

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. *John 13:35*



*May 2012*

# *The Recorder*

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*Pages 12 - 14 are blank in this version*

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,

I want to encourage everyone reading this letter, if you are able to get out and about, to come to Frogmoor on 27<sup>th</sup> May for 'Love Wycombe'.

Whether you regularly worship at Trinity or you simply like to read our news but very rarely go to church yourself, this is an event for you. It is Pentecost Sunday and more than 40 churches are celebrating our unity in Christ by joining together on that Sunday morning for an open air service at the heart of High Wycombe. Imagine worshipping in our town with Christians from over 40 other churches! You'd normally have to go to a big Christian Conference to do that. Our Church Meeting in November decided to 'sign up' for this event, and therefore not to hold our own service on that day. Many other churches have done the same.

The actual service will be about an hour long, beginning at 11.00. If you really love singing arrive early, though, as the band will be leading worship songs from 10.30. In the service itself we will be singing old favourites like 'Crown him with many crowns' and 'Amazing grace', as well as some well known worship songs.

There will be lots to engage children and young people, with Erica and her team taking a lead. Expect to sing some Lighthouse classics!

Bring a fold up chair if you are not comfortable standing for so long. After the service cold drinks and homemade biscuits will be served, with time to chat to friends from other churches as well as amongst ourselves. There will be a collection to be shared between Lighthouse (children's holiday club) and Wycombe Homeless Connection (nightshelter, plus all year round work with homeless people), and we will hear a little of the work of these two organisations during the service.

The Encounter Trust has done a fantastic job on the practical organising of Love Wycombe. They deserve our warm thanks for doing this on behalf of the whole Christian community in the town and district. They are eager to have volunteers from many churches helping. If you are able to bake some biscuits, serve refreshments on the day, help with AV, steward, set up and/or clear up, sing or play to record a CD of all the songs in advance – please get in touch via the website [www.loveywycombe.org.uk](http://www.loveywycombe.org.uk) or let me or Sue Saunders know what you are interested in doing.

At our Church Meeting in May we will talk about transport arrangements, so hopefully no-one will be prevented from going because they can't walk far.

Postcards advertising Love Wycombe are available at church. Please take copies for any friends who might like to come with you. I look forward to seeing you there. Don't miss it!



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins e-mail: <a href="mailto:gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk">gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk</a>
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Church Secretary :Mrs Sue Saunders, e-mail: <a href="mailto:secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk">secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk</a>
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## May Services

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

May 6		Holy Communion
	4.30	Prayer Circle for healing
May 13		Morning Worship, including prayer for Christian Aid Week
May 20		All Age Worship with infant baptisms
	4.00	Holy Communion
May 27		PENTECOST 'Love Wycombe' united worship at Frogmoor, arrive from 10.30 for the celebration to start at 11 a.m. (see minister's letter)

**NO SERVICE AT TRINITY on 27<sup>th</sup>**

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**Rotas for May**

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in May

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 1st May	Quiz
Tuesday 8th May	World red Cross Day - Speaker: Cyndy Thomas
Tuesday 15th May	Christian Aid - Bring & Buy
Tuesday 22nd May	Mary Carpenter - A Forgotten Reformer?
Tuesday 29th May	The last years of David



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*

## Diary Dates

Event	Time and date	Venue
May		
Elders Meeting	Tuesday 1st 8.00pm	LSR
Prayer Circle for Healing	Sunday 6th 4.00pm	LSR
Coffee Morning	Saturday 12th 9.30 - noon	LSR
Christian Aid Week	Sunday 13th – Saturday 19th	
Church Meeting	Tuesday 15th 8.00pm	Sanctuary
Evening Communion	Sunday 20th 4.00pm	Sanctuary
Coffee Morning	Saturday 26th 9.30 - noon	LSR
“Love Wycombe” Joint Service for Pentecost	Sunday 27th 10.30 for 11am	Frogmoor, High Wycombe
Elders Meeting	Tuesday 29th 8.00pm	(Church closed)

May 2012						
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



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 2012

PLEASE, **PLEASE**, PLEASE

Christian Aid Week will soon be here and we need collectors. If you can spare even one morning, afternoon or evening during the week of 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May I would love to hear from you. We have a selection of roads to collect from, so I'm sure there will be one just right for you.

I did say in the April Recorder that the weather was improving but it turned out that I was wrong. On the other hand surely nearly all the rain has fallen now so by May we should be having good collecting weather. Let's hope so.

So over to you, I will put the list in the Lower Schoolroom so that you can sign up to the road of your choice.

Thankyou

*Margaret L*

Many of you will by now have received the High Wycombe District Council Tax 2012/13. There is an advertisement on page 31 about the High Wycombe Central Aid Society to which Trinity makes an annual grant.

The advertisement describes all the help the Society gives to those in need of support and advice, and an opportunity to those who are lonely to meet other people. It also helps to provide second-hand furniture at discount prices. You can get a snack there and meet friends, also take part in Bingo, Keep Fit, and go on outings.

The premises are now at West Richardson Street, High Wycombe HP11 2SB, telephone 01494 535890.

You might like to pass on this information to anyone you know who is lonely, in need of a bit of company and friendship.

This charity, as many of you will know, was established in 1906 by the then Headmistress of High Wycombe Abbey. Volunteers to keep the charity working are also very welcome!

*Olivia P*

## ZIMBABWE

### Perpetua and Ashley

For mum Perpetua and baby Ashley, eleven months, life has not been easy since her husband died and she found she was HIV positive. The counselling she has received from Mashambanzou, an organisation helping those infected and affected by HIV, has helped her come to terms with the loss of her partner and breadwinner.

Perpetua noticed she was losing weight and was encouraged to go to be tested by Mashambanzou volunteers in her community of Highfield, Harare. Regular food parcels of basic goods means she is now putting on weight and her general health has improved. The parcels include soya beans, porridge, oil, mealie flour and sometimes cabbage. The more nutritious diet also makes the drugs she is taking fully effective.

Nearly 14% of the population live with HIV but often HIV-related illnesses prevent them from growing the food they need or holding down a job that would allow them to buy better food and medicines. Zimbabwe has the highest rate of HIV orphans in the world, with one in four children having lost one of both parents to AIDS.

Ashley's energy is growing and she likes to be exploring. Perpetua says, "I want to see her grow up, she is my strength."

With support from Mashambanzou, in terms of food parcels, counselling and regular clinic time, there is every hope that she will fulfil that dream.

### Zimbabwe launches new debt clearance strategy

The Zimbabwean government has launched a new strategy for dealing with its external debt, entitled the 'Accelerated arrears clearance, debt and development strategy'. The strategy has been agreed by both Robert Mugabe's Zanu-PF and Morgan Tsvangiri's Movement for Democratic Change. Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangiri met UK Prime Minister David Cameron in London on 21 March, which included discussions on the country's debts.

The strategy talks are asking the Paris Club group of rich country creditors to cancel debts under the Naples Terms as the minimum. This would require Zimbabwe being on an IMF programme, and would lead to at least 67 per cent of the debt being cancelled, and a repayment schedule for the remainder being set up over several years.

Zimbabwe is in theory eligible to apply to join the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. HIPC is not referred to in the strategy, though the process outlined in terms of arrears clearance is in line with what is needed to enter HIPC. In reality, beyond reconciling debt data, little is likely to happen until there is further political change in the country.

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development are calling on the Zimbabwean parliament to create a debt audit commission to investigate where the debt comes from. Jubilee Debt Campaign have launched an action calling on the African Development Bank to signal that they would cooperate with and support a debt audit if one were held: [www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/zimaction](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/zimaction)

Jubilee Debt Campaign's report: 'Uncovering Zimbabwe's Debt: The case for a democratic solution to the unjust debt burden' is available at [www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/zimbabwreport](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/zimbabwreport)

## Chiltern Area Committee Newsletter - March 2012 (edited)

### 1. Area Committee members 2012-2013

This year we had the unprecedented situation for us of an election for three vacancies as we had four nominees. We'd like to continue this pattern! This year Area Committee comprises:

- ❖ Mr Alan Yates – Convenor and Lay Preaching Advocate
- ❖ Mrs Kate Yates – Secretary
- ❖ Revd Dr Gwen Collins
- ❖ Revd Anthony Howells
- ❖ Mr John Hoar
- ❖ Mr David Bailey
- ❖ Revd Bridget Powell
- ❖ The Moderator (ex-officio)
- ❖ Revd David Trafford (in attendance)

### 2. News from the churches

#### Amersham

The wheels do not turn as fast as some would like when it comes to taking steps to bring a vacancy to an end. A Church Profile for prospective candidates is now available and we hope this will lead to great things!

Inevitably in a congregation of this size there are losses and gains from the roll within any period but numbers have been maintained.

A minister who visited recently (we have been blessed with a steady stream of valuable people filling our pulpit) commented that Amersham was a busy and lively church, and no-one with experience of its activities (within its walls or ecumenically), on a Sunday or a weekday, is likely to argue with that.

#### Holtspur

They are continuing with their weekly Young at Heart social gatherings with over 20 people, some of whom come from outside the church and attended the Christmas service. They are starting 'Messy Church' in May as both Beaconsfield and Holtspur will be starting separate 'Messy Church' sessions once a month. Revd Nigel Douglas has been taking assemblies at Holtspur School and hopes that some of the children and parents might attend Messy Church at Holtspur

#### Trinity High Wycombe

**Social** – We put on a splendid panto in February.

**Worship** – this year we are following themes from the 'Roots' material, based on the lectionary. In Fairtrade Fortnight we made a Fairtrade label collage and have now completed this with 100 labels.

**Nurture** – a housegroup has begun and we've had membership class using the 'What is the URC?' leaflets. Three of the Elders supported the classes.

**Outreach and mission** – we have just come to the end of our fifth year hosting the Winter Night Shelter, as one of the seven host churches. Volunteers are from a variety of churches and none. In the last couple of weeks a project for people with learning disabilities to develop skills (Nclude) has started to meet at Trinity.

### 3. Celebrating the URC's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012 – Saturday 10 November

We hope the date is in your diary for this Area-wide celebration on Saturday 10 November 2012 with The Revd Dr Michael Jagessar. Further details to follow.



## Fairtrade Town Campaign

At our Fairtrade Service on March 11<sup>th</sup> we heard about the campaign now underway for High Wycombe to become a Fairtrade town. Sheila Stevenson, from the Wycombe for Fairtrade steering group, had made a presentation at a recent Town Centre Churches Together meeting. She explained that there are 500 Fairtrade towns in the UK. To achieve Fairtrade status we would need to meet 5 criteria:

1. Local council passes a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and agrees to serve Fairtrade products (for example, in meetings, offices and canteens).
2. A range of Fairtrade products are readily available in the area's retail outlets (shops, supermarkets, newsagents and petrol stations) and served in local catering outlets (cafés, restaurants, pubs).
3. Local workplaces and community organisations (places of worship, schools, universities, colleges and other community organisations) support Fairtrade and use Fairtrade products whenever possible.
4. Media coverage and events raise awareness and understanding of Fairtrade across the community.
5. A local Fairtrade steering group is convened to ensure the Fairtrade Town campaign continues to develop and gain new support.

For more precise details see the Fairtrade Foundation's website: [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

An easy way to remember the goals is the 'Five C's':

1. **C**ouncil
2. **C**ommerce (retail and catering)
3. **C**ommunity
4. **C**ommon Consensus (public support gained through media coverage and events)
5. **C**aptains (steering group)

In regard to goal 1, an application will be made to the WDC on 2nd July and it is hoped to have at least 1000 signatories by then. A previous application about 3 years ago was rejected, so it is important that support is clearly expressed this time round. Some of you signed a petition, and others took petitions for neighbours or work colleagues to sign.

### **Please get all signed petitions to John Standfield by end of April**

(or 30<sup>th</sup> May at the very latest). John will take our petitions to the Churches Together meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> May. Alternatively you can sign on-line at [www.wycombfairtrade.org.uk](http://www.wycombfairtrade.org.uk).

# Wycombe Homeless Connection

## Thanks for helping us help the homeless this winter

At Trinity and other venues in the town, Wycombe Winter Night Shelter has once again been opening its doors to Wycombe's homeless people, providing warmth, welcome, food and sleep for some of our most vulnerable fellow-citizens. Alongside running the Shelter, at Wycombe Homeless Connection our mission is to help people rebuild their lives, and this we do all year, providing advice and support to help people regain stability. It's remarkable how easy it is to lose one's home through debt, ill-health, redundancy or family breakdown. About 250 people come to us each year, and we help them with things like replacing stolen ID, sorting out benefits, job-seeking, raising a deposit and finding a landlord. For a good number, we provide the only community they have: *"When I was homeless last winter the shelter was a lifeline.... such nice people who made you feel welcome and human again. I think it made a massive difference in my life and all those who were homeless at the time. Brilliant!"*

We enjoy fantastic support from over 250 volunteers, many of whom are from over 40 local churches, including a good number from Trinity. They give their time hosting at the Shelter and in many other ways. One recently told us: *"Whatever your God-given talent – be it hiding in a cupboard to sort out supplies or meeting and greeting guests at a shelter, volunteering at WHC has a place for you. Be warned: I started as a quiet and retiring person - now I am outgoing, boisterous and addicted!"* If you'd like to help – get in touch!

We need around £100,000 each year to employ our dedicated project workers and acquire all necessary resources and equipment to provide year-round support services and the Shelter. The funding climate is currently very tough and we receive very little support from official sources, so we need all the help we can get.

We welcome donations of any size, but regular donations are especially valuable to us as they

help us to plan ahead. Please consider joining our **Lifebuilders** who support us monthly.

- £10 a month pays for a meal for 25 at one evening session that is often the first step for a homeless person towards accepting help
- £20 a month pays for the WHC staff's work for one day helping individuals rebuild their lives
- £30 a month pays for the WHC mobile phone for a year so that staff can respond to calls for help



Donors can pay by standing order, and if they pay income tax, they can make the gift 25% more valuable at no extra cost through Gift Aid. Standing Order and Gift Aid forms are available from our website or from the office.

For one-off gifts:

- Websites like Virgin Money Giving are easy to use and can all reclaim Gift Aid for us, where appropriate
- WHC has its own page on the Virgin Money Giving website which makes it easy to give or set up your own fundraising event or sponsorship
- Cheques are also welcome and can be made payable to 'Wycombe Homeless Connection' and sent to the WHC office, again with a Gift Aid form where appropriate.

If you choose to help, however you do it, our homeless friends will bless you for it!

Here are our contact details. Wycombe Homeless Connection Christian Trust is Registered Charity number 1131541. Find us at 8 Castle St, High Wycombe HP13 6RF, 01494 447699, [contact@wyhoc.org.uk](mailto:contact@wyhoc.org.uk) or [www.wyhoc.org.uk](http://www.wyhoc.org.uk).

## Housegroup meeting dates for May and June

The Housegroup which has been meeting at Marian and Martin Drake's will be held on the following dates at 8 pm:

8 May  
22 May  
12 June

We study a passage from the Bible and looking at its relevance to life today, and spend some time in prayer and worship. Those of us attending are just ordinary Christians who haven't got all the answers but want to find out more about the Bible and understand more about God's involvement in our lives.

If you would like to come along or find out more please talk to Marian or Martin.

## SPECIAL POEM FOR OLDER FOLKS

A row of bottles on my shelf  
Caused me to analyse myself.  
One yellow pill I have to pop  
Goes to my heart so it won't stop.  
A little white one that I take  
Goes to my hands so they won't shake.  
The blue ones that I use a lot  
Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.  
The purple pill goes to my brain  
And tells me that I have no pain.  
The capsules tell me not to wheeze  
Or cough or choke or even sneeze.  
The red ones, smallest of them all  
Go to my blood so I won't fall.  
The orange ones, very big and bright  
Prevent my leg cramps in the night.  
Such an array of brilliant pills  
Helping to cure all kinds of ills.  
But what I'd really like to know,  
Is what tells each one where to go!

*[Submitted by Andrew Winton  
(from experience??!)]*

## Calling all readers

Some of us are keen to start a Book Club, meeting in the daytime monthly/bi-monthly. Anyone interested in this or wanting more information please see me as soon as possible so that we can arrange a meeting to discuss time, place etc.

*Olive I*

## **Post holders**

Most of you will know by now, that at our AGM in March, two of our serving Elders stepped down, having completed their six year term of office. Thankfully, two people agreed be nominated for office and were duly elected by the church membership. They were non-serving elders, Margaret Lewis and Simon Evans. We thank them and hold them in our prayers for their first three-year term in office.

A number of post holders agreed to carry on with their duties. Some stepped down after several years of loyal service. We thank each of them for all that they have done. New and continuing post holders are listed on pages 12-14, but there are still a few vacancies. Please think prayerfully about these positions. Could you do one of these jobs? If you would like to talk to the person who did the job before, all have agreed that they are happy to help.

One vacancy is that of "After Church Coffee Rota". Anne H would like to have a year off so that she can concentrate on looking after her very frail mother. Could you do this job for one year?

Please encourage and support all our post holders, each job, no matter how small contributes to our church's continued outreach and mission and care for one another.

SS

## Elders Pastoral Groups & Postholders- 2012/13

**Not included in this version**









# Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Rev'd Bernie C (10<sup>th</sup>)

Sarah E (13<sup>th</sup>)

Janet R (14<sup>th</sup>)

Kay E (15<sup>th</sup>)

Hannah H (15<sup>th</sup>)

a very Happy Birthday



# Congratulations



With Best Wishes to

Sarah & Simon (6<sup>th</sup>)

Kate & Alan (21<sup>st</sup>)

on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary  
with love from us all at Trinity.

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*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 27th May.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 18th May*

Recorder Editor : e-mail : [editor@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:editor@trinity-urc.org.uk)

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

# prayer page

## pentecost

O God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace,  
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.  
We ask it for your own name's sake. Amen.

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Lord Holy Spirit, we thank you for your promise to set us free:  
free from timidity, free to begin again,  
not disillusioned by our past failures and mistakes;  
free to be ourselves, our real selves,  
the selves which the Creator meant us to be;  
free to accomplish those things that you want done.  
Grant us now the openness of heart,  
the self-forgetfulness,  
to claim your promise and accept your freedom.

*From "More Everyday Prayers", 1982*

Spirit of God, you are the breath of creation,  
the wind of change that blows through our lives,  
opening us up to new dreams and new hopes,  
new life in Jesus Christ.

Forgive us our closed minds  
which barricade themselves against new ideas,  
preferring the past to what you might want to do  
through us tomorrow.

Forgive our closed eyes  
which fail to see the needs of your world,  
blind to opportunities of service and love.

Forgive us our closed hearts  
which limit our affections to ourselves  
and our own.

Spirit of new life,  
forgive us and break down the prison walls of our selfishness,  
that we might be open to your love  
and open for the service of your world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*From "Bread of Tomorrow" © Christian Aid Christopher Ellis*

