



RINITY
Times



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



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

FEBRUARY 2018

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



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

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

How will you mark Wednesday 14 February this year?

With a romantic Valentine's meal on this saint's day that is associated with love? Or a prayer to remember St Valentine, a Christian martyr from the 3rd Century? Or by taking part in an Ash Wednesday service where ash is placed in the sign of a cross on the forehead to remember one's mortality and need of God (with those challenging words, 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.')

Or will you mark the 14th by beginning your first day of giving up something for Lent (or doing something new for Lent)?

Or perhaps none of the above?! Days that can mean a lot to some people can easily pass others by. Yet perhaps behind all the commercialism and sentimentality of Valentine's day there is something deeper to be marked and celebrated – that love without which we are nothing. as the apostle Paul so famously wrote 'If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.....and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.' So why not find an opportunity to show your love to someone on 14 February?

Equally none of us like to be reminded of our mortality and the custom of 'ashing' is not much followed in the United Reformed Church, but there is still a place for recognising that life is a precious gift to be used well and ultimately only God is eternal and can give eternal life.

And as for Lent, let's begin this season positively and joyfully. Do take part in the Lent meetings if you can (the four evening sessions linked to 'Walk the Way' beginning on Tuesday 20 March). Above all Lent leads on and prepares us for the great Christian celebration of Easter – the love of God made known in the death of Christ and the victory of God made known in his being raised to new life, there to lead us into new life too.

So don't forget 14 February – it could be the start of something special.



News of the Church Family

At the beginning of this New Year we wish everyone God's blessings, whatever stage of life you are at.

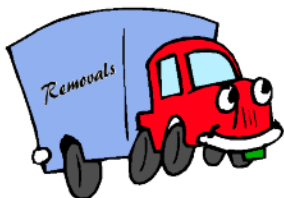


Prayers for our church family

We continue to pray for those in our church family who continue to suffer from ill-health, are having treatment, or are in (or returned from) hospital recently, or are finding life hard in some way. We especially think of: **Harry Bates, Michelle Butler, Gwenda Dicker, Glyn Evans, Marianne & John Hillson, Andrew Lewis, Margaret Lewis, Abigail Lokko, Marian Mole, Maggie Murray, Janet Roake, Olive Shepherd, Joy Standfield, Pauline Starck and Andrew Winton.**

If you would like to be included in "news of the church family" with news or requests for prayer or thanksgiving, do let me know.

Kate



Audrey Bruton has moved to:
Apartment 518,
Earlsdon Park Retirement Village
Albany Road
Coventry. CV5 6NA
☎ 024 7771 8518

This month we would like to wish

Grant Curley (5th)
Nathan Curley (7th)
Gwenda Dicker (24th)

a very Happy Birthday

with love from all at Trinity

Worship at Trinity

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

- 4 February Worship and Communion led by John Mackerness
11 February Morning Worship led by Alan Kirkcaldy
18 February All age worship led by Terry Hinks
25 February Morning Worship led by David Reynolds

Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome

Focus on Prayer

Midweek Prayers at 9.30 am on Weds 7 and 21 February 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.

Service of Healing and Wholeness

The Prayer Circle is holding a service of healing and wholeness on
Sunday 18 March at 4 pm. All are welcome to come to share in this.
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.

Holy Week and Easter Services: dates for your diaries

- Tues 27 March 2.30 pm Simple Communion in the church sanctuary
 followed by refreshments (arranged by the Tuesday Meeting).
Thurs 29 March 7.30 pm Joint Maundy Thursday Communion
 at Wesley Methodist Church
Fri 30 March 10.00 am Joint Good Friday Worship at Trinity Church
 with members of Union Baptist and Wesley Churches
 11.15 am Joint Good Friday Churches' Walk of Witness
Sun 1 April 10.30 am Easter Day Worship: 'Christ is risen!'

What's on this month . . .

Sat 3rd	Saturday Cafe	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Sat 3rd	Lighthouse High Wycombe Launch 2018	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Come and find out about lighthouse 2018 High Wycombe. Hear about the teaching theme for 2018 Renew your lighthouse summer spirit. It's like a little bit of summer in the winter!		
Wed 7th	Trinity prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
	Trinity Elders meeting	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Sun 11th	Traidcraft stall	12:00 pm - 12:30 pm
Mon 12th	Joint elders at Trinity (Lower Schoolroom)	6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Sat 17th	Saturday Cafe (Lower Schoolroom, Kitchen)	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Tues 20th	Lent Course	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Wed 21st	Trinity Prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
	Worship planning group meeting	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Sun 25th	Afternoon Communion	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Tues 27th	Lent Course	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

. . . and next

Fri 2nd March	Women's World Day of Prayer event	7:30 pm
Sat 3rd March	Saturday Cafe (Lower Schoolroom, Kitchen)	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Tues 20th March	Church AGM and church meeting	7:30 pm

What's on . . . this month

Trinity Bookworms

Trinity Bookworms will be meeting on Wednesday 7 February at 2pm at 21 Fremantle Road, High Wycombe to discuss 'Home' by Marilynne Robinson. Newcomers are very welcome to join us.

Coffee & Chat

Coffee & Chat will be meeting to enjoy a Quiz (which we didn't have time for in January) on Wednesday 21 February at 10.30am at 11 the Brackens, High Wycombe. Newcomers are very welcome to join us.

Tuesday Meeting

All meetings in the LSR, at 2.30pm

- Tues February 6th Women and the Vote
 - Tues February 13th Shrove Tuesday and Lent
 - Tues February 20th Another look at the Good Samaritan
 - Tues February 27th The Woman's World Day of Prayer and Suriname
-

Regular events

- Every Sunday where possible – prayer ministry after the service
- Movers & Shakers Chinese Style group every Tuesday from 10am to 1pm
- The Tuesday Meeting every Tuesday from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- Movers & Shakers Caribbean Style group every Friday from 10am to 1pm
- Pilates well-being class every Thursday from 11th January, from 1pm to 2pm
- Trinity Guides every Thursday, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm (term time)
- Trinity Rainbows every Friday 5:15-6:15 pm (term time)
- Trinity Brownies every Friday 6:15-7:30 pm (term time)
- Night Shelter every Saturday evening through to Sunday morning

No Choir Practice until further notice

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

Events at Cores End Church

Supporting charities

The Carol service at Cores End on 18 December went well and a collection raised £576 for the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal.

The Christmas charity morning in December raised £576 for three charities – Wycombe Homeless Connection, Wycombe Refugee Partnership and Commitment for Life.

A Quiz Evening is planned for Saturday 3 March . It starts at 6 pm with a supper with dessert (bring your own preferred tippie although soft drinks are provided) . Quizzing will start at about 7 pm. The cost for meal and quiz is £8 (any profits from the evening will go toward work renewing the church hall flooring). It should be a very enjoyable evening and members of Trinity Church are warmly invited (space is limited so do book a place soon). Why not gather some friends to make a team? (We promise that there won't be questions about the names of streets in Bourne End this time!)

Easter Fun Day

The next fun day is to be held on Saturday 24 March for children aged 5 to 11. Lots of craft, games, singing and other activities. Numbers limited so please contact Ann Pendergast (01628 526865) for more information and to book a place.

Preparations for the 250th Anniversary

This year marks 250 years since the first beginnings of Cores End Church. There will be a series of events from the end of April. Previous ministers will be leading worship during the year. There will be a special concert with a historical flavour and an exhibition of archives too. Fun Days for the community and for children are also being planned. Rosemary Reynolds has presented the congregation with a special picture she created of the church and copies of this will be used in the publicity for the Anniversary.

Lent 2018

Walking the Way in Lent

**Come and explore what it means in our daily lives
to follow Jesus the wounded healer.**

**Four Tuesdays at 7.30 pm beginning on 20 February 2017
here at Trinity United Reformed Church**

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

Trypraying 2018

Building on the success of the 2016 and 2017 campaigns, Trinity Church and many churches in the Wycombe area are taking part in *trypraying* in the 2 weeks leading up to Easter in 2018 (from 18 March to 1 April). With many churches displaying banners and more adverts on buses this year the campaign will be a real sign of the deepening unity among the churches of the town.

The same booklet / phone app will be available as before but we hope to have other resources available to encourage people to pray in the way that is right for them. There is no one size fits all in our praying. Prayer will reflect our different personalities, situations and backgrounds. Do consider how you could be involved this year in this gentle but effective form of witness. Pray that it may fruit in unexpected ways.

Gwen Stibbon sends her greetings to all those who remember her. She is finding it more difficult to get about these days, but is blessed with help from her family.

Situations vacant!!

Secretary for Churches Together in High Wycombe

Lucinda Nicholas (a member of St Augustine's Church) is standing down as secretary to Churches Together (CTIHW). Our thanks to her for sterling work. The Group are now seeking a new person to take on the role. There are four meetings a year and the role involves:

- To draft Agendas for the CTIHW meetings and communicate with the Chairman on these and other matters.
- To attend and Minute the CTIHW meetings, noting apologies and attendees.
- To ensure that the AGM occurs annually and covers the required elections/re-elections.
- To work with other members to ensure that the group runs smoothly (including the treasurer where invoicing and banking matters are required).
- To keep a permanent record of the Minutes.
- To undertake further CTIHW work/be more involved in the group if preferred .

If you want to know more please contact Terry Hinks.

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Can you read?

The number of people on the rota to read a lesson on Sunday mornings has reduced in the last year. Some of those remaining have stated that they are happy to do both readings but more volunteers would be lovely. If you think this is something you could do, please let me know.

Lesley

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A one-off event

Volunteers are sought for the evening of Friday 2nd March. See next page

The annual WWDofP will be held this year on **Friday 2nd March 2018** with 2 services.

Wesley Methodist Church will host the service at 10.30am, with Trinity URC hosting the service at 7.30pm.



To this end, Olive and I need volunteers!! Several !!

The prayers this year have been prepared by the women of Suriname and we will need about 10 ladies to take part, plus an organist please.

There will be one rehearsal evening, probably during the previous week, followed by the service on 2nd March.

We would also like to be able to offer refreshments: ie: tea/coffee/biscuits for after the service and would much appreciate offers of help with this.

This service is always a lovely expression of our faith, sharing with other women (and men too) of the world in a unique manner.

We look forward to the rush of volunteers for this event,!!

With many thanks from us both,

Janet & Olive

Wise words

As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder.

- **John Glenn**

Having more money doesn't make you happier. I have 50 million dollars but I'm just as happy as when I had 48 million.

- **Arnold Swarzenegger**

America is the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real but the moon landing was faked.

- **David Letterman**

When the white missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes. When we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land. - **Desmond Tutu**



'Is not this the fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice, to untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with

shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?' Isaiah 58:6-7

For Christians around the world, Lent is a time of reflection, self-examination and thinking of others who are less fortunate than ourselves. It is a journey, as we think about how we follow the Jesus who calls his disciples to a sacrificial love that breaks down barriers, builds bridges, pursues righteousness and demands justice for the oppressed and marginalised.

During Lent, as we reflect on the challenges Jesus faced as he journeyed in the wilderness for 40 days, we can also think about the millions of our sisters and brothers across the world struggling to survive in a desolate place.

Millions of people have been forced from their homes for many reasons, including conflict, natural disasters, drought and fear. Often remaining within their own countries, they're largely ignored by the international community and are forced to create a life for themselves and their families in unfamiliar surroundings, with little support. People like Sori. *[See pictures on next page]*

Sori Galgallo lives in Marsabit county, northern Kenya, where approximately 150,000 people are living with the crippling effects of a two-year-long drought. Pastoralist communities, like Sori's, who rely on rains to provide reliable grazing pastures for their cattle are being forced to travel much further than before in a bid to keep their animals alive.

Sori and her six children used to have plenty of meat and milk, a staple for pastoralist communities, but as a result of the drought, they are now relying on aid and the generosity of others. The family earned a good living from their 200-strong herd, but the chronic lack of rain has meant only 30 are still alive.

Thankfully, the family have received cash support and much-needed livestock feed from Christian Aid's local partner PACIDA. With the money, Sori is able to buy food, like rice, beans and milk, for her family, and to ensure her children can stay in school.

This Lent, Christian Aid is asking you to walk with the more than 40 million internally displaced people in the world today. Christian Aid refuses to turn away from those in need, especially those who are forgotten and ignored.

Just £22 could help provide food for a family like Sori's, as well as school fees. £22 could also buy 50kg of livestock feed to keep essential animals alive.

For more information, visit www.Christian-aid.org/Lent



GLOBAL CONSULTATION ON EVANGELISM



At the end of November a meeting was organized by CWM and the World Council of Churches for Mission and Evangelism to reflect on evangelism and discipleship today. A group of 25 evangelism practitioners, scholars and church leaders from Orthodox, Pentecostal and Protestant churches gathered in Bangkok, Thailand. Often religious faith is accused of stirring up intolerance, suspicion and even violence. The urgency of these challenges was evident from the news stories surrounding the event: religiously motivated suicide bombings in Nigeria, the Papal visit to Myanmar during the mass persecution of the Rohingya, and President Trump's racist anti-Muslim tweeting.

After the meeting following statements were released:

The Spirit of the Lord is:

- calling us to re-examine our approach to evangelism and honour the new faces of the church
- speaking through many texts to convert and subvert how we have used elements of the Bible in mission and evangelism to harm and dominate
- calling us to be evangelized by Christ present outside the boundaries of the church
- calling us to truly be salt, giving ourselves in changing what surrounds us and being changed by it as well
- calling on the church to announce the Good News of alternatives to the life-denying structures and systems of our time
- calling us to embody a discipleship which celebrates our multi-diverse realities, resists being co-opted to dominant systems and shares hope and faith without doing harm.

[continued on next page]

CWM PARTICIPANTS CONFRONT OCCUPATION



Also in November 11 participants from all over the world came face to face with the historical, theological and contemporary issues related to the Middle East and in particular Israel and Palestine. They were able to observe discrimination and inequality, military occupation and systematic oppression – where faith is lived and shared in the midst of a military occupation which affects all sectors and levels of local communities, and the mission of the churches continuously is challenged by the religious, social and political dynamics in both nations. The participants followed the footsteps of Jesus only to realize that the so-called holy sites where most of the Bible stories happened are not so holy; and that religiosity is big business. They found that the very place where Jesus died on the cross for everyone is the very place where the people are suffering; in the very place where Jesus taught love there is hate instead and now oppressed has become the oppressor.

If you would like to read more please go to:
cwmission.org/news

A reminder !!

Notice of AGM – Tuesday 20th March at 7.30 pm (followed by Church Meeting at 8 pm)

- † For those of us who currently have a “postholder” responsibility, would you please look at the current postholders’ list which will be available on Sundays after morning worship. If you wish to stand down from your post from March 2018 please indicate in the “standing down” column.
- † If you would like to do something different or are willing to give an existing postholder a break, please talk to Terry or Kate.
- † Margaret Lewis will have served two three-year terms as Elder so we are seeking one or two additional Elders to serve.

Angus Massie will now be happy to receive reports to go into the Annual Report . He will need them no later than the last day in February. As at the time of going to press, no reports have yet been submitted. Can YOU be the first this year?

If you are not sure who needs to prepare a report, see last month’s Trinity Times.

Palestinian Lord's Prayer

Great God in heaven, our guardian,
Your holy name be revered,
And may your kingdom be brought in
And that your will for us be done
And this be not just in heaven, but
Also here upon this earth.
And day by day all through our lives
Provide the bread to give us life.
We ask that you forgive our debts as we
forgive our debtors faults.
And keep us from the time of trial and
save us from the evil one.
Because the kingdom is yours and all
the glory and power
Forever more and ever more. Amen

Collected by a member of FURY during a Christian Aid trip to occupied Palestinian territory 2000

Our sponsorship of Cristian through Compassion – funds are running low.



Since 2014 Trinity has been sponsoring Cristian Toro, a young boy living in Bolivia, through the charity Compassion. Cristian was born in October 2009 so will be 9 years old this year. He lives with his parents and two siblings.

Child sponsorship changes lives – independent research shows that Compassion-sponsored children are more likely to be employed as adults, and leaders in their communities and churches.

Our sponsorship provides Cristian with the fees and uniforms he needs to go to school. He also has the protection of a church-based Compassion project. Giving him the opportunity to escape poverty and bring change to his family and community is so important.

Funds for Cristian's sponsorship have come from individual donations rather than general funds, and our sponsorship fund for him is now running low at £22.70. The monthly amount needed is £25 – plus any extras for Christmas and Cristian's birthday – so a minimum of £300 a year is required to meet our commitment.

If you would like to make a gift towards Trinity's fund to help Cristian, please see Sue Thorne. If you are a tax-payer, the Gift Aid can also be reclaimed.

Thank you!

Some great ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague...

If you lend someone £20 and never see that person again . . . it was probably worth it.

Time for a chuckle



A priest was being honoured at his retirement dinner after 25 years in the parish.

A leading local politician and member of the congregation was chosen to make the presentation and give a little speech at the dinner.

He was delayed, so the priest decided to say his own few words while they waited.

"I got my first impression of the parish from the first confession I heard here. I thought I had been assigned to a terrible place. The very first person who entered my confessional told me he had stolen a television set; and, when questioned by the police, was able to lie his way out of it. He had stolen money from his parents, embezzled from his employer, had an affair with his boss's wife, and taken illegal drugs. I was appalled. But as the days went on, I knew that my people were not all like that and I had, indeed, come to a fine parish full of good and loving people."

Just as the priest finished his talk, the politician arrived full of apologies at being late. He immediately began to make the presentation and gave his talk.

"I'll never forget the first day our parish priest arrived," said the politician.

"In fact, I had the honour of being the first one to go to him in confession."

.....

Some more burdens simplified

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

Never buy a car you can't push.

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time . . . because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

Nobody cares if you can't dance well . . . just get up and dance.

Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late

The second mouse always gets the cheese.

When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

Prayers for February

Praise the Lord of the blade of grass and the forest;
Praise the Lord of the raindrop and the flood;
Praise the Lord of the snowflake and the snowdrift;
Praise the Lord of the birdsong and the thunder;
Praise the Lord of the brightest day and the darkest night;
Praise the Lord of earth and sky and sea;
Praise the Lord of the Milky Way and all universes;
Sing praises to the Lord of all the has been, is and is about to be.

Amen

Light of the World as the winter staggers to a close, often with gloomy days, shine your light into the hearts of your brothers and sisters so that they may light candles to pierce the darkness around them. Show them once more that the darkness has never overcome the light however dark the thoughts and deeds of the bullies, terrorists, tyrants and torturers, however devastating the effects of disease, famine, fire and flood. As candles are lit in churches around the globe let their light blaze with your true light which has come and is coming into the world.

Amen

Holy Spirit fill our hearts and minds and guide us through Lent to Easter. Teach us to use this preparation time wisely and positively. Keep us faithful in Bible reading, prayer, confession and meditation but guard us from being self-centred and ready to give up material things for our own good even when it makes us difficult to live with. Remind us that we should love those who share this world with us and be always willing to offer help and comfort. Hold before us always the example of our Lord and Saviour in whose name we pray.

Amen

Who's who

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