So far only Insiza and Lupane districts are receiving assistance, reaching out to just over 8,000 individuals.

Christian Aid has noted that communities are resorting to negative and asset depleting coping strategies in the face of the ongoing food crisis. For example, where emergency interventions are providing cash for the purchase of both food and seeds, communities are tending only to buy food, and not think ahead to the importance of planting seeds for the next season.

CENTRAL AMERICA

In El Salvador, the increase in violence and insecurity, mainly associated with gangs and organized crime, reached the highest homicide rate in the world for a country not in armed conflict. In the first three months of 2016, national authorities recorded almost one murder every hour. Violent and criminal gangs act with impunity, and justice and security institutions are unable to fulfil their role. Entire neighbourhoods in cities and communities in the countryside have fallen under informal control of gangs and extortion, which directly affects the economy and livelihoods of families and businesses. The youth population is the sector most affected by the gang phenomenon, both as victims and perpetrators.

This is the very real and dangerous space in which partners must negotiate on a daily basis. Christian Aid partner, FESPAD, is at the forefront of this work. It works in some of the country's most marginalized communities to set-up and support violence prevention councils which encourage community members to lobby municipal government for public services and action that the State is failing to provide.

Prayers for February

Praise the Lord for the glories of his creation.
Praise him for the winter sun,
for the pure bright colours it reveals.
Praise him for the snow and ice,
glittering in the sunlight.
Praise him for the frost on the grass,
Crunching beneath our footsteps.
Praise him for the evergreen trees,
And for bare branches making patterns against the sky.
Praise him in mist, fog and rain,
When skies are cloud-laden and dull.
At all times praise the Lord.

Guard your people, Lord, from falling on unseen black ice.
Do not let them slip from their trust in you.
Be at their side when they walk through freezing winter fog.
Dispel their confused, muddled doubts and renew their faith.
Keep them on the right road when blinded by the low winter sun.
Shine your light into their hearts so that they may go out to shed its
rays on their friends and neighbours. *Amen.*

Lord of all times and places grant wisdom, integrity and willingness to listen and learn to all leaders in this torn world so that tensions may be eased and friendly relationships be forged to the advantage of all, the forgotten, the outcast, the poor, as well as the prominent, successful and rich. In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Who's who

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