



September 2006

The Recorder

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*An edited version of this magazine is now available on the Church Web-site.
(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

Have you read the Da Vinci Code, a modern day thriller of a search for the Holy Grail? Towards the end of the book the heroine is re-united with the brother and grandmother she had long ago believed to be dead. She finds them in a Scottish village named Roslin, which has a famous chapel (Rosslyn) dating back to medieval times and reputed to be a burial place of the Holy Grail.

By sheer coincidence, Maureen, Jessie (Edward) and I spent a week in a cottage in Roslin in July. We visited the chapel, which was packed with visitors from around the world, so popular has it become through the novel and recent film. In recent years it attracted less than 400 visitors a year, but last year there were 180000 visitors (at £7 a head), generating much needed income for a building that has so fallen into disrepair it needs a £multi-million makeover.

A guide told us about its history from its baronial patron and its association with Celtic traditions, the Knights Templar and the discovery of America. What struck us was the story about the "Apprentice Pillar". Apparently the Master stonemason had been sent by the chapel's patron to source fine building materials in Italy and other parts of Europe. In his absence, his apprentice had crafted a pillar which is stunning to behold even today, as a magnificent witness to the Glory of God. On his return from Europe the Master stonemason had the apprentice murdered, so jealous was he of his work.

Interesting tale, but so what?

In our present situation, it seems to me to speak volumes. Like Trinity, Rosslyn Chapel was a sacred place in chronic structural decline, but God has provided for its revival in a most unexpected way. We need to have faith that God will provide for Trinity's Revival, in ways that we cannot contemplate, especially when the costs of the project are not presently being met with the income we require. Like the apprentice stonemason we need to keep our hearts and minds fixed on the ultimate goal that what we are doing is witnessing to the Glory and Goodness of God through our (small, but hopefully realistic) Vision to advance his Kingdom in High Wycombe, in a building which will be accessible and welcoming.

I conclude this pastoral letter with some words from Trinity's daily prayer: "God our Father, we pray for our church, for its elders members, congregation and friends... that you will lead us in all the planning and fundraising for the redevelopment of our church premises to serve the needs of a new era".

Yours in fellowship,



Minister :
There is no minister in post at present

Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole,
e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

September Services

Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

September 3rd - Communion - Minister to "preach with a view"

September 10th - Alan Yates

September 17th - [NOT All Age Worship] - Rev Gregory Hargrove

September 24th - All Age Worship - Harvest Festival - Junior Church
led by Mrs Val Lockhart

Rotas for September

Not included in this version

What's on in September



Monday 11th Sept - New session: Planning & choosing a charity
(8pm. Hostess - Daphne M)

Monday 26th Sept - Talk: The Land Army. Speaker - Betty Muffey
(8pm. Hostess - Barbara M)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 12th Sept Welcome Back - Bring & Share tea

Tuesday 19th Sept Mrs Frances Alexander -
The Environment Centre

Tuesday 26th Sept Mr Ken Peaty



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

1st & 15th September

Scrabble

Words fail me to describe this gathering for a sociable afternoon of fellowship.

Diary Dates

3 September - Morning Worship led by a Minister to 'preach with a view' . (see page 7)
Followed by a Buffet Lunch & Questions Session in Crendon Hall

5 September - 7.30pm vacancy Committee Meeting
- 8.15pm Church Meeting to vote on whether to 'call' the minister

10 September 5pm Prayer Circle for Healing meet

19 September - 8pm Elders' Meeting

24 September Harvest Thanksgiving led by Junior Church (see page 9)

3 October - 8pm Church Meeting

14 October - 2pm Autumn Fayre

17 November St Andrew's Dinner Dance

Not included in this version

Joint Statement from Faith Community Leaders in High Wycombe:

'As representatives of the Christian and Muslim communities of High Wycombe, we are united in our sense of shock, disbelief and pain at the unfolding events of last week.

We are from different faith traditions, but are one community. High Wycombe has a long history of multiculturalism and good race relations, and we are proud to live together as neighbours and friends.

At this time of uncertainty, we find reassurance in the core values that unite us. In particular, we reaffirm our commitment to the enduring principles of peace, justice and truth. All human life is of infinite value and we abhor the loss or threat of loss of life, wherever that occurs.

We urge politicians and the media to be judicious in their use of language at a time of heightened sensitivities - to consider carefully what will contribute to and what will undermine healing in our community and the restoration of mutual trust and respect.

We have a common vision for our town - of a place of tolerance, harmony and reconciliation. Over the coming weeks, we are committed to working together to ensure that that vision is a reality, and invite everyone to join us in this endeavour.'

Signed by:

Rev David Picken, Vicar, All Saints Parish Church

Imam Sultan Mahmood, Totteridge Mosque

Rev Michael Hughes, Superintendent Minister, High Wycombe Methodist Circuit

Cllr Rafiq Raja, Chairman of Muslim Parents Association

Father Willie Strain, Saint Augustine's RC Church

Hon Burgess A.D.K. Raja

Rebecca Hickman, Wycombe Sharing of Faiths

Amjad Iqbal, Trustee, Wycombe Islamic Society

Chaudry Shafique, Head of Equal Opportunities & Community

Development, BCUC, and Vice Chair of Wycombe Racial Incidents Group

Commitment for Life

Bangladesh

The Traditional Birthing Attendants (TBAs) in Bangladesh are an incredible group of women. In remote villages, it is often the case that a local woman is selected to be the official birthing attendant for her village. She is not chosen because she displays any sort of medical expertise or knowledge, but usually because her mother and grandmother before her did the job. If things go well at the birth then there is nothing to worry about, but if something were to go wrong she is not trained or equipped to deal with the situation, and the hospital may be many miles away. Christian Aid partner, the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) runs a project in which it trains these women in a variety of activities to make the births they attend safer. The women receive 11 days basic training, then 2 refresher courses after 6 month periods. Once they are fully trained TBAs they are given a certificate and a pack. The TBA pack is such a simple thing but is making a huge difference. It contains a sterile kit to use at births (including a plastic sheet, a sterile razor and soap), an apron and hat for the TBA to wear during a birth, a bag to carry her belongs in, a badge to show she is fully trained and a book detailing how to have a healthy pregnancy (what to eat, what to expect etc) all in pictures for a largely illiterate population. It costs approx. £25 pounds to train and equip a TBA: about the price of a DVD box set! As well as the very practical side of the training, the TBAs are also taught to dispel myths and superstitions, which are putting newborns at risk in Bangladesh. It's not an easy task challenging long held superstitions but these newly trained TBAs are determined to educate new mothers on how best to protect themselves and their babies. This, more than ever, is where I understood the importance of local partners and local people's knowledge. This work must be done sensitively and carefully and it has to come from local women, to local women. We watched a sea of 30 or so faces listening carefully to the trainer. It was a hard day for them as they learnt how many of their long held myths were contributing to the high infant mortality rates. One lady, Donju Ara, stood up and said "we're sorry for what we've done but we hope to make it better by learning how to deliver babies safely and never letting it happen again." Fighting back the tears I looked at these strong, positive, amazing women and thanked God for their commitment and courage. I also offered up a prayer for CCDB that this amazing partner was providing this essential training and equipment. And I thanked God for the people back home who support this work both financially and through prayer. You've probably heard it a million times before that you're making a difference, but I can't say it enough, because you really are. Caroline Mead – Bangladesh FURY trip

[There was no Zimbabwean news in this months report from C for L, hence this report on Bangladesh - Ed]

Autumn Fayre - 14th October - 2pm

Could you please help to collect any of the following items for the Fayre.
(See Audrey R for any more information)

New Gifts

Jewellery

Tombola items

Jigsaws

Groceries

Books

Bottles

WILL YOU BE THERE?

SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

September will be a very important month in this year's calendar for Trinity as we seek to discern God's will for our church. On Sunday 3 September an ordained minister has been invited to 'preach with a view' and we hope that as many members and friends as possible will be present.

As is usual at the service on the first Sunday in the month, Holy Communion will be celebrated. The service will be followed by a light buffet lunch and a questions session in Crendon Hall.

A Church Meeting will be held at 8.15pm on **Tuesday 5 September** to discuss and vote as to whether we call this minister or not. If you have attended the service but are unable to be present at the Church Meeting you can either send a postal vote or vote to support the decision of the Vacancy Committee who will meet prior to the Church Meeting. Please inform the Church Secretary if you wish to use either of these methods.

Please continue to pray for God's guidance for us all in this matter.

MM

URC PRAYER HANDBOOK 2006-07

'A NEW HEAVEN ON A NEW EARTH'

The URC Prayer Handbook begins on Advent Sunday and takes you through a complete year with weekly readings and prayers. It is priced at only £3.95. A loose leaf version is available for £7.50 including a Binder.

I will be taking orders for the book during September. Please phone 01494 528041 or email marian@trinity-urc.org.uk or see me at church.

MM

Women's Meeting

The ladies enjoyed a communion service with Andrew Busby. Once a month we have studied Women of the Bible under the guidance of Olive. Slides were shown for Christian Aid week by John Standfield. We've played Beetle and done some quizzes. Some of us attended the Rallies at Penn Free Methodist and Castlefield Methodist churches. We enjoyed an afternoon at the home of Olivia Price and also at Margaret and Colin Lewis's, with lovely tea at both venues.

This meeting provides an hour of fellowship and good company.

June L



Revive update

The Revive Committee meets with the architect on Wednesday 6th September and we hope to bring good news to the next Church Meeting on the status of our development plans, ideally with confirmation of a start date on building work in early 2007.

Sincere thanks are due to Alan and Kate Yates for hosting the barbeque at their home in July and to all those who have thus far increased their Giving, either through the Orange envelope scheme or by Standing Order Mandate.

Jan B

Revive envelopes

To date the number of envelopes or direct debits taken up for the additional giving scheme have been a little disappointing.

The scheme is intended to make a major contribution to repayment of any loan we receive from the Synod and was a condition of our receiving the offer of a loan.

I appreciate that in many cases, this is an additional call on already scarce resources. However, if you feel you can make a contribution, no matter the amount, it will be gratefully received.

Arthur W

Premium rate calls

We discovered that someone was making calls to Premium Rate numbers on the vestry 'phone, costing the church a considerable amount of additional charges.

BT have been instructed to put a bar on such calls and the problem should now be addressed.

Jan B

Church Electricity Bill

Could I appeal again for someone to investigate the opportunity to reduce the church's electricity bill through an alternative supplier, Gaia Communications, who have been recommended by Synod. I will brief the volunteer and the task should not be too onerous.

Jan B

HARVEST THANKSGIVING 24 SEPTEMBER

Junior Church and our young people will be leading Harvest Thanksgiving this year, which will be an All Age Worship Service. Harvest gifts are rather different from the usual ones we automatically associate with this festival, as the YMCA at Cressex have requested items towards toiletry starter kits to give to their clients who often arrive without anything at all, having fled there for shelter. As harvest is all about expressing our thanks to God for ALL his gifts to us and not just produce I'm sure you'll wish to support this request. So please give generously as we try to reach out in God's love to others.

DONATIONS FOR YMCA

Soap
Shampoo
Conditioner
Shower Gel

Shaving Cream
Disposable Razors
After Shave Lotion
Body Lotion

Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Flannels
Deodorant

August Cream Teas

Sadly, we are coming to the end of our August Thursday afternoons of fellowship and cream teas. We have all thoroughly enjoyed each other's company and also raised £150 for RE-VIVE, (with still one week to come).

Thank you to all who have baked scones and cakes and served teas and generally helped to make these afternoons so enjoyable

A contribution from the "Oldies" who are longing for that disabled access!

Audrey B

[The editor speculates as to whether more pounds might have been raised than have been admitted – of the weight variety – with all these scrumptious goodies going down the hatches!]

Recycle

Recycle your old inkjet and laser toner cartridges. Christian Aid receives £1 for each reusable cartridge you send. If you want to order a supply of bags - call 0800 435576 quoting 'Christian Aid Recycling Appeal', or simply use one from the stock at the rear of the Church.

The recipe spot!

Fairtrade Christmas Cake

If you're thinking of making a Christmas cake this year why not use the recipe below which uses some fairly traded ingredients. *(Note the last line - do NOT make it yet if you want it for Christmas!)*

Ingredients

- 350g Fairtrade sultanas
- 110g Fairtrade raisins
- 50g currants, rinsed & dried
- 50g glace cherries
- 60ml brandy or sherry
- 50g Fairtrade brazil nuts, roughly chopped
- 50g almonds or pecans, roughly chopped
- 110g butter
- 90g Fairtrade soft brown sugar (demerara or muscovado)
- 1 teaspoon Fairtrade lemon zest, grated
- 2 large free-range eggs
- ½ teaspoon mixed spice
- pinch of cinnamon
- pinch of nutmeg
- pinch of salt

Method

1. Soak the fruit overnight in the brandy. Preheat the oven to 150 degrees centigrade/Gas mark 2 and grease a 20cm cake tin.
2. Cream together the butter and sugar until fluffy, then add the lemon zest. Slowly add the eggs one by one, beating each one in. Sift the dry ingredients and fold into the batter, followed by the fruit, brandy and nuts.
3. Pour the mixture into the tin and bake in the centre of the oven for 2-2 1/2 hours. To check it's ready, insert a skewer into the centre; it should come out clean.
4. Remove from the tin and leave to cool for 10 minutes before turning out onto a wire rack. When cool, brush all over with a couple of tablespoons of extra brandy. Wrap immediately in foil to keep the cake soft. Store in an airtight container (the cake should be eaten within three weeks).

Recipe for good friendship

1 Level Head
1 Big Heart
1 Small Mouth
1 Good Ear
and a pinch of poor memory

[From 'The Bridge' (Balerno Parish Church)]

The National Scout and Guide Orchestra

On Monday 31st of July, I got woken up at 5 o'clock. This is because I was driven down to Cardiff to take part in the 2006 NSGSO Course. The course is a week long residential course that brings together members of the Scout and Girl Guiding movements. The NSGSO is open to anybody who is involved in the two movements lives anywhere in the UK and is between the ages of 13 and 30. The weekly course starts on the Sunday evening before but I was actually driving through France on the way back from Tuscany when the course started so I had to go late. This year was actually my second year in the orchestra. Last year I was in the Brass section directed by Alan Bell but this year, I was moved onto the Bassoon section. We also had a new conductor this year who is actually from Buckinghamshire: Mr Leon Gee. This year, I was one of two people representing the under 18's from Buckinghamshire. There were also 2 guiders there from Bucks. I found out that one of the Cello players "Seb" was from Bucks and goes to Aylesbury Music Centre.

When I got to the Millennium Centre in Cardiff, I was shown my room and then went down to join the mass Bassoon section (there were 5 of us) in the second full rehearsal of the week. After this, we had a break and then had section tuition for 2 hours. This was the time when we had tutors who helped us learn the music and helped us play better as a section.

Afterwards, we had lunch and then two hours of free time to go out to the town or whatever we liked. This was the time I got to meet all the friends I met last year. I was actually sharing a room with two of the same people I was sharing with last year. Ruth from Scotland and Monique from the Isle of Man. I was also sharing with two of Monique's friends also from the Isle of Man, Sisters Jenny and Melissa.

In the afternoon, we had more section tuition and then dinner, after we had another full rehearsal and then we were done for the day. In the evenings, we had the chance to do teambuilding activities, quizzes and other activities. There was also the chance to buy orchestra merchandise such as stickers and badges.

Tuesday was pretty much the same apart from the evening. After dinner, we all had to go to the presentation of NSGSO neckers to the new members and we all received a certificate of attendance of the 2006 orchestral course.

On Wednesday, we had a full day of rehearsing then in the afternoon, everybody in the orchestra had the chance to go bowling, we all did and I actually came second!!

Thursday, the pressure was on. It was the last day with our section tutors and we still had loads to do. We had long and busy sectionals and we actually had a separate Bassoon sectional as the pieces we played this year featured the Bassoon quite a bit. In the afternoon, we had the chance to go to the Doctor Who exhibition which was actually next door to the Millennium Centre where we were staying. It was brilliant! Afterwards we all had to be back at the Centre for the uniform check prior to the following day's performance.

On Friday, we had the morning of full rehearsals and then we packed up everything for the concerts. We loaded up the van and then went and got our uniforms and everything we would need for the rest of the day we were given our special NSGSO folders for the music. When everything and everyone was ready, we set off for Bristol on two coaches. I happened to be on the one with people singing the worst Scout and Guide songs ever but I didn't mind too much as I was actually air drumming all the way to Bristol.

Friday afternoon, we had our rehearsal in Bristol Cathedral and then had free time until we had to be back to change. At 6 o'clock, we all went back to the Cathedral and then got changed into our uniforms. We all lined up and then we were on.

[continued on page 12]

The concert was amazing. We played brilliantly and were all very relieved when we got told that we didn't need a rehearsal on the Saturday morning!

Saturday, following our success the night before, we all had a lie in and then we had free time. After our morning off, we all changed into our purple polo shirts and NSGSO neckers and went outside the Millennium Centre for an orchestra photo shoot. Then, we all got on the coaches and we were off to Cardiff University where we were due to play our second and final concert.

Again, the concert was a success and when we all got back there was much partying into the early hours of the following morning!

Sunday morning, and there was a definite sadness about the air. We all had to go home after a brilliant week. We'd seen people who we only see once a year and actually this year we didn't know if there is going to be a course next year as it is the World Scout Centenary. There's loads going on next summer that many members of the orchestra are involved in so we don't know what we'll do but were all hoping for our annual week of Scouting and Guiding musical madness next summer!!

Nina S

(2nd High Wycombe Trinity Guides)

The Smaller Beatitudes

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves; they will have no end of fun.

Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill; they will be saved a lot of bother.

Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses; they are on the way to becoming wise.

Blessed are those who know when to be quiet and listen; they will learn a lot of new things.

Blessed are those who are sane enough not to take themselves too seriously; they will be valued by those around them.

Happy are you if you can take small things seriously and face serious things calmly; you will go far in life.

Happy are you if you can appreciate a smile and forget a frown; you will walk on the sunny side of the street.

Happy are you if you can be kind in understanding the attitudes of others; you may be taken for a fool, but this is the price of charity.

Happy are you if you know when to hold your tongue and smile; the Gospel has begun to seep into your heart.

Blessed are they who think before acting and pray before thinking; they avoid many blunders.

Above all, Blessed are those who recognise the Lord is in all whom they meet; the light of truth shines in their lives: they have found true wisdom.

[Author unknown, taken from the URC Prayer Handbook 2005-2006]

PETS RULE!

HOW DOGS ARE BETTER THAN MEN!

Dogs do not have problems expressing affection in public.
Dogs miss you when you're gone.
Dogs feel guilty when they've done something wrong.
Dogs admit when they're jealous.
Dogs are very direct about wanting to go out.
Dogs do not play games with you except fetch (and they never laugh at how you throw).
You can train a dog.
Dogs are easy to buy for.
Dogs understand what "no" means.
Dogs mean it when they kiss you.

AND BETTER THAN A WOMAN TOO!

A dog's parents will never visit you.
A dog loves you when you leave your clothes on the floor.
A dog limits its time in the bathroom to a quick drink.
A dog never expects you to telephone.
A dog will not get mad at you if you forget its birthday.
A dog does not care about the previous dogs in your life.
A dog never expects flowers on Valentine's Day.
The later you are, the happier a dog is to see you.
A dog does not shop.

[Submitted by Mike S - some months ago, as a standby filler.]

"As long as we want to get something from God in some kind of exchange, we are like the merchants. If you want to be rid of the commercial spirit, then by all means do all you can in the way of good works, but do so solely for the praise of God. Live as if you did not exist. Expect and ask nothing in return. Then the merchant inside you will be driven out of the temple God has made. Then God alone dwells there."

Meister Eckhart

[Also submitted by Mike S

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 24th September.
Closing date for contributions is Monday 18th September*

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

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

prayer page

Father, hear the prayer we offer; not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever live our lives courageously.
Not for ever in green pastures do we ask our way to he;
but the steep and rugged pathway may we tread rejoicingly.
Not for ever by still waters would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains from the rocks along our way.
Be our strength in hours of weakness, in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger, Father, be thou at our side.

LOVE MARIA WILLIS (1824 1908) and others



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2006

As the popular holiday season comes to an end, let us reflect over the past few weeks. The hot sunny weather - and the rain. Whilst we may have felt that we have had too much of each from time to time, they are both essential parts of the workings of nature. Warmth and water are both necessary to grow crops, for food for both people and animals. As we approach the recognised season of harvest, we rejoice that we have both - unlike many (particularly in parts of Africa) who struggle to exist because of the lack of ideal conditions.

We plough the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and **watered**
by God's almighty hand; he sends the snow in winter.
the **warmth** to swell the grain, the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing **rain**:

We thank you then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the **harvest**, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts,
but that which you most welcome, our humble, thankful hearts.

MATTHIAS CLAUDIUS (1740 1815)
tr. JANE CAMPBELL (1517 78)

Let us also think of those who have NOT been away on holiday.

Those who are unable, through physical frailty to leave home.

Those who cannot afford the expense of travel and accommodation.

Those who would be lonely - away from friends and family.

Comfort them and refresh them so that they may be ready to face the coming months knowing of the love that surrounds them.