



*April 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,

I'm not very good at letter writing, and having volunteered to undertake this task for the April Recorder, I began to panic, what should be my theme. Whilst looking on my computer for any helpful items stored there I came across this piece written by Mum many years ago, I think for a Women's World Day of Prayer service. Thank goodness I have a scanner and had saved these words. So I'm going to cheat a little and pass **her** message on to you. Thank you Mum, **you** were a good friend.

Jesus said "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13: v 34) and "Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends". (John 15: v 13)

I think it's most unlikely that any of us will be called upon to die for our friends, but what, then, can we do to show our love for them.

We may have lots of people we call friends, but when we really think about it, many of them are no more than acquaintances or people we have met casually and for a short time. We are truly blessed when we have around us people we can truly call our friends, people whom we love, people who know all about us and who love us in spite of everything.

How does such a loving, lasting friendship develop?

**First** of all it is something that grows gradually – it can't be hurried.

**Secondly** we must be able to listen, to listen with love, patience and understanding, so that we can really be at one with our friends, whether in joy or in sorrow.

**Thirdly**, the mark of a loving, lasting friendship is mutual encouragement in times of trouble, and the ability to look away from difficulties and, together, to look for help and comfort from God.

A loving friendship, at whatever level, is a fragile thing, and like many other precious and fragile things, friendships need to be kept in good repair if they are not to wither away through neglect.

Here are a few lines from a piece called "Someone Special"

How good of God that He should choose to give you to me as my friend,  
"That of all the people in the world, He should have caused our paths to cross.  
Thank you for simply being there on the dark days and in the sunshine  
Ready to listen, to laugh, to weep with me, and to pray.  
Thank you for an arm flung around my shoulders, for a funny card, some flowers, a cake.  
Knowing when to sympathise, when to haul me up or give me a push in the right direction.  
Thank you for letting me know that I am important to you, that my contribution counts.  
You are someone special, and, because of our friendship, I have grown as a person,  
And I hope that you have too".

If you have a loving friendship like this, then God has truly blessed you. Give thanks to Him before you sleep tonight.

Margaret

Minister :  
*There is no minister in post at present*

Church Secretary:  
Mrs Margaret Lewis,

e-mail: [secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk)

## **April Services**

**Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.**

**April 2nd** - Morning Worship with Communion - Revd Bob Maitland

**April 9th** - Morning Worship - Palm Sunday -

Mrs Margaret Howard and the Amersham Preaching Team

**April 16th** - Easter Day Revd Greg Hargrove (Ret Methodist)

**April 23rd** - All-age Worship - Mrs Val Lockhart and Junior Church

**April 30th** - Morning Worship, led by the Elders

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### **Rotas for April**

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in April



Monday 10th April - *No Meeting*

Monday 24th April - Book Review & Book Sale.  
(8pm. Hostess - Barbara M)

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 4th April

Francis Dunstan - Hymns & Hymnbooks

Tuesday 11th April

Rev Andrew Busby - Communion Service

Tuesday 18th April

*NO MEETING*

Tuesday 25th April

Women of the Old Testament -  
Potiphar's Wife to Rahab



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*

## 21st April

2pm

*Scrabble*

Only one opportunity this month to try to beat the recent achievement set by Joy S ( a relative novice,) on 10th March when she scored 112 in one hit!

## Situation Vacant!

Dear Friends,

### **Book keeper wanted – apply within!**

Having taken on the commitment to chair the church re-development project, in addition to my responsibilities as an Elder and Treasurer, you will appreciate that I have a pretty large workload (before thinking about the day job!).

It would help me enormously if someone would volunteer to maintain the church book keeping, which is centrally managed using a computerised system. I reckon I average two hours a week on this task and I would be pleased to train someone and advise them as they became accustomed to the process.

Please give this some prayerful consideration and let me know if this is work you feel called to do.

*Jan B*

**Not included in this version**



*An open letter . . .*

Message to Simon, Tim, Nina and John

Many thanks for the wonderful job you do week in week out on the sound system and visual "arts" in the church. As a new wearer of glasses just for reading, it is so much easier to read the hymns from the large screens instead of putting on and taking off glasses. I love the images, they enhance the worship and do not detract at all, I would like it on a weekly basis if possible.

Once again, many thanks.

*Anne H*

## Commitment for Life

**Zimbabwe:** News from an Advocate, Stella Salmon who writes: Through the Women in Ministry group I was able to spend a few days in Zimbabwe during October. As we stayed in Bulawayo there was no chance to visit Silveira House. This is a country of shortages. We were most affected by the ministers trying to obtain some that was a real waste of their energies. The people were desperate for water. The previous rainy season had been poor and by the time we were there, none had fallen, although October should be a rainy month. For people in general that was the greatest problem. Everywhere we were aware of shortages; long queues if rumour suggested that there might be petrol; tankers with water; queues for bread and sugar. Then there was inflation, the cost of everything was so high and increasing all the time. Unemployment is a great problem. We went to see a small workshop where women were making bracelets and brooches using tiny beads imported from Europe. The church is running a preschool for AIDS orphans or children infected by HIV/AIDS who were given a basic meal before they went home. We felt warmly welcomed by the Zimbabwe Synod of the united Congregational Church of Southern Africa and were glad to support the local people.

**Jamaica:** Flowers blossom in abundance in the gardens of Jamaica. Many people living with AIDS have started collecting these beautiful flowers and taking them each week into the Kingston Office of Jamaica Aids Support for Life (JASL). Here other people sit and press the flowers between the pages of old telephone directories, while others make cards on which to arrange the pressed flowers and yet more are involved in the packing and posting of these attractive cards. JASL are looking into expanding this small enterprise by using some poems, inside the cards, written by a woman with AIDS. This woman was a successful lawyer until she contacted the disease, which "totally blew her mind". She is now homeless and jobless. At present she is writing and laminating the poems and selling them where she can. The scheme has recently taken in orders for wedding invitations, tailoring the product to the colour scheme of the wedding. Whilst being an income generating scheme its main aim is to give back self-esteem and a sense of purpose to life. This work will be highlighted in Christian Aid's Caribbean Garden for the Hampton Court Flower Show in June. They also hope to bring across a speaker to talk about the work done by JASL. Keep a look out in the local press for more stories and details. These greetings cards are available from the Commitment for life Office, priced £1 and £2.50 [[Alison.blick@urc.org.uk](mailto:Alison.blick@urc.org.uk)]

### Worship

Feel the weight

**Reading:** John 9: 1-12

***Take a stone and hold it in your hand.***

**Feel the weight...**

of a country struggling to pay international debts: cutbacks in health education; no information about HIV protection; people who don't know how to protect themselves.

**Feel the weight...**

of HIV positive people living in poverty: poor diet and sanitation; diseases taking their toll on a weakened immune system; little access to medicines and health care.

**Feel the weight...**

of a country whose people are dying: grandparents bringing up orphans; fewer people to fight a pandemic; fewer workers to pay tax.

**Feel the weight...**

of rich countries:  
the need to forgive poor country debt; the need for fairer trade rules; the need for profit not to cost lives.

**Feel the weight...**

of your potential to make a difference:  
to speak out about poverty; to be loving in the face of stigma; to challenge our government to act.

Look at your stone, acknowledge that we cannot step away from the weight of our responsibility, we cannot lay it aside lightly.

Look at your stone, let it become a symbol of the weight of your potential to make a difference.

Think about what **you** can do.

Think about what you **will** do.

Think about what **we** can do together.

*Take the stone you hold and place it in a bowl of water 'Let justice flow like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.' (Amos 5:24) thanks to Christian Aid.*

## **Church Re-Development Project – Status Report**

The new committee – Val L, Kate Y, Margaret L, Jeremy B, David S and Ian B - met (with apologies from Arthur W) for the first time on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

After Devotions, we introduced ourselves and presented our respective roles:

Val – Property and Design Development Co-ordination

Kate – Internal Fund Raising

Margaret – Secretary and Committee Member

Jeremy – Architect

David – Synod Representative and Facilitator

Arthur (in absentia) – External Fund Raising and liaison with LBAC

Ian (Chair) - 1) calling meetings of this group, as and when necessary; 2) agreeing an agenda with the committee for the project; 3) encouraging all of the team to move forward with that agenda and 4) engaging the fellowship and external bodies in actively supporting the agenda.

This was followed by a wide ranging discussion on the project status, timing and funding, which crystallised a number of issues:

1. With building inflation running at 8%, Jeremy advises us to spend sooner rather than later.
2. Phases 1 & 2, involving re-modelling of the sanctuary and the middle section of the buildings, would be most cost effectively implemented if carried out simultaneously.
3. Jeremy reckons on a “ball park” figure of £150,000 for simultaneous implementation of Phases 1 & 2, which needs to be properly costed by a Quantity Surveyor. Jeremy is seeking quotes for this work.
4. This figure is not far away from the £120,000 we seem likely to secure if we negotiate a £50,000 loan from Synod, on top of the £70,000 already “in the bank”.
5. It would seem prudent to address the condition of the central heating system and the boiler, as part of the broader re-development scheme.
6. Time line produced by Jeremy shows October 2006 start date, if planning and LBAC approvals are obtained by end April. It seems more prudent to the committee to plan for the necessary approvals by end June, leading to a January 2007 start date.

We then discussed the Day of Prayer for Giving, Communication and the Project name. We plan to run a monthly column in the Recorder with updates on different aspects of the project. A project name, concept and logo is considered vital to optimising effective communication, both internally and externally (see the article on “A Creative Challenge From The Project Development Committee” below).

*Ian B*

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### **A Creative Challenge From The Project Development Team**

We would like to issue a challenge to you to come up with an imaginative name for the building project that would mean something to us within our fellowship but also be meaningful to people outside the church. A big thank you to all those who contributed last time round and we hope that you will give renewed inspiration to a project name which has appeal both internally and externally.

We would therefore like you - individually or in creative or fellowship groups - to:

- 1) Go back to the foundations of WHY we are embarking on this process and WHAT our end goal is (to be a Worshipping, Nurturing and Extending Family and that making our buildings more accessible and inviting is part of that).

- 2) Think of a phrase (concept), which captures in less than six words what we are trying to deliver in 1) above (a good example of what is meant by this is the "Catch the Vision" concept from the URC).
- 3) Think of a name for the project that will be attention-grabbing and inspiring within our fellowship (INTERNAL) and the wider community and the media (EXTERNAL).
- 4) Think of a logo (design or image) that would represent the project's name, concept (phrase) and purpose.

We would like you to present your proposals to the Elders in time for their meeting on 18th April, to Margaret.

No prizes - let's do it for the Glory of God and get those creative juices working!

*Jan B*



### Property Development Update

## News from our architect

Planning permission has been submitted and we await outcome. Anticipated timescale for planning and LBAC permission could be as soon as June 2006.

Due to rising inflation rates Jeremy advises we spend sooner rather than later- good news! The best value and best impact would be made by commencing the works for access to the sanctuary and modifications to the sanctuary, vestry and lower school room. This would of course include the toilets.

To make progress we need to employ a Quantity Surveyor. This will give us accurate costings and allow us to plan with precision what we can achieve in round one.

Our plan is to keep you all up to date with brief notes. This is very exciting and uplifting for us all.

"We are building a people of power."

Yours in fellowship *Valerie.*



### Internal Fund Raising

On Tuesday 28 February – Shrove Tuesday – we held a brainstorming evening to generate some fundraising ideas for the redevelopment project.

Around 16 people attended, and fortified by a selection of scrummy puddings and pancakes a host of ideas were suggested.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating ... or the quality of the ideas suggested! We ended up with over 50 great ideas and more have been suggested since.

Please consider whether you would be willing to join a team to take forward any of these or your own fundraising ideas.

- **Second-hand book and jigsaw sale**
- **Christmas panto**
- **Merchandise (Trinity mugs, tea-towels [of the adults drawn by the adults], pens, etc.)**
- **Calendar**
- **District fete**
- **Own range of birthday, Christmas and other cards**
- **One Christmas card ONLY in church with saved money going towards the project**
- **Offer to hire out church, rooms, organ etc. to arts Festival (*the organiser goes to All Saints' Church*)**



- Someone famous to open an event/do a talk
- Copper pot for small change (at home/church/work)
- Buy a brick (*could link this to appeal to local business*)
- Quiz and pudding evening
- Quiz and fish & chips evening
- Barn dance
- Auction of promises
- Organ recital (*Andrew Winton has indicated he might do this*)
- Fun evening inspired by *Just a Minute* and *Call my Bluff*
- Challenge to double our giving
- Beetle drive
- Draw parts of the church (à la beetle drive)
- Sponsored swim or ride around the Rye
- Line dancing evening
- Funds from Gift Day to the building project
- Buy a “quiz sheet”
- Silly games night (bowling, tiddlywinks, etc. etc.)
- Silent auction
- Wine tasting/food tasting
- Summer talk, e.g. gardening ... and look at gardens
- Dinner (evening)
- Open gardens during the summer
- Tea parties
- Fashion show
- Burns supper and ceilidh
- A specific Saint’s Day themed event
- Progressive supper
- An outing somewhere
- Envelope scheme
- Flower Festival (*it was believed this already happens in Trinity by an outside organisation*)
- Mailshot to 100 local businesses to donate/sponsor (buy a brick)
- Summer barbeque
- Craft Fair (*in addition to the one in March 06*)
- Afternoon teas in the summer to attract people from the Rye
- Cooked breakfasts on Saturdays in the summer (*with the men in skirts as an attraction!*)
- Concert/show/jazz evening
- Antiques evening (*talk, valuation, etc.*)
- Local businesses give a donation/goods in kind
- Event programme – series of events with speakers (*MP, Mayor, local business people, etc*)
- Leaflet drop to promote events
- Internet shopping where the business gives to your charity
- Car boot sale
- Continual sale on E-bay
- “100” club
- Expand the coffee morning
- Jumble sale
- Art evening – sharing tips, having a go, displaying work done, (selling works?)

*Kate*

## External Fund Raising and Liaison with LBAC

At present there are three applications on the go.

### 1. Historic Churches Preservation Trust

An application is with them. They have been unable to consider our application at present due to reduced funding available this year.

Their next grants meeting will be June.

### 2. Biffa Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

I am finalising this application. As they will not cover Disability Access, funding has to be used for community related projects.

I am applying for a grant of £50000 centred on upgrading the Crendon Hall and Extension. The funds would be used for the installation of

a new kitchen suitable for functions, new toilets, improved flooring, structural alteration, new tables and chairs and decoration.

The application is required to meet certain criteria set by both Biffa and Government and in order to meet this I have sighted as our main

users, Cafe days and Crown House School. I have met with both and I am waiting for a letter of support from Crown House, having received the appropriate documents from Cafe Days. The application will be sent as soon as it is received.

The grants body meets every three months and are not likely to consider our application before September.

### 3. Wycombe DC

I am sending applications to Wycombe DC, our Parish Council and Bucks CC. I will use the same background information used for Biffa. as

all applications in this area must be for community work.

### 4. Synod Loan

If the church membership agrees to our regular giving proposals, I am sure we can secure the £50000 loan that is on offer.

5. There are several more grant making bodies to approach.

*Arthur W*

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## Some good news.....

We have received a cheque for £7500 from the estate of the late Jean Thompson, a former Deacon at Trinity.

## Next steps and timing

AGM presentation	28.03	IB
Agree Project Name, Concept and Logo at Elders	18.04	Elders
Commence "Supplementary Offertory Envelope Scheme"	May	AW
Application to LBAC	June	AW / DS

*Jan B*

# Caribbean Evening

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April



At 7.30pm

In Crendon Hall  
Trinity United Reformed Church  
(Opposite The Rye)

Come along for a night of music,  
refreshments and fun.

Tickets on sale now:  
£5 Adults  
£2 Children under 10

In aid of church building improvements

## Out of the mouths . . .

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"

One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

A little kid said, "Verge."

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

The kid said, "Well, you know - they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

A little boy was overheard praying:

"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer:

"Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail."

One particular four-year-old prayed,

"And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One bright little girl replied, "Because a lot of people are sleeping."

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said,

"See those two men standing by the door?"

They're hushers."

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5 and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'

"Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

"Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked.

"He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied.

The boy thought a moment and then said,

"Did God throw him back down?"

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said,

"Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said,

"Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

There will be a **BBQ Outreach Event** to the town to be held in the grounds of All Saints parish church in the town centre on Thursday and Friday June 29th-30th between 12-2 o'clock. Volunteers are requested for the following:-

Child Protection cover CRB cleared to work in pairs.

People to go onto the streets to hand out leaflets before the event and to sit at tables during the B B Q to answer any questions.

People for the preparation and cooking of the food which will be very simple, sausage, onion or veggie burger in a piece of French bread. (Those with hygiene certificates would be good)

It was also felt that it would be good to have garden furniture to give the event a less formal atmosphere so a request will be made at a later date for the loan of the furniture.

There will be two worship bands present on the days, not yet detailed. The event has the promise to be a great outreach to the town and on behalf of Trinity may I urge you to support this event.

Anybody wishing to volunteer or help in any way, please contact John S

More information at a later date as and when it becomes available.

**Recorder Editor**  
**Trinity United Reformed Church.**

3 March 2006

Dear editor,

I have just had my copy of the March Recorder delivered to my door by Olivia, what a bundle of energy she is, I attend Neighbourhood Watch meetings, Olivia is there, I attend other meetings in town Olivia is there and always gives me a lovely smile; it is a treat for me to see her.

For the last year or so her car draws up outside our bungalow, which has a very steep drive, and up comes Olivia with something from the Church to go in my column in "Community News" as the Editor Steve Cohen has written to us all to say that we are no longer to send in copy after the end of this month, I would ask you to print my tribute to Olivia Price in The Recorder.

I will be putting in my column this next week items from your March issue, especially about the Craft Fair at Crendon Hall, next Saturday. 11<sup>th</sup> March,

Kind regards,

*Jim C*

P.S. Enjoyed the contents this month very much.

Did you see my tribute to you in my column a few weeks ago?

By the way my wife Sylvia and I have just returned from a 17-day Cruise in Hawaii.on the Island Princes.

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*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 30th April.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 21st April*

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

You may wish to use these prayers and meditations during this time of Lent, as preparation for the suffering of Good Friday, the silence of Holy Saturday, and the hope, joy and resurrection of Easter Day.

### LENT MEDITATION

"It is the same sun that softens the wax and hardens the clay ..."

I pray that you may have your roots and foundation in love, so that you, together with all God's people, may have the power to understand how broad and long, how high and deep, is Christ's love. Yes, may you come to know his love - although it can never be fully known - and so be completely filled with the very nature of God.

*From Ephesians 3*

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?  
I have cried desperately for help, but still it does not come.  
During the day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer;  
I call at night, but get no rest.  
But you are enthroned as the Holy One, the one whom Israel praises ...  
It was you who brought me safely through birth, and when I was a baby, you kept me safe.  
I have relied on you since the day I was born, and you have always been my God.  
Do not stay away from me!  
Trouble is near, and there is no one to help.



*From Psalm 22*

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2006

### SUNDAY

Father, we rejoice that you have given us Sunday: the day when we remember that you created the world and all that is within it, the day when Jesus was raised from the dead and death and hell laid waste, the day in which all things were made and re-made.  
Father, may we approach Sunday with longing and expectation; as the hungry seek for bread, so may we yearn for word and sacrament; save our worship from all that is trivial; rooted in the reality of the world in which we live, may it yet glimpse the glory of your presence, and stand in awe at the light of your holiness;

may we sense the presence of all who have gone before us, hearing in our own songs the echo of unseen heaven's praise.

*From More Everyday Prayers (Lion Publishing)*

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared, and so had the sea. Then I saw New Jerusalem, that holy city, coming down from God in heaven ... I heard a loud voice shout from the throne, "God's home is now with his people. He will live with them, and they will be his own. Yes, God will make his home among his people. He will wipe all tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying or pain. These things of the past are gone for ever."

*From Revelation 21*

Lord, make us free; free to share your new life, free to be the people you meant us to be; that, being risen with you, we may seek the things that are above.

*From Further Everyday Prayers (Lion Publishing)*

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

*Romans 8.38*