



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



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

JANUARY 2020

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



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

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

Have you made any resolutions this year? To go vegan? To never again mention the 'B' word? To be kinder? To others and yourself? To walk humbly with God?

It's 20 years since the Millennium celebrations. There was the controversial and costly dome (now the popular O2 Arena), the promise to end extreme poverty, the prayer (a version of the Lord's Prayer sung by Cliff Richard) and the resolution, written by the URC minister, Peter Trow. Intended to be more inclusive than a prayer and suitable for people of all faiths and none, it had the words:

Let there be respect for Earth,
peace for its people,
love in our lives,
delight in the good,
forgiveness for past wrongs,
and from now on a new start.

As we enter 2020 it feels as though there is a lot of work to be done on all those fronts – personally and corporately. The world feels a more uncertain, divided and dangerous place.

Politicians talk of uniting the nation and healing the wounds, but it will take more than words and gestures to make that a reality. At grass roots Christians have amazing resources and opportunities to bring hope and healing to people's lives. Here at Trinity our focus on serving and reaching out to the community takes on new impetus with the appointment of Karen Campbell as our Church related Community Worker. We look forward to welcoming and working with her, sharing in God's work of creating, peacemaking, loving, forgiving and renewing.

So many opportunities in 2020, but challenges too. One of our elders, Marian Mole is moving on this month and we will miss Marian's wisdom, dedication and encouragement. We pray God's blessing on her and Michael as they settle into their new home in Wheatley. Two more elders – Kate and Marian Drake – stand down in March at the end of their term. They have contributed so much to the elders' group and the church at large. We thank God for them and their continued service to the church in so many ways. That leaves 3 new elders to find this year (to be appointed at our March AGM). Please consider whether God is calling you to this role, encourage others in this too and pray for our church. God wants Trinity to help transform lives and bring peace and healing today. Will we rise to the challenge?



News of the Church Family

Not included in this version

This month we would like to wish

Barbara R (9th)

Linda C (12th)

Soraya (31st)

Xavier (31st)

a very Happy Birthday

with love from all at Trinity

Worship at Trinity

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

5 January	Communion Service led by Terry Hinks
12 January	Worship led by Alan Yates
19 January	All age worship led by Terry Hinks
26 January	Worship led by

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 Kate Yates or the minister.

Midweek Prayers at 9.30 am on Wednesdays 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 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).

An enthusiast for prayer? We have been so grateful to Marian Mole for her promoting of prayer in our congregation and her own faithful praying. With Marian moving to Wheatley we need someone to take on this role of encouraging people to pray (arranging the 24/7 prayer days, the rota for prayer ministry etc). If you are interested in this, please speak to Terry Hinks.

What's on

Wed 8th Jan	Trinity Elders meeting	7:45 pm - 9:30 pm
Forthcoming events		
Sunday 2nd of February	Welcoming of Karen Campbell, CRCW, followed by church meeting after worship, then a shared lunch	
Saturday 15th of February	Chiltern Steering Group meeting at Cores End URC 10.30 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	
Saturday 7th March	Induction service for Karen Campbell, Church-Related Community Worker, followed by Celebration Tea	
Tuesday 17th March	Church AGM – followed by Church Meeting at 8 pm	7:30pm

Please pray for Night Shelter in our own and six other churches who host on a Saturday evening through to Sunday morning.

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 8 January 2pm to discuss 'The Sense of an Ending' by Julian Barnes.

Coffee & Chat

Coffee and Chat will be enjoying a New Year lunch on Thursday 23 January.

Tuesday Meeting

All meetings in the Meeting Place (except where stated) at 2.30pm.
Tuesday January 7th Preparations for New Year Party
Tuesday January 14th New Year Party in the Sanctuary
Tuesday January 21st Rivers in the Bible
Tuesday January 28th Review of 2019 and discussion of 2020 programme.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2020

Stand Together



You are warmly invited to participate in:

Changing the future by confronting our 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 29th January 2020

7.30pm

All Saints Church, High Wycombe

RSVP and further information to the Revd. Hugh Ellis, Vicar of All Saints
(administrator Barbara Sampson: barbara@sampsons.org.uk)

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 17 March at 7.30 pm

followed by church meeting at 8 pm

Do come and vote!

1. We are seeking nominations for 3 elders: nomination slips for Elders are now available – please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve the church in this way.

2. We are looking to appoint a Church Secretary (or a number of people to share the role, following on Kate's work) *Much of what Kate currently does is not necessarily a church secretary's responsibility, so the Elders are hoping that others will take on different elements of this. Information is available with the postholders' list)*

3. We need help to fill a number of other vacancies and roles. We currently have the following vacancies after the AGM:

- Church Secretary
- Pastoral Assistants
- Lettings Administration
- DIY Day Co-ordinator
- Prayer for Wycombe Co-ordinator
- Prayer Ministry Rota Co-ordinator
- Greeters Rota Co-ordinator
- After-Church Refreshments Rota Co-ordinator inc Carol Service
- Council for World Mission contact
- Christian Aid Co-ordinator
- World Day of Prayer Rep

4. Angus will be producing the Annual Report and will be asking the usual contributors to provide their entry.

More information will follow in due course.

See page 18 for deadline details.

Cores End

Giving thanks for dear friends

Two stalwarts of the church died recently. Bryn Webb started attending Cores End Church after the Methodist chapel closed in the village. He was a great character, proud of his Welsh roots, his work on the railways down the years and his family. Always the first to get to church he was a kind and faithful Christian, who found great strength in knowing the love of Christ. The thanksgiving service included a rousing singing of the great Welsh hymn, 'Guide me o thou great Redeemer' Mary Beseke died suddenly after a fall at home. A great listener and wise thinker, Mary had supported many people down the years through her work in the church and in Cruse counselling. 'Well done good and faithful servants. Enter the joy of your Lord.'

Children's Craft Day

Over 20 children aged between 5 and 11 had a very enjoyable day at Cores End on 30 November. They were kept busy with a mixture of craft, games, singing and cooking. A number of older children (now 'too old' to attend) came instead to help, which was great to see. Beryl Britt and her team did a great job as usual

Charity Coffee Morning

The church's charity coffee morning was held on 14 December and the lower hall was packed out with items for sale and people supporting the morning. In all £715 was raised for charity with all the proceeds 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).

Work on the facilities

Plans to refurbish the church's toilets are now in place and this will be going out to tender this month, with work taking place in the Easter or summer holidays. As well as local fund raising the church will be seeking some help from the Synod towards the cost of the work.

Charitable giving

On page 17 you will find information regarding charitable giving that will not cost you a penny! Too good to be true? No!

That article refers to Wycombe Homeless Connection - but the very same opportunity can be used to donate to Wycombe Youth for Christ. If you do decide to donate in this manner, it is your choice as to which charity you support. They are both worthwhile charities and neither is recommended over the other.

Farewell but not Goodbye!

We moved back to High Wycombe in 1972 when Sarah was 1 year old and we've had 47 happy years here but now it's time for us to move to pastures new which we consider to be more suitable for our time of life!

Thank you all for your support and friendship throughout these past years and we'll still be here on weekly grandparent duty for a few years yet. Also, Michael has told Terry that he will continue to maintain the church garden (weather permitting). So friendships and contact will continue as we won't be far away.

Marian & Michael

Not included in this version

EMBRACE the Middle East



The Olive Tree Harvest Trip in October was my first visit to the Holy Land, and it was so much more hard-hitting to see it with my own eyes than everything I had heard or read.

I joined Embrace in the Programmes and Partnerships team last year, and since then have worked with our partners in Israel and Palestine. Having got to know the projects we support in this highly complex situation, I travelled with intrigue to the region, with my colleague Su and 14 Embrace supporters. We joined over 50 other volunteers from around the world who had come to support and show solidarity with Palestinian farmers and their families.

Settler violence against Palestinians occurs almost daily, and intensifies during the olive harvest season. Since the beginning of this year's olive harvest, several attacks by Israeli settlers against vulnerable Palestinian communities have been reported, some resulting in the injury of civilians. International support is therefore crucial during this time in protecting Palestinians and their land from violence.

It was a fantastic, but full on trip. As well as helping farmers pick olives across the West Bank, we were guided around the area, including through a refugee camp and a Bedouin camp. We also learnt more about the Occupation from local people and organisations.

On the fields where we helped pick olives from trees belonging to Palestinian farmers, many olives shrivelled as they lacked the water they needed to thrive.

Israeli settlements are connected to a water network and serviced by the Israeli national water utility, while many Palestinian villages across the West Bank suffer from water shortages. This is due to the absence of a water network and a lack of permits given to build water systems. The World Health Organisation state that people need a minimum of 100 litres per person a day to maintain the most basic standard of living. In the West Bank, people only have daily access to 62 litres, while Israeli settlers have approximately 300 litres.

The olive tree is a universal symbol of peace and a powerful symbol of Palestinian rootedness in their land. Being able to play a small part in supporting the harvest was a privilege. We met so many amazing, hospitable Palestinians, who remain filled with hope despite the injustices they suffer on a daily basis. The experience has made me frustrated, and I want to spread the word as I endeavour to fight with the Palestinians and help defend their rights.

If you're interested in joining the Olive Harvest Trip in 2020, you can register your interest by emailing Su on su.mcclellan@embraceme.org or call our Supporter Care team on 01494 897950. We will be opening bookings in early 2020.

Rowena Worthington
Programmes and Public Engagement Co-ordinator

Be palm oil aware

Palm oil, a common ingredient in a wide range of cosmetic and food products, is contributing to rapid deforestation in Sumatra. Orangutan habitat is being cleared at an alarming rate for conversion to oil palm plantations.



On Sumatra there is now more than 4 times as much land cultivated with oil palms as there is orangutan habitat remaining.

In response to this knowledge, some people wish to choose palm-oil-free options. However, most NGOs, including the Sumatran Orangutan Society, say a boycott could have unintended consequences for smallholder farmers who rely on the crop and drive the price of the oil down, which could increase demand.



You could download Giki, a bar-code scanning app which will help you find out which retailers and manufacturers are committed to using only certified sustainable palm oil in their products and keep deforestation out of your shopping basket.



Did you know?

High Wycombe is a recognised Fairtrade town. The Fairtrade Foundation renewed the town's certification just a few weeks ago. The certificate will be presented to the town in the near future, in the presence of the Costa Rican ambassador to the UK. The local steering committee has established a link with a co-operative in Grecia, Costa Rica (Coope Victoria) and hopes to develop some meaningful relationship over the coming months.

Fairtrade Fortnight begins next month. Watch this space!



Churches together Christmas Tree at All Saints (19 – 24 December)



Thanks to Junior Church for creating
5 Trinity Baubles to help decorate the tree

If you're looking for a sustainable rug, a GoodWeave certified rug is not only a beautiful attribute for any home, but also supports children's education and working conditions for adult workers. Many of Traidcraft's rugs are GoodWeave certified which are fairly traded rugs from India.

GoodWeave is on a mission to end child labour and trafficking in global supply chains, by establishing clear and rigorous standards which employers must adhere to, as well as regularly auditing and inspecting production sites, reaching layers of the supply chain which were previously invisible.

These independent and unannounced inspections provide a very strong reason for suppliers to make sure that all of their supply chain adheres to the rule of no child labour and decent working conditions.

GoodWeave partners with 350 companies worldwide; their work has led to the freedom and education of over 24,000 children and improved working conditions for almost 60,000 adult workers.

Many of Traidcraft's rugs come with the GoodWeave certification. See www.traidcraftshop.co.uk for more information.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. The materials for the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the Christian churches in Malta and Gozo (Christians Together in Malta)

On 10 February many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. The story in Acts 27 and 28 is the focus for this year's Week of Prayer.

Hospitality is a much-needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. Our own Christian unity will be discovered not only through showing hospitality to one another, but also through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith. In such tempestuous journeys and chance encounters, God's will for his Church and all people comes to fulfilment. As Paul goes on to proclaim in Rome, this salvation of God has been sent to all peoples (Acts 28:28).

Churches together offer daily prayers to use during the week reflecting on these themes <https://ctbi.org.uk>

Christian Aid

Each year Christian Aid provides the Go and Do action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo

Locally

Prayer Fair at the Salvation Army on Saturday 18 Jan (10 am – 2 pm)
There will be 'prayer stations' such as workplace chaplaincy, Wycombe Wanderers chaplaincy, other projects and the Christian unity theme 'unusual kindness.'

Missional Prayer Gathering at All Saints
on Mon 20 Jan (8 – 9 pm)

Unity Prayers at Trinity URC
on Wednesday 22 January (9.30 – 10 am)

Unusual kindness



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020



Saturday 18th January 2020

Churches Together in High Wycombe would like to invite you to our



PRAYER FAYRE



Where we will celebrate the gift of prayer and share some of the work that we do in this community

Please feel free to drop in at anytime between 10am and 2pm

Location: The Salvation Army, Frogmoor, HP13 5DG

For more details contact - richard.thompson@salvationarmy.org.uk or your local church minister
ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer



Safe Water in Matabeleland

This month we highlight the superb work done by one of *Commitment for Life's* Christian Aid partners in Zimbabwe, Dabane Trust.

Dabane Trust operates in the south- western areas of the country - Matabeleland South and Matabeleland North. These regions are classified as arid and semi- arid rangelands. Here, Dabane Trust develops and supports sustainable low technology community initiatives. It is a leading, non-governmental organization dedicated to establishing water and food secure communities.

Dabane has what they call 'Water Workshops' which involve teaching and learning about water. Water sanitation and hygiene are especially emphasised.

Communities are encouraged to have clean kitchens, pit latrines with handwashing facilities and well organised refuse pits. Communities are also encouraged to draw water for domestic purposes only from approved water sources.

In addition, Dabane is involved in borehole rehabilitation and construction of Rowa pumps.

Dabane works with rural communities to develop clean, palatable water supplies for household use, livestock drinking and small-scale irrigation system. Communities are assisted in developing alternative and seasonal water resources for sustainable domestic use, sanitation and hygiene. Learn more at <http://dabane.org>

News from Zimbabwe

President Emmerson Mnangagwa recently launched the annual, national tree planting day in Goromonzi at the 18th National People's Conference.

Zimbabwe has planted 12 million trees so far out of an annual target of 15 million trees.

The government wants traditional leaders and churches must allocate land for forestry in their respective areas. However, tobacco farmers and tree-logging firms continue to log unabated, devastating the environment.

The statistics for overall deforestation in the country make for grim reading. See <https://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation/archive/Zimbabwe.htm>

A Big Thank You!

We would like to thank all our churches and congregations for their amazing support this year in working with us to prevent homelessness and assist those who find themselves homeless.

We hope you might like to share some of these items and thanks in your church newsletters or how you see fit.

You have helped in so many ways:

- By giving your time to volunteer at our daily Support Centre and our winter night shelter, or by coming along to fundraising events e.g. quizzes, golf days, cycle rides etc.
- By giving your money to support our work with homeless people either as individuals or as whole churches, both throughout the year or for one off services like Homelessness Sunday or Christmas Carol Services.
- By giving your talents e.g. baking cakes and making jam for fetes and fayres etc.
- By giving up your warm bed to take part in our annual Big Sleepout! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and raised over £50,000 this year.

Report back on just a couple of 2019's new initiatives and successes

In 2019, because of your support, we've helped

- Over 600 people into the Support Centre

In the first 9 months of the year you helped us

- get 79 people resettled into home
- Prevent 38 unfair evictions

Other successes:

Our pilot legal drop-in clinic in Chesham has gone really well and we are looking to extend the project into 2020.

It's now possible to raise money to fight homelessness while you shop online! We are now registered with Smile! Amazon. If you choose Wycombe Homeless Connection as your charity, every time you shop at Amazon they'll donate a percentage of what you've spent on eligible items to us! And it won't cost you an extra penny! Visit Amazon and choose Wycombe Homeless Connection as your charity!

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1156211-0>

See our website for more details.

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION



Your new council is coming – Buckinghamshire Council

It's a big year for local government in Buckinghamshire - 2020 is when the new Buckinghamshire Council will replace the county council and the four district councils in the county.

There's a lot being finalised ready for day one on 1 April and now the branding for Buckinghamshire's new council has been revealed after being agreed by the Shadow Executive, who are leading the creation of the new Buckinghamshire Council.

The logo, which will be used by the new Buckinghamshire Council from April 2020 has been created at no cost, using in-house expertise and designers from across the five councils.

It represents Buckinghamshire's beautiful natural environment including its hills, rivers, and ancient woodland and in a nod to the county's ceremonial history, it also includes a swan in flight over the landscape.

The new logo will start to appear in the new year as part of a campaign to promote the new council to residents, business and local organisations.

Find out more about the logo and your new council on the shadow executive website (<https://shadow.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/a-new-look-for-a-new-council/>)

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 17 March at 7.30 pm

Will those responsible for preparing reports for the AGM please let me have them by the last day of January! This is earlier than usual, but the alternative would be to pass the buck to someone else as I will be on holiday just after producing the March Trinity Times, so the AGM work will need to be completed before the magazine deadline date (which will be 16 February).

Prayers for January

Thank you, Lord, for a New Year
For a new beginning
For a chance to start again.
Forgive us when we repeat the mistakes of the past
When we prefer to look back rather than forward.
Help us not to be so ambitious
That we are bound to fail.
Stop us from being so cautious
That we do not advance anywhere.
Keep us going forward in Your Way not our way
Give us love to look at our neighbour's good
Rather than our own.
Renew our faith when we falter or doubt
Give us hope for the future.
Thank you, Lord, for this New Year.

Almighty and Everlasting God, we pray for the world in the coming year. We thank you for your creation and preservation of all things living and for the rocks and minerals which make up the planet and the universe. We acknowledge that we have failed in our duty and love as your children and the stewards of your creation. We pray that we may amend our ways and live more closely as you intended.

Help us, Lord, to break down the barriers, built through fear or love of power, which keep people and nations apart.

We pray that all in authority, governments and leaders will support alliances, conferences and actions to deal with the problems of the world: global warming, poverty and warfare.

We thank you, Lord, for modern means of transport and communication and pray that they may be used sensibly and with self-restraint.

We pray for the emergency services and all relief organisations and all who work in dangerous places to help those in need.

We pray for the church throughout the world. We remember the places where it is persecuted.

We pray for all who have the power to influence our lives through the use of newspapers, radio, television and social media.

We pray . . . (add personal prayers here)

We pray that the time which we are given during this year may be used to the Glory of God.

We ask these prayers in the Name of Jesus. *Amen.*

Who's who

Minister

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Lettings

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Treasurer

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Magazine editor

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Junior Church

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Tuesday Meeting

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Bookworms

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Coffee & Chat

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Prayer Circle

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Prayer requests

minister@trinity-urc.org.uk

Saturday Café

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Home Groups

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Guiding Units (all sections)

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Church contact number

 01494 520365 (answer phone)