



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



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

SEPTEMBER 2018

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The next edition of Trinity Times will be published on 30th September.
All contributions should be submitted by Sunday 23rd September.



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

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

This autumn we are invited to look outwards in three ways:

- To look out to the planet on which we so depend as we learn more about the work of A Rocha and how we might become an Eco Church, better caring for the environment around us and beyond.
- To look at the needs of families and elderly people in Eastern Europe as we begin our shoebox collection for Link to hope.
- To look to the poorest communities in the world as we work with Toilet Twinning and Tearfund to improve sanitation in these communities (our Harvest charity this year).

The apostle Paul summed up Christian discipleship as 'faith active in love', and each of those projects express love for neighbour as a response to God's love for this world – God's creation. These three projects express something of that active faith. But that is just the beginning!

This autumn we are also being challenged to reflect on how we live out our Christian lives, following the way of Jesus day by day. Our autumn course will be part of a bigger programme which we hope will involve every member and friend of Trinity. It will challenge us to look at our own Christian discipleship and how that can be deepened and to look to our place within our local community and our impact on it.

The starting point for all this is the call of Jesus to follow him, not once but day by day. Following can be hard and we often stumble, but his invitation is gentle and gracious, full of hope and promise.

One of the themes we'll be developing will be the value of eating together as a Christian community and extending that eating and sharing beyond the fellowship. Food is such a basic part of all our lives, but one that has all kinds of associations and symbolism attached to it. I hope there will be lots of opportunities to explore this together. To begin with, don't miss our harvest celebrations on Sunday 30 September and the bring and share lunch afterwards: a time to share and to give thanks.



News of the Church Family

Not included in this version



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish a very
Happy Birthday to

Simon E (14th)

Iris H (18th)

Claire B (19th)

Martin D (20th)

Harri B (22nd)

Valerie L (27th)

Michael M (28th)

Congratulations



and best wishes to

Lesley & Ian B (18th)

Joy & John S (19th)

Kay & Glyn E (30th)

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):

- 2 September Worship and Communion led by Terry Hinks
9 September Morning Worship led by John Shaw
16 September Morning Worship led by Terry Hinks
23 September Morning Worship with Ian and Pamela Gamble
 from A Rocha (the Christian Environmental Organisation)
30 September HARVEST ALL AGE WORSHIP led by Terry Hinks
 followed by Bring and Share Lunch

Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome

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

Next Afternoon Communion is on 14 October at 4 pm

Midweek Prayers at 9.30 am on Weds 5 and 19 Sept in church
(half an hour of prayer together).

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.

CARING FOR GOD'S EARTH

Ian and Pamela Gamble, members of Northchurch Baptist Church in Hertfordshire will be coming on Sunday 23 September to speak about a Rocha, the vision behind Eco Church scheme and Christian concern for the environment. We have committed ourselves to become an Eco church as we care for the planet. Come and hear more on the 23rd. The website for A Rocha is at www.arocha.org.uk and Eco Churches at www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Regular events

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

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

Trinity prayers first and third Wednesday of the month, 9:30 am to 10 am

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

Movers & Shakers Caribbean Style group from 8th Sept every **Friday**, 10am-1pm

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)

Saturday Cafe - First Saturday of the month only - 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

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

What's on this month

Wed 5th Sept	Trinity prayers (Sanctuary)	9:30 am - 10:00 am
Wed 5th Sept	Trinity Elders meeting (The Meeting Place)	7:45 pm - 9:30 pm
Sat 8th Sept	Bucks Historic Churches Ride & Stride - sign-in form on side door	
Sat 8th Sept	Chiltern Group Steering Group Meeting	10:00 am - 1:30 pm
Sun 9th Sept	Traidcraft (2nd Sunday of month) (The Meeting Place)	Noon - 12:30 pm
Tues 11th Sept	Worship Planning Group (The Meeting Place)	8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Sun 16th Sept	Joint church walk from Cores End – 2.30 pm (followed by tea (4.30) and short act of worship (5.00)). Do join us, even if only for the tea and service!	
Tues 18th Sept	Church Meeting (Sanctuary)	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Wed 19th Sept	Trinity Prayers (Sanctuary)	9:30 am - 10:00 am

What's on this month . . .

Trinity Bookworms

The next meeting will be at Marian's house at 2pm on Wednesday 5 September to discuss Kate Adie's biography, 'The Kindness of Strangers'

Coffee & Chat

Coffee & chat will be meeting at Lesley's house at 10.30am on Wednesday 5 September

The Tuesday Meeting

Tuesday September 4th Welcome back. Bring and Share Tea.
Tuesday September 11th Beaconsfield and Metroland. Tuesday
September 18th The Parable of The Great Banquet. Tuesday
September 25th Alison Uttley and Buckinghamshire

All meetings in The Meeting Place at 2.30pm



CHURCH WALK

Sunday September 16th. (See previous page if you missed the details!)

Cores End Church

250th Anniversary celebrations

The church continues its Anniversary celebrations, with worship led on the first Sunday by previous ministers of the church. Janet Hopewell was unable to come in person because of an operation on her wrist but sent a service outline that church members presented at the beginning of August. The local vicar, Janet Binns is leading worship on 2 September and Alan Yates on 7 October.

Walk and Songs of Praise

The Walk followed by tea and Songs of Praise worship 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.

Anniversary Concert

This concert is to be held on 6 October at 7.30 pm. Members of the church will take the audience on a musical journey from 1768 (the year the church was founded) to modern times, giving a little bit of local history on the way. There will be an interval for refreshments and it should be great fun. Admission is free, with any donations going to Wycombe Homeless Connection. Do come if you can.

Building challenges

Early in the summer the ceiling of the lower hall was found to be unsafe. As a result, sizeable remedial work started on 16 August and will continue until 27 September. As well as replacing floor and ceiling the work will totally refurbish the lower hall, providing new lighting and flooring and better access into the church sanctuary. The cost of the project is over £40,000 but the church has been able to obtain a grant from Synod and draw from its reserves to cover this cost. Members are also supporting the project with additional donations.

General Assembly 2018: Immediate-past Moderator's address by Mr Alan Yates - Monday 9 July 2018

As far as has been possible, the text below includes the deviations from the original text supplied to the URC communications department.

Friends, followers, disciples and apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, may his peace and grace be with you all.

Moderator, I think you'll be pleased to hear that in considering what I was going to say, I listened to quite a few people. First of all came plaintive voices from General Assembly 2016. From there came the plea: 'No more lycra!' I think they might be surprised and a little disappointed.

The second piece of advice is a longstanding piece of advice from my wife. 'Just be yourself,' she said: 'Don't try to be funny or witty, just be yourself!'

The third piece of advice is from my homiletics tutor who said that all great preachers make three points. And so, ... *[a slide is displayed to Assembly showing four points, prompting laughter from Assembly members]*. I want to talk about how I survived; my big fear on taking office; my big concern for our denomination; and then share some encouraging signs.

How I survived: 2016 was a very strange year. We voted for Brexit; Donald Trump was elected... and I was inducted as Moderator of General Assembly! It was just over five years ago when I heard the call to be General Assembly Moderator. For the sake of time, I'm not going to repeat the story (but if you're interested you can find me in the bar afterwards) but with the help of the 'Gideon fleece', I accepted the call with a deep sense that I didn't have the skills needed for the role, but an even deeper sense that God would not let me, or probably more importantly you, down.

However, the closer it came to 8 July 2016, the more concerned I got. The special pair of underpants, for me to wear outside my trousers, had not yet been delivered! *[a slide is displayed to Assembly showing an image of Superman, prompting more laughter from Assembly members]* ... But that wasn't God's answer to my prayer.

On many occasions when I have looked back, I have seen the hand of God providing superb support and guidance; not by giving me super powers but providing me super people. Let me start with Kevin [*Watson*]. I know he's not here, which is a great shame, because I thoroughly wanted to embarrass him. But you can't have everything. Kevin has been a wonderful partner and friend; extremely competent and diligent, superb-ly faithful and spiritual, and, best of all, accepting and encouraging. Thanking people carries great danger [*not being able to thank everyone*] but I particularly want to express my deep gratitude to our two chaplains: Gwen and Mark. We have been richly blessed by their gifts and, for me in particular, for Gwen's guidance and encouragement. Bernie, if you could pass on my thanks I'd be grateful.

For brevity, I will only mention a few others, but I think there are two men I particularly want to mention for their quiet, gracious, competent and erudite style; please Join with me in thanking John Proctor and Michael Hopkins. [*applause*] And finally, I'd like to thank my wife, Kate, for her wise, patient and practical support. Thanks to you all.

Not only has my time in office been quite hard work, it's been a fantastic great privilege, it has also been a great pleasure. In part due to the fantastic officers of General Assembly, the staff in Church House, including our comms team, but also our dedicated synod moderators and their teams, and last, but definitely not least, you, the faithful disciples in our churches.

Let me share with you a little bit of my fear on taking office: in 2014, the single biggest topic concerning our denomination was same-sex marriage. It was clear there were (and still are) very strong views held on both sides of that argument, held with integrity. Because these views were based on prayerful study and thought, and not due to prejudice, they seemed to me to be almost irreconcilable. My fear was that I would be one of the moderators who presided over a split in our denomination. I was so pleased that that did not happen.

The fact it did not happen was not merely fortunate, I would argue it was miraculous. For our denomination, this was not simply a passive act of tolerance, but a gracious act of love, enabling us to walk side by side in love and friendship with those, some of whom we did not disagree with.

Before you think I'm patting Kevin and myself on the back here, let me be clear that the previous two moderators, David Grosch-Miller and John Ellis, are the ones who helped steer that ship, not Kevin and me. Let me finish this point by giving my heartfelt thanks, not just the moderators and the General Secretary, who through their grace and love, steered us through that time, but also to all of you, who, through your true love of neighbour, you demonstrated the love of God. In the words of Kevin, it gave the 'united' in the United Reformed Church more power.

My third topic. It probably hasn't escaped your notice that our denomination has been shrinking ever since it was born. This has lain heavy on my heart because I did not want the denomination, or the wider Church, to sink into irrelevance. And maybe we, in some ways, have already reached there. When something tragic happens in our country, the press don't ring Church House in Tavistock Square, they ring Church House in Great Smith Street, Westminster.

Also, you'll probably be aware that the average size of our congregations is 35. If you strip out the larger churches ... the average falls to about 30, or even less. Should we be concerned about that? Here's the politician's answer: yes and no.

Yes, for the simple fact that it indicates fewer people know or care about the love of God. Fewer people understand the imperative to love your neighbour. Fewer people recognise that gaining social media likes is not your purpose for being on this planet.

Should you worry about it? No, because for the simple reason that the gift of faith is not in our remit to give, it is the task of our Lord. Without overcomplicating our message, our task is to love the Lord our God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. If we are obedient to that command, I think we can let God worry about the rest.

Let me just quickly answer my question on relevancy or irrelevancy. In fact, I would ask you to go and talk to the people you feed, those that you give water to, those who you clothe, those who you care for ... We will never be irrelevant if we continue to feed the hungry, care for the sick ...

Lastly, let me move on to some encouraging signs. I think these signs serve not only to answer my previous concern but also as a summary of my experience as one of your General Assembly moderators.

I set one of my personal objectives to be an encourager of others. However, it seems to have operated the other way around – I came away encouraged. Across our three nations, from Lewes to Kirkwall, from Rhyl to Burnham-on-Crouch, and all stations in between – for those of you concerned about those examples, they are only the extremes of the churches I have visited; they do not represent the breadth of geography of our denomination – I have been impressed and encouraged by the way the URC is demonstrating the love of God.

All of the large churches I have been to have been fantastic; all exuding energy, commitment, love and Christian service. And I recognise that servanthood like this doesn't come easy, but at this time I would like to particularly hold up some of the small churches. And smaller churches start off at a disadvantage because of their level of resources; financial and human.

[The Moderator grants this speech more time.] What I wanted to do was to tell two stories: first North Avenue URC in Chelmsford. Their membership doesn't even get into double figures and yet they run a successful lunch club and a youth club. It would have been so easy to throw in the towel, close the church and move to one of the larger churches in Chelmsford – and that would have been very unfortunate, as it is the only church building in a very deprived area. Instead, they joined forces with other denominations, particularly the Anglicans in that area, to show the face of the servant Christ. God bless you North Avenue.

My second example is Broad Chalke, near Salisbury, and that recently been publicised by comms for its fifth anniversary. They provide local shop, a post office, community rooms, a community cafe and a worship space. Five members could not have done that on their own; they did it with the help of the local Anglican church. God bless you Broad Chalke.

And so, I can confidently say that stories of our demise are rather premature, particularly if we can work in partnership with others at a local level. So, I implore you all to not let size deter your vision. Whilst not everything that is small is beautiful, being small does not prevent us from being successful.

Let me finish with the words from Zechariah chapter four verse 10, when he warns us ... 'do not despise the day of small things!' Amen.

Alan Yates *[9 July 2018]*

Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal Christmas 2018 Start collecting now!



Trinity Church is taking part in Link to Hope Shoe box Appeal as we were last year. You are invited either to fill a shoebox yourself (leaflets are now available in church), work with others to do so or bring a few items to church for a collective box. Last year for example the Tuesday Group 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

COLLECTION DATE IS SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER

Movers & Shakers Chinese Style eighth anniversary

July saw the eighth anniversary of the Tuesday Movers & Shakers Chinese Style group – as usual, celebrations included a shared buffet of “fusion style”, reflecting the varied ethnicities of the group. The Chinese Style group begins with Tai Chi exercises. If you want to find out more, talk to Andrew Winton. (And if you want to find out more about the Friday Caribbean Style group, talk to Aurelia Awuku.)





New tablecloths for The Meeting Place and the Sanctuary

You may have noticed that we have some new easy-wipe tablecloths for eight small tables in The Meeting Place. They will be stored in a large plastic box in the right-hand section of the large cupboard in The Meeting Place.

In addition we have purchased eight easy-wipe tablecloths of the same design for the large tables used in the Sanctuary. They will be stored underneath the box containing the smaller ones.

If you are using these, please wipe them clean after use and let them dry before folding them away.

Thank you!

Great news – we’ve just heard that Twinings have become the second big UK tea brand to publish their list of suppliers from Assam – a key demand of our campaign.

This follows on from Yorkshire Tea’s decision to publish their list in June.

Together Twinings and Yorkshire make up nearly one-third of the UK tea market so these are significant steps forward.

We wouldn’t have got to this point without you.

More than seven thousand of you have sent in ‘Who picked my tea?’ postcards and taken our online action targeting the big 6 UK tea brands.

This has spurred the brands into action with first Yorkshire Tea and now Twinings moving to publish their lists of Assam tea estates in full.

We now need to push the remaining four – PG Tips, Tetley, Typhoo, and Clipper – to do likewise so that British consumers and tea workers in Assam know where the big UK brands buy their tea from.

If you want to know more about Twinings’ move and what it means for tea workers in Assam please read our blog.

Nice one Twinings!

Emilie & the Traidcraft Exchange Team

**LOOK OUT
THIS YEAR'S HARVEST CHARITY
Toilet Twinning helping to flush away poverty!**

As a church we would like to raise enough money to twin all six toilets in Trinity (at £60 each toilet) or more if possible.



Toilet Twinning (part of the Christian charity Tearfund) invites people to give £60 to twin a toilet. This is not simply about building toilets in poor communities. Education is the key to ending poverty. When people have knowledge, they can make informed choices about their lives. And bring about change for the long term.

So when people donate £60 to Toilet Twinning, it's unlikely that their £60 will pay for a latrine pit and slab. It's much more likely that they'll be helping to fund an education process that involves relationships, community meetings and workshops.

For many communities, hearing about the link between sanitation and health is a revelation: a light bulb moment. Many have never known why diarrhoea is so common, and why their children have fallen ill or died. Suddenly, they understand. And then they want a latrine – that they build themselves. Because a family who have built their own latrine is much more likely to use it and look after it.

In some places, of course, this approach isn't possible. So in conflict areas or places hit by a natural disaster (such as an earthquake or typhoon), the charity sends in people with water and sanitation expertise to dig wells and build latrines.

So 'does it cost £60 to build a toilet?' In communities hit by disaster or conflict, the cost of providing a latrine is far higher than £60. In places where the charity is working long-term through local organisations, the cost is lower. Overall, the average cost per household for a water and sanitation programme is about £60. Twinning a toilet and giving £60 will spark an amazing chain reaction that is changing entire communities for ever. One light bulb moment, one latrine at a time.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING IS ON SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

Worship at 10.30 am followed by bring and Share Lunch

STARTING THIS AUTUMN

GROWING TOGETHER

Exploring ways that help us truly live the Christian Life



Tuesdays at 7.30 pm
from 2 October 2018
at Trinity Church (use side entrance)

- 2 October 'Follow me': the adventure of discipleship
- 9 October Exploring 'Holy Habits': what nurtures our discipleship together? (Acts 2. 42 - 47)
- 16 October Focus on 'Eating together':
'Breakfast on the beach' (John 21. 1 - 14)
- 23 /30 Oct *no session these evenings*
- 6 November 'Banquet for all?' (Luke 14. 15 - 24)
- 13 November Exploring 'Eating together' through film
- 20 November *no session (Church Meeting instead)*
- 27 November Closing session: a shared meal

Where next in the adventure?



**Sign up on list in church or for more information
contact Terry Hinks (01628 525076)**

Praying the Way

with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John



Terry Hinks

Praying the Way

Terry Hinks

to be published on
19 October 2018 (BRF)

Through raw and authentic prayers, based on the gospel stories, Terry Hinks leads readers into the heart of the gospels, the more clearly to see the needs and joys of today's world. This highly original book helps readers to pray out of, and with, the words of Jesus and to discover the joy of prayer as a two-way conversation - listening as much as speaking to God.

AFTERNOON TEA AND BOOK LAUNCH
at Trinity United Reformed Church, High Wycombe on
Sunday 21 October 3.30 – 5 pm

RSVP Elizabeth Hinks 01628 525076
elizabeth.hinks26@gmail.com

Saturday Cafe - Update

Saturday Cafe has continued to thrive over the last 15 years at Trinity. Numerous folk have enjoyed the friendship, support and food provided twice a month by the very loyal hardworking team of volunteers, some having served from the start.

We are a very happy team but feel at this time our family commitments and health pull on our time. We have decided to meet only on the first Saturday of each month (as a trial initially) This will give a space for the popular Hot Potato cafe several times a year where we have a topical focus and invite more input from the church fellowship - watch out for these!. Thank you for your on-going prayer support which is so vital as we meet and serve those who attend.

Marian, John, Tina and all our team.

Barny's Epic Cycle for Compassion

A huge thank you to so many of you, who have encouraged Barny by sponsoring him to cycle 200 miles in a day for Compassion.

He DID IT In fact he rode 203 miles on a very hot Saturday in July. He has raised in excess of £1700 the money will be used for a new school project in Thailand, giving children the chance of education and helping their families out of poverty.

Barny is delighted to have been able to achieve this and we, as proud grandparents are so thankful for your support and encouragement you gave him

Thank you all
Martin and Marian

Prayers for September

Praise the Lord, the one true God,
Praise him in the morning as the sun rises,
Praise him at noon when the sun is high
Praise him in the evening as the sun sinks,
Praise him at night when the sun has disappeared.
God the maker of the sun is always with us.
Praise him.

.....

On all who have enjoyed the hot sun
Lord have mercy.

On all who've had time to relax
Lord have mercy.

On all who have kept cool
Lord have mercy.

On all who've lost all through wild fires
Christ have mercy.

On all swept from home by floods
Christ have mercy.

On all driven from home by drought or war
Christ have mercy.

On farmers worried for their crops and animals
Lord have mercy.

On all who work on the land
Lord have mercy.

On all who have been made redundant and/or lost their jobs
Lord have mercy.

.....

Lord, we pray for all who will be starting a new section of their lives this month, especially young people starting new schools, new apprenticeships, new colleges, new universities or new jobs. We pray for anyone moving home or from one country to another. We pray for Parliament, the Government and our leaders as they reassemble to face many challenges in the country and in the BREXIT negotiations. Grant them insight and wisdom in the decisions they make. Grant us all courage and hope to face a future which seems more uncertain than usual. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Who's who

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