



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



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

AUGUST 2018

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The next edition of Trinity Times will be published on 26th August. All contributions should be submitted by Sunday 19th August.



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

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

The summer has so far seen a heatwave here and all the excitement of the football, but also all been the shenanigans in the cabinet and parliament over the Brexit negotiations and the visit of Donald Trump! In contrast to that, one of the most inspiring stories has been the rescue of the boys and their football coach from the Tham Luang caves in Thailand. A complicated and hazardous rescue mission began when two British divers found the boys alive, perched on a rock shelf, desperately hungry and frightened, having been trapped by floods 10 days earlier. In the end all the children and their coach were rescued and taken to local hospitals to recover. It was a remarkable rescue operation, but not without cost. One of the divers, Saman Gunan, involved earlier in taking air tanks to the trapped boys, lost consciousness and died on his way out of the caves. Oxygen levels in the small chamber where the boys were sheltering were falling so delivering air was essential at that stage for their well-being. Saman was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their good.

The story speaks of many important qualities which can bring hope to our world:

- People working together from across many different nations
- People using patience, skill, imagination and care in their approach to problems.
- The determination on the part of everyone involved not to give up.
- The courage shown, and sacrifice made, in the face of difficulty and danger.
- The concern and prayers of millions of people across the world.

Diverse people working together for the good of others. That is at the heart of what it means to be truly human and at the heart of the church's mission and gospel. At General Assembly this year, John Proctor spoke of his inward groan when he found that many of the resolutions would be about General Assembly arrangements. He challenged the church not to look inwards and said he was encouraged by the other parts of the Assembly agenda which looked outwards.

This is our challenge too. What does God want of us in the divine rescue mission, to save humanity from itself? What gifts and qualities do we need to develop and use in this kingdom work? Who are the people we need to be working with to do God's will today?



News of the Church Family

Not included in this version

Kate

Worship at Trinity

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

5 August Worship and Communion led by Terry Hinks

12 August Morning Worship led by Alan Yates

19 August Morning Worship led by Terry Hinks

26 August Morning Worship led by Bryan Long

Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome

Next Afternoon Communion is on 26 August at 4 pm

Midweek Prayers at 9.30 am on Weds 1 and 15 August 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.

The Prayer Circle

The circle next meets on 23 September (note change of date) 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.



Happy Birthday

This month we would like to wish

a Happy Birthday to

Abigail L (4th)

Kate Y (22nd)

Aurelia A (11th)

Olive S (28th)

Ian B (17th)

George M (30th)

Congratulations



and best wishes to

Marian & Martin D (4th)

Andrew & Yan W (12th)

on celebrating their **Wedding Anniversary**

with love from us all at Trinity

Regular events during August

Every Sunday where possible – prayer ministry after the service
Movers & Shakers Chinese Style group Tuesdays from 10 am to 1 pm
Trinity prayers every first and third Wednesday 9:30 am to 10:00 am
Saturday Café every first and third Saturday 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
No Movers & Shakers Caribbean Style until Friday 7 September
No Guides, Brownies or Rainbows – start again from 6 September
Many activities have a summer break during the school holidays

To find out more about any activities held at Trinity, please talk to Revd Terry Hinks or Kate Yates (Church Secretary)

What's on this month . . .

Wed 1st	Trinity prayers (Sanctuary)	9:30 am - 10:00 am
Sun 12th	Traidcraft stall after the service	
Wed 15th	Trinity Prayers (Sanctuary)	9:30 am - 10:00 am
Sat 25th – Mon 27th	Greenbelt Festival in Northamptonshire	
Sun 26th	Afternoon Communion	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

. . . and later

Tues 18th Sept	Church meeting	20:00:00
Tues 2nd Oct	Autumn Course (for next six weeks, except 23 and 30 October)	19:30:00
Sat 6th Oct	Cores End concert	19:30:00
Sat 13th Oct	DIY Day	10 am-3.30 pm

What's on this month

Trinity Bookworms

The next meeting is at Marian's house on Wednesday 1st August at 2pm to discuss 'Daphne du Maurier' by Margaret Forster.

Coffee & Chat

No meeting this month

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal Christmas 2018
COLLECTION DATE IS SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER**

Trinity Church Meeting in July agreed enthusiastically to be involved in Link to Hope Shoe box Appeal as we were last year. You are invited either to fill a shoebox yourself (leaflets to come), work with others to do so or bring a few items to church for a collective box. Last year for example the Tuesday Meeting enjoyed working on a box together.



Link to Hope distributes the boxes to people in desperate need living in Eastern Europe at Christmas (both families and elderly people). The collection date this year is 21 October, when Daphne Stopforth from Cores End URC will be joining us to collect your boxes.

Thank you for your support.

Cores End Church

250th Anniversary celebrations

The church continues its Anniversary celebrations, with worship led on the first Sunday of the month by previous ministers of the church. Julian Macro, Mike Playdon and Lesley Husselbee have all led worship and much enjoyed meeting people over lunch after the service. Janet Hopewell (who was minister) is to lead worship in August.

Walk and Songs of Praise

The followed by tea and Songs of Praise worship was postponed from Sunday 15 July, because of the heatwave (and certain sporting events). However it is now planned for Sunday 16 September. The walk is a circuit beginning at Cores End at 2.30 pm and is about 4 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 come along.

Summer Children's Fun Day

This is to be held on Saturday 11 August at Cores End Church hall and is aimed at 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.

Anniversary Concert

This concert is to be held on 6 October at 7.30 pm. Admission is free, with any donations going to Wycombe Homeless Connection. More details to come.

Building challenges

The ceiling of the lower hall was found to be moving with people using the upper hall for dance and exercise. Sizeable remedial work is necessary to rectify the problem. The hope is that this can be done over the summer holidays while groups are not meeting, but the deadlines are very tight. Work on improving the toilet facilities have had to be put on hold.

A message from Andrew W

Dear Trinity friends,

Life sometimes brings unexpected changes. The latest one for me is the spirit leading me to worship in All Saints church.

After so many years at Trinity, this is a difficult move – but I know it is God's plan, and an important step in my spiritual journey.

This is a new beginning, but not “goodbye” and I hope to keep in touch regularly with everyone.

Trinity has a special place in my heart, and will be regularly in my prayers. I will, though, still be on the organ rota.

Blessings,

Andrew

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

The hostile environment Resolution

The following resolution was passed by the General Assembly unanimously:

In the light of recent revelations about the treatment of some members of the ‘Windrush generation’ and other migrants, General Assembly:

- a) expresses its deep concern that the government's ‘hostile environment’ policies (now being referred to as the ‘compliant environment’) are leading to destitution, discrimination and distrust in society;
- b) calls for an approach to immigration that treats every individual, whatever their status, with humanity, dignity, respect and fairness;
- c) encourages church members to study the Joint Public Issues Team's new report on this subject, and consider taking the actions outlined in the report;
- d) directs the mission committee to work with others to make appropriate representations to government, to make the Church's concerns known.

Revd Francis Ackroyd from Vine URC in Ilford raised a concern about how ‘Time for God’ volunteers had had their visas cancelled by the Home Office (including a volunteer in his church). He encouraged people to write to the Home Office and their MPs. See Terry for more information

URC Daily Devotions: Inspiration In Your Inbox!

BBC's Songs of Praise featured the Daily Devotions at the end of June. The episode was entitled The Power of Prayer and the programme included a short piece on the Devotions showing how they can be used on various electronic devices.

The Rev'd Dr Susan Durber, was interviewed about her use of the Devotions and spoke of how reflecting on the bible and prayer gives us the opportunity 'to reset our spiritual clock.' Andy Braunston, the Co-ordinator of the project, also spoke on the programme.

There has been a big increase in the number of subscribers to the Devotions since then which is good to see.

The daily devotion is sent out each morning the United Reformed Church to several thousand people. It is short and simple with a bible reading, short reflection and prayer. The reflections are written by a variety of people from different places and perspectives across the Church.

You can sign up to receive them by going to devotions.urc.org.uk (and you can read previous Devotions there too). If you don't have internet access and would like to receive the devotions as a booklet speak to Terry Hinks.

CCPAS

(Churches Child Protection
Advisory Service)



has changed its name to **thirtyone:eight**

Why have we changed our name?

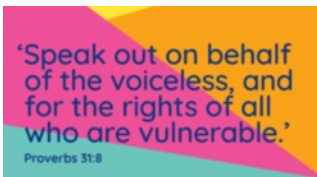
We've been serving organisations for over 40 years, and have found that our previous name - Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) - no longer adequately reflects who we are, and the scope and range of services we provide.

As an independent Christian charity offering a complete safeguarding solution we work alongside organisations, charities, faith, community and government groups, making sure that they are equipped and empowered to protect vulnerable people.

We recognised the need to better communicate who we are and why we do what we do.

What does the new name mean?

As a Christian organisation we are inspired to 'speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable' as we believe God told us to. Our name comes from Proverbs 31:8.



Our phone number will not be changing (**0303 003 11 11**) and emails sent to ccpas.co.uk will continue to get through.



Alan Yates, now Immediate Past Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly, and John Proctor represented the URC at the Windrush 70th anniversary celebration at Westminster Abbey on the 22nd June 2018. Alan has given us permission to share the following article, which he wrote following the service:

The Spirit of Windrush

John Proctor and I were invited to the Spirit of Windrush thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey on Friday, the 70th anniversary of the arrival of MV Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks with over 500 women and men from the Caribbean. These people agreed to emigrate to the UK, at our government's request, to help us rebuild the UK after the devastation of the 2nd World War.

The service had all the pomp and precision you'd expect from Westminster Abbey but it was infused with lively singing and poignant drama from a group of young, talented black actors. When the Windrush 70th Anniversary Choir began to sing the upbeat anthem, 'As I travel through this pilgrim land' it was hard to keep still; heads were bobbing and feet were tapping!

The address by Revd Canon Joel Edwards was both a celebration of the Caribbean contributions to the UK and a reminder that there is still work to be done. In the prayers we were led by the group of actors who each gave thanks for the contributions of named individual black people who had risen to the top of their profession or sport; and this was a long list.

It was good to see the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary and the Mayor of London at the service.

Their presence both reminded us of the harm, done in our name, to the Windrush Generation through the government's 'hostile environment' policies but also of their recent moves to repair that damage. *[continued on next page]*





The picture above shown is of the cape worn by The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster. The 'Windrush Cape' was created by the artist Terry Duffy, and was worn for the first time at this service. It is intended that the cape will be worn by many church leaders and act as a powerful catalyst to future thinking, discussion and debate focused upon racial justice and recognition of Windrush Generations' outstanding contributions to UK culture.

Well done to the Spirit of Windrush planning group, chaired by Bishop Dr Joe Aldred.

Blessings,

Alan

I have supported Anti-Slavery International for a number of years, ever since my work with Churches Together in England on the *set all free* project. There is so much work to be done on the legacies of transatlantic slavery throughout the former British Empire and the Americas, but also to combat modern forms of slavery endemic in the world. I thought some of you might like to know a little about modern slavery – you will hear Alan talk more about the legacies of transatlantic slavery.

Kate Yates

[see article on next page]

Modern Slavery – does this only exist overseas? No – slavery in the UK is thriving! Our own government estimates that tens of thousands of people are in modern slavery in the UK today. Most people are trafficked to the UK from overseas:-

- most commonly from Albania, Vietnam, Nigeria, Romania and Poland.
- into forced labour in agriculture, construction, hospitality, manufacturing and car washes. Many women and girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation.
- into domestic slavery (mostly women and girls). Others, particularly children, are forced into crime such as cannabis production, petty theft or begging.

How does it happen? – Typically, the person who is enslaved comes from a **background of poverty** and lack of opportunity, and gets the offer of an apparently good job in the UK. Frequently the **victim has to take a loan** from an agent to pay for the journey and for recruitment fees. When the person arrives in Britain, the job and the conditions they were promised are completely different. Their **passport is taken away**, and they're told they need to **pay off the debt** before they can leave. **Violence or threats** are common practice, both against the victim as well as their family back home.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 – Anti-Slavery International called for a new comprehensive law, and this:-

- makes prosecuting traffickers easier by consolidating existing slavery offences
- increases sentences for slavery offences
- bans prosecuting victims of slavery for crimes they were forced to commit by their traffickers, such as drug production or petty thefts
- introduces child trafficking advocates to better protect trafficked children
- makes big UK businesses publically report on how they tackle slavery in their global supply chains
- establishes an independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to overlook the UK's policies to tackle slavery.

Material courtesy of Anti-Slavery International www.antislavery.org

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tel: +44 (0)20 7501 8920 email info@antislavery.org

IMPORTANT – Trinity Times and inclusion of your personal information

At the July Church Meeting there was considerable discussion around the content of this magazine in all its formats. This note is for those who were not there, and to clarify what has changed.

This all stems from the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which came into effect at the end of May. The congregation have been asked in recent months to formally give consent for their personal details to be used by the church in various ways. As editor of the magazine, I want to ensure that we treat people's data with care, recognising that the magazine's readership extends beyond the immediate church fellowship, to groups who use the building, and beyond.

Since the introduction of GDPR, we have produced two paper versions of Trinity Times: one specifically for the congregation, and another (with personal details removed) for others such as users of the premises. (We have, for many years, had this "sanitised" version on the church web site and will continue with this). It has, however, been decided that we should return to producing one printed version for church and community, so the version given to the congregation will again be the one edition left in the building and given elsewhere.

In order to comply with the regulations, there will in future be some restrictions to the information printed in the magazine. For example, no private postal addresses, phone numbers or email addresses will be given **unless** the individual has specifically asked for (or agreed to) that. (If such information is considered to be vital, then we will have to find a solution as the need arises!) I will work with the minister and elders to ensure we both fulfil our obligations with any data and have a magazine that effectively serves both the church family and wider community. We are trying to balance the requirements of protecting your personal data and being part of an open church community – not always an easy task!

Thank you for your anticipated understanding



[Editor]

Mission Committee, 7 -8 June 2018

Feedback and Action List for Synods

1. Mission Committee encourages engagement with HOPE (www.hopetogether.org.uk) and in particular with Remembrance 100, which starts on 4 August. Check out the excellent website for resources. (www.remembrance100.co.uk)
2. Note that excellent resources are available for Rural Churches, e.g. A Discipling Presence, Rural Mission Sunday (15 July) and the resources of the Arthur Rank Centre (<http://germinate.net>) . The National Rural Officer is also available to support synods and local churches in their mission in a variety of ways (elizabethc@germinate.net) . Please invite her.
3. Mission Committee agreed that the Administrator for Church and Society post will be changed to Programme Support Officer for Church and Society. Recruitment will start immediately. Closing date: 2 July 2018 Please spread the word!
4. Mission Committee considered the next phase of Fresh Expressions Ltd, starting in March 2019 and considered options for the shape of the future partnership. These will be considered by all the partners in Fresh Expressions Ltd at a special meeting on 24 September, with a view to implementing what is decided in the following six months.
5. The Mission Committee is looking for a volunteer to be part of the URC/Roman Catholic Dialogue Group, which is entering into its third phase. If anyone in your synod would like to take part in the work of this group, please contact Revd Philip Brooks, the Secretary for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations (philip.brooks@urc.org.uk) .
6. The Mission Committee accepted the terms of reference for a new Interfaith Enabling Group. Unlike its predecessor, the Methodist/URC Interfaith Reference and Resourcing Group, the IEG will be a URC only group, though the group will include observers from other ecumenical partners. This group is available as a resource to the synods too, for advice and support.

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7. Mission Committee received a report on the ongoing work with Christian Aid in relation to Commitment for Life. A partnership agreement is being drawn up, which will come back to Mission Committee for agreement in September. The committee also took note of the resignation of the Programme Officer for Global and Intercultural Ministries and the intended retirement of the Programme Coordinator for Commitment for Life (November 2018) and agreed that a new post of Programme Officer for Global Justice and Partnerships be created to continue the work of both programmes (Commitment for Life and Global Partnerships).

8. Mission Committee heard a presentation on the work the Joint Public Issues Team are doing to produce a report and develop a campaign on the Hostile Environment. The report will be available soon, so please let your synod and local churches know, and encourage them to study it and join the campaign. There will be a private members resolution to General Assembly about the Hostile Environment, which was endorsed by Mission Committee.

9. The Secretary for Church and Society is also available for speaking, preaching, advising on Church and Society/Public Issues (simeon.mitchell@urc.org.uk). Please invite him.

10. Mission Committee received an interim report from the Environmental Task Group, which was established following the acceptance of the new environmental policy at the General Assembly in 2016.

11. Mission Committee received three excellent reports of international visits and asked that these be made more widely available through the Global and Intercultural Ministries webpages and in other ways. They included a report by David Grosch-Miller from a consultation organised by the National Council of Churches in Korea on 'Cultivating Peace, Proclaiming Hope'; a report from a partners consultation organised by the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (by Michael Jagessar and Tim Clarke) and a report on the World Mission Conference in Arusha, Tanzania by Simon Peters.

[continued on p 18]

12. Mission Committee received with regret the decision of the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to sever formal relationships with the URC, in terms of representation at each other's Assemblies. The committee thanked the Moderator, Kevin Watson, for representing the URC at the PCI Assembly with sensitivity and grace.

13. Mission Committee received a report from the Buildings Forum outlining how it would relate to the Mission Committee. The Mission Committee accepted this as a good basis for future linking and cooperation.

14. On pages 140-160 of the Book of Reports for General Assembly 2018, anyone interested can read about the work of the mission committee and staff team to resource, stimulate and help to coordinate local mission efforts, as well as to bring our combined influence to bear, with partners, on national and international issues.

15. There will be a good range of opportunities for synod representatives at General Assembly to engage with current concerns and issues in society and mission, in special sessions with our mission staff and invited guests from partner churches, and to gather information and ideas to share with their churches. The new Chief Executive of Christian Aid, and the General Secretary of CWM, will both be speaking to the whole Assembly.

Francis Brienen, 9 June 2018

Prayers for August

They that go down to the sea in ships that do business in great waters, These see the works of the Lord and his wonders in the deep. Psalm 107 vv. 22-23. (KJB)

Praise the God of land, sky and sea.

Praise the Creator of the Blue Planet.

Thank you, Lord for the sea and the sea-shore. Bless all families who will be on holiday at the sea-side, paddling, building sand-castles, exploring rock-pools and generally relaxing enjoying a break from everyday life. Amen Lord of Creation, the seas fill us with wonder at your power and goodness as they provide a home and food for such a variety of creatures from the surface to the deepest trenches. Forgive us for treating them as rubbish pits, thinking they will absorb our refuse without becoming polluted. As we are now aware how wrong we were we ask guidance for scientists and environmentalists who are seeking ways of redressing the harm we have done. Renew the waters, Lord, and renew us so that we act responsibly as your stewards. In Jesus' Name, *Amen*.

Thank you, Lord, for human ingenuity and inventiveness, for capacity to design and sail ships of many kinds, fulfilling many functions and so we pray:
On naval vessels, warships, destroyers, and submarines, patrolling the seas: *Lord, have mercy.*

On merchant ships, container ships and fishing fleets: *Lord, have mercy.*

On passenger liners, cruise ships and sight-seeing ships: *Lord, have mercy.*

On yachts, catamarans and all vessels sailing for pleasure or in competition: *Christ, have mercy.*

On all exploration and environmental ships, including the new Sir David Attenborough: *Christ, have mercy.*

On passenger ferries crossing the seas: *Christ, have mercy.*

On crazy insecure vessels crowded with desperate refugees and immigrants: *Lord, have mercy.*

On all lifeboats, rescue and hospital ships: *Lord, have mercy.*

On all other sea-going craft of ancient or modern design: *Lord, have mercy.*
Amen.

Who's who

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