



RINITY
Times



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

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

December 2019

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



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

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

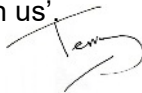
Our Advent preparations begin this year with an election campaign raging and the key issues of Brexit, social need, the economy and the environment very much in the air. Politics has seldom been so divisive, difficult or potentially destructive, but it is all the more important for that. We grieve over those across the political spectrum who have decided not to stand again because of the degree of abuse and intimidation they have experienced. Such online or offline bullying needs to be confronted and exposed for what it is – an affront to the good workings of democracy and the value of each human being.

We need to both challenge and pray for our politicians. The United Reformed Church comes from a tradition of dissent and non-conformity. It is willing to stand up against human powers when those powers are oppressive or over-reaching. In its statement about its faith and order, it speaks of the church as being distinct from the state and responsible ultimately to Jesus Christ, its only Ruler and Head. And then it goes on to say that ‘Civil authorities are called to serve God’s will of justice and peace for all humankind, and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.’

We can be grateful for the freedoms and peace we enjoy here in the UK, but we mustn’t be complacent. Many people in our society feel unheard or excluded from the political process. Democracy is not simply the rule of the majority, but is concerned with the will and well being of all the people. Members of Parliament are elected to represent and have a concern for all their constituents, not simply those who voted for them.

So pray for all the candidates who are standing in the election and all who cast their vote on 12 December – for wisdom, integrity and vision. Pray that they and we may not let down those who do not have a vote to cast – especially the children and young people of our nation. Their voice – and especially their concern for our planet and its future – needs to be heard.

And after the election has come and gone, we will come to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ, one who was born in poverty and powerlessness, yet whose piercing light brings life and hope to this messy hurting world. Come, o come, Emmanuel, ‘God with us’



News of the Church Family

Not included in this version

This month we would like to wish
A Happy Birthday to

Diane H (1 st)	Marian M (8 th)	Fiona W (29 th)
Audrey R (2 nd)	Barbara M (19 th)	Anne H (30 th)
Zion O (5 th)	Edna W (21 th)	Arthur W (30 th)
Larry O (7 th)	Jane B (28 th)	

with love from all at Trinity

Christmas Tree Festival

19th - 24th December 2019

At All Saints Church, High Wycombe

Join us for this exciting community event in the heart of High Wycombe!

Open daily for everyone to enjoy a stunning display of trees and a delicious array of Christmas refreshments. There will also be a quiz for

children of all ages(!) to puzzle over. There will be trees decorated by many different charities and organisations across the town, including Churches Together in High Wycombe. Each of the churches will be making a few decorations to add to this special tree.

Admission is **free** although there will be an opportunity for visitors to make a donation to support our vital outreach work in the town.



Worship at Trinity

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

3 December	Worship and Communion led by Terry Hinks
10 December	Morning Worship led by Colin Hutt
17 December	Junior Church Gift Day Service with Terry Hinks
22 December	CAROL SERVICE at 4 pm (no morning service)
29 December	Morning Worship led by Terry Hinks

Worship is followed by refreshments to which all are welcome

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 Dec in church

The Prayer Circle 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. If you would to receive the 24/7 monthly prayer sheet this sheet please contact Marian Mole or Terry Hinks.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18 – 25 January): here in High Wycombe there will be a number of events including a Prayer Workshop at the Salvation Army Citadel on Saturday 18 January (more details in the next magazine).

Prayers for the election: please hold the candidates and the whole election process in prayer.

What's on this month . . .

Wed 4th Dec	Trinity Elders meeting	7:45 pm - 9:30 pm
Sat 14th Dec	Night Shelter volunteers familiarisation session	9.30 am - 10.30 am
Mon 16th Dec	Night Shelter vols familiarisation session	5:30 pm - 6.30 pm
Tues 17th Dec	Night Shelter vols familiarisation session	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Sun 22nd Dec	Reminder: NO MORNING WORSHIP - come to the carol service at 4 pm instead!	
Sun 29th Dec	Bring night shelter stuff down to the sanctuary	12:30 pm - 1:00 pm
Sat 7th March 2020	Induction service for Karen Campbell, Church-Related Community Worker, followed by Celebration Tea	

Regular events

Every Sunday where possible

- Prayer ministry after the service

Every Tuesday

- Movers and Shakers Chinese Style 10 am – 1 pm

Every Thursday

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

Every Friday

- Movers and Shakers, Caribbean style 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

Talk to one of the church members if you want to know more

What's on . . . this month

Trinity Bookworms

Trinity Bookworms will be meeting on Wednesday 4 December 2pm at 21 Fremantle Road to discuss 'Suite Francaise' by Irene Nemirovsky.

Coffee & Chat

Coffee & Chat will be meeting on Thursday 5 December 10.30am at 11 The Brackens. You are welcome to join us!

Tuesday Meeting

Both our meetings this month start at 2.30pm.

We warmly invite friends to join us on each occasion and look forward to happy afternoons.

Tuesday December 3rd Communion Service in the Sanctuary, led by Revd Terry Hinks. (Refreshments afterwards in The Meeting Place.)

Tuesday December 10th Mince Pies, Carols and Readings in The Meeting Place.

Our next meeting is January 7th 2020.

THANKS AND THANKS AGAIN!

Prayer For Wycombe

Thank you to all those who took part in the 24 hour session of Prayer for Wycombe on Friday/Saturday 1st/2nd November. There were 18 pray-ers who covered at least 10 of the 24 hours! Prayer is such an important part of our Christian lives and is always appreciated even though we may not see the results.

DIY Day

Many thanks to everyone who turned up to help with our **DIY Day** on Saturday 16 November. It was good to see so many people doing a wide variety of tasks to improve the state of our premises and worship area. The giving of your time and skills was much appreciated.

Marian Mile

Carols by Candlelight - 22nd December



Thank you so much all of you who are helping me provide a lovely spread for the Carol Service this year.

Just a reminder what you agreed to:-

Not included in this version



“Ditch the Disposable”

Help save 2800 trees each day. Stop 5000,000 cups being dropped on the floor and another million going into landfill.

Sign the petition at:

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/ditch-the-disposable>

Cores End Church

Remembrance

The church was decorated with many red poppies (with some wreaths of white and purple too) for Remembrance Sunday. The cross outside the church was also decorated with poppies to remind passers-by of the sacrifice and cost of war and our longing for world peace.

Church's wildlife area

Work on the church land has continued, with more trees planted and another work party taking place in November. The local community magazine has produced an article on the project and people from the wider community are getting interested and involved. After a winter break we hope to plant some cherry trees in the Spring.

Work on the facilities

A plan to refurbish the church's toilets is being put together and it is hoped that work can be carried out in 2020. The sponsored walk raised a marvellous £1457 for the project. The church hopes to get some additional help from the Synod towards the cost of the work.

General Election Hustings

Beaconsfield Churches Together have a General Election Hustings on Wednesday 4 Dec at 7.30pm at Beaconsfield High School. All candidates for the Beaconsfield constituency will be present.

Charity Coffee Morning

The church's charity coffee morning is to be held on 14 December (10 am to 12 noon) with a variety of stalls and refreshments. This year all the proceeds will be going to Commitment for Life (PARC and other Palestinian projects) and to Hearts and Souls (the local charity formed in 1966 and working in Buckinghamshire for Cardiac Prevention and Rehabilitation). Please support this great event for such good causes.

Christmas Celebrations

The church's carol service is on Sunday 22 December at 6.30 pm. Morning worship on Christmas Day will be at 11 am.

Trinity brownies . . .

. . . is a thriving team, a diverse group of girls who are enthusiastic and ready to undertake all the tasks which are chosen by the girls themselves. The brownies have been super heroes, first aid badges have been completed. Nights away and many opportunities for the girls to get involved.



Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2019

Many thanks to everyone who contributed a shoebox or gave a donation this year. Between Cores End and Trinity, we collected 75 shoeboxes and donated an additional £60.

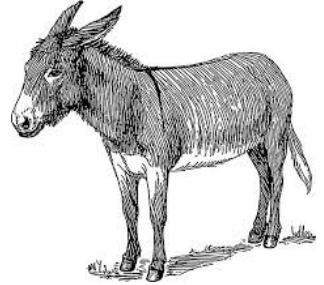
A fantastic response - thank you and Merry Christmas,

Daphne S

Donkey Talk

Hee Haw

They keep telling me I wasn't there.
What do they know?
They keep reading that man Luke
And he doesn't mention me.
I tell you he certainly wasn't there.
The clever-clogs say I strayed in from Isaiah
Whoever or whatever he is.
As if I ever strayed anywhere in my life,
Too busy working for one thing
And it was my stable.
Joseph and Mary were there
And then there was the baby.
That was interesting.
I'm glad I'm not a human mother,
My little one was born much more easily.
And the poor scrap of a baby,
No fur, of course, so he had to be wrapped up,
Couldn't stand up the way mine did almost at once -
Silly having only two legs, I think.
Still, I was glad my manger made a bed for him.
He cried a bit and then was quiet.
It was peaceful until those noisy shepherds came.
They kept jabbering about bright lights and angels.
Joseph tried to shush them.
Mary tried to listen to them and understand.
They were a rough lot.
At least they left their dog behind.
I hate sheepdogs, always trying to round me up.
Well, that's it then.
Luke managed to get most of it in.
He got the manger.
But I think he might have included me and my friend Ox,
If only in the background,
It would have made it more Historical, like.



Alan and Kate wish you all a peace-filled Christmas as you celebrate the birth of Jesus



We aim to save some trees this Christmas so are doing this “virtual” Christmas card to all our friends at Trinity instead of sending individual cards, and will be making an additional gift to a chosen charity instead.

Top tips for staying secure online from the Government’s National Cyber Security Centre

Many of you will already be doing this, but if you’re not, read on .

[Protect your email by using a strong and separate password](#)

Cyber criminals can use your email to access many of your personal accounts, leaving you vulnerable to identity theft.

[Install the latest software and app updates](#)

Software and app updates contain vital security updates to help protect your devices from cyber criminals.

[Turn on two-factor authentication on your email](#)

Two-factor authentication is recommended for email accounts to make sure your data is secure.

[Password managers: how they help you secure passwords](#)

Using a password manager can help you create and remember passwords.

[Secure smartphones and tablets with a screen lock](#)

Screen locks offer your devices an important extra layer of security.

[Always back up your most important data](#)

Safeguard your most important data, such as your photos and key documents, by backing them up to an external hard drive or a cloud-based storage system.

The Rough sleeping emergency

Wycombe's alarming rise in rough sleeping defied both regional and national trends. The government's annual rough sleeping statistics indicated that in 2018 the number of rough sleepers both in the South East and across the country went down (albeit slightly) for the first time in seven years, while Wycombe saw an increase of a whopping 71%.

Over 150 people slept rough in Wycombe last year

Although we are saddened that demand for our work has grown, we are delighted that your support has enabled us to expand our services. Plug-In, which is run entirely by volunteers and provides showers, laundry and warm meals to rough sleepers outside of the shelter months, has grown from one to two evenings a week. Our senior support worker, Kevin, has pioneered an outreach project which has been reaching out to those long-term rough sleepers who do not seek our help. And, for the second year, we are partnering with Wycombe District Council on a project aiming to ensure no one has to sleep rough in Wycombe this winter.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2020

Stand together

You are warmly invited to participate in:

Changing the future by confronting the past

A united Christian response to historic anti-Semitism in the Church, and a standing together as representatives of the wider community in opposing all forms of prejudice in this town.

Wednesday 29 January 2020

7.30 pm

All Saints Church, High Wycombe

RSVP and further information to Revd Hugh Ellis

Administrator Barbara Sampson: barbara@sampsons.org.uk

ECO UPDATE FROM A ROCHA

Many longer standing A Rocha UK supporters will by now have heard the very sad news from A Rocha International that last month Peter and Miranda Harris, co-founders of A Rocha, and Chris Naylor, A Rocha International CEO, together with his wife Susanna, were involved in a horrific car accident in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Miranda, Chris and Susanna did not survive. Peter is undergoing treatment in a local hospital and is in a stable condition. Thank you for the messages of condolences and prayer that we've received. A Rocha UK continue to hold their families and friends in our prayers.

We've seen so many responses to the environmental crisis in the last few months that there are reasons (as always) to remain hopeful. Three more churches have attained Gold awards including firsts for two denominations.

Huge congratulations to Cotteridge Quakers on becoming the first Gold awarded Quaker Meeting House and to St John's, Marsh Green, the first Gold award for a United Reformed Church. Christ Church, Toxteth Park, an inclusive church near Liverpool city centre, are also very worthy of their Gold award - the first in the Diocese of Liverpool.

Finally, we know that many have held Creationtide services and supported other events in recent months including school children's strikes. Some have been involved in Extinction Rebellion protests and A Rocha UK has received many enquiries around the legitimacy of civil disobedience in the light of the climate emergency. If you haven't read it yet, our CEO Andy Atkins has written about this in the new A Rocha UK magazine available on the A Rocha UK website <https://arocha.org.uk/>

If climate campaigning is new to you, Christian Aid can help you get started. The Christian Aid campaigns toolkit will help you think through how you and your church can create effective, impactful campaigns to bring about justice with our global neighbours standing up against the climate crisis. **Visit:** caid.org.uk/campaigns-toolkit

Courage, grace and peace to you all,
Helen Stephens

Church Relations Manager on behalf of the Eco Church team

Prayers for December

Now, Lord, is the time for waiting,
Of waiting and preparation.
We are impatient opening the Advent Calendar.
How many more days? So much to do:
Presents to be bought and wrapped, cards to be sent,
Food to get in – oh, those goo-ey TV adverts.
Civic duty- we must vote. We need a tree,
Real or artificial, it mustn't be plastic.
What about decorations? This stable is shabby
But it'll fill the gap between the fruit dish and the drinks.
Watching, the child says, " I love the baby."
And we stop for a moment and pray,
"Forgive us , Lord, that in our busy, distracted lives
We had forgotten that Christmas is the birthday of Jesus our Saviour. *Amen*

Jesus, Lord of the Universe, we remember your birth was not in the carpenter's home in Nazareth but in Bethlehem where your parents were strangers and the lodging they found was poor so that at your nativity you were among those on the edge of society. Bless all those, we pray, who are on that edge today, the lonely, the bereaved, the homeless, the refugee, the prisoner and all who have lost home and possessions in war, flood or fire.
Amen.

For all excited children with new toys on Christmas Day,
We thank you, Lord.
For all who give toys for children who have none,
We thank you, Lord.
For all families and friends gathered for a Christmas meal,
We thank you, Lord.
For all who feed and care for the homeless and stranger,
We thank you, Lord.
For all who are enjoying Christmas parties, sports and dances,
We thank you, Lord.
For all visiting the sick or disabled in hospital or at home,
We thank you, Lord.
For all babies born this Christmastide,
We thank you , Lord.
For the baby born in Bethlehem all those years ago to save us all,
We thank you most of all, Lord. Amen

Who's who

Minister

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Magazine editor

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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)

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Church contact number
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