



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



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

APRIL 2018

Table of contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Pastoral letter | 3 |
| News of the Church Family | 4 |
| Details of this month's services | 5 |
| What's on | 6 - |
| 8 | |
| Church Life | 9 - 12 |
| The Cores End Page | 13 |
| The Wider Church | 14 - |
| 18 | |
| Prayer page | 19 |
| Who's Who | 20 |

The next edition of Trinity Times will be published on 29th April All contributions should be submitted by Sunday 22nd April.



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

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

Has Spring finally arrived after all the storms and snows of this winter? Are the 'Beast from the East', Storm Emma and 'mini beast' distant memories? I hope so and am looking forward to seeing the barren winter trees and fields turning green soon. In the words of that great Easter hymn:

*Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

April begins with the wonder of Easter Day and the great Christian affirmation, 'Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.' The winter of human hatred, cruelty and suffering has been vanquished by the unstoppable new life in Christ: 'Love lives again.'

We celebrate that truth not simply once on the 1st April, but daily for the forty days of Easter (and do note that our celebration of communion in April will be on 8th April, not the 1st). Indeed, we celebrate this every Sunday, with worship to begin each new week and remind us that Jesus lives again and fulfils his promise, 'I am with you always to the end of the age.'

Here at Trinity we have marked the forty days of Lent in a variety of ways. Some have taken part in Christian Aid's 'Count your blessings' – a means of reflecting on our own lives and those of the poorest in our world (as well as raising a little money). A good number have explored the theme of 'Jesus, the wounded healer', through our Lent Course. Others have used the URC daily devotions and got to know the Book of Job, with its dark themes and glorious poetry. Some of you may have also given things up for Lent (or taken new things on).

You may have done none of this or reflected in different ways. Whatever your experience can I encourage you to give as much attention to the forty days of Easter as the forty days of Lent? Use the arrival of Spring and the natural seasons to encourage you to think of the new life Jesus lives and brings. Allow the great resurrection stories in the gospels to speak to you again and point you to the risen Lord with you always. In the words of another great hymn. 'Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, he comes to claim the here and now.' Alleluia to that!



News of the Church Family

Not included in this version

This month we would like to wish

A Happy Birthday to

Harry B (1st)

Lesley B (5th)

Rebekah S (15th)

Erin L (21st)

Yan W (24th)

and Best Wishes to

Linda & Grant (20th)

on celebrating their

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

with love from all at Trinity

Worship at Trinity

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

- 1 April Easter Worship led by Geoff Woolmore
- 8 April Worship and Communion led by Bridget Powell
- 15 April All age worship led by Terry Hinks
pm Afternoon communion with prayer for healing
- 22 April Worship led by Maggie Hindley
- 29 April Worship and Civic Service led by Terry Hinks

Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome

Midweek Prayers will not be taking place at church during April (due to renovation work taking place).

Our Prayer Ministry is available after worship each Sunday morning. For more information please speak to Marian Mole or the minister.

The Prayer Circle

The Prayer Circle's service of healing and wholeness in March had to be postponed due to inclement weather. The circle next meets on 27 May at 4 pm. The group 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.

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS COMING UP *(also see page 7)*

Civic Service and beating the bounds

We are delighted to be hosting a Civic service arranged by this year's Mayor Councillor Brian Pearce as he comes to the end of his Mayoral year. This will be on 29 April at 10.30 am. We will be joined by the Mayor, Councillors and other guests for a service to celebrate the life of our local community. After sharing in refreshments everyone is invited to join the Mayor and his party in 'beating the bounds' (a short circuit of the town centre with special stops along the way).

What's on this month . . .

| | | |
|--|---|-------------------|
| Sat 7 April | NO SATURDAY CAFÉ | |
| Wed 4 April | Trinity Elders meeting offsite | 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm |
| Sun 8 April | Traidcraft stall (in sanctuary) | Noon - 12:30 pm |
| Thurs 19 April | Communication and Presentation Skills Workshop (Amersham) for all involved in leading or reading in worship | 7.30-9.15 pm |
| Sat 21 April | Saturday Café in the sanctuary | 11.30 am- 1.30 pm |
| Sun 29 April | Gift Day | |
| Trinity Gift Day on Sunday 29th April is to raise funds for new Lower School Room chairs | | |

. . . and later

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------|
| Mon 7 May | Cores End Community Fun Day | 11 am-2 pm |
| Wed 16 May | Enquirers/Welcome evening | time tbc |
| Sun 17 June | Deadline for Lighthouse craft donations (see separate "needs" list) | |
| Sat 23 June | DIY Day | 10 am-4 pm |
| Mon 30 Jul- Fri 3 Aug | Lighthouse | |
| Sat 6 October | Cores End concert | 19:30:00 |
| Sat 13 October | DIY Day | 10am-3.30 pm |
| Jonah Man Jazz | | date tbc |
| Games Evening | | date tbc |

What's on . . . this month

Trinity Bookworms

The next meeting is on Wednesday 4 April 2pm to discuss last month's book 'Daughter of Fortune' by Isabel Allende. Newcomers are very welcome to join us.

Note the venue is as above!

Coffee & Chat

No date has yet been fixed for a meeting in April. Listen out for announcements in church.

Tuesday Meeting

There will be NO meetings during April due to renovation works

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS COMING UP *(also see page 5)*

Love Wycombe 2018 Pentecost celebration

The 2018 **Love Wycombe Pentecost celebration** will be on **Sunday 20th May 2018** from **11.30 am to 12.30 pm**. This time it will be **on the Rye**. Everyone is encouraged to stay afterwards for a picnic or buy food from the food stalls. Local churches and charities will have stalls, and there will be lots for children to do, with activities including inflatables and the Rye playground.

As the church closest to the event we plan to be well involved (and hosted the Prayer Breakfast for the event on 24 March). Instead of our usual 10.30 am worship we encourage everyone to share in the open-air worship. There will be a short prayer session at 10.30 am in church to pray for the event and you are warmly invited to that. We will also need stewards to keep the church open during the event for anyone caught short!

PLEASE PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARIES AND KEEP IT IN YOUR PRAYERS

Regular April events

Every Sunday where possible

- Prayer ministry after the service

Every Tuesday

- Movers and Shakers Chinese Style (light exercise, talk/activity and lunch)
(NOT meeting on 3 April) 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- The Tuesday Meeting (small, friendly fellowship group) 2.30 - 4.30 pm

Every Thursday

- Pilates well-being class (term time) 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- Trinity Guides (term time) 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Every Friday

- Movers and Shakers, Caribbean style (light exercise, a talk or activity and lunch) 10 am – 1 pm
- Trinity Rainbows (term time) 5:15-6:15 pm
- Trinity Brownies (term time) 6:15-7:30 pm

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

Note: School holidays run from 30 March to 13 April

PLEASE NOTE:

With the Lower School Room being refurbished throughout April, and redecoration works to the lower corridors, vestry and toilets, bookings for the Sanctuary, Lower School Room and kitchen will be reallocated where possible. Hirers & users have been notified. Please check the Trinity website calendar for up-to-date information.

Other events in April

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Saturday 7 April | NO SATURDAY CAFÉ | Wednesday 4 April |
| | Elders meeting offsite | 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm |
| Sunday 8 April | Traidcraft stall (in sanctuary) | Noon - 12:30 pm |
| Saturday 21 April | Saturday Café in the sanctuary | 11.30- 1.30 pm |

We need your help – use of kitchen and Lower School Room

If you use **tea towels** at church, would you please take them home to wash, and then return them? We have plenty so there's no rush but there **is** a potential hygiene risk if tea towels are left here to dry and then re-used by others.

If you use any of the **sharp knives** (kept in the knife block in the *Knives* cupboard in the kitchen), please would you ensure that they are returned there after use and **NOT** put in the kitchen drawers so as to reduce the risk of someone cutting themselves by accident?



If you open a carton of fruit juice (or a can) **please DO NOT** leave it in the fridge if you are not going to use it within 3 days of opening (see side of cartons and cans for food safety instructions). Would you please take it home with you on the day or give to someone else?

Thank you!

Lettings Management Team

Are you missing something?

Have you missed the choir? Are hymns worth singing well anymore, never mind anthems? Numbers had fallen so that the choir was no longer viable. If you miss a choir, therefore, you need to volunteer, for 1 hour's practice and regular attendance at services.

Speak to any former choir member over the next month and we will then either re-form or call it a day for good.

From the Choir



New rules that apply to churches on Data Protection from 25 May 2018 – it might be boring but it's essential!



From 25 May 2018 we will have to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This is especially important because so much of people's "personal data" is stored by organisations – including Trinity – electronically as well as in paper form, and we need to look after it properly.

"Personal data" means any information that could be used to identify the individual to whom it relates (e.g. address, phone number, computer's Internet Provider address, etc.). Data Protection legislation applies to both paper and electronic records and includes photos and videos as well as documents.

Under GDPR we are required to demonstrate (if necessary) how we are complying with data protection principles and to document the legal basis for processing (having and using) your personal data. We have conducted an audit of what information is held by whom and in what manner.

At our May church meeting the Elders will recommend a Data Privacy Notice which sets out our case for having, using, storing and keeping updated your personal information. This Notice will have to be displayed on our main noticeboard for anyone to see.

We will be producing a new Church Directory and will have to get your written consent to include your personal information in that, and to include your birthday in the church magazine. You can decide what you want published – you will just need to tick the appropriate box on the personally addressed letter we'll send you.

The Elders will be taking steps to ensure that we are meeting best practice for good Data Protection, including how long data should be kept.

Good Data Protection Practice

- ⤴ Respect everyone's privacy.
- ⤴ Ensure that paper records are kept in a locked cupboard.
- ⤴ Do not disclose any personal information about an individual without first obtaining that person's consent – that includes address, telephone number, email address, age, birthday, names of family members.
- ⤴ When emailing groups of people always put their email addresses in the "bcc" row rather than the "To" row to prevent an individual's email address being visible to all the recipients
- ⤴ If sharing birthday information (age or date) about an individual with others, always ask the individual's permission first, ideally in writing.
- ⤴ When mentioning pastoral concerns or praying for identifiable individuals take reasonable steps to ensure that the individual (and anyone else who may be directly or indirectly involved) is willing for this to happen.
- ⤴ Pastoral concerns should be minuted without mentioning names and the nature of the concern.
- ⤴ Prayer lists should be shredded immediately after they have been used.
- ⤴ Personal data held on laptops, PCs, data sticks, phones and other portable electronic devices should be encrypted.
- ⤴ If using cloud storage ensure the servers are located within the European Economic Area (EEA) and take reasonable steps to ensure security.
- ⤴ Order your records – minimise what you keep.
- ⤴ Check that existing and former officers/elders/committee members are not retaining their own copies of personal data in paper form or electronically. Seek their confirmation that all such data has been returned or destroyed.

Refurbishment of Lower School Room and redecoration of ground floor throughout April

It's happening! At long last our plans to refurbish the Lower School Room are being implemented. The room will be re-carpeted and redecorated, and the coffee bar will be moved forward a little and replaced, together with a new sink and drainer. Other works will also be carried out in there at the same time.



Out of bounds This work means that the Lower School Room will be completely “out of bounds” while the contractors are working on it during April.

Mugs will have a temporary home on the kitchen trolley. Other items will be stored in the Anchor Room or sanctuary. The piano will be moved to the sanctuary during April.

Redecoration and restricted access to ground floor rooms We are also having the ground floor corridors, loos and office redecorated. This area and the kitchen will not be accessible while the contractors are on site doing this work in the first three weeks of April.

Hirer and users have been contacted to make alternative arrangements in the building or elsewhere. Thank you to everyone for being accommodating during this disruption.

TRINITY GIFT DAY

We will be raising funds at our Gift Day on Sunday 29 April for the new chairs (hopefully to be delivered in May). We hope that a number of people will be willing to “fund a chair” – the ones with arms will cost £60.30 each including VAT and the ones without arms will cost £44.70 each including VAT.



Version with arms

Actual colour will be light blue



Version without arms

Cores End Church

The Quiz Evening

Delayed by the snow, the church supper and quiz took place on 17 March (despite more snow!). A good number from Trinity shared in a very enjoyable evening which also raised £278 towards renewing the hall flooring at Cores End.

250th Anniversary celebrations

The church will be marking its 250th anniversary with a series of events from May to November. Worship on Sunday 6 May at 10.30 am, led by one of the church's previous ministers, Julian Macro, and this is to be followed by a church lunch. Worship on the first Sunday will be led by previous ministers, together with those involved in the church now. As well as worship there is to be an exhibition, a time line, concert and fun day.

Community May Day Party

This is to take place on Bank holiday Monday 7 May (12 noon - 4pm) in the Cores End Church grounds. You are warmly invited to come for part or all of the day. Come and enjoy a barbecue, bouncy castle, games and challenges, treasure hunt, circus skills and more. All is free of charge (any donations will be going to charity). The church will be publicising this across the village and hopes to bring together people from across the local community.

The cross is lit

Passers-by (and those stuck at the Cores End roundabout) may well have noticed the thematic 'wayside pulpit' and, in the weeks leading up to Easter, the *trypraying* banner. The wooden cross outside the front of the church is now lit by a spotlight (having been recently repaired).

Yarn Bombing on church railings

As part of the church's 250th Anniversary Celebrations members have decided to 'Yarn Bomb' the front railings and Link Up garden gate. The plan is to decorate the railings with knitted or crocheted flowers and bells (by 6 May in time for the beginning of the Anniversary celebrations. If you would like to help by making a flower, contact Terry and he can put you in touch with the organiser, Beryl Britt, who has some patterns and examples.



Chiltern Local Area Group Thames North Synod

WORSHIP IN FOCUS **Communication and** **Presentation Skills Workshop**

led by Cally Foster LLAM MSTSD
Speech and Drama Specialist

on Thursday 19 April 2018
7.30 pm - 9.15 pm
at Amersham Free Church
(coffee/tea served from 7pm)



An opportunity to attend a useful training and to meet others in the Chiltern Area Group.

- Are you a lay preacher or worship leader?
- Are you involved in a Worship Team?
- Do you read the Bible lesson in church and might do more?
- Are you interested in the future of worship in your church?

THEN PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY
AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO COME WITH YOU.

RSVP

Let Bridget Powell know you are coming by 14 April:
bridget.powell@cheshamurc.org.uk 01494 784786



Chiltern Local Area Group Thames North Synod

An Invitation to the:

**Annual Gathering
Saturday 12 May 2018
at Amersham Free Church, HP6 6AJ**

**All
Invited!**

**Following the Annual Meeting (10.30 – 12 noon),
everyone connected with the churches in the group is
invited to come for lunch and to join in the afternoon
activities.**

12.30pm Lunch

1.30 – 2.45pm Workshop Session

Being pastoral / fresh perspectives on Christian caring

led by Revd Dr Sam White, Director of Pastoral Studies at
Westminster College and Director of the Cheshunt Foundation.

*There will be an Activity Area for all ages, especially children, to
dip into.*

2.45 pm Tea Break

3.15 pm – 4.00pm Closing Worship led by Revd Ian Green,
preacher Revd Dr Sam White.

**Come
and
join us!**

RSVP to the Group Secretary, Revd Bridget Powell
bridget.powell@cheshamurc.org.uk
01494 784786
by 30 April 2018

United Reformed Church Chiltern Local Area Group: Reflecting on same sex marriage

With Chesham URC now registered to conduct same sex marriage and policies varying across the Chiltern group it seemed to me and the steering group that a statement could be helpful for the churches to use to explain the varied approaches across the URC.

This was circulated with the minutes of the February minutes, but we are sending it out again (below).

The purpose of the statement is simply to describe current practice among the churches in the group.

The issues surrounding same sex marriage remain ones that can divide Christians, but also ones over which viewpoints change. That the URC can hold together a real variety of approaches and viewpoints is perhaps a strength rather than a weakness and a sign of our unity in Christ.

We pray for wisdom as each local church reflects on their approach and policy within their own context.

*Yours in Christ,
Terry Hinks (Convener)*

United Reformed Church Chiltern Local Area Group: Reflecting on same sex marriage

Every church in the Chiltern Local Area Group aims to be welcoming of all people, regardless of sexual orientation. Local churches and church members have a range of views about same sex marriage and relationships (and different policies as a result). The United Reformed Church holds together this diversity of belief, while challenging all forms of homophobia. The denomination has decided that it is for the local church to decide whether to register to conduct same sex marriages or not to do so – and to respect that decision, whatever it might be.

Within the Chiltern Group there are a variety of local policies. In the case of Local Ecumenical Partnerships (churches that involve more than one denomination) the church needs to abide by the rulings of all their constituent denominations.

Chesham URC is now registered for same-sex marriages and has a dedicated registrar for such services (as part of the Buckinghamshire Registration District). It is one of the first churches to do so in the Synod. Other churches have decided not to register (or have not yet made a decision on this).

We pray for God's wisdom and blessing as we continue to reflect on this issue together.

12.9.17 (commended by Steering Group meeting on 10 February 2018)

Update: Chiltern Local Area Steering Group meeting held 10 Feb 2018

1. **Area Blog:** Do please visit the Area Group's Blog <http://urcchilternlocalareagroup.blogspot.co.uk/>
2. **Same-sex marriage:** A statement from the Group about same-sex marriage will be circulated for all churches.
3. **Chesham vacancy:** The vacancy at Chesham URC is on hold at present pending further conversation with the Synod Moderator.
4. **Small congregations:** Concern was expressed as to how best to support churches with small congregations.
5. **Remembering:** We noted with sadness the deaths of Jack Axford (formerly of Deanway United Church) and of Sheila Eldridge (formerly of Amersham Free Church), giving thanks for their lives and service to the church.
6. **Grant applications welcomed:** The Synod's Resources Committee would welcome applications for grants from churches (to be approved by the Chiltern Local Area Group prior to submission).
7. **CRCW at Trinity and Cores End:** all the approvals have been made and the post is now being advertised.
8. **Training:** Training opportunities were discussed, both within the Area and the Synod. Bryan Long (Amersham) and Stephen Murray (Chesham) are both doing TLS Lite. Synod training plans for the year are now available.
9. **Elders to celebrate communion:** Discussion took place on the Synod process for authorisation of Accredited Lay Preachers and Elders to conduct communion within their own congregation, subject to training and recommendation by the Chiltern Local Area Group. Further training is available for Elders whose churches request they have such training and authorisation. Assembly-Accredited Lay Preacher Alan Yates has been authorised to celebrate communion within the Chiltern Area.
10. **Heathrow Chaplain (Revd John Mackerness):** A third term for the post of Special Category Minister as Chaplain at Heathrow Airport is proposed (to be confirmed).
11. **General Data Protection Regular (GDPR):** This comes into force for churches in May 2018. The URC nationally has circulated information to churches on key actions to be taken.
12. **AGM Saturday 12th May:** The Annual Meeting of the whole group takes place on Saturday 12th May at Amersham Free Church, from 10.30 am, followed by a shared lunch and a workshop by Revd Dr Sam White, Director of Pastoral Studies at Westminster College. Everyone welcome to attend the lunch and afternoon. Publicity will be sent out about the event.
13. **Future Chiltern Local Area Group meetings:** Next Steering Group Meeting Saturday 8th September. Meetings in 2019 will be on Saturday 9th February, Saturday 11th May (AGM) and Saturday 7th September.

Link to Hope Shoebox Collection 2017

Thank you again for your support with shoeboxes in 2017. Almost 44,000 were collected in total.

Below is a letter of thanks from Link to Hope. It may be addressed to me but it's really to each & every one of you who contributed, whether that was a shoebox or a donation.

Link to Hope focussed their deliveries in Central Romania this year, taking boxes to old people's homes, shanty towns, isolated remote villages with limited electricity & water supply, and a home for ex-orphanage young adults with special needs.

They particularly expressed appreciation for the boxes that were crammed with items and for well completed lists. It helps them enormously to distribute fairly across so many people and families.

Daphne Stopforth

THANK YOU

from
**Link to
Hope**



Dear Daphne

We wanted to send you our heartfelt thanks for your support during the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal.

Many hands make light work and together we have been able to send **43,966** Family & Elderly Shoeboxes to Eastern Europe.

As you know only the poorest people in Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria and the Ukraine receive your shoeboxes.

For many, it is the only time of the year that they realise that someone, somewhere cares about them. Every item that you put into your boxes was a true blessing to them.

Many thanks on behalf of all at Link to Hope.

John

Prayers for April

Creator God, Lord of the Spring and awakening life,
For lengthening days and quiet nights, sunshine and showers,
For blossoming flowers and green leaves on trees,
For birdsong and buzzing bees and insects,
For new-born lambs and fluffy chicks,
For the world waking up around us,
We thank you, Lord.

Yet sometimes, we confess, we do not want to be awakened.
We would rather keep things as they are,
We like our cosy routines and our little ceremonies,
Our ways of coping and getting along.
Forgive our laziness, Lord.

Surely the tips of the shoots must hurt as they push through the soil.
Fledglings fall from the nest; like lambs they are easy prey.
It is better to stay as we are, not get hurt.
Forgive our selfishness, Lord.

In your forgiveness,
Remind us that when we feel far from you, you are close to us,
Making us Easter people, redeemed by your Son's death and
Resurrection,
Filling us with the Holy Spirit,
Growing in us a passion for sharing your justice, mercy and love with
the world. *Amen*

God, Maker of all things new, in this springtime we pray for all who are looking into the dusty corners of their lives to clean them to receive the sunshine. As they turn out their material possessions may they think how they may help the environment by careful consideration of whether they need those things which pollute the land, sea, or air, affecting the welfare and lives of plants and animals alike.

Be with your fellowship here as we refurbish one of our meeting rooms as part of our plans for reaching out to the community around us reflecting your light of mercy and love. Guide us in all our decisions for the future. We pray in the Name of your Son, Jesus. *Amen*.

Who's who

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Coffee & Chat

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Prayer Circle

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Prayer requests

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Saturday Café

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Home Groups

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Guiding Units (all sections)

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Church contact number

 01494 520365 (answer phone)