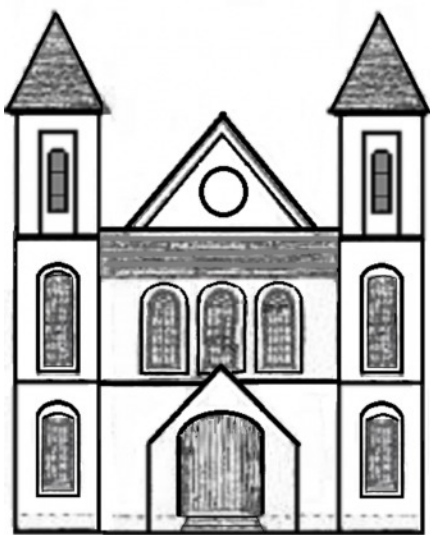


Wye Connect

29 March 2020



The “lockdown” magazine of Trinity and Cores End United Reformed Churches



He is
RISEN

Editorial - a magazine for two churches

Welcome to this, the first in what will hopefully be a short-lived publication! In the current "lockdown" situation much of what would normally be included in the magazines of each church simply does not exist - details of meetings, events and church services. The copying of the magazines onto paper, and subsequent distribution presents an additional difficulty to be overcome. It has been decided, at least for this edition, to distribute by email to all those able to receive it in such a format. Others will hopefully get a paper copy through the post.

It has not yet been decided when the next edition will be produced. It may be sooner than the end of next month

Contributions - from either church - will be gratefully received. Please send anything you feel may be of interest to: editor@trinity-urc.org.uk

On behalf of John (Cores End editor) and myself, Angus (Trinity) thank you for your interest and support.

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

This year our Lenten preparations for Easter have been overshadowed by the world-wide health crisis caused by the Covid19 outbreak. Lent discussions, prayer meetings and worship gatherings have all been cancelled and the church buildings closed, but the Church adapts and finds new ways to come and pray together. We streamed worship from Trinity last Sunday and had a good number watching and lots of positive feedback (despite a few technical glitches). We are discovering that we do not have to be in the same building to come together. We can connect through the internet, the phone and even the ancient art of letter writing! Prayer connects us too, as we offer and receive prayer and as we join together in silence and words. Saying the Lord's Prayer together was a powerful moment on Sunday; as we say that prayer, which has been said by so many across the world and down the centuries, we can sense that we are united as one body in Christ. The Spirit of God connects us to each other and the whole people of God; and opens our hearts to humanity in all its variety and creation.

in all its splendour and fragility. This pandemic is causing huge disruption to life across the world and in our own nation. It feels a strange and uncertain time and many are very anxious for themselves and others, especially for the frail, vulnerable and unwell. The economic effects are huge and many question whether their jobs or businesses will survive the closures and downturn. Practically there are steps we can do to minimise the risks and each one of us do 'whatever we can do to protect life'. But there is also a need to avoid panic or blame shifting. We live in a global society where every nation is bound up together and it will only be by concerted joint efforts that this virus will be contained and neutralised. Together we will overcome.

Human suffering causes us distress and raises deep questions about life, whether we are people of faith or not. Our instinct of compassion is, I believe, a reflection of the God who created us and reaches out to us in Jesus. His suffering on the cross paradoxically speaks of love so amazing, so divine – a suffering with and for all humanity and creation itself. God is not kept at a safe distance but there in the midst of pain and sorrow, yet not defeated by it. The love and peace of Christ are ultimately stronger than all pain or evil or death. And so we are led from the cross to the joy of Easter Day. May Christ indeed walk with us, step by step, in the weeks ahead.



Contact: - minister.trinity.coresend@gmail.com

01628 525076

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Night Shelter

Night Shelter sessions ended three weeks early this year, because of fears over the possible spread of the Covid19 virus. Wycombe Homeless Connection organised emergency alternative accommodation for the night shelter guests from Monday 9th March until the end of the month. Overall the shelter had gone well and even after it ended WHO has continued to closely work with the guests and support them in their efforts towards more permanent accommodation. The local Council are also extending their provision of accommodation during the coronavirus crisis.

Lent meetings in Wycombe and Cores End

The Churches managed to hold a couple of meetings before restrictions on gathering came into force. The evening meetings in Wycombe town centre explored the Christian response to climate change and environmental damage. The series began with a talk by Philip Nalpanis from A Rocha, underlining how caring for creation equals caring for the poorest of our world – those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. As well as the evening meetings, Trinity hosted a couple of daytime sessions, bringing together people from different churches to open the Bible in new ways.

New elder inducted for Trinity

Alan Y has come back on the eldership (with Kate Ya and Marian D coming to the end of their term at the recent AGM). We are especially grateful to Kate for all her hard work as Church Secretary. For the time being the elders are sharing this role and leaving the Church Secretary post vacant. Alan is to be inducted as part of our streamed morning service this Sunday 29 March (that will be another first!) Please keep the elders of both churches in your prayers at this challenging time.

Planting 8 cherry trees on the Meadow

A small group of volunteers worked on the land early in March and were able to plant eight cherry trees donated by members of the congregation. The trees are local Buckinghamshire varieties of White Heart and Strawberry Heart, purchased from the Bernwode Nursery, a specialist nursery near Ludgershall, Aylesbury. Our thanks to Green Acres for sharing expertise and helping with the planting. We will continue to work on the land over the next months (with suitable social distancing), so watch this space (or simply go and have a look at the plot – over a tile at the back of the Cores End graveyard).

One Can Foodbank

Both churches collect produce for One Can, but clearly this is not possible at present. The need for the Foodbank is even greater at the moment, so please continue to donate, either financially or by putting tins in Supermarket collecting trolleys. See the website <https://onecantrust.org.uk/>

RESPONDING TO THE COVID 19 OUTBREAK

Prayer from URC General Secretary, John Proctor

Lord Jesus,
In the midst of a storm,
You said, 'Peace be still.'
Bid our anxious fears subside,
Sustain your church in faith, hope and love,
Bring our nation through this tumult,
Grant wisdom to those with heavy responsibilities,
And healing and hope to those who are infected. Amen.

Please note that Church House, Tavistock Place, London, is at present closed and staff working from home <https://urc.org.uk/>

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

Keep giving if you can

The finances of the church will be put under strain during the next months, as we are not receiving any rental income or taking collections at worship. The church relies on the generosity of its members to continue its work so please continue to give, even while you are not able to attend. The best way is by Standing Order, though if this is not possible a cheque in the post would be much appreciated. Please contact the treasurers for more details: David B (Cores End) or Sue T (Trinity).

Don't forget Gift Aid

The scheme enables Her Majesty's Customs and Excise to refund tax paid on gift aided donations to registered charities (including churches). The basic rules are that:

- the church keeps records for HMRC of dates and amounts given. (confidential or course)
- for the total amount you gift aid in any tax year (i.e. to church and charities) **you must have paid at least that amount of tax to HMRC**, e.g.. some people may only be able to gift aid part of their giving, so please check.

We would also welcome new gift-aiders. If you would like a gift aid form or more information, please contact June C (Cores End) or Tony H (Trinity). It is best at present if you pay by standing order directly into the bank (given that we cannot meet at church). As June writes, 'On behalf of the churches I should like to say a big THANK YOU to you, our generous congregation.'

Contacts:- treasurer@trinity-urc.org.uk (Trinity)
dandrbailey@tiscali.co.uk (Cores End)



Ways to keep in touch during the present lockdown:

Phoning: why not aim to phone one person in the church each day to keep in touch?

Facebook Page for the two churches: we have a new Facebook – It's Trinity and Cores End United Reformed Churches. If you are on Facebook why not request to join?

E mailing information: we are circulating information by e mail. If you are not receiving this and would like to do so contact Terry with your e mail address.

Streamed Service on a Sunday at 10.30 am: The Link to this service is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOGU0XI7GgEXwutvo2kRLPg/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

URC Devotions: daily readings and reflections, Sunday services and other resources. To sign up go to <https://devotions.urc.org.uk/> . Hard copies of the materials are available. Ask the minister or your elder for more information.

Cores End plans an Eco Fun Day for children and families on 11 July. We hope to be able to go ahead with this (sadly we had to cancel the Easter Fun Club).

SUPPORTING CHARITIES

HAVE YOU ANY STAMPS?

Dear Stamp Collectors,

Thank you for all the stamps you have given. Sorting through them has been a review of the history of stamps. There were even some pre-decimals. We will be sending 500g (the size of a honeydew melon) to Macmillan cancer support. I do not think they get much for the stamps but every little helps.

Ann W (Cores End Church)

CHRISTIAN AID – MORE THAN A WEEK IN MAY

Faith's Fields of hope: Count your blessings

For those who are using the booklet during Lent, please keep collecting and at the end of Lent give what you can (the amounts in the booklet are only suggestions so please give what you can afford.)

Prayer Chain (www.caid.org.uk/prayerchain)

Let's pray throughout the year for climate justice. 2020 is a crucial year. From the start of Lent until the UN's key climate change talks (COP26), we will fill every day with prayer for a world where everyone can flourish and creation can breathe easy again. Prayer that will amplify prophetic voices and transform us and the actions that we take. Prayer that will help us to understand God's care for those who are most affected by the climate crisis, acknowledge our role in causing it and start anew. Prayer that will act as a deep source of energy for the struggle ahead. Will you sign up today?

New Deal for Climate Justice Petition (www.caid.org.uk/climatejusticepetition)

Encourage your church and social networks to petition the Prime Minister to deliver a New Deal for Climate Justice, which ensures that the UK transfers its fair share of finance and technology to poor and climate-vulnerable countries, stops fuelling fossil fuel expansion and supports clean, renewable energy.. 'Once we start to act, hope is everywhere. So instead of looking for hope, look for action.'
– Greta Thunberg

Christian Aid Week – 10-16 May 2020 (www.caweek.org)

Every year, money raised in Christian Aid Week enables profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, helping people around the world to thrive. Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Rose and her family, and millions of people in Kenya, are struggling to get enough food and water. Your support could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. People like Rose need every last drop to survive the drought.

This year Christian Aid Week's total is bound to be affected by the fact that door to door collecting, Big Breakfasts and other special events will not be happening. Please find other ways to support Christian Aid over the months ahead.

Phil Evans the Buckinghamshire Regional Coordinator and Church Engagement Project Officer wishes to thank you for all you are doing to fight poverty around the world. God bless you.

JARS OF CHANGE FOR WATERAID

For those at Cores End who are collecting for Water Aid this Lent, can we encourage you to keep collecting. Water Aid's work continues to be vital for many of the poorest people of the world, all the more so at this time of crisis www.wateraid.org/uk/ . We will look at how we can collect the money from you. One more challenge!

News from Chiltern Churches from the February Area Steering Group Meeting

- **St Andrew's URC, Iver** – Buildings sold to local Hindu fellowship but will continue to be offered for community use in the village. Iver members now either worship at Trinity Slough or Christchurch Uxbridge, and are also attending the village Anglican church.
- **Chesham vacancy** - draft Terms of Settlement altered to fit new 2020 template; Chesham have agreed them; Ickenham at time of meeting had yet to do so; vacancy will then be advertised.
- **Slough vacancy** – 25% Synod Ecumenical Officer post to be added to make scoping 100%. Vacancy now advertised. The churches are sharing monthly services (all begin at 10.30am)
- **Deanway United Church** – Revd Adam Wells settled in as new Minister; often leads Sunday worship.
- **Cores End** – Eco Concert went well. Choosing name for the meadow. Applying for a grant to refurbish their toilets.
- **Amersham Free Church** – holding special service on 10 May to celebrate 20 years of Amersham Worship Teams. Other churches invited to attend. Terry leading their Eco-Theme Bible Day on 10 October.
- **Gerrards Cross** – all going well, some new people attending services.
- **Burnham** – ageing congregation, difficult to find people for key roles; minister good at supporting regular activities. Money now released for new chairs, roof repairs and updating security cameras.
- **Fairford Leys, Aylesbury** – 20th anniversary this year, celebrations planned. Exploring different areas of church life, and Parish Giving Scheme (operating an annual increasing direct debit rather than a standing order scheme).
- **Holtspur** – continues regular activities
- **Beaconsfield** – weekly lunchtime concerts are well received by the local community
- **Wendover** – no news received.

Since meeting the Chiltern Quiet Day has had to postponed (new date to announced in due course). All the Churches are responding to the present lockdown situation and would appreciate your prayers.



Picture page



A daunting prospect?

Preparing to plant cherry trees in the meadow



Hot stuff!

From a chilli seed handed out at the All-age service in February. Is YOURS doing better?



Cores End Cross: 'You are loved'

There is still something to laugh at!

