



Summer suns are glowing . . . (hopefully!)

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



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

AUGUST 2017

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The next edition of Trinity Times will be published on 27th August. All contributions should be submitted by Sunday 20th August.



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

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

It was a great privilege towards the end of my sabbatical to spend some time at Hilfield Friary in Dorset with members of the community there. The community is made up of Franciscan brothers, but also of men and women, young and older, single and married, who are sharing in life together. Some are there long term, while others come for a few months to experience life in Christian community.

I went there in particular because of the community's emphasis on living in harmony with the environment, inspired by St Francis' creation theology. This is something for which Hilfield has gained a gold eco church award (one of just three church communities awarded gold so far). A bio fuel boiler to heat all the houses, solar panels, a shared electric car for the community, lots of recycling, growing fruit and vegetables, caring for the meadows and their livestock, teaching and work with schools are just some examples of their environmental work.

However there was much more to learn from the community and I took home lessons that can relate to all of us in our daily lives:

- the centrality of worship and prayer to each day, giving a rhythm to all they did.
- the emphasis on hospitality and care for their guests, visitors and community members from all sorts of backgrounds.
- the Franciscan way of simplicity: 'less is more'.
- the delight in God's world – not only in the beauty of the gardens and surrounding countryside but all God's good gifts.
- the desire to listen and live out the gospel of Christ in practical action day by day.

I came home refreshed, challenged, encouraged and inspired. The community's welcome message concluded with these words: 'You did not come here to escape daily life, but to reconfirm your faith in God and your commitment to work for the good of the people with whom you live. May the Lord give you peace.'

May we all find that renewal of faith and love over these summer months and that peace which only God can give.



News of the Church Family

Not included in this version



Happy Birthday

This month we would like to wish
a Happy Birthday to

Abigail L (4th)

Ian B (17th)

Aurelia A (11th)

Kate Y (22nd)

Olive S (28th)

Congratulations



and best wishes to

Marian & Martin D (4th)

Andrew & YanW (12th)

on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary
with love from us all at Trinity

Worship at Trinity

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

6th August Morning worship with communion led by Revd Terry Hinks

13th August Morning worship led by Revd Peter Willetts

20th August All age worship led by Revd Terry Hinks

27th August Morning worship "favourite songs"
led by Margaret Lewis

***Please talk to Margaret about your favourite hymns/songs
Morning worship is followed by refreshments to which all are
welcome.***

Prayer Pattern for August

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

- 6 Aug Movers and Shakers Groups, Sat Cafe and Links
ALL HOLIDAY CLUBS
- 13 Aug Church of God and other churches meeting at Trinity
THOSE PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE
- 20 Aug Marian Drake (and Martin) and their pastoral group
NEW PARENTS
- 27 Aug Kate Yates (and John Hillson) and their pastoral group
SOCIAL SERVICES AND FAMILIES IN CRISIS
-

For our service on Sunday morning August 27th we would like to include hymns chosen by **you** and also any favourite readings. If you could let me know your thoughts as soon as possible we can plan the service based around your selections.

Thank you in anticipation.

Margaret

Regular events during August

Every Sunday where possible – prayer ministry after the service
Movers & Shakers Chinese Style group Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm
Pilates well-being class only on Thursday 3rd and 24th August from
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm

Many other groups are taking a summer break

To find out more about any activities held at Trinity, please talk to the minister or church secretary.

What's on this month

Wed 2 nd	Trinity prayers	9:30 am – 10:00 am
Wed 2 nd	Trinity Elders meeting	8:00 pm – 9:30 pm
Sat 5 th	Saturday Cafe	11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Tues 8 th	Church meeting	8:00 pm – 9:15 pm
Wed 9 th	Worship planning meeting	8:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Sun 13 th	Traidcraft stall after the service	
Mon 14 th	Coffee morning at Cores End URC in aid of Bethesda Hospital, Benin	10:30 am – noon
Wed 16 th	Trinity Prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am

Forthcoming events

Sun 3rd September: Afternoon Walk start/end at Cores End URC, then tea and worship

Tues 12th Sept: Celebrating Women's Ministry service (7.30 pm)

Sun 17th Sept: Shared Harvest lunch after the service

Sun 24th Sept: 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)

Sun 29th Oct: Service of Remembering and Thanksgiving (pm)

What's on this month

Trinity Bookworms

The meeting will be the home of Marian M on Wednesday 2nd August at 2pm when we will be discussing 'Twenty Chickens for a Saddle' by Robyn Scott.

Coffee & Chat

No meeting this month

Life in a Refugee camp

As "Uncle" Harry B explained last month, his niece Lizzie is working in Lesvos for three months helping with the refugee situation. The following is an edited version of her last three e-mails. It is hoped readers will forgive the length of the precis, (pages 11 - 13) but we are lucky to have a first-hand account of how things really are, and her three months must be getting near the end - so make the most of it whilst we can!

Aside is a picture of Lizzie having a few minutes of relaxation!



Cores End Church

Trinity High Wycombe and Cores End Churches

COFFEE MORNING



at Cores End United Reformed Church
Hawks Hill Bourne End SL8 5HZ

on

Monday 14 August 2017
10.30 am – 12 noon

in aid of
the Bethesda Hospital, Benin



Andrew Potter, the eye surgeon at the hospital, will be there to give an update on the hospital's work.

For more information contact Terry or Elizabeth Hinks
01628 525076

Trinity Church
London Road
High Wycombe
HP11 1BJ



Cores End Church
Hawks Hill Bourne
End
SL8 5HZ

www.trinity-urc.org.uk

www.coresendurc.com

CHURCH WALK



Church Walk to Cookham
from Cores End Church

on Sunday 3 September 2017

3.00 pm Walk begins at Cores End Church

4.30 pm Arrival back at church Refreshments: tea and
cakes

(all welcome, even if you haven't walked!)

5.00 pm Short Songs of Praise Service

Our church walk this year is a circuit beginning at Cores End and crossing the fields to Cookham, then along beside the Thames and back through Bourne End village. The walk is about 3 ¹/₂ miles. Those unable to walk are still very welcome to come to the tea at Cores End at 4.30 pm and share in the short act of worship at 5.00 pm. Do invite friends and family to join us.

There will be lists in both churches to sign up on (with various options). More details from the minister, Revd Terry Hinks (01628 525076) or church secretaries Helen Rathbone (01628 532647) and Kate Yates (07818



Bringing the Bible to life in the digital realm

This Scripture Union game, available free for smartphones and tablets, has faith and Bible engagement at its heart. Users become characters (guardians) who enter a fictional city to explore and recover lost Bible stories. They run, climb and leap through quests, answering quizzes, watching videos and playing mini-games. *Guardians of Ancora* has been developed with support from Bible Society in the States and was launched in 2015. Since then it's been downloaded more than 110,000 times and has been played nearly a million times.

The game has been created by world-class game designers as well as highly experienced Christian writers, theologians and practitioners.

Guardians of Ancora is suitable from age 5 upwards. New material is being added each week.



Where on earth have Alan and Kate been recently?

Alan has been missing from Trinity on a Sunday quite a bit over recent months. His role as Moderator of General Assembly has involved numerous committee meetings during the week and weekend, but also leading services around the country.

It has been a privilege for Kate to accompany him and to lead prayers in services when appropriate, but it has meant that she has been missing from Trinity a lot more than usual as well!

Over the spring and summer months, together we have been to:

The URC Big Day Out at Warwick Castle; Woodford Green URC; Woking URC; The Peedie Kirk, Kirkwall, Orkney; Newport Pagnell URC; and Hinkley URC.

Alan also attended the three days of the Presbyterian Church of Wales General Assembly at the beginning of July and is attending the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana Assembly at the end of August.

If you want to know more about Alan's visits and have access to the internet, then do visit the Moderators' Blog

(<http://assemblymoderators.urc.org.uk/olderpost/moderators-blog/>) which Alan and the Revd Kevin Watson write to keep folk informed of what they are doing.

Life in a Refugee camp

I'm 2.5 weeks in and I know I'm exactly where I'm meant to be. Every day my love for these people grows as I believe God is increasingly showing me how he feels for them (resulting in regular tears, but that's ok!).

The crazy influx of new arrival refugees has not slowed down. Every day new bus loads of men, women, children and even tiny babies arrive I can't imagine what they've been through to get here. Some are still wet from the boats, lots have absolutely nothing. I've been very involved in clothing this week, but we just don't have enough. Today I took an inventory of the new arrival children to sort clothes out for them. The trouble is we're completely unprepared for children (it having been a male-only camp until a few weeks ago). Not only do we not have enough but the clothes we do have are winter ones and it's 30+ degrees every day.

Every part of camp is unprepared/under-resourced! Eurorelief (who I'm with) also sort out the housing. The trouble is before someone can be housed they need to be registered and see a doctor. There is only one doctor in the whole camp who does this. I have no idea why or how this is possible, but of course this results in people being stuck for days outside or in the massive new arrivals tent, locked into the area until they're processed and we can house them.

It all sounds pretty depressing there is still so much goodness and kindness. I'm at the point now where I'm getting to know people around camp and, even if we don't speak the same language, we can still have fun.

Personal challenge of the week has been working out how best to be helpful.... I was asked to take on a responsibility which they really need, I did and have found it fairly soul destroying and very not 'me'. So how do we serve – do we serve how we want to, using our skills and doing what we enjoy even if there's a greater different need? Or do we do what is really needed even if it doesn't make the most of our skills and isn't enjoyable? In this situation happily we've found a compromise, but it's been one to ponder.

It's not all work - I'm following a strict ice-cream-a-day policy and making the most of living on a beautiful island. If anyone is in need of holiday

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destination ideas, come here, it's stunning! Tourism was their main income but has taken a huuge hit since the refugee crisis. So as I buy my daily ice-cream I tell myself I am boosting the Greek economy...

Somehow I've been here a month! Thanks so much for all your support, I feel very loved.

This place is constantly changing. When I first arrived the camp was almost all men, now there are many women with children running all over the place. It's lovely for us but it's really not a good place for them, please pray that the other camp in Lesvos which is far better equipped for families would agree to house more of them.

Another thing that seems to change all the time is who does what. There are many organisations in the camp fulfilling different needs. Sadly a couple of big organisations have lost their funding and have pulled out, one of them was in-charge of new arrival clothing, bedding, hygiene etc. They literally upped and left at the beginning of the week with no hand over of what to do and how to do it. Eurorelief have taken it over and the last few days have been interesting because no-one knows what to do! Previously I'd been doing some new arrivals clothing so me and another lady have sort of fallen into the task of working out how we're going to manage it all.

There were over 200 new arrivals over Monday and Tuesday so we had to develop an on the job system for distributions. It's been very trial and error, lots of error! I've really enjoyed the challenge though. Please pray for wisdom so that we can get a system that really works and is efficient but also loving - one thing that I find hard with working with the new arrivals is that we have so much to do in a short space of time for lots of people. They all need to be processed and registered and soon it can all seem quite de-humanising. The new arrival refugees must be so exhausted and probably traumatised, and then to arrive at camp and be seen more as a number than a person must be horrible!

One of the most wonderful things about being here is getting to know some of the refugees, particularly those who translate for us as we spend quite a lot of time with them. The one who I mentioned last week – the cockney speaking Afghani- was approved asylum a few days ago. It was such a joyful day for him and I feel privileged to have been there after he'd been waiting for over year. This comes in stark contrast with another of the translators who had his second appeal for asylum rejected.

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He was arrested on the spot and spent days in the town prison. There has been sooo much prayer for him and we recently had news that he won't actually be deported which really is a miracle. The system is so ridiculous and everything takes so long that he's still in the camp prison and it could be weeks until he's released. Please pray for him as I hear he's pretty depressed, unsurprisingly. It's so awful seeing how many refugees are treated as criminals just for fleeing from their homes.

There are some nationalities who are imprisoned upon arrival on the island. A few of these were recently released to camp and now regularly self-harm, sometimes having to be hospitalised. Self-harming and overdoses are very very common. Again it's hardly surprising considering the trauma they've been through, lack of hope and no proper support. Please pray that a mental health support system would be set up and that God's love and hope would break into the many dark places in camp.

Out of camp it's constantly changing too. I live in an apartment with 4-5 other girls. They're all great but I'm the only one left from when I first arrived! Lots of people only stay for 2-3 weeks so there's a constant turnover. I am finding it quite difficult as it seems that just as soon as I start to get to know someone, they then leave and someone takes their place, making it hard to feel properly settled. Last week was challenging partly because of this but also temperatures soared to (apparently) 44 degrees, sleep didn't come easy and I just felt exhausted by everything. I'm feeling much better now but please pray for strength and energy and good sleep.

I said in the last email that I was going to set up a mydonate page or similar particularly for clothing items and essentials which we desperately need, like undies. Instead I think the best way to donate would be through the Eurorelief website - <http://eurorelief.net/donate/>. If you do donate please be specific about what you want it to go towards and follow the instructions for emailing the details to Eurorelief finance. I've heard that otherwise donations get absorbed into Hellenic Ministries which is the wider organisation. Please please do give, we're so in need of almost everything apart from winter clothes....

If you or anyone else you know would be interested in coming here to volunteer for 2+ weeks please let me know. Particularly from mid-August onwards they are so in need of volunteers.

Much love to you all - *Lizzie*



Celebrating Women's Ministry in the Congregational Church & United Reformed Church

**On the 100th Anniversary of the Ordination
of Constance Coltman**



**All welcome to an inspiring time of worship and
reflection including a short drama film 'Constance'**

Speaker: Rev. Jean Wilkinson – 60 years a minister

Tuesday 12th September 2017

7.30pm

Followed by tea and cake

**Trinity United Reformed Church
London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ**

**RSVP to Bridget Powell 01494 784786
bridget.powell@cheshamurc.org.uk
Group Secretary to Chiltern Local Area Group,
Thames North Synod
by 31st August 2017**

Prayers for August


Creator God, Lord of Time and Space, infinite and ever present. Master of the thunder and lightning, hailstones, torrential rain, blazing sun and gale-force winds which rock the trees and buildings, I marvel at your mighty power. Still more I wonder at the fragility of butterfly wings, sweet scent of flowers and the drifting pollen which you have created. Your strength and gentleness are beyond my imagination and yet I know you are near me with your love even when I am unaware of it. Keep me faithful, Lord, so that my hope continues to be in you; help me to serve you with thanksgiving, ever resting in your love. *Amen*

Lord Jesus in your busy life you knew the need for rest and refreshment and the difficulty there can be in finding it as the needs of others pressed upon you so we pray that in the school holidays children and parents may be able to have times of relaxation and exploration together while balancing the claims of work and the routine of every day living.
Amen

Holy Spirit hovering over this world suffering from natural disasters of earthquake, flooding and drought and from man made disasters of hatred, persecution and war enter the hearts and minds of the leaders of nations, turn their thoughts to peace and reconciliation and hasten the time when understanding and tolerance replace prejudice and violence. Speak through the churches so that they in turn speak out of the love of God for all peoples around the globe.
Amen

Who's who

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Guiding Units (all sections) <i>guides@trinity-urc.org.uk</i>	01494 522965

Church contact number
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