

# TRINITY Times



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



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

**FEBRUARY 2019**

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The next edition of Trinity Times will be published on 24th February All contributions should be submitted by 17th February.



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

## ***Pastoral letter***

Dear friends,

Over Christmas my daughter banned all mention of the dreaded Brexit negotiations, referring to it as 'that which shall not be named.' Certainly it helped make a great Christmas for our family, but of course we can't get away from this reality that our nation faces at this time. Our politicians seem to have dug an enormous hole, both for themselves and for the country as a whole. The resentments on both sides have been enflamed, rather than calmed, and we can only hope and pray that wiser voices will begin to prevail as the 29 March deadline approaches. What do you think about all this? (I hardly dare ask!)

How can people learn to disagree well, rather than destructively? Christians know all too well how destructive arguments can become, where people hold opinions and beliefs with real passion but somehow cannot accept that others may think differently. Over the years I've witnessed major debates in the church about nuclear arms and peace-making, the nature of baptism, the role of the state, human sexuality and gay marriage. Some of those debates have been done well, others less so. Christians do not agree on these matters and we have had to find ways to live together. Those churches that only allow one viewpoint limit their life and witness and diminish their faith; we are enriched by allowing personal conviction and encouraging debate and seeking after the Spirit's wisdom. As Paul said, the body does not consist of one member but of many. .... The eye cannot say to the hand 'I have no need of you', nor the head to the feet 'I have no need of you' ... If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.' (1 Corinthians 12.14,21,26)

Of course there are matters over which there can be no compromise – love cannot be proclaimed through hatred and the gospel cannot be given with focussing on Jesus Christ. There are matters over which we cannot simply 'agree to differ.'

One of the guiding principles for the ecumenical movement has been the words of a 17<sup>th</sup> century German Lutheran theologian, by the name of Rupertus Meldenius. He wrote, 'In essentials Unity; in non-essentials Liberty; in all things Charity.' All three are the work of the Holy Spirit, not simply in the life of the church but in society and the world at large. May God's Spirit be at work in the months ahead and may we each be open to that Spirit.



# News of the Church Family

**Not included in this version**

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This month we would like to wish

Grant C (5<sup>th</sup>)

Alan K (19<sup>th</sup>)

a very Happy Birthday

with love from all at Trinity

# Worship at Trinity

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

- 3 February     Worship and Communion led by Terry Hinks  
10 February    Morning Worship led by Colin Hutt  
17 February    All age worship led by Terry Hinks  
24 February    Morning Worship led by John Mackerness

*Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome*

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## Keep praying

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

**Midweek Prayers at 9.30 am on Weds 6 and 20 February in church** (half an hour of prayer together).

**The Prayer Circle** next meets on 24 February 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 Kate Yates.

**24/7 Prayer for High Wycombe** is shared by all the churches. Trinity is well involved, taking part in days of prayer from time to time and using the 24/7 monthly prayer sheet. If you would to receive this sheet contact Marian Mole.

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## Favourite hymns of the professionals:

Crown him with many crowns (Dentists)

The Church's one foundation (Builders)

Holy Holy Holy (Tailors )

There is a green hill far away (Golfers)

## What's on this month . . .

**Night Shelter continues for us through until the end of March. Do please pray for all volunteers, guests, and Wycombe Homeless Connection staff.**

Sat 2nd	Saturday Café	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Mon 4th	Holy Habits Fellowship Group	2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Tues 5th	Holy Habits Fellowship Group	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Wed 6th	Trinity prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
	Trinity Elders meeting,	7:45 pm - 9:30 pm
Sat 9th	Chiltern Local Area Group Steering Meeting venue tbc,	10:30 am - noon
	Thames North	10:00 am – 4.00 pm
	Property/Admin/Treasurers Day, Potters Bar URC	
Sun 10th	Traidcraft	Noon - 12:30 pm
Mon 18th	Holy Habits Fellowship Group	2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Tues 19th	Holy Habits Fellowship Group	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Wed 20th	Trinity Prayers	9:30 am - 10:00 am
Sun 24th	Prayer circle	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Wed 27th	Worship & learning	8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

## . . . and later

Tues 5 March	Shrove Tuesday	
Tues 26 March	AGM and church meeting	7:30 pm
Sat 30 March	Chiltern Area Quiet day at Cores End	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Thurs 18 April	Maundy Thursday communion at Trinity	7:30 pm
Fri 19 April	Good Friday service at Union Baptist Church	10:00 AM
Sun 21 April	Easter Sunday	

# What's on . . . this month

## Trinity Bookworms

Trinity Bookworms will be meeting at 2pm on Wednesday 6 February at 21 Fremantle Road, High Wycombe, to discuss 'The Five People You Meet In Heaven' by Mitch Albom.

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## Coffee & Chat

Coffee & Chat will be meeting at 10.30am on Thursday 28 February at 47 Healey Avenue, High Wycombe. We'll be hearing about Ellen's trip to Canada.

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## Tuesday Meeting

All meetings in the Meeting Place, at 2.30pm

Tuesday February 5 <sup>th</sup>	Peter the Fisherman.
Tuesday February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Chaucer and St. Valentine.
Tuesday February 19 <sup>th</sup>	Marian Mole to talk about Canada and Alaska.
Tuesday February 26 <sup>th</sup>	What's your Colour?

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## Regular events

- Every Sunday where possible – prayer ministry after the service
- Movers & Shakers Chinese Style group every Tuesday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Tuesday Meeting every Tuesday, 2.30 pm to 4 pm
- Trinity prayers first and third Wednesday of every month, 9:30 am to 10:00 am
- Trinity Guides every Thursday, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm (term time)
- Movers & Shakers Caribbean Style every Friday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Trinity Rainbows every Friday 5:15-6:15 pm (term time)
- Trinity Brownies every Friday 6:15-7:30 pm (term time)
- Saturday Café the 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 Revd Terry Hinks or Kate Yates (Church Secretary)*

# **Cores End**

## **Next Children's Craft Day**

The date of the next craft day for 27 children aged between 5 and 11 is on 6 April. Children linked to Trinity would be very welcome to come to this (speak to Terry Hinks if you want to know more).

## **Final piece of the jigsaw**

A much-delayed railing was added to the steps in the hall just before Christmas, meaning that the hall renovation project is complete. A meeting with the contractor and architect in January means final bills have been issued and paid and now the grants and vat reimbursement are being processed.

## **Memories booklet**

Following on from the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations last year, the church has produced a booklet bringing together people's memories from recent years and long ago. One of the stories told is about one of the church's preachers, Ken French. One Sunday he was under the weather and so phoned the church secretary to ask if he would lead the service instead. The church secretary agreed and asked Ken for his sermon notes. Ken replied, 'Oh as an exercise this week I wrote my notes in Ancient Greek.' The booklet is available from Cores End (with a suggested donation of £1 to church funds).

## **Remembering dear friends**

The church was full on 3 January for a service of thanksgiving for Gordon Burwood who died just before Christmas. The Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir (of which Gordon was a member) sang a couple of songs and swelled the singing of the hymns and Gordon's son and daughter gave moving tributes. We keep his wife Freda in our prayers.

Then on 17 January friends and family gathered at church to remember Betty Grant, who had lived to the grand age of 96.

## **Church Land**

Cores End Church owns part of the field that backs onto the churchyard. In previous years this has been rented out to a local farmer, but last autumn the church ended the rental and is now looking to develop the land as a quiet wildlife garden (possibly with some space for burials, given that the churchyard is nearly full). We are in negotiation with the local landowner about marking out and fencing the land. Watch this space!



## **Notice of AGM – Tuesday 26th March at 7.30 pm (followed by church meeting at 8 pm)**

**Members and friends of the church are encouraged to attend this important meeting. It provides an opportunity to review the past year to look at plans for the future, as well as elect people to give leadership and care.**

### **Seeking new Elders**

Harry B will have served one three-year term as Elder and so is eligible for re-election (he is willing to be nominated for a second three-year term). John S has stood down as an Elder because of his health. As a result, we are seeking at least one, possibly two, additional Elders to serve. Please consider if you might be able to help in this way or if there is someone you could encourage to stand for election. Your prayers and support in this vital area would be much appreciated.

### **Pastoral Assistants**

John H is standing down and the Elders would welcome additional Pastoral Assistants, especially if we elect new Elders.

### **Annual Report contributions**

Reports of the different groups will be available for the meeting. Contributions need to be with Angus by the end of February.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate", is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

## **HOME GROUPS**



### **FOCUS ON FELLOWSHIP**

We are exploring what it means to be a disciple of Christ today, using an initiative called 'Holy Habits'. This initiative invites us to consider what helps to nurture our faith and love for God and our neighbour. It draws on a picture of the early church found in Acts 2:42 – 47, identifying ten habits and encouraging us all to develop a way of life formed by them. The habits are: biblical teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, sharing of resources, service, eating together, gladness and generosity, worship, prayer and making more disciples.

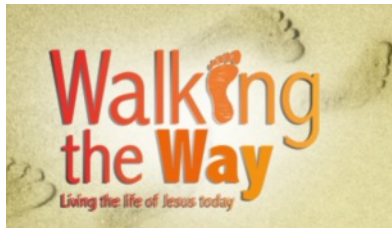
In January and February our focus is on fellowship and this was introduced in all age worship on 20 January. We are exploring this further in homegroups, to which you are very welcome. They meet on:

***Mondays at 2.30 pm on 4 February and 18 February (Tel. 01494 533726)***

***Tuesdays at 8 pm on 5 and 19 February (Tel. 01494 524028)***

***Thursdays at 8 pm (CANCELLED)***

***For more information contact Terry Hinks (01628 525076)***



This year's WDP will take place in Union Baptist Church on Friday 1st March at 10:30am.

The prayers this year have been prepared by the women of Slovenia under the title "COME --- EVERYTHING IS READY"

We look forward to welcoming everyone who is able to attend.

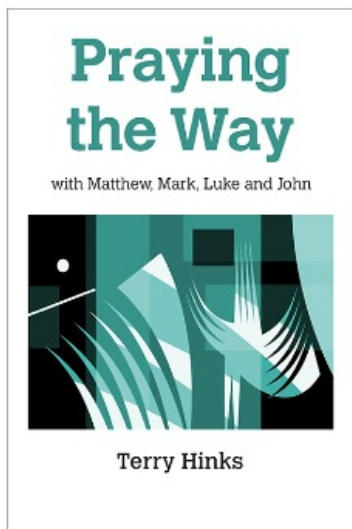
God Bless

Olive & Janet.



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## Praying the Way with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John



'Terry Hinks' book is a multi-layered gift. At once, it both offers prayers that can enrich personal devotions and public worship and enables insightfully novel theological reflection upon some very familiar material. I am grateful for it myself and warmly commend it.' Nigel Uden (URC General Assembly Moderator)

Terry Hinks will be at St Andrew's Bookshop, Great Missenden to talk about his new book, *Praying the Way*, and to sign copies on Wednesday 20 February at 7.30 for 7.45 pm. There will be refreshments and all are welcome. No need to book; just come!

St Andrews Bookshop 61-65 High Street,  
Great Missenden  
Bucks HP16 0AL Tel: 01494 862168

**CHILTERN LOCAL GROUP**

'Cross Roads'



## ***A Quiet day for Lent***

***led by Revd Ian Green***  
*(Minister of Amersham Free Church)*

**Saturday 30 March 2019**

**10.30 am – 4 pm**

(coffee served from 10 am)

**at Cores End United Reformed Church**  
***simple lunch and refreshments provided***

***Cost £5 (including lunch)***

Limited places: book now:  
Contact Bridget Powell  
Phone 01494 784786  
E mail [bridgetwinnpowell@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetwinnpowell@gmail.com)  
or speak to Terry Hinks



Wesley Methodist Church Priory Road HP13 6SE

Monday 11th March 7.30 to 9 pm



**Are you considering serving  
& supporting your working  
community through  
Workplace Chaplaincy ?**

**Come to hear about the past  
10 years and  
opportunities for  
training and support**

**CHAPLAIN**

**Details on 07746 373639  
or 07450 737438**



**Wycombe  
Workplace  
Chaplaincy**

## **Don't be too helpful!**

There have been a couple of instances in the last few weeks where individuals unknown to us have had parcels addressed to them delivered to the church, and someone in the building has accepted and signed for the parcel.

Trinity never arranges for parcels to be delivered to the church building as we do not have anyone from the church there to accept them.

Therefore, if you should be approached by a delivery company to receive any parcel at Trinity, please politely turn them away and say that you are unable to sign for or accept a parcel. We have no way of knowing what the contents are and would not want to compromise anyone's safety. These days couriers deliver at hours outside the usual 9 am to 5 pm so any users of the premises may be faced with such a situation.

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## **Coming up at Westminster College**

### **What is it to be Human? (with the Faraday Institute) Saturday 30th March – Understanding Artificial Intelligence**

How do we as Christians respond to the world of Artificial Intelligence. As we rely more and more on technology around the home and across our lives how do we maintain and build personal relationships and community?

Starting with coffee at 9.30am this day provides us with the opportunity to hear experts in this field and provides the opportunity for us to reflect upon what this means for us and our Church communities.

We are fortunate to be joined by Dr David Glass – University of Ulster, Dr Peter Moore and Dr Michael Burdett from Nottingham. Neil Thorogood and Peter Ball of Westminster College will help us to shape our response as Christians. Go to <https://www.westminster.cam.ac.uk/rcl/church-events> for programme and booking form.

## Wycombe Homeless Connection - February Newsletter

**"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."** - Jeremiah 29:12

- We thank God for our army of dedicated volunteers who give so much of their time during the shelter months, as well as those who volunteer all year round.
- We pray for the Wycombe Winter Night Shelter, which runs from the beginning of January until the end of March in seven different church venues. We pray for smooth operation and that we succeed in helping guests find suitable accommodation.
- We pray for our support centre, which is open every working day to provide advice and support to those facing homelessness. We pray that our guests are filled with hope and blessed with God's love, that they may move forward with their lives.
- We pray for our Legal Drop-In sessions, which take place twice a month for anyone facing eviction and/or needing legal guidance. We thank God for our country's justice system and pray that everyone gets the help they are entitled to.
- We pray for our counselling sessions, which take place once a week. We pray that the burdens of our guests are lifted up to God, that they may feel at peace.

**"From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."** - Ephesians 4:16

- Wycombe Homeless Connection's annual service of thanks to God is taking place on 10th April 2019 at All Saints' Church, High Wycombe. All are welcome, and we would be delighted to have you attend.
- A quiz in support of Wycombe Homeless Connection is taking place at the Hit or Miss Pub, Penn Street on the 8th February. Tickets are £13 including a meal, which gives the choice of chilli con carne or vegetable curry. Teams are of 6 and doors are open from 7pm; please call Dawn on 07917 821 980 to book tickets.

Thank you ever so much for your continued prayers for and support of Wycombe Homeless Connection; it is thanks to God and his church community that we are able to do this vital work to tackle homelessness.



**Raising the bar in cocoa** Thanks to consumers choosing Fairtrade chocolate (and other cocoa-based treats!), many cocoa farmers have been able to make a real difference in their communities. Money from the Fairtrade Premium – more than £22 million in 2016 – means farmer organisations have invested in new farming methods to be more productive and better equipped. They also invest in schools, clean water, healthcare, roads and infrastructure to transform their communities. The Fairtrade Minimum Price safety net also protects more than 200,000 farmers from a cruelly volatile market. Find out more about the positive impact of choosing Fairtrade cocoa.

**Crisis in cocoa** These success stories, sadly, remain the exception and not the rule. Only eight percent of UK chocolate bars are Fairtrade certified. And in the past two years, a catastrophic drop in world cocoa prices has pushed many farmers further into poverty.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the world's biggest producer of cocoa, where only six percent of the output is sold on Fairtrade terms, farmers have seen their income fall by 30-40 percent from one year to the next.

Despite cocoa farmers' incomes falling, the price we pay for our chocolate has remained steady, which means the value of a chocolate bar is being shared amongst others in the supply chain, the share going to farmers continues to slide.



**Complicated problems need Multiple Solutions.** The reasons behind the injustice at the heart of chocolate are deep-rooted and systemic. Fairtrade has made real progress, but we know too that certification alone can't solve all of the problems, even if it's the best way to make a difference right now. Buying Fairtrade supports farmers to be more productive, to diversify their income sources and strengthen the co-operatives that are SO important in representing the interests of millions of individual smallhold farmers.

Greater investment and targeted support could drastically increase the pace of change. Governments - both ours and in countries like Cote d'Ivoire - can take policy decisions that favour smallholders and prevent exploitation at the hands of a ruthless world market. And citizens can demand it. Companies, manufacturers, traders and retailers all take a share of the profits from our chocolate treats, while most cocoa farmers still struggle to make a decent living.

Of course, there are those we know and love in the Fairtrade movement showing how profit, and the effects of price volatility, can be shared differently. So despite a complex and heartbreaking set of problems, there is a simplicity to be found. The price farmers receive for their cocoa is too low and keeps them in poverty. Choosing Fairtrade is making a difference, and together we can make even more of a difference. And by supporting our petition in Fairtrade Fortnight, you'll be taking the next urgent steps to bring about the change we can't deliver with our purchases alone.

**Towards a living income** We know that buying more Fairtrade cocoa can catalyse transformative change for farming communities. But we also know that we need to encourage others to do more to truly overcome the injustice at the heart of this much-loved product. And it won't happen unless the chocolate-consuming UK public demand it. Fairtrade supporters and community groups, along with companies and other decision-makers, are the key to making this happen. That's why we're launching a three-year campaign which will concentrate our efforts to go further and faster for farmers to achieve living incomes. We'll start this journey in Fairtrade Fortnight next year by focusing on the themes of cocoa (chocolate), women's empowerment and a living income. You can expect petitions, pledges and other actions over the course of the campaign. But to kick things off next year, the main message to share in your community is simple: BUY FAIRTRADE CHOCOLATE! What is a living income? Visit [fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight](http://fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight).

**She Deserves Fairtrade** Women are central to the cocoa story. Many farmers – both men and women – are underpaid and exploited. That means they can't earn enough for the basic human rights that many of us take for granted, including food, education and housing. For the women who work in the fields and in the home, it's even worse. They may plant and harvest, look after children, carry water and transport the cocoa beans to market. But despite all that hard work, they are likely to see even less of the money for their crop. They deserve more. Here in the UK, there's a growing movement calling for equal pay and respect for women. Ideas like living incomes, fairness and dignity are already at the heart of the public conversation. Women everywhere deserve respect, dignity, rest, relaxation and appreciation. Fairtrade supports women's empowerment. So, we'll be featuring the voices of women cocoa farmers at the heart of Fairtrade Fortnight to help us spread the message next year. By recognising those special women around us during Fairtrade Fortnight, we can create a platform for the amazing and inspiring women farmers across the Fairtrade network. They are leading the way in changing attitudes, behaviours and, ultimately, their communities. Let's get more people choosing Fairtrade chocolate and signing our Fairtrade Fortnight petition to support them. She deserves Fairtrade. She deserves a living income.

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**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2019**



**SHE DESERVES A LIVING INCOME**

**25 FEBRUARY – 10 MARCH**

## Prayers for February

Lord of the dark days of winter  
Shine your light upon us.  
Lord of the fallen leaves  
Cover us with your blessings.  
Lord of the growing seed  
Quicken our understanding.  
Lord of the cold and frost  
Warm our hearts with your love.  
Lord of the leaden skies and the bitter winds  
Grant us your peace. *Amen*

Lord we pray for our world where there is so much hurt and confusion and the future seems very bleak. We pray that a way of controlling global warming may be found and that all nations will follow it but we cannot be confident that it will be so. Without your mercy we can do nothing except pray 'your will be done'.

We pray for the leaders of the nations that they may show understanding and appreciation of the different traditions which mark their ways of life and start working with each other rather than warring.

We pray especially for our own nation at this time and its relationship with the E.U. Whatever happens may we maintain friendship and cordiality with the nations we have known for so long.

We pray for the internal divisions in so many nations at this time when groups of people feel neglected and passed over by governments and are making their voices heard. We pray for the many unhappy and dissatisfied groups in our own country. We pray that the different groups in Parliament may be able to find a common solution to the problems of Brexit. Lord, in your mercy we pray that out of all the pain and distress which has been revealed there may come hope and renewal. In Jesus' Name. *Amen*.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our town and its many different communities. We pray for any who feel they do not fit in and are outsiders. The need to belong, Lord, is one which you have given us so that we can enjoy life together. Bless our exploration of the meaning of the word "fellowship" in Acts 2 so that more people find Trinity a "place to belong". *Amen*.

# Who's who

**Minister**

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**Bookworms**

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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)

[guides@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:guides@trinity-urc.org.uk)

Church contact number

 01494 520365 (answer phone)