



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



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

JUNE 2017

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The next edition of Trinity Times will be published on 25th June All contributions should be submitted by Sunday 18th June.



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

Pastoral letter

Dear Friends

Many years ago, around the early 1990s I wrote an article for the church magazine recalling my early life at Trinity as a child and then a teenager, and I came across a copy of it a couple of months ago. Life at Trinity was very different then in lots of ways. but, then, as now, my worship and social life centred around Trinity.

We had a large youth club with a wide age range, we had a cricket team where I learnt how to score for matches, and a football team and we entered in the sports days at Loakes Park. We studied for scripture exams including learning one passage by heart and we took part in music and drama festivals. The Sanctuary looked very different with pews going right to the back, so, if you wanted to get from one side to the other you had to come right to the front. The choir sat up in the gallery, in front of the organ.

Now the pews are gone and we have a wonderful open space that can be adapted to many different needs. We sit on comfortable chairs and the choir is down amongst the congregation —though the poor organist is still a bit lonely. Instead of scripture exams I now enjoy joining in bible study and other similar discussion groups. We still have Brownies & Guides as we did when I was young but we also now have Rainbows which is great. We are now involved with Night Shelter and we have Saturday Café and Thursday Mental Health Café using our building.

We have come quite a long way but there is a lot still to do. With our large building there is always something that needs attention or sorting out. It makes a lot of work for the those involved. We are now discussing updating the 'Lower Schoolroom' to make it more fit for purpose. The room is used a lot and does look in need of some TLC. But if we all join together and talk through what would be the best solution for everyone that uses the space, and with a 'new name' it will be another goal achieved.

All these changes, but one thing remains constant – God's Love.

I have a poem about 'The Perfect Church' which is too long to quote here, but one of the verses states – But since no perfect church exists, made of perfect men, let's cease on looking for that church and love the church we're in.

So to end, the first few lines of the Daily Prayer for Trinity. We thank you, God, for Trinity – both the people and the building. Help us to be warm and welcoming, flexible and friendly, both as a people and as a building. Amen

Margaret

News of the Church Family

Not included in this version

This month we would like to wish
A Happy Birthday to

Tony H (7th)
John H (7th) 80 this year
John S (8th)
Ellen M (12th)
Tim S (14th)

and Best Wishes to

Ellen & George M (3rd)
on celebrating their
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
with love from all at Trinity

Worship at Trinity

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

- 4 June Pentecost worship with communion led by Gwen Collins
11 June Morning worship led by the Revd Dr Michael Jagessar
18 June Messy Church All-age service led by Junior Church
25 June Morning worship led by David Tester of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

No afternoon communion

Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome

Don't get smart!!

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

"Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went..?"

What's on this month . . .

Sat 3rd	Saturday Cafe	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Sun 4th	Bring and share church picnic on the Rye (Crendon Hall if wet)	12:30 pm – 2.30 pm
Wed 7th	Trinity prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
	Trinity Elders meeting	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Sun 11th	Traidcraft stall after the service	
Sat 17th	Saturday Cafe	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Wed 21st	Trinity Prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
Sat 24th	Re-imagining Church Synod event at Welwyn Garden City URC	10:00 am - 3:00 pm

. . . and later

Sun 23rd July	bring and share lunch at 12.30 pm at Cores End after their morning worship
Mon 14th Aug	Coffee morning at Cores End with Andrew Potter talking about the
Sun 3rd Sept	Afternoon Walk starting and ending at Cores End Church, followed by
Tues 12th Sept	Celebrating Women's Ministry service (7.30 pm)
Sun 17th Sept	Shared Harvest lunch after the service
Sun 24th Sep:	Afternoon communion at 4 pm
Sat 14th Oct	Church and Society Network event at Palmers Green URC
Sat 28th Oct	Hot Potato Café
Sun 29th Oct	Community Celebration Service (am) and Service of Remembering and Thanksgiving (pm)

What's on . . . this month

Trinity Bookworms

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, June 7th at 2pm. We are meeting at the home of our member Celia. We shall be discussing "The Soldier's Return" by Melvyn Bragg

Coffee & Chat

No meeting this month

Tuesday Meeting

All meetings in LSR at 2.30pm, *except where otherwise stated*

- Tuesday June 6th Flowers
- Tuesday June 13th The disciples
- Tuesday June 20th Sayings, poems and Readings for Summer
- Tuesday June 27th Garden Tea at Wood View, Greenlands Lane, Prestwood, by invitation of Margaret Lewis, (at 2.30pm.)

We are on holiday in July and August and start again in September.

Regular events

Every **Sunday** where possible

- Prayer ministry after the service

Every **Tuesday**

- Movers and Shakers Chinese Style (light exercise, a talk or activity and lunch) 10 am – 1 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

Old Fashioned Games Evening

Trinity hosted its second annual old fashioned games evening on Saturday 29th of April. There was a good crowd of friends from Trinity, Cores End and elsewhere and a fun evening of bagatelle, shove halfpenny and other fiendish games devised by Margaret Lewis kept us well entertained! We then enjoyed a hot supper followed by the medals ceremony! We raised £245 for The Wycombe Refugee Partnership and look forward to welcoming everyone back for a repeat performance next year.

Broadband & Wireless

We have recently upgraded our networking hardware and our broadband service so that we now have full wireless coverage across the whole of Trinity and Crendon Hall providing stable and secure Internet access. This will not only make life easier for our own work but should make our rooms more attractive to potential hirers and users. Our thanks go to Simon & Tim for getting the new equipment installed and working so quickly. The Guest Wireless Access Code is Luke:24:6

Drip Tray on Coffee Machine

Please note when doing coffee rota, to make sure you empty the drip tray on the coffee machine as it is being left and gets most unpleasant. Thank you for your continued support.

Anne x



July Church Meeting

Please note that the July church meeting has been changed from Tuesday 16th July and **will now be on Tuesday 8th August at 8 pm.**

Focus on Prayer in June

Prayer Circle

The circle is committed to pray regularly for people in need. If you would like to join the group (or have prayer requests) contact Audrey Richardson.

Prayer Pattern for June

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

4 June Movers and Shakers Groups, Sat Cafe and Links

RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH (Pentecost)

THE NATION (Election on 8 June)

11 June Church of God and other churches meeting at Trinity

LOCAL MPs AND ALL IN GOVERNMENT

18 June Marian Drake (and Martin) and their pastoral group

HOSPITAL AND GP SURGERIES

25 June Kate Yates (and John Hillson) and their pastoral group

THE LOCAL POLICE

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

Thy Kingdom come

Join the global wave of prayer between 25 May and 4 June. More information on the website **www.thykingdomcome.global**

Prayer ministry area

With our regular prayer ministry taking place at the back of the sanctuary, the Elders thought it would be good to have a proper seating area there. We have moved the small round table from the vestry to create this, with three chairs, to see how this works out. We intend to leave the table and chairs out permanently but would welcome feedback.

The Elders

Political soapbox

You may be aware that there is a General Election in the offing!! Here are some words of wisdom from some famous names.

"Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other."

Oscar Amringer, the Mark Twain of American socialism

"A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country."

Texas Guinan, 19th century American businessman

"Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks."

Doug Larson, English gold-winning runner at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris

"Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river."

Nikita Krushchev, Russian Soviet politician

"When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become prime minister; I'm beginning to believe it."

From Clarence Darrow for the Defense by Irving Stone

"Politicians are people who, when they see a light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel."

John Quinton, American actor/writer

What is all this grass about? *A conversation with God and St Francis.*

God – Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistles and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no maintenance garden plan going. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. All I see are these green rectangles.

St Francis – It's the tribes that settled there Lord, the suburbanites. They started calling your flowers weeds and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

God – Grass? But that is so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds or bees, only grubs and worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

St Francis – Apparently so Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilising the grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

God – The spring rains and warm weather probably make the grass grow really fast, that must make the suburbanites happy.

St Francis – Apparently not Lord. As soon as it grows a little they cut it, sometimes twice a week.

God – They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

St Francis – No Sir, just the opposite they pay to throw it away.

God – Now let me get this straight. They fertilise grass so it will grow and when it does grow they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

St Francis – Yes Sir.

God – These suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St Francis – You aren't going to believe this Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast they drag out hosepipes and pay more money to water it so that they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

God – What nonsense. At least they keep some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius. Even if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn the leaves fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

St Francis – You had better sit down Lord. The suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have hauled away.

God – No! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

St Francis – After throwing away the leaves they go out and buy something that they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

God – where do they get this mulch?

St Francis – They cut down trees and grind them up to make mulch.

God – Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore.

Chiltern Local Area Group annual meeting – Saturday 6th May (Brief summary)

The annual meeting in the morning was well-attended and covered a lot of topics in a relatively short space of time.

In the afternoon there were two workshops – one by Lucy Berry on poetry and the use of “churchy” language and the barrier that can be to non-church people, and one by Alan Yates on his first year as Moderator of General Assembly. The day ended with worship during which Alan preached on discipleship.

1. Revd Dr Parry, minister of Deanway United Church, Chalfont St Giles, conducts his last service there on 6th August, and has a leaving party on 9th July. He has been called as minister of St Andrew’s URC West Kilburn (a Ghanaian congregation), and is also co-director of the London Interfaith Centre.
2. Deanway United Church is submitting an application to the Synod for funds to buy out the Methodist Church’s 20% share of their manse, in order to let it and provide income for the church.
3. The meeting agreed to the CRCW proposal from Trinity High Wycombe and Cores End going forward to the various Synod committees and CRCW sub-programme committee.
4. It is planned to put on some Health & Safety good practice training, to include First Aid training, for our churches.
5. A request was put forward to go to the Synod for some basic HR and data protection information for our churches, in the same way we have information days for treasurers, admin and property officers.
6. There is a safeguarding training course at Lumen URC (next to Church House) in central London on Saturday 10th June.
7. A Synod gathering is planned for later this year for lay people who have had training to conduct communion services or baptisms in their local churches
8. The “Re-imagine Church” day at Welwyn Garden City URC on Saturday 24th June is open to anyone, not just ministers, Elders, junior church leaders – aimed at whole life discipleship
9. The Church & Society Network Day at Palmers Green URC, London, on Saturday 14th October will have a main focus on mental health. Kate Yates and John Standfield are attending from Trinity, to talk about Saturday Café
10. The Training for Learning & Serving course (TLS) has been going well in our area, with three men participating.
11. Deployment – there are now 133 churches and 35 stipendiary ministers in Thames North Synod. The Moderator has suggested that lay people who have been trained to lead communion and baptism services might be appointed for 3-5 years in all our local churches.

LIGHTHOUSE HIGH WYCOMBE & CRESSEX – 2017 **CRAFT COLLECTING LIST**

- Small Paper Plates (not polystyrene) (**LOTS ARE REQUIRED**)
Toilet Rolls/ Kitchen Rolls/ Cling Film /Foil Film Tubes
(**LOTS AND LOTS REQUIRED**)
Packets of Rice
- Corrugated Cardboard / Boxes (please flattened for storage)
(**LOTS ARE REQUIRED**)
Plastic Milk Bottle Tops (**LOTS AND LOTS REQUIRED**)
Wool – Yellow and Black only required
Old Newspapers Brown Envelopes
Clear Drinks Bottles (at least 1 litre)
Old CDs / DVDs
Pony Beads Feathers (any colour)
Plastic Spoons String
Orange and Yellow Paper
Jam Jar Lids and Plastic Trays

***MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, AS THIS GOES
TOWARDS THE BASIC EQUIPMENT WE NEED IF YOU ARE UNABLE
TO HELP WITH THE COLLECTING ABOVE.***

COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

Please put in the Collection box by 17th June; please note that after this date we may still need certain items to be collected – we can then see what we need urgently

OR contact:

Yvonne Trigg, Lighthouse High Wycombe
Yvonne Trigg (01494 474519)
yvonne_trigg@hotmail.com

THANK YOU!

Windermere Centre, closure decision is taken

Following long and difficult deliberations, and acknowledging a profound debt of gratitude for its unique, 30-year contribution to the life of the United Reformed Church, Mission Council reached a decision to close the Windermere Centre

The full text of the resolutions passed by Mission Council on 13 and 14 May read as follows:

- 1. Mission Council expresses its gratitude to God and to all who have worked at the Windermere Centre for the contribution of the Centre over thirty years to the life, learning and fellowship of the United Reformed Church and for its continuing legacy. It instructs the Education and Learning Committee to make appropriate arrangements for an act of thanksgiving and celebration for the life of the Centre.*
- 2. Mission Council resolves to close the Windermere Centre with effect from 25th May 2017.*
- 3. Mission Council directs the Education and Learning Committee to ensure that the staff of the Windermere Centre are offered practical and pastoral support at this time of change and loss.*
- 4. Mission Council sets a budget for the Windermere Centre's support from denominational funds for 2017 of £100k.*
- 5. Mission Council supports in principle the sale of the Windermere Centre premises.*
- 6. Mission Council supports in principle the use of the proceeds of any disposal for lay development, and*
 - a) believes that there is an increasingly apparent and urgent need for a viable, costed strategy for lay training and congregational development across the URC, and calls for the development of such a strategy;*
 - b) agrees that this strategy needs to take account of existing lay training and development resources and opportunities available within and beyond the URC and needs to be sensitive to the varied geography and the uneven distribution of financial and human resources across the Synods;*
 - c) asks the Education and Learning Committee to facilitate the development of this strategy, with the active involvement of relevant people from the Synods and the URC Resource Centres for Learning;*
 - d) recognises that such training and development needs to be delivered in a variety of ways which are likely to include on-line, face to face and residential components; it must be easily accessible to all in the URC.*

e) therefore instructs the Education and Learning Committee to bring to Mission Council in March 2018 proposals for these proceeds to be used as a designated Lay Development Fund which will enable an outworking of the developed strategy.

During the lead-up to the vote, members of Mission Council repeatedly affirmed the value and lasting benefits to the Church of the work of the Windermere Centre. At the same time, they acknowledged the Centre's struggle to secure sufficient users to provide long-term financial and practical viability as a resource intended for the whole Church throughout the three nations.

The meeting considered thoroughly two alternative visions for resolving the future of the Centre, as set out by Papers D1 and Y1, before agreeing to use Paper D1 as the basis for reaching a decision. The proposals detailed in Paper Y1, which was brought by representatives of the Mersey and North Western Synods, advocated continuing financial support for the Centre during a further two-year period of review. Though Paper Y1 was not adopted, much of the text for Resolution 6 is taken from the Y1 draft resolution.

Resolution 2, which deals with the closure of the centre, was passed recognising disagreement. The staff of the centre had given a clear indication that if the centre were to close, they would prefer it to be as soon as possible, as this would be of most benefit to their chances of seeking alternative employment.

A facilitation group then developed wording for a revised set of accompanying resolutions. These were further amended by proposals from the floor during the final session of Mission Council and then passed recognising disagreement.

Some concerns were raised that Mission Council resolutions should not be allowed to become over-prescriptive of the work of the Education and Learning Committee. However, there was unanimous commitment to the idea that the rich legacy of the Windermere Centre must be realised through the development of lay ministry in the URC.

Concern was expressed for Carver Uniting Church, which shares the Windermere site with the Centre, and whose life was sure to be affected by the decision. The site would now need to be more formally divided, but Treasurer John Ellis assured Mission Council that the URC Trust would certainly wish to bear all the costs of this and others that arose in closing or disposing of the Centre, so that none of these fell on Carver.

Mission Council closed with prayers for the staff of the Windermere Centre and those tasked with supporting them through this difficult time.



ZIMBABWE - Christian Aid regional co-ordinator for the Isle of Man, Louise Whitelegg, travelled across Zimbabwe in December on a self-funded trip to see for herself several of the projects funded by the charity and the Manx government's

International Development Committee. Here she tells a little of the story of the Tonga people.

Traditionally the Tonga people were settled along the banks of the Kariba River surviving on the fertile soil as subsistence farmers. In 1958, the river was dammed so, consequently, the Tonga people lost their traditional homes and were forced to migrate. Many left the area but others were forced to move north, further inland. Families were given plots of land, an acre for a homestead and a couple of acres for their farms. Their homes consist of small round mud huts with thatched roofs. The area is extremely arid. It currently takes 40 minutes of pumping the well to raise water, and after two years of drought all the river beds are dry. Levels of poverty are grave.

Infrastructure is virtually non-existent and standards of education are far below an acceptable level. With a population of an estimated 200,000 people there are 80 primary school and 40 secondary schools. The whole area currently receives grain and seed from the World Food Programme and the Zimbabwe government's food aid programme. In Binga, as the families have been allocated their land, there are no villages as such. So families face 5-40km journeys on foot to the nearest shop/school/clinic.

Binga has an estimated 6,400 children and young people with multiple disabilities including cerebal palsy and speech and language impairments. They are usually unable to manage their daily lives independently and have no exposure to formal learning, lack relevant health education and encounter stigma and lack of understanding.

Getting general medical assistance is difficult too in an area with such high poverty. Bhekimpilo, an 11-year-old child broke his leg playing football, which is such a normal thing for a child his age to do. But as there was no way to get him any medical attention he developed sepsis. Although the leg eventually healed naturally, it left him with severe trouble walking.

Christian Aid's partner has been working with children with disabilities for the last two years on a Comic Relief-funded project. Children, with disabilities, were often hidden from view as many believed that witchcraft and curses were the cause of the child's ailment. Working with the Christian Aid partner has broken down many of these stigmas and encouraged integration. Louise had many interesting conversations with the parents and asked what their hopes were for the future.

"It is not only one of the most impoverished places I have ever seen but also the most socially isolated. But I did not see apathy or despair. I saw grit and determination in the most desperate of circumstances."

Used with permission

Summary of Chiltern Local Area Group annual meeting –

Saturday 6th May

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RU



On-line security is a new thing we all have to keep in mind.

Did you know - every time you send an e-mail to someone, your address, and any other addresses in the “To” or “Cc” fields will be passed on to ALL recipients. If you are sending to more than one person, you can avoid this by using the “Bcc” option. This will ensure that details of addresses will not be passed on “willy-nilly”. I received an e-mail a few years ago which had over 300 other addresses contained within it. If any one of these other people had a weakness in their anti-virus protection, there is a risk of all 300 addresses getting into the hands of some unscrupulous hacker.

The recent cyber attack which hit computers all over the world just shows us how easy it is for computers to be “got at”. You will have read the suggestion on the previous page that Synod should consider providing basic Data Protection information. Let us get ahead of the game and keep our personal systems safe. Before you hit the send button - stop - think - have I got it right - then “fire”!

Hopefully by following this practice, you will not one day become a victim.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ogden'.

Prayers for June

We thank you, Lord, for summertime. We look forward to spending time out of doors in the warmth and sun, enjoying the green grass, the shade of the trees, the colours and scents of the flowers, the buzz of insects, the beauty of butterflies and the song of birds. Help us not to be cross when it rains but to pray that rain and sun may be in perfect balance for the growing and ripening of crops to be harvested for us to eat. Bless all farmers and gardeners as they go about their work tending plants and livestock.

Amen

We pray for our country in these uncertain times, Lord. May the new government elected this month be stable, forward-looking and concerned for the good of all citizens. In the Brexit negotiations we pray that all those involved on both sides will act with wisdom and integrity as they start on the long road to its completion.

Amen

Holy Spirit descend on the church today as you did on its birthday at Pentecost and with your mighty wind and cleansing flame inspire its many differing world-wide branches to a closer bond with each other so that they may proclaim the good news of Jesus with one voice.


Amen

All praise and glory to the Three-in-One, the Trinity of
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Who's who

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Church contact number
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