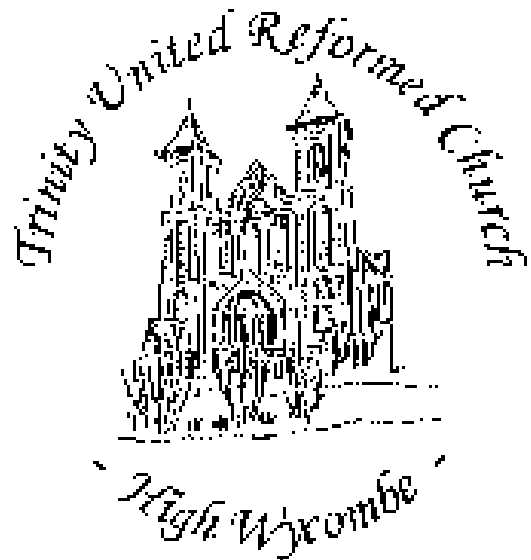


A cheerful heart is a good medicine.
Proverbs 17:22



July 2009

The Recorder

Inside - this month . . .

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| Pastoral letter | 2 | Commitment for Life | 6 |
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An edited version of this magazine is available on the Church Website.
(Personal details are NOT included)

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

Trinity - A Family Church

Worshipping together - Caring for one another - Sharing with others

Dear Friends,

In June we had the first ever “Trinity users” meeting. All the groups that meet regularly in our premises were invited. It began with coffee morning, shared with the regulars, before we adjourned to the Lionel Jowatt room. Each person introduced themselves and said a bit about their group. People from Café Days, Choir, Church of God of Worldwide Mission, Guiding and Junior Church, Line Dancing, Nightbirds, the Polish Lutheran congregation, St Vincent and the Grenadines 2nd Generation (SV2G) and our own Women’s Meeting met each other, many for the first time. Some have been gathering here for over fifty years, others for less than one year.

It was good to get together. We’re grateful to Jacqueline Roberts of SV2G for the idea. She saw value in the once-a-term meetings that we have been having with her and suggested that that be extended to all who meet at Trinity as a way to build a sense of community. It seemed to work well and we shall be doing it again. We shared news about the completion date for the refurbishment of the sanctuary and events for the opening season [see Revive report], and invited everyone to be involved. And it was a chance too for people to raise questions and make suggestions about practical matters that affect everyone who uses our building.

The Caribbean evening wasn’t a first, but it was the first for a while, and the first at which SV2G steel orchestra played for us some of their beautifully evocative music. We ate, laughed and danced with friends and families, including people from Wycombe Mind, and from Movers and Shakers [of which more later].

The annual church picnic was another ‘first’ in that we met on the Rye instead of at Hughenden Park. Apparently there were getting on for forty of us there. Our ages spanned over eighty years. The children enjoyed the new play equipment and some played cricket, whilst most of us just enjoyed a good chat.

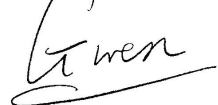
Communities, like friendships, do not just happen. They involve setting aside time to be together, to talk with those we have not talked with before, and to gradually extend our understanding that in God we belong to each other.

A wise woman has written, “Loneliness is the common enemy of all humankind ... it is a universal feeling. It occurs among the great and the lowly, the rich and the poor, and even among the married. Every heart at times feels the ache of loneliness. Even Jesus was lonely and longed for the disciples to stay awake and watch with him before the betrayal and crucifixion.”

She goes on to say, “The real cure for loneliness is the healing interaction of people. Loneliness leaves when there is sharing of deeper needs, struggles and joy. Friends can bring you courage and hope that is more necessary to life than happiness ... remember that what you do *for* someone helps that person. What you do *with* them helps you both. Take time to make friends with individuals who might ordinarily be outside of your social group.”

Recorder readers, enjoy your friends, old and new. Use the telephone and your pen to communicate, even if you cannot easily get out. Don’t be lonely this July. If you are able, join in the many interesting events listed in this Recorder or things that are happening in other circles of your lives. Be a community builder!

Above all grow in your experience of the love of God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also [2Cor.5:18],



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins

e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk

Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole,

e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

July Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am - led by the Minister unless otherwise stated

| | |
|----------|---|
| July 5 | Holy Communion |
| July 12 | Morning worship |
| [3.00pm] | Songs of Praise on the Rye [or Crendon Hall if wet] |
| July 19 | All age worship |
| July 26 | Morning worship |
| [4.45pm] | Prayer Circle |

Rotas for July

Not included in this version

What's on in July



In view of the very short nights during the summer months, the Nightbirds go into hiding. Expect to see them back in the area around 14th September!

WOMEN'S MEETING

The group is "on holiday" until September, but they have two special meetings this month. Both start at 2.30pm, and lifts will be arranged.
(See Olive S)



Tuesday 14th July Garden Party
Tuesday 28th July Garden Party

Summer Games



Being England, it will be cold and wet. Ideal for a game of Scrabble!

10th and 24th July
at 2pm

Diary Dates

- July**
- 3&4** Wycombe Faiths' Fair 10am – 3pm at The Reggie Goves Centre
 - 4** CWR Seminar 'Being A Secure Woman' 9am – 1pm (Crendon Hall) OATS
 - 5** Barbeque in aid of REVIVE at the Long's home 1pm
 - 7** Elders' Meeting 8pm
 - 10&11** Wycombe Town Centre Churches Together Barbeques
 - 11** Coffee Morning 10.30am (Crendon Hall)
 - 11** That Lot & The Other Lot Camp Out
 - 12** Songs of Praise on The Rye with Polish Lutherans & Church of God 3pm
 - 20-24** Lighthouse Week
 - 21** Church Meeting 8pm (Crendon Hall)
 - 25** Coffee Morning 10.30am (Crendon Hall)
 - 26** Prayer Circle For Healing 4.45pm (Crendon Hall)

| July 2009 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

Not included in this version

Important Future Dates:

August 1 Rangers' Fundraising Event 2 – 5pm
28 Green Belt Festival Weekend starts
29 Fifth Brigade

Sept 13 Commitment For Life Service
Sept 20 Harvest Thanksgiving Service
Oct 3 Autumn Fayre, & SV2G celebration of Black History Month
Oct 17 Festival of Praise at Coventry Cathedral
Oct 25 Vision4Life Bible Day Workshop led by Paul Stokes
Nov 15 Trinity Guides celebrate their 90th Anniversary

Do you have a skill or could you help?

We have received a great deal of interest from various groups who would like to use our new facility of the community space the redeveloped sanctuary will offer when completed. Our vision is that we will work in partnership with these groups rather than just as a hirer of the premises. To achieve this we will need people to open up, lock up, welcome, be a listening ear to others, show an interest in what they are doing, make refreshments, etc. etc. Maybe you could do one of these things or you know of somebody who could. Please give it some prayerful thought.

There will be more details in next month's Recorder.

MM

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe

A top World Bank official said grant funding to Zimbabwe was not going through the government, which has yet to demonstrate to the international community it can manage the economy with prudence and transparency.

\$22 million in grants from the Bank were being spent on behalf of donors through international aid agencies, and church groups to help small farmers and the poor.

Media reports said the World Bank would make its first grant available to the Zimbabwe government since 2001, signalling the institution was re-engaging with the bankrupt southern African country.

World Bank Vice President for Africa, Obiageli Ezekwesili denied the reports, saying the World Bank was not lending to Zimbabwe's government.

"It's not money going directly through the government of Zimbabwe," Ezekwesili said in an interview. "We don't have the basis for such an engagement yet."

"The policy of international financial institutions is that there first has to be a re-engagement," she added.

Such a step would require the new unity government of President Robert Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai to develop a credible programme to rebuild the country's economy and implement reforms.

"Key is the whole area of public financial management, of how the public sector operates and dealing with governance issues, which is going to be very critical," said Ezekwesili.

Also important to normalising relations with donors and securing financing is for Zimbabwe to clear its arrears with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and African Development Bank. As of April 2009, Zimbabwe was \$673 million in arrears to the World Bank, \$140 million to the IMF and \$430 million to the African Development Bank.

The formation in February of the unity government between Mugabe and his long-time foe Tsvangirai has generated a cautious optimism towards Zimbabwe, once one of Africa's most prosperous economies. But wrangling between the political rivals has continued, with sharp differences over issues such as the posts of central bank governor and attorney general.

Central Bank Governor Gideon Gono, a close Mugabe ally, has been under pressure to resign from Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change, which accuses him of helping to bankrupt the country and implementing policies that have caused hyperinflation and accelerated the country's economic decline.

The new government has indicated it needs about \$8.5 billion in emergency aid over the next two to three years to revive the economy.

Donors have said they are unwilling to resume aid and lift sanctions while Gono remains head of the central bank and until the government reverses its nationalization policies and halts human rights abuses.

Ezekwesili said the formation of the unity government was a major step forward for Zimbabwe but it now has to demonstrate it is serious about fixing the economy by adhering to a programme that addresses economic shortcomings and implements institutional reforms.

"People are going to be looking at how quickly Zimbabwe returns to the rules of the game in basic transparency of the decision-making process," she said. "Most of the work is going to happen at the level of the Zimbabwe leadership."

She said the World Bank is currently conducting an assessment of the economy and areas that are important to Zimbabwe's recovery including agriculture, mining and energy.

"The key thing is that the government of Zimbabwe has a credible medium-term economic programme in place and demonstrates performance over a period of time around it," she added. "That also involves building a consensus around a programme which has the support of everyone."

(Reporting by Lesley Wroughton; Editing by Simon Jessop, John Stonestreet) © Reuters

Along with an update on the building work, we want to keep you informed about the mission and partnership opportunities we are pursuing. Peter Twilley, who led our community workshop suggested this format to help keep us on track of progress, so we hope you find it helpful

Constructive feedback is always welcomed!

| What will success look like? | | Completion date | "Owner" | Progress as at mid June 09 |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Getting laptops for future groups (e.g. homework/Silver Surfers) | Obtain 6-10 laptops | September | Kate Y | Grants applied for |
| Homework club | Feasibility study completed | November 09 for January implementation | Valerie L and Linda C | Gathering help and information from local schools and Union Baptist (who ran/run a similar scheme) as part of research |
| | Plan/ideas for development | | | |
| Review bookings system. Health & Safety, hire rates, update website, user groups meeting | Revised booking system | September | Premises working party | Conversations and meetings taking place |
| Welcome package | Strategy for welcoming newcomers (welcome pack for all/ & website update) | Sep-09 | Enriching Church Life Group (Sue S, Marian M, Gwen C) | Meeting scheduled 16 June |
| Evening homeless drop-in | Volunteers and people attending: food, entertainment & TV/DVD | Open by October | Janet R | No update |
| Resources for users & groups (TV, laptops, etc.) | We'll have resources! | September | Margaret L and Kate Y | Margaret L investigating |
| Develop "Movers and Shakers" (well-being, diet, exercise, etc.) for mature people | Regular group meets in Trinity: funding and partnership agreements in place: involvement of user group in developing programme | January | Gwen C and Janet R | Janet R to be Trinity's representative at meetings. Ongoing planning and consultation |
| Caribbean elders (part of Movers & Shakers) | Regular group meets in Trinity: funding and partnership agreements in place: involvement of user group in developing programme | September | Gwen C and Rose C, plus Primary Care Trust and Bucks CC | New committee formed. Plans progressing well. Rose on committee with Janet as reserve. |
| This "Action Plan" to be shared with church | More church members will be involved in future plans | July Recorder | Kate Y | in hand |
| Share Your Skills" to be revisited; congregation has opportunity to volunteer to help in above | More church members will be involved in future plans | August Recorder | Marian M | in hand |



REVIVE UPDATE – JULY 2009

It has been another busy month. Work is progressing well both on the redevelopment and developing of relationships with potential partnerships. On Saturday 13 June some of our hirers and users came to a meeting to hear an update on the building and our mission plans. Those attending thought that a once-a-term hirers/users meeting with link elders would be useful.

Revised completion date

Unfortunately it has become clear that although the original completion date was 14 August this has now slipped. We are still liaising with the builders on a revised completion date but following a site meeting between the builders, architects, heating and electrical consultants and Simon and Kate on Tuesday 2 June, it has become clear that the time slippage has had a greater impact than we anticipated, by about 7.5 weeks because of the items below. Both we and the builders have tried to reduce schedule slippage.

- The identification and subsequent removal of asbestos residue in the Crendon Hall undercroft and boiler room – both areas the builders were to work in, with Health & Safety requiring two weeks between notification and removal
- Ensuring the heating specification is correct and adequate for our needs – there have been some delays in getting the information required but we are now confident that our new heating system will meet our needs even in the coldest weather
- Repairs to high level ceiling panels and plasterwork – this has been essential and we have also taken the opportunity to insulate the highest panels at the same time as we may not have scaffolding at this high level for decades to come
- The grit blasting of the timbers in the ceiling and under the gallery – we had a two-week lead time for the grit-blaster with the work then taking a further two weeks
- Reviewing the lighting specification to ensure we get the best and most cost effective installations for our needs and budget – this also includes a fire alarm system. (We will have a full detection and alarm system in the sanctuary, Lower School Room, corridor and Hall, and alerts in the rest of the building, with a sensor in the boiler room.)

The delay means that our opening season programme of events will have to be adjusted, and we have looked at that. The biggest change will be that we are unable to have our thanksgiving and dedication service led by The Revd John Marsh on Sunday 27 September. This will now be on Sunday 29 November (Advent Sunday). Current indications are that work should be completed some time in October. David Skipp, Thames North Synod property officer, recommends giving ourselves a bit of leeway for a good clean, getting the organ tuned and grand piano moved in, etc. etc. We are talking to individuals and groups who will be affected by the delay.

We're aware that this will be very disappointing, not least for the Revive team! But we're also sure that you appreciate how vital it is to get everything done as well as it possibly can be so that we reduce our future maintenance costs by getting essential repairs done now and ensuring we make the best decisions. Please keep praying for the builders, contractors and all involved.

So, at present it looks as if we should be able to move back into the sanctuary on Advent Sunday, 29 November, with a thanksgiving and dedication service. We will then have a celebration evening and supper – with entertainment – on Saturday 5 December.

And some good news ... we received a cheque for £2,500 from the Beatrice Laing Trust on 4 June! In addition, our budget is holding up well and we have applied for several other grants which could vary from £13,000 to £21,000 if we get them!

[on behalf of the Revive team - 14 June 2009]



SONGS OF PRAISE

ON THE RYE

SUNDAY JULY 12th at 3pm

We're joining again with The Church of God, the Polish Lutherans, The Salvation Army and other churches to praise God together on The Rye opposite Trinity, weather permitting.

Bring your friends and something to sit on.

[If it's wet we'll worship together in Crendon Hall.]

WANTED

MUSICIANS: All ages welcome.

WHEN: Once a month at the All Age Service.

WHERE: Trinity United Reformed Church.

We would love to get the music group up and running again so that we can play at the all age service once a month.

If you play an instrument or know of someone who does please speak to either Nina S or Sarah H. We would love to hear from you.

Thankyou.

Sarah.

... and **Wanted** again.

Do you have a spare room in your house and would like to make a bit of extra income during the credit crunch, while also supporting students? Due to campus consolidation Bucks New University Accommodation Service is expecting greater demand for lodgings for International Erasmus exchange students. Most of the exchange students stay for a semester - some stay for a year. Please contact Janice David on 01494 551064 or janice.david@bucks.ac.uk for further information.

Thanks.



The Methodist Church



NEWS RELEASE

Churches concerned as BNP makes election gains

- Churches' steadfast message: God loves all, racism is a 'sin'

Disappointment and concern have been expressed by Christians following gains made by the British National Party (BNP) in last week's European Parliament Elections.

In elections held last Thursday, the BNP won two seats in the European Parliament and three seats in local councils around the UK.

Rachel Lampard, Public Issues Policy Adviser for the Methodist Church, said, "The limited success of the BNP does not change our steadfast message: God loves all. Racism is a sin. The campaigning work of the churches and other grass-roots organisations has helped to highlight the need for people to vote positively, especially at a time when public confidence in politics has been shaken."

Many commentators predicted success for the BNP due to low voter turnout and the political scandals of recent weeks. However, the gains were nowhere near as great as the BNP themselves predicted.

Revd Graham Sparkes, Head of Faith and Unity for the Baptist Union of Great Britain, added; "It's deeply disappointing that we now have a racist party representing Britain in Europe for the next five years and it is vital that our remaining UK representatives dedicate themselves to promote the common good."

Secretary for Church and Society for the United Reformed Church, Frank Kantor, said; "We must never become comfortable with the BNP using their position to promote their racist policies. We will continue to counter their messages of hatred and fear."



From Somalia to Colombia, the lack of arms control is fueling conflict, poverty and human rights abuses. Irresponsible arms transfers are causing death and suffering to millions of people around the world.

Act now: Help create a safer world by calling on President Obama to support an effective Arms Trade Treaty

In 2006, Control Arms campaign supporters like you helped to get the arms trade treaty (ATT) on the UN agenda. **Since then the world's biggest arms exporter – the USA – have been attempting to block progress. But, with President Obama in the White House, things may change.**

President Obama has shown that he listens to ordinary people like you. That's why you should let him know that millions of people living in constant threat of being killed, injured, raped, and forced to flee as a result of irresponsible arms transfers are counting on him.

Sign the petition to President Obama today

In July, all countries in the world are meeting at the UN to discuss the Arms Trade Treaty. This is the perfect opportunity for President Obama to announce that his administration will work with others to support an effective Arms Trade Treaty.

Thanks for your support,

The Control Arms Team

[The on-line address is rather long-winded. If you are interested in signing this petition, please contact Kate Y or the Editor]

The Big Tax Return: where's the money gone?

Imagine if poor countries had the riches to help them work their own way out of poverty. The truth is they do – but it's multinational companies that are reaping the rewards by siphoning off at least \$160bn (£110bn) a year in unpaid taxes. That's 22 times more than Britain's 2007 aid budget of £5bn.

Christian Aid's new campaign, **The Big Tax Return**, is about plugging this leak – and getting poor countries their money back so they can build their own futures.

Doing it by the books?

Multinational companies are really good at finding new ways to make money – that's what they are there for. But some go to unethical, even illegal, lengths.

By reporting just a fraction of the profits they make in poorer countries, and hiding the true amounts offshore, these unscrupulous businesses reduce their tax bills – and cost the developing world billions.

\$160bn, in fact.

- Enough to reach the UN millennium development goals several times over.
- Enough to save the lives of 350,000 children aged five or under every year.
- Almost twice the amount poor countries receive in international aid.

In the West, tax revenue pays for basic healthcare, roads and schools.

Many poorer countries struggle to do the same – sometimes because lack of infrastructure prevents them collecting revenue efficiently, and sometimes due to corrupt and unaccountable government.

However, the cloak of silence under which so many corporations are able to operate means billions of dollars leave developing countries without anyone noticing.

What do we want? No more secrets

While the rich world counts the cost of the global economic crisis it is glaring that the collapse of international markets and the drain on poor-country riches share a common cause: secrecy.

Secrecy allowed banks to hide their toxic assets until it was too late.

And secrecy continues to prevent us from knowing in which countries multinational firms truly make their profits – and how.

Call multinationals to account

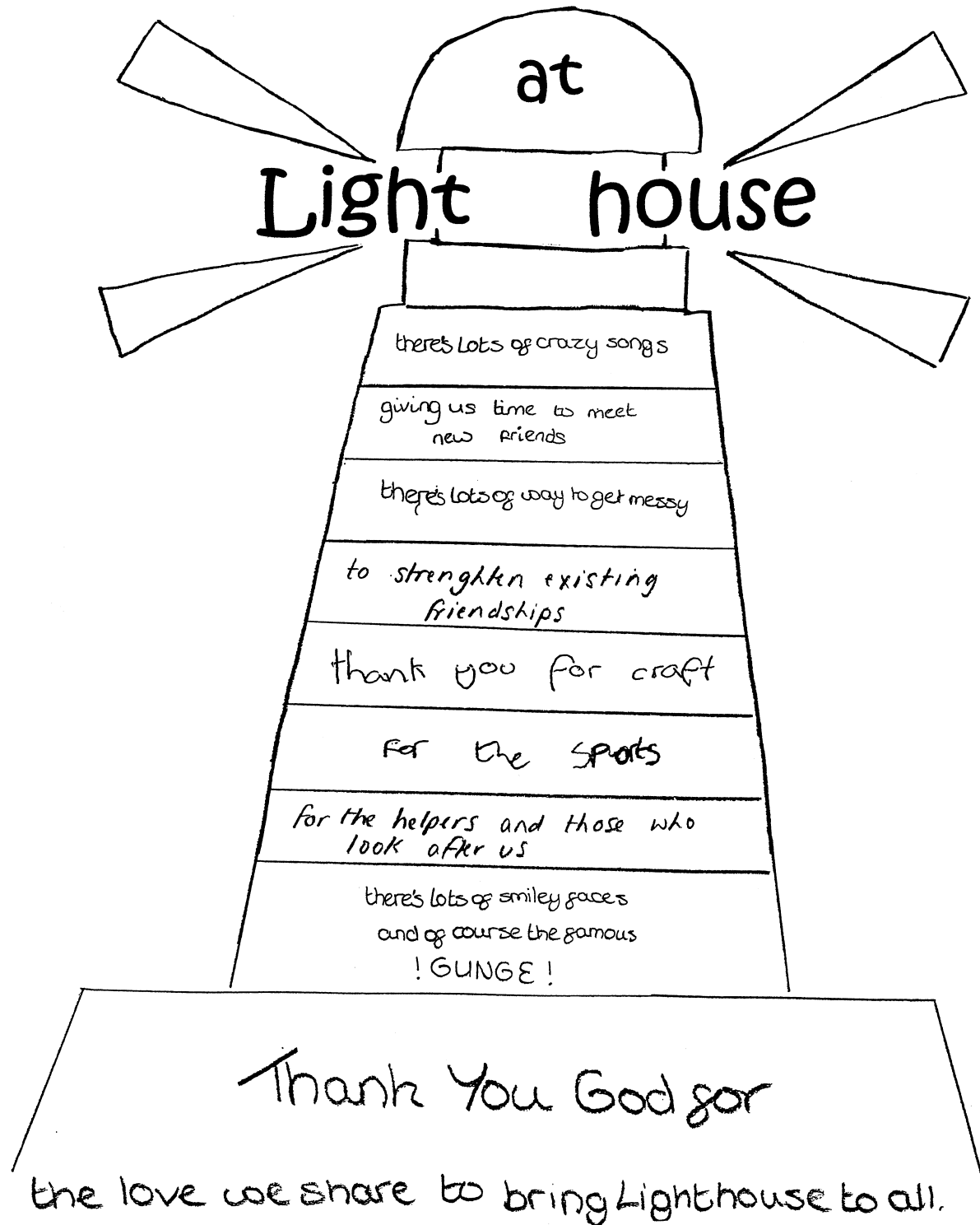
If the West is serious about poorer countries helping themselves out of poverty, the secrecy has to stop.

We need the UK government to ensure that every multinational declares in which countries it makes its profits and how much tax it pays.

For more information or to take action, contact Christian Aid at the address below or visit their website <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/the-big-tax-return/background.aspx>

Christian Aid
35 Lower Marsh
Waterloo
London UK
SE1 7RL

Things we are thankful for





Happy Birthday

to
Luke K (9th)

Birthday Congratulations



to
Olivia P (24th)
on celebrating her 95th birthday



Congratulations

and best wishes to
Julia & Tim Son celebrating their Wed-
ding Anniversary

with love to all the above from all at Trinity

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 26th July.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 17th July*

Recorder Editor : e-mail : editor@trinity-urc.org.uk

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

prayer page

(Prepared by Junior Church)

we thank you father god

P R A Y E R
J U L Y
A P P E A R

Thank you
God
for
vacation
holidays

Thank you
God
for
vacation
holidays

Holiday gives us time to have a break from school

Thank you
God
for
vacation
holidays

Holiday gives us time to play with our friends

THANK YOU FOR...

Thank you a God
for
vacation, walking
family, friends, friends
Tolly Rabies, and
willing to always
us happy. nice!

Dear Lord
Thank you
for giving
us
vacation
Amen

Thank you for shoes!
so I can go walking
with my family

Natkar
Rebecca
Rabekah
Saskia

On our prayer page we are
looking at the summer holidays
as we are about to enjoy the
sun they bring from Lighthouse to
trips abroad to NO MORE SCHOOL

Dear Lord
Thank you
for giving
us
vacation
Amen

Created by
Abby
Daniel
Edward
Erin
James
Jon
Katie

Holiday gives us time to have
sleepovers.

Thank you
for
relaxing,

Holidays give us fun, sun and sea.

Dear Lord
Thank you
for giving
us
vacation
Amen

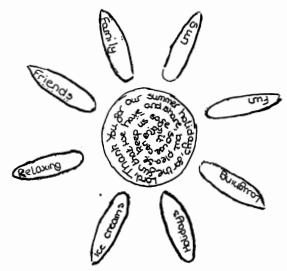
Thank you
God
for
vacation
holidays

Daddy
Mum

Holiday gives us time to spend with our families.

Beach
Beaches give us
sand, water, sun
and ice cream.

Thank
you
for
lobster



Thank you for ice-creams, which
give us chocolate flakes, raspberry
sauce and a white mandarin!

Thank you
God
for
vacation
holidays

we thank you father god