

Happy New Year

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



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

JANUARY 2017

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The next edition of Trinity Times will be published on 29 January All contributions should be submitted by 22 January.



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

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

Welcome to 2017; what will this year bring?!

One of the questions facing the Church in this country at the moment is what is the future for Christian unity. Many schemes have come and gone and some of the structures that have been so important and fruitful in past years are creaking and crumbling. You can read how Churches together in Buckinghamshire has been 'mothballed' because of lack of personnel and uncertainty over its purpose. We are especially grateful to Barrie Cheetham for his work as County Ecumenical Development Officer and wish him well now that role has been brought to an end.

Locally I see signs of a healthy and growing relationship between High Wycombe's churches and have real hope for the future. The witness of the Churches is so much more powerful when we work together and are seen by the wider community to be doing so. There are great opportunities before the churches in our area at the moment through initiatives like Workplace Chaplaincy, Youth for Christ and Trypraying.

The United Reformed Church is one of the fruits of the ecumenical movement back in the 1970s. In its formation the URC saw itself as part of a wider movement to bring 'the visible unity of the Church in the way Christ chooses.' No other major unions of churches have followed and the URC has itself wrestled over its identity. Should it emphasise its traditions and distinctive character – its Reformed and dissenting and Free Church roots? Or should it emphasise its calling to work and pray for the unity of all God's people? Or simply get on with the task of being a part of the Church of Christ today?

There is still a debate to be had, but in the meantime we can celebrate the journey that God has called us; a journey that we share with Christians of every background and tradition and ultimately with all humanity and all creation. It's a journey into life, the life given by God, revealed in all its fullness by Jesus Christ and renewed day by day by the Holy Spirit. In the words of an old hymn 'we'll praise God for all that is past and trust him for all that's to come.'



News of the Church Family

Not included in this version

Kate

This month we would like to wish

Linda C (12th)

Joan S (16th)

S (31st)

X (31st)

a very Happy Birthday

with love from all at Trinity

What's on this month . . .

Wed 4th	Trinity prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
Wed 4th	Trinity Elders meeting	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Thurs 5th	Choir Practice	8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Sat 7th	Saturday Cafe	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Sat 7th	Night Shelter	6:00 pm – 9 am Sun
Sun 8th	Traidcraft (2nd Sunday of month)	Noon - 12:30 pm
Thurs 12th	Pilates well-being class	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Thurs 12th	Choir Practice	8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Sat 14th	Macmillan coffee morning at Sue Thorne's	10:00 am - noon
Sun 14th	Night Shelter	6:00 pm – 9 am Sun
Sun 15th	Prayer Circle for Healing after morning worship (coffee in sanctuary)	
Mon 16th	Lower School Room revamp mtg	6:15 pm - 7:15 pm
Tues 17th	Church meeting	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Wed 18th	Trinity Prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
Wed 18th	Quinquennial inspection	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat 21st	Saturday Cafe	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Sat 21st	Night Shelter	6:00 pm – 9 am Sun
Sat 28th	Night Shelter	6:00 pm – 9 am Sun

Forthcoming events

Church AGM – Tuesday 21st March at 7.30 pm, followed by Church Meeting at 8 pm.

What's on . . . this month

Trinity Bookworms

Our next meeting is on Wednesday January 4th. This month we are meeting at the home of Marian Mole, Talpa, 21 Fremantle Road. We shall be discussing "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" by Rachel Joyce.

Coffee & Chat

Coffee & Chat will be at the home of Marian Mole on Wednesday January 18th at 10.30am when she will be talking about her recent visit to India.

Tuesday Meeting

All meetings in the LSR, unless otherwise stated, at 2.30pm

Tuesday January 3 rd	Preparations for next week's party
Tuesday January 10 th	New Year Party in the Sanctuary
Tuesday January 17 th	Elijah (4)
Tuesday January 24 th	Congregationalists and Presbyterians
Tuesday January 31 st	A.G.M.

Regular January 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

The Christmas Charity Morning

The Coffee Morning was a very happy event and raised over £600 for charity – the Bethesda Eye Hospital and PARC (Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee). During the morning and there was a craft event for children and the church's Christmas tree was decorated. It was good to have a number of friends from Trinity come over to the event. Thank you.

Christmas Celebration

A packed church enjoyed singing carols and hearing music by the Borehamwood Band conducted by Derek Holland (the main organist at Cores End). David Reynolds sang O Holy Night and church members read the Christmas story and reflections on its impact of people's lives. A collection was taken for Christian Aid.

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.

Christmas Charity Collections

The collection for *Crisis at Christmas* at our Carol Service raised £314.79 for its work with homeless people. Collections were also taken over Christmas for the Yemen Emergency Appeal. On Christmas Eve members of Junior Church took all the produce collected during Advent to *One Can* as part of its Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal

Letter to the editor

Dear Angus

14.12.16

How quickly this year has flown by! Thank you for sending the Trinity Times each month. There are fewer names I recognise now but I am pleased that the church, where Bob & I & our family worshipped for over 30 years, still has such a loving & friendly congregation.

I am glad that I am still able to attend my very friendly church here although, sadly, many of us cannot always, due to age etc, get there. I had to spend 2 days in hospital recently having dislocated my hip. I cannot drive for 6 weeks but my church friends have been very supportive & I am now at home. Please convey my very best wishes for a happy & peaceful

Christmas to those who still remember me & my family & thank you again

Gwen (Stibbon)

Notice of AGM at 7.30 pm and Church Meeting at 8 pm -Tuesday 21st March

Nomination and Election of Elders

Glyn Evans and Sue Thorne are both standing down this March as Elders. Kate Yates and Marian Drake will have completed three years and are eligible for election for a further three- year term (but will need nominating). Margaret Lewis and Harry Bates do not need to stand for re-election this year.

We would love to have some new people on the Eldership with fresh insights and a desire to serve the congregation. We will have two vacancies in March but would happily have more than two new Elders. Is God calling YOU to serve in this way?

What would be expected of you as an Elder?

Attending monthly Elders' meetings (usually the first Wednesday of the month) and contributing your views and recommendations to go to church meeting

Pastoral care – working alongside a Pastoral Assistant to provide pastoral care for members of the congregation as needed

Serving the church through the gifts and skills that God has given you – it doesn't have to mean taking on lots of extra tasks!

Helping as "Duty Elder" on a Sunday morning (usually once a month)

If you would like to find out more, talk to one of the Elders ... leaflets giving more detail are also available.

Election of Elders

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.

Annual Reports

Angus is compiling the Annual Report from contributions received from various individuals and groups. These should be submitted as soon as possible - but no later than 26th February.

Thanks

Kate Yates

WHC Big Sleepout – monies raised

We don't yet have a final figure but we are confident it will be over £48,000. That's amazing!!

Thank you to all who prayed, gave words of encouragement, or sponsored us.

This money will make a huge difference to the work of Wycombe Homeless Connection. Although income often goes up in the winter months because the cold and wet weather causes people to think more about how awful it is to sleep rough, the charity operates all year round so having funds available to ensure this work can happen is vital.

Thanks be to God for his provision.

Kate Yates

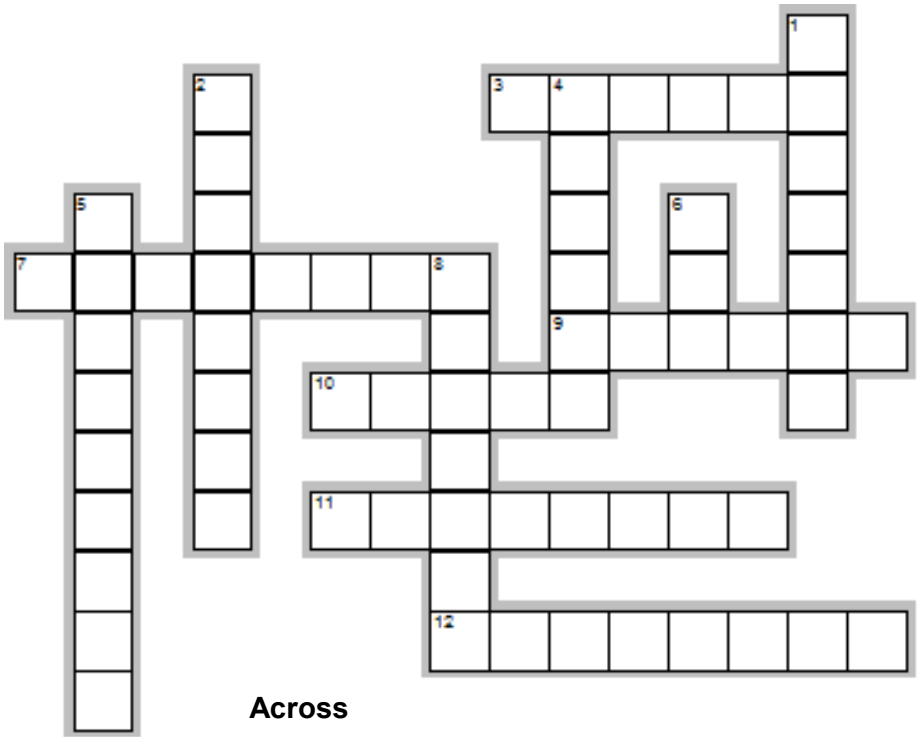
Possible training day on working with, and caring for, people with dementia

Our Synod Training Officer, the Revd Anne Sardeson, is exploring the possibility of arranging a training day run by the Alzheimer's society aimed at those who would like to explore issues around working with and caring for people with dementia (e.g. the unique ways dementia affects people, how to use practical tools to support people with dementia, building confidence).

The day would be open to anyone in the Synod at a cost of £70 per participant – Anne hopes that Synod will subsidise the day so it would only cost £35 per participant plus travel, although funds may be available to help those who cannot afford this.

Are you interested? And would a weekday or Saturday suit better? **If you are interested, please let Kate Yates have your response by 18th January.**

Leftovers?!



Across

3. Transport usually associated with ringing devices
7. Nuts
9. North Mediterranean country
10. Usually in a set of 52
11. European capital city
12. Found in a cushion

Down

1. Scared
2. Walk affectedly (5) Savoury contained in pastry (3)
4. Offal
5. Waste material
6. Spruce
8. What a seed does when germinating

[Answers next month!]

The next talk arranged by Wycombe Wildlife Group in on Monday 16 January, when David Barber MVO, the Queen's Swan Marker, has agreed to give us a talk on Swan Upping, the colourful traditional event which takes place along the Thames during July each year, during which the Queen's Swan Marker ensures that cygnets born to adult swans marked to indicate they belong to the Queen are identified and marked. Because of the demands for such talks, the speaker likes to have a large audience and, for this reason, we were pleased when The High Wycombe Society agreed to join us for a joint meeting of our two organisations.



As the subject of the talk is likely to appeal to most people, I wondered if some Trinity Church members might also be interested in coming to this talk. All our meetings are open to all, so they would be welcome to attend this or indeed any of our talks. We do charge a small admission fee to contribute towards our expenses, but this does include refreshments.

Our meetings start at 7.45pm, but we are advising those planning to come to the meeting on 16 January to arrive by 7.30pm to give people an opportunity to look at some swan-related displays and be seated in time for a prompt start.

The Future of Churches Together in Buckinghamshire

In the last edition of *Contact* the President's decision to close CTiBucks was reported. Since then the Presidents have met again and decided not to completely close the organisation but to '**mothball**' it. This is so that they can have time to consider the nature of ecumenical work and relationships in the county and how the organisation might be changed to better respond to new ways of doing ecumenical work.

It is impossible for CTiBucks to continue in its present form because of the lack of a Chairperson, Treasurer, and a number of vacancies for denominational ecumenical officers. Therefore the County Ecumenical Development Officer, Revd Barrie Cheetham, is being made redundant from the end of December and will no longer be available as a contact for CTiBucks, or for help or support to local Churches Together Groups and Local Ecumenical Partnerships. Questions regarding ecumenical structures, constitutions, building sharing, relationships, etc. should be dealt with by the denominations involved.

Chiltern Local Area Group

The Chiltern Local Area Group was recognised at the September Synod Meeting.

St Andrew's URC Gerrards Cross have appointed Hilary McClintock as their Local Leader from 2nd October and she will be full-time at the church.

Some of you may know Hilary as she was previously the Captain of the Salvation Army in High Wycombe. We are pleased to welcome Hilary into the group and as part of the Ministers Meeting. There will be a service to welcome her and celebrate her appointment in January 2017.

The secretary at URC Burnham has requested that Janet Coleman is authorised to lead communion as well as her husband Dr Neil Coleman for a year.

Revd Terry Hinks and I have agreed by officer action to forward Hilary and Janet's names to the Synod Pastoral Committee for authorisation to lead communion to be agreed by the Synod. Hilary, Janet and Neil all attended the Synod Communion training in October.

Also at the September Synod, Revd Jean Wilkinson was welcomed. Jean is a retired minister who has become a member at Gerrards Cross. We welcome Jean into this Area group, she is not on email.

All best wishes

Revd Bridget Powell Chiltern Local Area Group Secretary

Advice for older folk!

Be nice to your kids. They will choose your nursing home one day.

If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache - do what it says on the aspirin bottle: "Take two aspirin and keep away from children"!!

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

Phone Scams

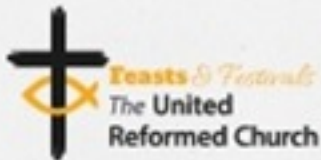
There are numerous phone scams around at the moment, many looking as if they come from a UK landline number (0233 6852104). However, they do not.

I’ve been rung from this number from someone purporting to be from BT saying that my wireless router had problems and I needed to give them the password, and now I’ve had one from “CPS” offering to block all nuisance calls for a one-off fee.

It’s a definite scam – unlike the official free TPS (Telephone Preference Service) website where you can sign up your phone number to avoid having **UK** marketing calls. However, TPS cannot not stop overseas companies or fraudsters from calling you. But there is no Government CPS (Caller Preference Service).

If your phone allows it, block the number 0233 6852014. And let others know.

Kate



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



Christian Aid's programme in Zimbabwe has faced a number of challenges over the last year or so. The political, economic and environmental situation has created an extremely difficult set of circumstances for our partners to carry out their work. That said, through sensitively building constructive relationships at the local government and authority level, Christian Aid has been able to continue implementing its programmes largely unimpeded over the reporting period.

Political outlook

Although not officially a failed state, Zimbabwe remains a country that is once again on the verge of total collapse. With extensive curbs in place on criticism or any attempts at political opposition, restrictions are in place to ensure no attempts are made to weaken the government's tight grip on power.

Simultaneously, the civil society space has seen renewed demonstrations of resistance and protest, with previously silenced voices, including the church, now gaining the courage and momentum to speak out. As such, a new wave of violent confrontation is anticipated over the forthcoming year. Beatings and the indiscriminate use of tear gas and water cannons have already been used over the last couple of months, and in late August this year the police introduced a total ban on demonstrations, something that represents a direct violation of Zimbabwe's constitution.

Economic outlook

The economic outlook in Zimbabwe is currently gloomy, with prospects for recovery and stability currently looking bleak. The supply and availability of cash is progressively worsening, with people having to queue outside banks overnight in order to access their meagre salaries. When they do secure some cash, they are only allowed a maximum of \$50 per day, making life and business activities extremely challenging.

The government's proposed response to this is to introduce 'bond notes' in November, but many Zimbabweans predict these to become a new 'surrogate currency', something which will further erode the diminishing confidence people have in the current government. It is anticipated that this move to introduce bonds will fan the flames of protest, and increase the likelihood of violent confrontations.

In relation to Christian Aid's work on the ground, this cash crisis is having a direct effect on partners engaged in cash based interventions such as cash and voucher distributions. This is a key tool used in humanitarian responses, with the purpose of both meeting immediate human needs and boosting the local economy. The cash shortage means that the food insecure target households, identified by Christian Aid as part of its emergency response to drought in Zimbabwe, are now finding it difficult to access cash in order to buy food.

Wycombe Homeless Connection - What's new at WHC

The homeless picture in Wycombe is constantly changing. We believe that welfare reforms are causing hardship. For instance, the 'Bedroom tax' sees tenants of working age getting less housing benefit if they have a 'spare' room. Likewise, the Benefits Cap Reduction was introduced earlier in November, and it's very likely to push some people into housing crisis.

Sadly, in the last three months more families have come to see us than ever before; 15% of adults we've helped have had dependent children. Families only qualify for council help once they're homeless, so we step in earlier to avoid unfair evictions happening at all. We have always helped those we resettled to stay housed. **But now we are helping people who are threatened with homelessness for the first time.** We help guests by negotiating with their landlords, accompanying them to court, helping them to resume their benefits and secure discretionary housing payments.

WHC's Move On programme helps people reintegrate into society after homelessness. It includes *Inspire* (group sessions aimed at learning essential life skills); tenancy support; and working closely with individuals who have been homeless for some time. We're already starting to see positive outcomes: 100% of people who entered the programme last year maintained their tenancy a year later.

The recent official count recorded 13 rough sleepers locally – more than previously, but still probably an underestimate. **One of our aims is to reduce the harm of rough sleeping.** Since April, *PlugIn at the Hub* has been offering rough sleepers a meal, a welcome and a vital chance to shower and wash their clothes.

Preparations for the night shelter are well underway and we're currently recruiting for volunteers. If you'd like to donate your time, please go to www.wyhoc.org.uk/volunteer.

On Friday 18th November, the Mayor and Deputy Lady Mayoress joined over 100 brave souls in Wycombe and Marlow who swapped their bed for a sleeping bag to fight homelessness in their sleep. We've yet to determine the final amount raised from **WHC's Big Sleepout**, but sponsorship for the Wycombe event was very well deserved thanks to all-night music playing relentlessly from a neighbouring pub! We want to thank the WHC volunteers who marshalled the event in 3-hour shifts; especially those who did multiple shifts!

Prayers for January

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, be our companion and guide, we pray, as we start on our journey through the New Year. Grant that we follow the signs you send for us as the wise men followed the star. Keep us from turning aside because of human mistakes and false expectations as they did when they looked for the new king in Herod's palace. Guide us back when we stray so that we, like them, come to worship and offer our gifts to our Saviour. Like them may we trust you when you tell us to go a different way, knowing that you will always hold us in your loving care.

Amen.

As we tread the fallen leaves of last year and look at the bare branches, Lord of Life and Renewal, grant that we also see the new green shoots springing up and the buds waiting to burst telling us that life does not end in the winter but prepares itself for spring. Thank you that in our darkest moments we can turn to you, our Father, to your Son, Jesus, our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit our comforter and strength.

Amen

Lord in this troubled world where there is disruption and suffering everywhere, even in nature itself, we pray that through the faith and work of your church and of men and women of goodwill, peace and justice may finally wipe out the bloodshed, and love and comradeship replace the hate and ignorance which separates nation from nation and person from person. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Who's who

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