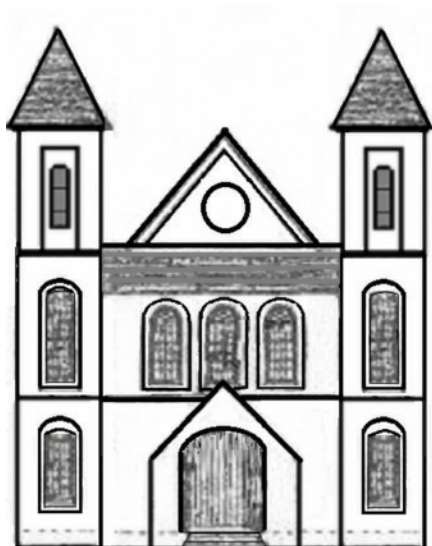


Wye Connect

26 April 2020



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



Click [here](#) to connect to
Sunday worship

Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

Happy Easter! We can continue to say that for the next few weeks, as a church family, however dispersed we may be. Easter is after all a season of forty days, not a single Sunday or long weekend. According to the Acts of the Apostles, 'after his suffering Jesus showed himself to the disciples and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God' (Acts 1.3).

The earliest record of these events is found in Paul's First letter to the Corinthian Church, where Paul speaks of the message he received and which he passed on to the new Christians of Corinth. Christ died, he was buried, he was raised on the third day and he appeared to Peter and the other disciples. Sadly Paul fails to mention the women by name within his account (so important in the gospel accounts), but he refers to the risen Lord appearing to over five hundred disciples at one time (an amazing event not included in the gospels). The very variety of stories linked to the resurrection of Christ point to its mystery and otherness, yet also its power. There were different experiences, different witnesses, different ways of meeting the Christ who had defeated death for good.

How do we experience Christ risen and with us. Is it in the company of others, like those disciples gathered in the upper room? Is it a personal experience, like Mary in the garden beside the tomb? Or in the breaking bread, like the two disciples at home in Emmaus? Or through the words of the Bible coming alive for us, like those same two on the road from Jerusalem?

In this season of Easter we are prevented from gathering together in one place or sharing from the one bread, but we can still experience community as we share in worship online. I am immensely grateful to Simon Evans and Tim Sparks for all their hard work to enable us from the very first Sunday of lockdown to have worship continue in this way. I'm conscious of those who are not 'online' and unable to share in this way. I hope the DVDs Martin Drake is producing and sending out are helping some and the texts of the services that we are delivering are helping others. Please let me or your elder know if you are missing out. We want everyone included. If you cannot watch the service having some quiet time at 10.30 am on a Sunday may be a good way to connect with the worship that is being offered and shared.

Christ meets us in many different ways – in moments of community and of solitude, in simple acts of kindness and words of encouragement, in silence and prayer and the stories of scripture. Christ is beyond our grasp, hidden from our eyes, yet assures us, 'I am with you always to the end of time.' More than that he promises us the Holy Spirit to fill and renew us, guide and encourage us step by step in his work today.



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

01628 525076

Throughout this magazine there will be some web and e-mail addresses in red, (as above). (Some are in blue, and I have not yet worked out why - or how to make them either one or the other. Maybe by next month . . . ?) These are hyperlinked and digital readers should be able to click on them to connect directly.

This item is not included in this version

CHURCH OFFERING

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH



The finances of both churches will be put under strain during the next months, as we are not receiving any rental income or taking collections at worship.

The churches relies on the generosity of their members to continue their 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 Bailey (Cores End) dandrbailey@tiscali.co.uk 01628 520848

Sue Thorne (Trinity) treasurer@trinity-urc.org.uk 01494 564635

WORSHIP IN APRIL ...

Since Sunday 22 March (and the closure of church buildings) Terry and others have been recording worship to share with you online. There has been some very positive feedback on worship offered online during April. Our thanks to the team who has been putting this together – the technical team of Simon and Tim, the worship leaders and readers. It has reached several hundred homes and people beyond the immediate area. Elizabeth's brother from Benin e-mailed recently to say the service on 19 April was 'superb'. People have been pleased to see the church at Cores End and its grounds, to have a variety of music styles and to have all age elements too. Wendy L wrote, 'It was so lovely to take the quiet Spring walk around the church grounds, & I learnt several things I didn't know about them too. I didn't realise that the far wall was part of the barn where Thomas Grove held services. It was the first time I had seen the hedgehog house and the wildlife area, as our access has been so limited recently. Also a lovely mix of contributions. So good to see and hear the voices of other people we love too.'

We send out activity sheets for children and families and aim to include more for children and young people as the weeks go by. Henry the hoover may well feature again, but we need to emphasise that other makers of vacuum cleaner are available!

We are distributing veg seeds to families as part of the 'Big Grow'; scheme. Photos of the results (at any stage of growth) would be most welcome. Please send them to Terry at minister.trinity.coresend@gmail.com

...AND IN MAY

What form will worship be taking by the end of the month? For the time being worship is online at 10.30 am (available online anytime after that or through mailed script or dvd). The link is

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

The themes for worship

- 3 May Worship for 4th Sunday of Easter
 Readings are 1 Peter 2. 19-25 and John 10. 1-10
- 10 May Worship for 5th Sunday of Easter will include home communion
 Readings are 1 Peter 2.1-10 and John 14. 1-14
- 17 May Worship for 6th Sunday of Easter
 Readings are 1 Peter 3.13-22 and John 14.15-21
- 24 May Sunday after Ascension Day
 Readings are Acts 1.1-14 and John 17.1-11
- 31 May PENTECOST SUNDAY
 Main reading is Acts 2.1-21

At Trinity there is 'online coffee' after the service (using Zoom – for more details contact Kate Yates). Does anyone want to arrange this at Cores End? (or if not why not give one member a ring after the service to say hello!?)

Also at Trinity there is an online Home Group; more details from Marian and Martin Drake.

SUPPORTING THE ONE CAN FOODBANK



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/>

Graham Peart, Chair One Can Trust writes:

“This is such a difficult, challenging and distressing time for every single one of us. I sincerely hope that everyone’s coping as best they can and has the support they need. For the One Can Trust, the situation has presented many new challenges which the team here, largely made up of our incredible volunteers, is doing its best to meet, with the vital support of our fantastic local community.

“Anyone who knows about the work of the One Can Trust will be only too aware that there were already many vulnerable individuals and families across Wycombe and South Bucks before this crisis hit. Since Lockdown we’ve seen a surge in demand: in recent weeks, it’s almost doubled, and we’re expecting it to rise further still over the coming weeks, as more people find themselves out of work and having to claim universal credit. It really is a huge concern.

“So we’ve reached out to our local community to ask for more support – to local residents, to partners and businesses. It’s a hard ask when it’s so tough for us all but the community has listened and the response so far, has been amazing.

“So many people are playing a part in enabling our organisation to provide essential food to this increasing number of families and individuals. We all seem to get that we need to look after each other. I’d like to thank every single person who’s done something, whatever your contribution may have been, it’s making a huge difference - our volunteers, the general public, our supermarkets and business community, Wycombe Wanderers (who have raised almost £5,000), our churches and mosques, including Trinity and WISE, Buckinghamshire Council, our local media and organisations like High Wycombe Lions, Wycombe Rotary, Inner Wheel, Marlow and Marlow Thames Rotary, Red Kite and Chiltern Business Connections.

“All sectors of the community are coming together and it’s truly humbling and incredible what we can achieve for those who are really in need at this time. It sounds like a lot of support and it is a lot of support but we still need more; we can’t rest on our laurels – there’s a long road ahead and we’re going to need to the continued support of our community going forward.

“For now though, I just want to say thank you to everyone who has done something and I apologise if I have inadvertently missed anyone out! It makes me truly proud to be part of this local community. I wish you all well and please stay safe. Let’s get through this together!”

Update from YMCA

Dear Friends,

Like other charities supporting people experiencing homelessness, we too are facing challenges as a consequence of COVID-19. Whilst we have a plan in place and are responding, we need your help to ensure that some of the most vulnerable in our communities receive the care they need. Please do circulate this message amongst your congregations.

There are several ways you can support us:

GIVE:

We are estimating that One YMCA will have a funding gap of £5,500 per day because of the Covid-19 crisis. We are looking for local supporters, individuals or businesses, to support us in order for us to continue our community critical services. Whatever you can give, we would be most grateful. Click [here](#) to go to our Just Giving page.

ACT:

We need people to help at our Hostels. You would be supporting our Residents with meals, phone support and helping to ensure our buildings are safe and clean. You would be working alongside and be supported by our Accommodation Staff as part of the team. Training and inductions are provided. Click [here](#) to register and find out more.

PRAY: Please

pray...

That we will have enough volunteers to support the most vulnerable during the pandemic.

That we will have all the financial support we need.

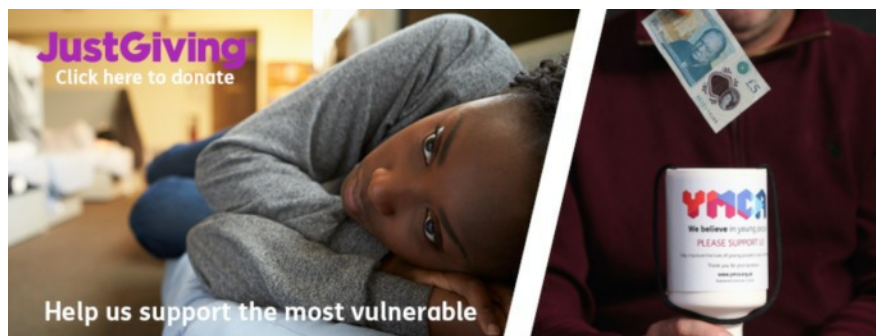
That the people we support will know God's love, peace and strength during these unsettling times.

Thank you for all your prayerful and practical support,

Matt

Matt Penny

Chaplaincy & Support Team Leader



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
10-16 May 2020 www.caweek.org

Christian Aid Week is moving online

Many of you will have been planning house-to-house collections and events. Under the current circumstances, sadly, house-to-house collections and delivery-only collections should not go ahead. In particular, along with many churches, events such as Big Brekkies or Lent lunches cannot go ahead.

With lunches, Big Brekkies, walks and house to house collecting cancelled because of the Covid-19 situation, Christian Aid Week is instead moving online! We are building a vibrant, virtual Christian Aid Week so you can take part with our online community. We would love you to join in to show love for our neighbours near and far, as a global family. Please go to our website www.christianaid.org.uk for more details

It's more important than ever that we come together as a community to worship and to share fun and fellowship. That's why during Christian Aid Week we will be live-streaming worship each day, and hosting a fun daily quiz to join and raise funds. Worship materials will enable your church to provide a Christian Aid Week Service online.

Christian Aid's global response

Christian Aid and our partners already have experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis, and we will build on this experience to continue to stand together with communities living in poverty during this period. If infection rates start to develop as they are in Europe, then people in poorer countries will be hit even harder. Many are already living with reduced health resilience because of extreme poverty, or in overcrowded humanitarian camps and in countries which do not have the healthcare infrastructures needed to combat widespread disease. We will be working on the ground to help prepare communities to limit the impact of Covid-19. Please pray for us in this vital work, and support us where you can by making an online donation.

We are praying for all those affected by this new virus, both in Britain and overseas, for all those working on the frontline and for wisdom for our leaders. We will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves. During this challenging time, we all need to take seriously the science and advice being offered, remaining calm but vigilant. I am keeping you all in my prayers. With every blessing,

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi (CEO of Christian Aid)

JARS OF CHANGE FOR WATERAID – let's just keep collecting

If you have been collecting for Water Aid during Lent, why not just carry on? And if you haven't been collecting then why not think of starting? 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/. Here in the West we take clean water to wash our hands for the required 20 seconds for granted. Many in the world are not so fortunate.

CHURCH MEMBERS ARE MAKING COVID19 MASKS

If you want to help let Terry know and he will put you in touch with the makers!

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS

Traumatic Effects of the Coronavirus

From his experience working with the London Firefighters the Synod Clerk, Simon Fairington has written a paper on the trauma of the present situation and its long term effects. He writes "Some of us have already suffered loss: loved ones, a job. Or we watch at a distance as those we love fight for their lives in hospital. And when death strikes, our grief is made worse by the enforced distance which denies us the chance to mourn the departure of our loves ones in the way we expect.

I think we are undergoing (even for those not directly affected by bereavement) a form of what some have termed collective trauma – when our social fabric is no longer present as it was before. Our sense of connection is under threat, or simply gone. Collective trauma is different from, and more than the sum of, our individual hurts. The impact of trauma goes beyond the pain and loss experienced through the event itself. The worldview of the traumatized – their interior landscape – is fundamentally unhinged. Trauma breaks down your sense of trust in the world, trust in your relationships, trust in yourself. It undermines your confidence to 'do life'.

Hence, recovery is a process of rebuilding trust. Social support is the most powerful means of protection against being overwhelmed by trauma. However, our social connections often become casualties after a trauma; we lose confidence to engage with people, and are tempted to go into our shell.

Visit the Synod Website <http://urcthamesnorth.org.uk/> for the full article.

Tie a yellow ribbon (or other colours too)

Clapton Park URC has found a way to connect with the local community during Coronavirus lockdown and think that it might be a way that other local churches might connect with their communities. It is inviting people to write the name of someone they want remembered on a ribbon and tying it to the church railings. Church members read the names and pray for the people.

Thames North Synod Office

The Synod and Trust office staff will be working from home from now until further notice. Someone will go in a couple of times a week to deal with any post coming in, but we need to be aware that even this may not be possible in the future, depending on government advice. We ask therefore that you contact us by email where possible. For all Thames North Trust matters please contact either Muna Levan-Harris or Keith Berry at trust@urcthamesnorth.org.uk For any Thames North Synod matter contact Colleen Fraser at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk News updates will be on the Synod Website (and sent out in emailing).

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

Trinity's 24/7 Prayer in 2020 on Friday 15 May 8am to Saturday 16 May 8am.

If you can give half an hour to prayer to help cover this 24 hours, please contact Terry. He will be circulating a rota soon. Thank you, in anticipation!



The Joint Public Issues Team produces a monthly e newsletter which you can sign up at www.jointpublicissues.org.uk. This month it included this item on a call for a global ceasefire:

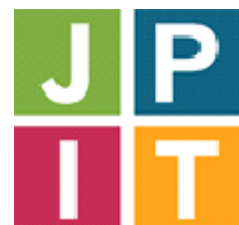
At the beginning of April 2020, JPIT's four partner Churches joined the UN Secretary General's call for a global ceasefire in order that Governments can respond to the common threat of Coronavirus.

"The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war" Antonio Guterres said when announcing the call. "I am calling for an immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world. It is time to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives." Repeating his call in the past few days he said "There should be only one fight in our world today, our shared battle against COVID-19".

When the Ebola crisis hit in 2014, the Security Council held an emergency meeting, and declared Ebola as a "threat to peace and international security". This helped to galvanise a collective response from the international community to tackle a common threat. COVID-19 is a global pandemic, but so far there has been no concerted global action to protect the most vulnerable populations. Pre-existing tensions have hindered co-operation and a blame game between the United States and China complicates matters further. The pandemic has the scope to devastate fragile economies, creating social unrest and threatening our common security, yet the silence from the Security Council is deafening.

Some of the most vulnerable people on the planet live in conflict zones. In Syria, after years of war, public health systems are dire. Recently, in the province of Idlib, people have had to flee homes due to the ongoing conflict. In the past six months one million people have been on the move to escape the fighting between the Syrian Government army and militias. With nowhere to go they camp out wherever they can, crowding around water points and with no access to health care. In some supported camps 15 to 20 people share a tent. If COVID-19 were to take hold, there would be death on a massive scale.

Dominic Raab MP, UK Foreign Secretary, has tweeted the support for a global ceasefire, but it is unclear what this means in practice. While the Government handles the urgent priorities of responding to the effects of the virus at home, the UK also has an important role in building, strengthening and sustaining the global partnerships crucial to combatting this crisis. We call on the UK government to state what specific measures it will take with respect to the UN Security Council and our own actions abroad.



The Lockdown School of Cookery

I was listening the Radio 4 Food programme last week and they commented on how food would not be perfect in these times. As not all ingredients are available, substitutions would be made. Food items that have been lurking in the back of the cupboard or fridge, will be incorporated into some dish or other. With this in mind, I decided to make an apple crumble.

3 or 4 Braeburn apples (usually cooking apples)
4 teaspoons mincemeat leftover from Christmas (usually sugar)
50 g (2 oz) margarine
100 g (4 oz) self-raising flour (usually plain flour)
25 g (1 oz) oats
25 g (1 oz) sugar

Chop the apples into the dish. Dollop the mincemeat around the apples.
Rub the fat into the flour then mix in the oats and sugar.
Sprinkle on top of the fruit.
Cook for 30-40 minutes in the oven 180 degrees Celsius.

I was a bit worried about the flour but it turned out OK. It was like mince pies and apple crumble combined. I like both of those, so it tasted delicious.

So if you have invented a new recipe or dug out an old recipe to use, please share it with the Lockdown School of Cookery.

This year I have a journal with a verse on each page. Recently this came up and was appropriate for the day:

'Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.' Romans 12:12

Thanks, Ann W

Wycombe Homeless Connection

We hope this message finds you, your loved ones and your fellowship well. We also hope you enjoyed your Easter celebrations which of course, were much different this year.

Continuing to care for our guests during coronavirus

As we move through our fifth week of lockdown, we are still facing lots of challenges at WHC. More people are coming to us each week for help either having lost their home or asking for help to keep their home.

We've placed more people into safe accommodation so they are able to self-isolate and manage their health and wellbeing. We have also moved people on from that accommodation into supported living homes, a significant and important step for people trying to get back on top of their lives.

Keeping in touch with our guests is vitally important, making sure they have everything they need while ensuring we can all continue to maintain social distancing. So we asked a small group of our volunteers who usually help run our Support Centre to call our guests a few times a week to have a chat and check how they are. It's going very well and our guests are saying how wonderful it is to have someone to talk to.

F's story:

We've known F for quite a while. He was in our night shelter this winter and had been regularly arriving for his spot, getting a meal, a bed for the night and breakfast.

We knew F had sustained a hip injury a little while back that had been treated. But one evening, he arrived at the night shelter complaining that he was in a lot of pain. So we got him back to hospital where sadly it was found his hip was injured again. F had to stay hospital for a number of weeks for surgery and treatment.

F progressed well under the amazing care of the NHS team but the time soon came for him to be discharged.

While F had been in hospital, we had closed the night shelter as the scale of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic became clear and we quickly decided we couldn't continue to run it and keep our guests and volunteers safe from the virus.

So our Homeless Health Worker worked closely with the hospital and made sure that on discharge he had somewhere safe to go.

We settled him into a local hotel where he could continue his recovery. We're checking with him regularly to make sure he has what he needs including food and personal items. And he is doing so much better now. His hip is continuing to improve.

Please pray

- For all those who either don't have a home, aren't sure they will keep their home, and those who are unsafe in their home.
- For the safety and wellbeing of every single person who is helped by our services and our staff and trustees.
- For Kate who is running a marathon on a treadmill on Sunday 26th raising money for us and for everyone who is determined to keep raising money for the people we serve
- Give thanks for all our wonderful volunteers
- Give thanks for the generosity and support shown to the people we serve.

WYCOMBE
HOMELESS CONNECTION

Picture page

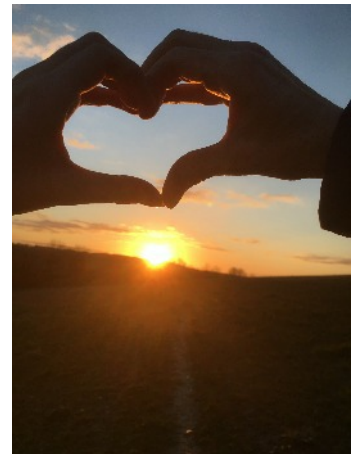


The doors may be closed
- but life goes on.

God is still working!



Cores End Easter cross



From an anonymous
young photographer at
Cores End