

Watch for the new thing I am going to do.
It is happening already – you can see it
now!
I will make a road through the wilderness
and give you streams of water there.
[Isaiah 43:19]



April 2007

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,

HAPPY EASTER

This month we journey with Jesus from the warmth and comfort of his friends' village home in Bethany to the bustling streets and the hostile Temple Court of Jerusalem. Then on we go with Him to the momentous Upper Room, the dark Gethsemane Garden and the experience of arrest, interrogation and abuse.

We stand with Him before the might of the Roman Empire, hear the jeering crowd shouting for blood and see Him face the reality of execution at the place called The Skull.

We pause ... hold our breath ... wait ...

Joy of joys! Hope beyond hope! Love beyond measure – supreme, even in death! Christ IS risen, hallelujah!

Here is the core of our faith. The solid rock on which we build our lives. "There is nothing," writes Paul to the church in Rome, "that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

How do we live that out on Easton St., High Wycombe? This question is the agenda beneath all our agendas, in all our meetings.

At our March Church Meeting we decided that work will begin on **Revive** – 'building for the future'. Ian's report, later in this magazine, gives you the details. We also decided that we need to talk seriously and openly about the suitability of the sanctuary for 21st century worship and mission. We will be having that conversation at a special meeting after worship on 22nd April.

It is good that the Easter journey lies before us, and before we have that conversation. Easter gives us every opportunity to centre our lives and our thinking afresh on God's call to be alive to new possibilities, personally and as church.

On that day too, 22nd April, we will be ordaining Kate Yates as Elder and inducting Kate, Glyn Evans, Margaret Lewis and Ian Buchanan for three years of service as Elders in our church. Pray for them as they take up these duties. Pray for everyone who is Trinity URC – use the new Daily Prayer [see March Recorder].

Expect to be surprised by God's power at work in us, that same power that raised Christ from death. [Ephesians 1:19-20]



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins
e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk

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

April Services

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

April 1st **Palm Sunday** - Eight weeks that Changed the World

April 8th **Easter Day** Eight weeks that Changed the World

This special all age service will include Communion (instead of on Palm Sunday)*

April 15th Junior Church lead Worship, with an Easter Theme

April 22nd Morning Worship includes Elders' ordination and induction

April 29th Morning Worship

*During the Communion Junior Church will go and practise for their service on 15th.

See page 13 for details of other services over the Easter period

Rotas for April

Not included in this version

What's on in April



Monday 23rd April - St George (Hostess - Joan Smith)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 3rd April Communion - Rev Dr Gwen Collins
Tuesday 10th April **No Meeting**
Tuesday 17th April "Just a Millimetre"
Tuesday 24th April DVD slides of Paraguay



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom



Only one chance this month to demonstrate your prowess

20th April

at 2pm

Diary Dates

2-5 April	1pm –2pm daily Reflection & Prayer for Holy Week at Trinity
2 April	2pm Prayer Circle For Healing
3 April	8pm Elders' Meeting
4 April	2-4pm Tea at 21 Keep Hill Road
5 April	8pm Communion Service for Maundy Thursday at Trinity
6 April	10.15am Good Friday service at Trinity followed by Walk of Witness through the town centre
8 April	Dawn Walk & service for Easter Day followed by breakfast at Trinity
8 April	10.30am Easter Day Worship including Holy Communion
9-15 April	Gwen away
14 April	10.30am Coffee Morning
18 April	2-4pm Tea at 21 Keep Hill Road
18 April	8pm REVIVE Meeting
22 April	Special Church Meeting following Morning Worship
22 April	5.30pm Holy Communion
28 April	10.30am Coffee Morning
28 April	Church Lunch (after Morning Worship)
1 May	8pm Elders' Meeting
13 May	Christian Aid Week
15 May	8pm Church Meeting
2 June	Caribbean Evening
17 June	Church Picnic

Not included in this version

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CHURCH MEETING

As a result of a resolution passed at Church Meeting on March 13th there will be a special Church Meeting after morning worship on Sunday 22nd April. [See this issue's Revive Report and Minister's letter for details]

The meeting will begin at 11.50; morning service and coffee time being shorter than usual. We shall aim at concluding our business by 1.00pm.

We are looking forward to this important next step and I encourage all members and friends, young and old, to be there if at all possible. If you intend to be at the meeting and have not yet read the Revive Strategy Review paper that led to the resolution, please read it before 22nd April so that you understand the background thinking. Ask Ian, Simon or myself for a copy.



Life Today

After Easter we are going to have a series of services on this theme of 'Life Today'. What is there about LIFE TODAY that you would like us to explore in worship together? It might be opportunities that life today offers that you'd like us to celebrate. It might be hard times that life today brings that you'd like us to find strength to combat.

This is your chance to choose a topic for Sunday Morning worship – whatever your age and whether you are a church member or not. You won't need to help lead it [although you can if you want to] – just give me YOUR chosen topic.

Here's some to get you thinking: Sport / Stress at Work / Relationships / Living in a multi-cultural town / Gardening / Old age / Making Choices / Busy-ness / Serving Christ through daily work / Volunteering / Disability / Wealth and poverty / Being at school / Citizenship / Music / Art / Being a good neighbour / Families / Money / House and Home / Lifelong learning



Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe

A Christian Aid partner and community organisation has been forced to close its offices in Mbare, after being threatened by ruling party militia. The threats against the Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA) were made at a meeting in the local church between residents of Mbare, one of the poorest and most crowded districts in Harare and local leaders.

Arsenic Poisoning.

Commitment for Life Churches will be aware of the arsenic problem in Bangladesh and the work done by Christian Aid partner Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB). Great strides have been made but there are still up to 80 million people at risk from arsenic poisoning. The Church of Bangladesh is working to make people aware of the arsenic, testing and identifying safe and unsafe water supplies and installing safe wells. It also distributes vitamins and protein rich foods that can help slow the effects of the poison. For an update on the work of CCDB, in this area, please email lmeadcforl@gmail.com

Jamaicans for Justice

“Justice is the commodity that is missing. It is not about the courts but about the systems that we are fighting.” so says Dr Caroline Gomes, Director of Christian Aid partner ‘Jamaicans for Justice’.

Jamaicans for Justice is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-violent citizens’ rights action group. Founded in 1999, they lead the way in human rights and advocacy on the island. They believe that justice is the bedrock of any civilised and progressive society, and all Jamaicans must have fair and impartial treatment.

Many people do not know their rights and with little schooling have been unable to find out for themselves. The police and other bodies do not necessarily understand the need to be transparent and open, and so levels of accountability are low. With the help of Jamaicans for Justice, they are learning these rights and responsibilities.

Caroline told us how, one Wednesday evening, police came into downtown Kingston and took 52 men into custody. They were told that they would not be released until they agreed to have their fingerprints and photographs taken. Many parents of the younger men were very angry at this. They did not want their child’s picture on the wall in a police station where they would be seen to be a “bad boy.” Jamaicans for Justice found them a lawyer, but it has taken over three years to get settlement.

Many of the young people in urban areas have come in from the countryside to find work but are targeted by the Dons: the leaders of different yards in the ghettos. They are often judged by the colour of their skin or T-shirt, which can show their political allegiance. Police will routinely raid urban areas and people will be taken into jail for days, without any representation.

At present, Jamaicans for Justice are looking at how people can get better access to information. There was a need for more government accountability as often vital documentation is found to be missing in court cases. This makes it impossible to reach the truth.

When asked if she had a dream for the future Caroline said, “I’d like us to become redundant, as justice would reign.”

We pray that her dream will come true for the Jamaican people.

Please pray for those in custody, or who have been tortured, and for those who are taking risks to work towards positive change in Zimbabwe, and that there will be a good outcome from the struggles they are now facing.

Treasurer's Report – 2006 Accounts

I am pleased to advise you that the year end accounts were approved at the AGM on 14th March.

We made a surplus of £16074.47, but after we had transferred £18278.15 which had been ring fenced to the Revive Fund, we delivered a small deficit of £2203.68 against normal running costs.

Highlights of the year were:

Revive fund raising - £20438.98 (18278.15 net, after deduction of costs of professional fees)

Premises hire – an increase of £3000 on 2005. Well done Rose!

Gift Aid – an increase of £2300 on 2005. Well done Tony!

Areas of concern are:

2006 deficit and declining General Fund

Costs look set to exceed income – medium to long term

Utility costs increasing ahead of inflation

Insurance costs increasing ahead of inflation

The accounts were approved by our independent examiner on 19th February 2007.

My sincere thanks to the Finance Committee, who challenge me and keep me on my toes, to Sue Thorne who offered sterling support in managing the bookkeeping and last but not least to Norma Garden, without whom no Treasurer could hope to perform the role efficiently and effectively.

Jan



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Sam Garden (13th)

Rebekah Sparks (15th)

Katie Hawes (19th)

Erin Lockhart (21st)

a very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.



A defining moment.....

Dear friends

We approved a number of seminal recommendations at March Church Meeting which I hope will prove to be a defining moment for Trinity, as they offer the opportunity to progress a wholly integrated development scheme, starting with the essentials.

The approved recommendations were, as follows:

- Work starts this year for the new entrance to the west side of the church, access to Lower School Room, including new toilets, commencing late summer / early autumn
- We also accept the need for the installation of a new heating system, as an aspect of starting with the essentials
- We have a serious debate about the suitability of our Sanctuary, based upon the need to do so for mission and worship today

We have subsequently briefed JBKS architects to commence work on preparing plans, costings and tender document, so that we can secure a timely implementation of the work approved under recommendation 1.

Simon Evans is obtaining quotes from suppliers for a new heating system and there will be more on this in due course.

The serious debate on the future of our Sanctuary space will take place at a special Church Meeting after morning worship on Sunday 22nd April, when young and old will be present.

The factors that have led us to include this recommendation are:-

- Fulfilment of our Vision
- Evolving development of worship
- Creating an environment which feels familiar to people who are new to church
- The potential for additional community use [and income] of this multi-purpose space

There is much to do and a long way to go, but with God's help we can turn this defining moment into a promising future for Trinity.

Please pray continually for this work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon".

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

This is a reminder that Christian Aid Week this year is from the 13th - 19th of May, and I am again looking for people to collect from the various roads that we have been allocated. I know that we all lead busy lives, but if you could spare even one morning, afternoon or evening I would be most grateful. So please put the date in your diary now and I will bring the list of roads to church towards the end of April.

I will end with a quote from some previous Christian Aid literature.

"Around the world, people and groups have given their time and money to support development initiatives through Christian Aid and its overseas partners. For each person this might have meant a small action, but the overall effect is tremendous. Giving, acting and praying for the world's poorest people really makes a difference, and will continue to do so".

Thank you

Margaret Lewis

VISIT - REV'D SAMSON MWESIGWA (EBENEZER CHILDREN'S CENTRE , UGANDA)

On Tuesday March 6th Willie and I joined the Womens Meeting to hear Rev'd Samson speak about the Ebenezer Children's Centre in Western Uganda .

The Ebenezer Centre was founded in 2002 after seeing the plight of destitute children with no hope in life who were sick from malnutrition , aids and loneliness. The centre now provides a home for 30 boys and girls from 4 to 10 years of age

The Centre 's Mission Statement is that it is a Christian ministry committed to love and care for orphaned children of all denominations. It provides a home for children which attends to their spiritual, physical , psychological , social and educational needs .

We were very impressed by his enthusiasm and his deep Christian beliefs .

The Church congregations are very short of bibles and perhaps we can support them by sending some out in the future.

Should anybody want to find out more the local contact is Rita Pulley of Hughenden Church

Barbara M

Traveller's tales

On a recent journey near Treorchy, two fish and chips shops attracted attention. They traded under the names of:-

"A Fish called Rhondda" and "The Almighty Cod"

Sarah's Challenge -

You will (I insist!) recall the challenge Sarah threw out a couple of months ago, to see how many words could be found in the word Thessalonians. Your Editor now deeply regrets his rash moment of madness making an offer to contribute £20 if anyone could beat his efforts. Suffice it to say that he was soundly beaten by Erica H who managed to amass the "measly" total of 728 words of four or more letters. (Yes, seven hundred and a bit more!) Well done Erica.

The intention had been to print a list of the winning words, but, in all sincerity, the time (and space) it would take does not seem to be justified. Let us just settle for the good news that the Revive fund has gained £28 from this little exercise.

We will not embarrass Sarah by telling readers that she fell a few short of the winning total!

Just to make you think!!

What is all this grass about?

A conversation between God and St Francis.

God - Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistles and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no maintenance garden plan going. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. All I see are these green rectangles.

St Francis - It's the tribes that settled there Lord, the suburbanites. They started calling your flowers weeds and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

God - Grass? But that is so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds or bees, only grubs and worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

St Francis - Apparently so Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilising the grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

God - The spring rains and warm weather probably make the grass grow really fast, that must make the suburbanites happy.

St Francis - Apparently not Lord. As soon as it grows a little they cut, sometimes twice a week.

God - They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

St Francis - No Sir, just the opposite they pay to throw it away.

God - Now let me get this straight. They fertilise grass so it will grow and when it does grow they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

St Francis - Yes Sir.

God - These suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St Francis - You aren't going to believe this Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast they drag out hosepipes and pay more money to water it so that they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

God - What nonsense. At least they keep some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius. Even if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn the leaves fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

St Francis - You had better sit down Lord. The suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have hauled away.

God - No! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

St Francis - After throwing away the leaves they go out and buy something that they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

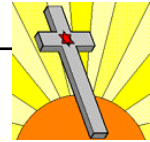
God - where do they get this mulch?

St Francis - They cut down trees and grind them up to make mulch.

God - Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore.



Welcome to our Services for Holy Week and Easter.



DAY	TIME	THEME	SPECIAL
Monday, April 2 nd	1.00pm	Monday's Child is fair of face: <i>The Cost of Compassion</i>	Quiet reflection, reading, prayers. Space 'to be'.
Tuesday, April 3 rd	1.00pm	Tuesday's Child is full of grace: <i>The Grace of Gratitude</i>	Quiet reflection, reading, prayers. Space 'to be'.
Wednesday, April 4 th	1.00pm	Wednesday's Child is full of woe: <i>The Challenge of Suffering</i>	Quiet reflection, reading, prayers. Space 'to be'.
Maundy Thurs April 5 th	1.00pm.	Thursday's Child has far to go: <i>The Journey to the Cross</i>	Quiet reflection, reading, prayers. Space 'to be'
Maundy Thurs. April 5 th	8.00pm	Last Supper	Communion, at Trinity, with Wesley Methodist
Good Friday, April 6 th	10.15am	At the foot of the Cross	At Trinity, with Union Baptist
Good Friday, April 6 th	11.15am	Jesus' journey to Golgotha	Walk of Witness as Churches Together
Easter Sunday, April 8 th	Dawn	And God said, "Let there be light"	Walk to Disraeli Monument, Hughenden Park for Sunrise Service
Easter Sunday, April 8 th			Breakfast

Worshippers are welcome to bring their own lunch and eat during the lunchtime services

The above should be read in conjunction with the normal Sunday Services as detailed on page 3

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 29th April.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 20th April*

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

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

prayer page
From Lent into Easter

O God, who by thine only-begotten Son hast overcome death and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life; grant, we beseech thee, that those who have been redeemed by his passion may rejoice in his resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

[From the Gelasian Sacramentary]

Jesus, our Lord, we praise you
that nothing could keep you dead in the grave.
You are stronger than death and the devil.
Help us to remember that there is nothing to be afraid of,
because you are alive and by our side.



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God's promises

Who, then, can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it, or hardship or persecution or hunger or poverty or danger or death? As the scripture says,

“For your sake we are in danger of death at all times; we are treated like sheep that are going to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us! For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below — there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

[Romans 8.35-37]

God's promises

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth disappeared, and the sea vanished. And I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared and ready, like a bride dressed to meet her husband. I heard a loud voice speaking from the throne: “Now God's home is with human beings! He will live with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them, and he will be their God. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared.”

[Revelation 21.1-4]

THINE BE THE GLORY,

Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes
Where Thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won!*

Lo, Jesus meets us,
Risen from the tomb!
Lovingly He greets us,
Scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
Hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth,
Death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt Thee,
Glorious Prince of life;
Life is naught without Thee:
Aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors,
Through Thy deathless love;
Lead us in Thy triumph
To Thy home above.