

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

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

December 2018

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



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Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

Remembrance Sunday this year had particular poignancy, as the nation marked the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. For four years we have followed the tragedy of the 'Great War' with the senseless brutality of trench warfare, the beginning of war in the air, the bombing of civilians, the use of chemical warfare, the splintering of Europe and its echoes across the globe. We know that the Armistice did not bring an end to the suffering. The influenza epidemic took many more lives. And Germany became increasingly unstable under the weight of war reparations, with the eventual rise of Hitler and the Nazi movement. Anti-Semitism across grew stronger and led onto the unbelievable horrors of the holocaust.

In his great carol 'It came upon the midnight clear' Edmund Sears pictures the angels singing 'Glory to God! On earth be peace' but humanity being deaf to the 'love-song which they bring.' He goes on to plead 'O hush the noise and end the strife, to hear the angels sing.'

The voices for peace can often become overwhelmed by more strident voices for hatred, revenge or violence. In this age of instant communication and world wide web, those strident voices seem at times to be amplified. Yet they need to be confronted and faced down. Fake news must be met with honesty and truth, hatred must be challenged by justice and compassion.

Europe faces new challenges today and whatever our views on the European Union and the UK's relationship to it, we must surely work and pray for the well being of all our European brothers and sisters. We must pray that the rise of extremism is halted and a new harmony is found among people of every race and religion. And we must confront the prejudices within our own hearts.

As we enter Advent and come to celebrate Christmas, we remember the child who came to save humanity from itself, to show God's love and to lead us to new life. We celebrate Jesus, the Prince of Peace. May his grace and peace fill our hearts, our homes and our world.



News of the Church Family

Not included in this version

Christmas greetings to all my dear friends at Trinity. I hope you will all enjoy a peaceful and thoughtful time. I think of you often when reading my Trinity Times or when speaking to Kate.

By the time you read this Alan and Kate will have been to stay as Alan is preaching on Sunday 11th November at Hinckley URC.
Love and warmest wishes to you all,
Sue S in deepest Leicestershire.

This month we would like to wish
A Happy Birthday to

Diane H (1 st)	Barbara M (19 th)
Audrey R (2 nd)	Edna W (21 th)
Zion O (5 th)	Jane B (28 th)
Larry O (7 th)	Anne H (30 th)
Marian M (8 th)	Arthur W (30 th)

with love from all at Trinity

Worship at Trinity

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

2 December	Worship and Communion led by Terry Hinks
9 December	Gift Service led by Junior Church
16 December	Morning Worship led by Terry Hinks
23 December	No morning Worship (Carol Service at 4 pm)
25 December	<i>Christmas Day Worship at 10 am</i> (see below)
30 December	Christmas worship led by members of the congregation
6 January	Worship and Communion led by Terry Hinks

Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 23 December 4 pm Carol Service (with refreshments)

Christmas Eve (24 Dec) No Midnight Communion at Trinity (there is a midnight communion at Wesley Methodist Church at 11.15 pm to which all are welcome)

Christmas Day 10.00 am Short all age Worship led by Terry Hinks
(please note time)

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

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

What's on this month . . .

Wed 5th Dec	Trinity prayers (Sanctuary)	9:30 am - 10:00 am
	Elders meeting (The Meeting Place)	7:45 pm - 9:30 pm
Sun 9th Dec	Traidcraft (2nd Sunday of month) (The Meeting Place)	Noon - 12:30 pm
Thurs 13th Dec	Church Choir (Sanctuary)	8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Wed 19th Dec	Trinity Prayers (Sanctuary)	9:30 am - 10:00 am
Thur 20th Dec	Church Choir (Sanctuary)	8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Sun 23rd Dec	Church choir final practice before the carol service	

Every Sunday where possible

- Prayer ministry after the service

Every Tuesday

- Movers and Shakers Chinese Style (light exercise, a talk or activity and lunch) 10 am – 1 pm

Every Thursday

- Guides every Thurs (term time only) 7:30 - 9 pm

Every Friday

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

Every month

- Saturday Café (first Saturday of the month only) 11:30am – 1:30pm

Twice-monthly - first and third Wednesdays each month

- Trinity prayers 9:30 to 10 am

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

Trinity Bookworms

Trinity Bookworms will be meeting to discuss 'Howards End' by E M Forster at 2pm on Wednesday 5 December at 3 Fremantle Rd. Please note change of usual venue.

Coffee & Chat

Coffee & Chat will not be meeting during December.

Tuesday Meeting

All meetings in The Meeting Place at 2.30pm.

Tuesday December 4th Advent.

Tuesday December 11th Mince Pies, Carols and Readings.

We are on holiday until January 8th. Happy Christmas, everyone.

For our Junior Church Gift service on December 9th, we shall be holding a Christingle service. It is 50 years since the first Christingle service was held in England, although the tradition of Christingle dates from 1787 in Marienborn, Germany. It will be an interactive and fun service for all ages so please invite family and friends.



During the service we will be asking for gifts of money for The Children's society, who work with vulnerable children and young people throughout the UK. We also have some little money boxes for you to take home if you wish to start collecting now.

Following our Christingle Service, we shall be holding a cake sale to raise money for our sponsored child, Cristian.

Thank you for your support.

The Junior Church Team

Carols by Candlelight - 23rd December

May I just remind you of what you agreed to bring for the above service.

Norma - 50 sausage rolls

Marie - 50 sausage rolls

Elsje - 2 large packs of cocktail sausages

Suzanne - Tin of sweets and pastry bits

Olive - Large bag of multi flavoured crisps

Anne - Cheese straws and cheese stars

Sarah - 12 muffins

12 mince pies from the following:-

Barbara, Marian M, Audrey, John and Marianne, Joy and John, Tina and Simon, Harry, Abigail. .



Thank you so much for your support and Happy Christmas.

Blessings

Anne x

Churches Together High Wycombe Town Centre

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Autism and worship

with Revd Jenny Ellis

on Thursday 6 December at 7.30 pm

at the Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe

Jenny Ellis, Chaplain at Bucks University and local vicar, will be sharing some key insights on this theme from work done by the Diocese of Oxford.

ALL WELCOME

*For more information contact Terry Hinks 01628 525076
minister.trinity.coresend@gmail.com*

Cores End Church

250th Anniversary celebrations

The Anniversary celebrations drew to a close on Sunday 4 November with worship led by the minister and a special lunch. Among the archives found was a banner for the Cores End branch of the Order of the Rechabites (a 19th Century temperance movement) and a notice that gave the offering total of the previous Sunday (motivation to do better the following week!)

Remembrance Poppies

Along with the knitted red poppies, two new wreaths were added this year: one with white poppies to reflect on peace and one with purple poppies to remember the contribution and suffering of horses and other animals, especially in the First World War. Poppies were again used to decorate the cross outside the entrance of the church.

Shoe box Appeal

With Trinity's contribution of 18 boxes and 12 more from a local school a record 83 boxes were sent to desperately poor families and elderly people in Eastern Europe. The church lunch on 4 November raised further funds for the work of Link to Hope.

Children's Craft Day

This is being held on Saturday 1 December for children aged 5 to 11 with a mixture of craft, games, singing and cooking.

The Christmas Charity Morning

The Coffee Morning is on Saturday 15 December (10 am – 12 noon) at the church, with refreshments and stalls, all in aid of charity – Commitment for Life (Palestinian Partner) and the Marlow Opportunity Play Group, a local Play Group for children with special needs or life threatening illnesses.. Do come and support the event.

Carol service

All at Trinity are warmly invited to come and share in the Carol at Cores End on Sunday 16 December at 6 pm. The service will be followed by refreshments of mince pies and mulled wine.

BOOK LAUNCH

Praying the Way

Our minister, Terry Hinks was delighted to be joined by friends, family and members of local churches to celebrate the launch of his new book, *Praying the Way with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John*, published by the Bible Reading Fellowship. People gathered here at Trinity on Sunday 21 October to hear more about the book, buy copies and share afternoon tea together. Terry explained some of the background to this collection of prayers and reflections and how he hoped they would help people enter into the stories and teaching of the four gospels. Gordon Hindmarch, minister at Whitton Baptist Church, commended the book for its 'consistency and quality of writing', as well as its 'earthed and authentic' nature. By the end of the afternoon, the books had been sold, many signed by Terry, and orders taken for more. All in all it was a very enjoyable and inspiring event.

In commending the book, Baptist minister, Paul Beasley Murray wrote, 'Terry Hinks is a gifted wordsmith. His latest book consists of 160 amazingly fresh prayers – 40 for each gospel -in which Scripture becomes the springboard for the soul. I know of no other prayer resource quite like it. I found these prayers not just stimulating and broadening, but also deeply challenging. This is a book not to be read – but to be used. I warmly commend it to anyone looking for a more authentic relationship with God.'

John Proctor (URC General Secretary) also commented: 'These prayers would work very well in a church service, and would be equally helpful in a small housegroup or in private devotion. This book deserves to circulate widely, and I suspect that many copies will become well-worn in the course of the years. This is a resource to return to, time and again, for one's own faith and in the service of others.'

The book is available on the internet, at Christian Bookshops or from Terry himself. A Kindle version is also available on Amazon.

easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity shopping fundraising site.



It's simple to use and it's free. Since it launched in 2005, It has helped thousands of good causes raise money simply by shopping online. The community of over 1.4 million loyal supporters has so far raised over £23 million.



Wycombe Youth for Christ is an organisation that you could benefit by using “easyfundraising” when you shop on line. Use the link below to find out more.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

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Why Go To Church?

A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!"

Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2018

83 boxes collected - what an amazing response!



Cores End URC collected a record 53 boxes this year and Trinity URC joined in for a second year with a contribution of 18 boxes.

Added to our joint effort we received 12 boxes from the staff and Y7 students at Bourne End Academy who got involved for the first time thanks to Rosie Kimber from Cores End who works at the school.

Many thanks to everyone who supported this year's campaign; whether it was with a filled shoebox or a donation. All were much appreciated and will bring comfort and joy to people in need of support.

Daphne Stopforth



Traidcraft faces end of 40 years' trading Ethical consumption is challenged in difficult economic climate

Traidcraft plc, the Fairtrade pioneers whose church-based retailers have transformed shopping in the UK, subject to consultation, could cease trading by the end of 2018 unless a solution can be found in the coming month.

The plc, which generates £10m in annual sales was founded by six people in Newcastle in 1979. It's now in formal consultation with staff and other stakeholders following recent poor trading figures. The business has experienced shocks caused by the decision to leave the EU, and along with other retailers, sales have been hit by economic uncertainty and stagnating wages.

Chief Executive Robin Roth said: "We are the sort of business that pays up front – that's in our nature as an ethical business. So when the pound fell after the Brexit referendum, we took a hit. We also stand by our published prices, so unlike other retailers we stood by our customers, absorbed a lot of the additional cost, and kept price rises to a minimum."

These factors, together with a disappointing online relaunch, contributed to the decision by the Traidcraft board to propose to cease trading at the end of the year unless a solution can be found. Traidcraft plc's charity arm, Traidcraft Exchange, is a separate organisation and will continue its work with producers and in campaigning and lobbying for trade justice in the UK regardless of what happens to Traidcraft plc.

All the plc's 68 staff, based at Traidcraft HQ in Gateshead, are facing redundancy.

Traidcraft's 4,300 Fair Traders, 85% of whom are motivated by faith, account for about half of Traidcraft's revenue. Their sales of tea, coffee, cards and crafts at church fetes and school fairs have even changed the buying decisions of major supermarkets.

"Our wonderful, committed Fair Traders make a daily difference in the life of fledgling enterprises in hard-to-reach parts of the world", says Robin. "Because of their love for the cause, Fairtrade got on the High Street, and a new generation is growing to understand justice as an everyday matter."

Fair Traders, customers, and supporters have been encouraged to continue supporting Traidcraft plc as a good autumn season is a pre-requisite if the company is to have a future model.

Alliances between Fair Traders and Traidcraft's charity arm will continue, by means of fundraising events, donations and campaigning for change, even if trading ceases.

The Chief Executive wants people to get in touch with ideas for a future for Traidcraft plc: lovetraidcraft@traidcraft.co.uk



The UK Government is failing to protect thousands of children from exploitation by lacking a plan to prevent child trafficking, the UK Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group (ATMG) has said in its new report.

The report 'Before the Harm is Done', stresses that the UK has no specific strategy in relation to preventing trafficking in children, putting thousands of children at risk.

There were 2,118 suspected child trafficking victims reported to the UK authorities in 2017, comprising nearly half (41%) of the total number of potential victims and constituting a concerning 66% increase from the year before.

British children make up the biggest group of suspected victims, with 677 children from the UK referred to the authorities. The increase in county lines exploitation is blamed for the massive 265% spike in British children trafficking referrals compared to 2016.

Despite these numbers, the UK Government does not have a coherent plan for preventing child trafficking as part of its Modern Slavery Strategy.

For example, different strategies to tackle various forms of child exploitation such as the county lines trafficking or child sexual exploitation have been developed separately from the Modern Slavery Strategy, which in turn is framed as a priority for law enforcement rather than around safeguarding children from abuse. Despite some efforts to join up some of these initiatives, they continue to receive different levels of attention and resourcing, resulting in many children only receiving help once the harm is done and a criminal offence takes place, instead of preventing the offence in the first place.

This is not helped by the lack of comprehensive awareness raising programme for doctors, nurses, teachers or social workers, who could help identify children at risk early and prevent further abuse. An example of such failure is a case of a British girl, who was trafficked at 12 and exploited for sex for seven years, despite normally going to school and being in regular touch with social workers and doctors.

Prayers for December

In this time of Advent, Lord, grant us the faith of Abraham, the insight of the prophets, the strength of John the Baptist and the obedience of Mary as we look forward to celebrating the birth of your Son, Jesus our Saviour. *Amen.*

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On all travellers journeying home for a family reunion. *Lord have mercy.*
On all travellers seeking a home this Christmas, *Lord have mercy.*
On all making the lonely and stranger feel at home this Christmas,
Lord have mercy.

On all with plenty to eat, *Christ have mercy.*
On all longing for something to eat, *Christ have mercy.*
On all sharing their plenty with others, *Christ have mercy.*
On all who receive many gifts, *Lord have mercy.*
On all who receive no gifts, *Lord have mercy.*
On all generous givers, *Lord have mercy.*

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After the Christmas celebrations we are asked to remember Stephen, martyred for his faith; John, exiled on Patmos; the Holy Innocents, killed on the orders of the jealous and angry Herod; and Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, struck down in his own cathedral in a dispute between church and state.

We acknowledge with sorrow, Heavenly Father, that today many people are persecuted and some lose their lives for their faith; many are forced to leave their homes; children are traumatised and killed in the indiscriminate chaos of modern warfare and conflicts and wars are fought over where power should reside. Forgive us, Lord, that we, the human race, have allowed such things to happen.

Grant, we pray, that we may be inspired by the faith and steadfastness of Stephen, John, and Thomas to stand up for the truth and defend the weak against the powers of selfish might and greed. May we earnestly and truly pray for your will to be done on earth so that your Kingdom may come in its power and glory. *Amen.*

Who's who

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