



Trinity - a place to belong

Spirituality - Prayer – Community – Welcome

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

December 2017

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The next edition of Trinity Times will be published on 31st December..
All contributions should be submitted by Christmas Eve..



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

Christmas is coming.

Dear Friends,

Writing a December letter (in November) always makes Christmas feel imminent for me. Usually it just creeps up on me and takes me by surprise every year! Although the weather has turned cold, I haven't quite got into the Christmas mood yet. In fact, with Colin's funeral, Remembrance Sunday, much illness in the church and my own special remembrance day on the 6th of December, December will be in full swing before I can feel Christmassy! And with so many special people to remember I'm sure I'll not be alone. Despite the sombre build up to Christmas this year it is still a festival of great joy. It is joyous for at least two good reasons: it's a chance to catch up with friends and family *and* because we remember how love came down at Christmas, as we are ably reminded by Christina Rossetti's famous carol (Rejoice & Sing 614).

*Love came down at Christmas,
love all lovely, love divine;
love was born at Christmas,
star and angels gave the sign.*

So why do we say that love came down at Christmas? Let me make a couple of observations. Firstly, it is a loving occasion because Isaiah foretold the coming of a messiah who would bring peace and joy to humankind. And secondly, because we saw how Jesus defined an entirely different way of living for us. Before Jesus came on the scene, the only (almost impossible) way to live a holy life was to follow the thousands of rules and regulations developed by the Pharisees and Sadducees as they endlessly interpreted the 10 commandments. But Jesus, by his words and his deeds, transformed the route to holiness. In his deeds, he demonstrated his love for all: he touched the untouchables, he ate with the sinners, he befriended the outcasts; he loved the unlovable. In his words, he transcended the legion of laws with two commandments - to love God with all our heart, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Thus, in his short life he revolutionised the way to holiness; and in his painful death he opened the way to heaven for us all. True love in deed: Jesus is our **Way**. That is why we say love came down at Christmas.

Friends, however you approach Christmas this year, I pray that you will be deeply touched by the love of God and experience at first-hand what Christina Rossetti was referring to.

Blessings from your friend and servant,
Alan

News of the Church Family



Not included in this version

This month we would like to wish
A Happy Birthday to

Diane H(1st)

Audrey R (2nd)

Marian M (8th)

Barbara M (19th)

Edna W (21th)

Anne H (30th)

with love from all at Trinity

Worship at Trinity

Sunday Worship (times as below) (with activities for children):

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 3 Dec 10.30 am | Morning worship with communion Led by Revd Bridget Powell |
| 10 Dec 10.30 am | Junior Church Gift Service - putting the "Mess" back into Messiah. Led by Junior Church |
| 17 Dec 10.30 am | Morning worship. Led by Alan & Kate |
| 17 Dec 4 pm | Carols by Candlelight. Led by Pastor Dawn McDowall |
| 24 Dec 10.30 am | Christmas Praise Led by Marian and Martin |
| 24 Dec 11.30 pm | Christmas Eve midnight communion Led by Alan Y |
| 25 Dec <u>10 am</u> | Short Christmas Day service |
| 31 Dec 10.30 am | Morning Worship. Led by Alan Y |

Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome

Focus on Prayer

Midweek Prayers at 9.30 am on Wed 6 and 20 December in church
(half an hour of prayer together).

Prayer Ministry

Our Prayer Ministry is available after worship each Sunday morning. We need more people to share in this ministry of listening, supporting and praying. For more information please speak to Marian M or the minister.

Prayer Circle

This group will next meet on at 4 pm on 28 January 2018. 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 R.

What's on this month . . .

| | | |
|----------|---|---------------------|
| Sat 2nd | Saturday Cafe | 11:30 am - 1:30 pm |
| | Wedding | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm |
| Wed 6th | Trinity prayers | 9:30 am - 10:00 am |
| | Trinity Elders meeting | 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm |
| Sun 10th | Traidcraft | Noon - 12:30 pm |
| Mon 11th | Trinity's Night Shelter volunteer familiarisation session at Trinity | 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm |
| Wed 13th | Trinity's Night Shelter volunteer familiarisation session at Trinity | 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm |
| Sat 16th | Saturday Cafe | 11:30 am - 1:30 pm |
| Sun 17th | Carols by Candlelight, followed by refreshments | 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm |
| Wed 20th | Trinity Prayers | 9:30 am - 10:00 am |
| Sun 24th | Morning worship | 10:30:00 |
| | Midnight Communion (A short service to celebrate the birth of Christ) | 11:30 pm - 12:30 am |
| Mon 25th | Christmas Morning Family Worship | 10:00 am - 11:00 am |

. . . and next (January)

Night Shelter starts for us on Saturday 6th January – do please pray that everyone will run smoothly, that our volunteers will have good health, that our guests will find a safe refuge, and that God will work some miracles to enable our guests to find accommodation.

Tuesday 16th January Church meeting at 8 pm

What's on . . . this month

Trinity Bookworms

Trinity Bookworms will meet on Wednesday 6 December 2pm at the home of Barbara M to discuss 'The Mill on the Floss' by George Eliot. If you enjoy reading why not come and join us!

Coffee & Chat

Coffee & Chat will be enjoying a Christmas lunch at The Boot & Slipper, Amersham on Wednesday 13 December 12.30pm.

Tuesday Meeting

All meetings in LSR at 2.30pm.

Tuesday December 5th - Hymns and Readings for Advent

Tuesday December 12th - Carols, Christmas Readings and Mince Pies.

We invite friends to join us.

Happy Christmas everyone.

Regular December events

Every **Sunday** where possible – prayer ministry after the service

Movers & Shakers Chinese Style group every **Tues** from 10am to 1pm

The **Tuesday** Meeting every Tuesday from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Movers & Shakers Caribbean Style group every **Fri** from 10am to 1pm

NO PILATES WELL-BEING CLASS UNTIL 11 JANUARY

Trinity Guides every **Thursday**, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm until end of term

Trinity Rainbows every **Friday** 5:15-6:15 pm until end of term

Trinity Brownies every **Friday** 6:15-7:30 pm until end of term

Trinity Brownies every **Friday** 6:15-7:30 pm until end of term

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

THANK YOU

Andrew & I would like to say a huge thank you to you, our church family, for all the prayers, love and support that we have had over the last few weeks. We could not have managed without them. We have had so many cards with beautiful messages and I suppose, hadn't realised just how much Colin meant to others as well as to Andrew & me.

We are both so sorry that Terry is unwell and was not able to take the service after the meetings that we had. The Rev. Alan Kirkcaldy, a long time friend, very kindly stepped in and, with Angus playing the organ it was a beautiful service.

With so many people joining us at both the Crematorium and the Church it made us feel very proud and also very humble, and then again all the help with the refreshments after the service not to mention the mammoth clearing up session.

A special thank you to Kate, our Elder, for all her love, help & support.

Thank you all with our love and blessings.

Margaret & Andrew. XX

Thank you to all the very kind folk who offered to provide food for Carols by Candlelight on 17th December.

Just a list to remind you what you offered:-

12 mince pies from -

Ellen, Simon and Tina, Marian M, Norma, Kay and Glyn, Harry, Sue, Marian and Martin.

100 Sausage rolls - Anne

50 Sausage rolls - Elsje and Tony

Chocolate biscuits - Linda

Savoury bits not crisps - Margaret

Large bag of individual crisps - Olive

Cocktail sausages - Ellen and Anne

Tin of sweets - Julia and Tim

Muffins - Sarah and Simon

Pork pies (cut small) Joy and John

Thank you so much, and let me be the first to wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Anne x

Campaign win - a ray of light for victims of slavery in the UK

The UK Government has followed the recommendations made by Anti-Slavery's Victim Protection Campaign and announced new measures that will see decisions about whether somebody is a victim of slavery separated from the immigration system.

Our research has shown that people with irregular immigration status are four times less likely to be recognised as victims of slavery. We believe that no one should be treated differently because of their nationality, so we hope that the changes will go some way to address that.

Help unlock the future of children in slavery

Sophia is from Tanzania. She comes from a very poor family and at age 14, instead of attending school, she had to find work to support her parents and siblings. Sophia found a job doing domestic chores but her employers refused to pay her, as they had promised. They made her work long hours with no time to rest.

Anti-Slavery International

Thomas Clarkson House, The Stableyard, Broomgrove Road,
London SW9 9TL

Registered Charity 1049160

AMCHOR

Registered charity no 1057791

and

Friends of the Belarusian Children's Hospice (UK)

Registered charity no 1116116

Brief lives, precious memories



Family Christmas Concert



with Davenies School Choir

Carols and Christmas Choral Music

for audiences of all ages

Followed by tea, cakes and mince pies

Sunday 10th December, 3.30pm

Doors open 3pm

Amersham Free Church, Woodside Road, Amersham, HP6 6AJ

Tickets £10, under sixteens free

07702 608314 www.wegotickets.com/amchor or at the door



Prayers for December

In the darkness of the closing year we wait for your light, Lord, to shine again from over the manger in Bethlehem. Help us to remember that light in the rush of shopping, cooking, doing up presents, writing cards and all the busyness of home and work as we prepare to celebrate your birth. Lord of the Past we know you are with us now in the present. We look forward with hope to your coming again to establish your kingdom for you are the Lord of the Future as well. Ever present, ever loving Lord bless us we pray during this Advent season. *Amen.*

Yours was not a comfortable birth, Lord Jesus, in borrowed accommodation with makeshift furnishings. Your first visitors were not thrilled and loving relatives but humble, rough, unknown shepherds. Then those foreign wise men brought you strange gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh. What use were they to a baby? Yet they were expensive and valuable so may have been useful when with your parents your first experience of the world was as a refugee. It was a violent world you were born into so it is fitting that we should pray for your blessing on the outcasts, homeless, and refugees of our world and on all suffering from natural disasters, wars, persecution and terrorist attacks. Many travel long distances hoping to find a safe place to rest. Travel with them, Lord, and in your compassion grant them some peace. Amen.

Christ is born. God is with us. Let the rafters and roofs ring with praise and the bells sound with joy. Salvation has come to earth. **Gloria!**

Who's who

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Minister <i>minister@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 01628 525076 07599 294252 |
| Secretary <i>secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 07818 853069 |
| Lettings <i>lettings@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 01494 440965 |
| Treasurer <i>treasurer@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 01494 564635 |
| Magazine editor <i>editor@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 01494 444560 |
| Junior Church <i>juniors@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 01494 464152 |
| Tuesday Meeting <i>tuesday.meeting@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 01494 531943 |
| Bookworms <i>bookworms@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 01494 531943 |
| Coffee & Chat <i>coffeeandchat@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 01494 528041 |
| Choir <i>choir@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 01494 473140 |
| Prayer Circle <i>prayer.circle@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 01494 711967 |
| Prayer requests <i>minister@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 01628 525076 |
| Saturday Café <i>saturday.cafe@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 07985 382531 |
| Home Groups <i>home.groups@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 07985 382531 |
| Guiding Units (all sections) <i>guides@trinity-urc.org.uk</i> | 01494 522965 |

Church contact number
☎ 01494 520365 (answer phone)