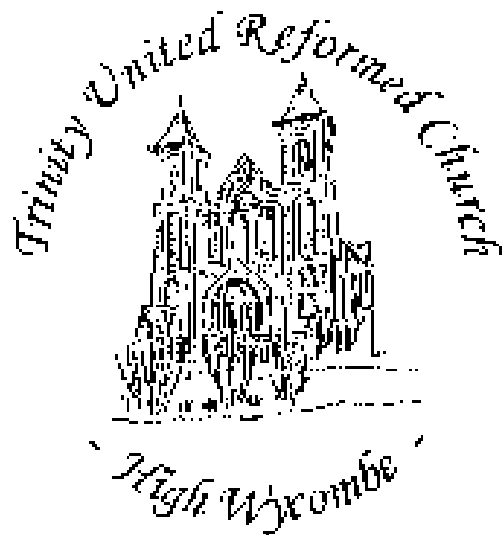


Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. [Hebrews 4:14-16]



April 2008

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,

What an eventful month March was for us here at Trinity! Cast your mind back a few weeks and, before you read on, see how many of these happenings you can recall through personal experience, or through what you have heard from others. Give thanks to God for the gifts and graces given to you and others, and the opportunity to use them.

I've not included our regular meetings, unless they had special significance in March. Should I have missed any special events let me know – and my apologies in advance.

The first church event in March was a cancellation! Bible First over breakfast at the manse on the 1st was overtaken by the early arrival of my grandson, Oscar Timothy, the day before. Something else momentous happened on the 29th February, and I am going to cheat and include it in March, [well, 29th February in most years would be the 1st of March, wouldn't it?]. On that day our new Rainbows began.

Then there was Mothering Sunday with decorated baskets of Fair Trade sweets for all the ladies, Lent Groups continuing and the Women's World Day of Prayer. On Saturday the 8th, months of careful planning and hard work culminated in a superb Fair Trade Fashion Show drawing people in from a wide area and filling the church. The following morning That Lot and The Other Lot, our young people's groups, led us in thought provoking and joyous worship on the same theme, and stretched our boundaries of what we expect in worship. The week ended for some with Wycombe Philharmonic Choir's inspiring Easter Concert.

Holy Week arrived with its rich treasure of profound Bible passages and much loved familiar hymns for each of the special days. We were challenged afresh to trust and love the God who comes to us in Jesus, dying in disgrace and agony; overturning the fearful grip of sin and death through His glorious resurrection; freeing us to be children of the living God.

Within that week Prayer Circle met. The Women's Meeting shared Communion. We had our AGM and Church Meeting. The Guides had a sleepover. We met with fellow Christians for Maundy Thursday Communion, Good Friday worship, and a Walk of Witness. A few of us got as far as Winchester joining thousands for the Passion acted out on the streets of the city.

On Easter Saturday church was buzzing with activity as five workshops got busy creating material to help us in worship on Easter Day. We paused on the hour, each hour, to listen to words from John's gospel. Coffee morning kept us 'watered' and was the hub of all the comings and goings, and many came away smiling with Easter Egg raffle prizes!

Easter worship began at the Disraeli Monument in the snow, followed by breakfast in the warmth of the Lower Schoolroom. Then we joined in a wonderful celebration bringing together all ages and talents in our offering of worship to Father, Son and Spirit.

How fitting to end the month and begin April with the last session of the Churches Cold Weather Nightshelter for this winter. What a blessing that has been – to us, and to our guests.

And so to April – and the months to come. Look out for exciting things coming up. Our Church Life profile has arrived and makes fascinating reading! The next big step in our Revive project is about to move forward. 'Vision4Life' will invite us into deeper realms of faith. 'Bread to Spare' will challenge us to think region-wide and long-term. I could go on but space fails me ...

Enjoy the journey ☺



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

On the first Sunday in April we will begin a five week series on the theme of our Revive project, 'Building for the future', based on the early chapters of the book of Ezra, and dipping into Haggai and Zechariah.

April 6	Holy Communion, with ordination and induction of Elders: Ezra I
April 13	Morning worship, with a global emphasis: Ezra II
April 20	All age worship: Ezra III 5.30 pm Holy Communion
April 27	Morning worship: Ezra IV 4.00 pm Prayer Circle

Rotas for April

Not included in this version

What's on in April



Monday 14th April - Christian Aid evening (at the Church)
Monday 28th April - Cats (Swan Theatre)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 8th April Talk - China (Andrew Winton)
Tuesday 15th April "Send a Cow" (Slide Show)
Tuesday 22nd April Wait & See !
Tuesday 29th April Wait & See !



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom



Time to exercise (or exorcise?) the grey matter

11th & 25th April

at 2pm

Diary Dates

1 April	8pm Elders' Meeting
2 April	6 – 8pm Bible First at The Manse
7 – 11 April	Gwen at Spring School
12 April	10.30am Coffee Morning
13 April	London Marathon
14 April	7.30pm Christian Aid Evening
15 April	8pm Revive Committee Meeting
20 April	11.45am Special Church Meeting to receive feedback from LBAC
26 April	10.30am Coffee Morning 2 – 4.30pm Elders' & Pastoral Assistants' Quarterly Meeting
6 May	8pm Elders' Meeting
10 May	10.30am Coffee Morning
11 – 17 May	Christian Aid Week
20 May	8pm Church Meeting
23 – 27 May	Gwen away
24 May	10.30am Coffee Morning
31 May	10 – 12 Fifth Brigade
8 June	Songs of Praise with Church of God & Polish Lutherans
15 June	Church Picnic

Not included in this version

Taster Events - 2008

Not so much a programme - more *an EXPERIENCE*

Are you looking to grow in faith and deepen your discipleship? Are you curious to learn more about the Bible and to engage with other people who are open to exploring the Christian life? Do you want to be better equipped for service, wherever this is expressed?

Come to one of the TLS Taster Events in Thames North Synod and find out about the opportunities available to you through the *Training for Learning and Serving* programme of the United Reformed Church:

- The Foundation Course (2 years)
- Gateways into Worship
- Gateways into Care
- Gateways into Prayer
- Gateways into Evangelism
- Developing Community Experiences
- Performing Arts in Worship
- TLS - LITE (Local Introductory Training Experiences)

Further details are available from the Acting TLS Regional Organiser:

Revd Fiona Thomas, 10 Knapmill Road, London, SE6 3SZ.

Tel: 020 8698 1317

e-mail: training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

See page 8 for details of dates and venues.

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe

As this edition of the Recorder is being put together, the political situation in Zimbabwe is hanging in the balance. The timing of these articles does not coincide nicely with our magazine, and there is usually almost a month's delay in getting the information to our readers. The following article was written in early March, so is a little out of date.

The new Anglican Bishop of Harare, the Rt Rev Sebastian Bakare, said that lawlessness and violence is threatening elections due on 29 March, and has called on Zimbabweans to pray for an end to the conflict and chaos.

Bakare was part of a three-member committee of church leaders who met President Robert Mugabe and main opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai in 2007 in a bid to broker dialogue between the political rivals. "The environment of lawlessness is destroying [the country]," he declared on 25 February.

Catholic bishops and civil rights activists have said that the national elections cannot be free and fair at the moment, and have called for their postponement.

The elections are for a new president, parliament and local councils. Supporters of Mr Mugabe, who has crushed internal opposition, say that those questioning them are "acting treasonably". Anglican and other clergy have said they will step up their bid to facilitate national dialogue, "in view of the evident failure of South African President Thabo Mbeki's bid to broker a lasting solution to Zimbabwe's deepening political and economic crisis" - reports Zimbabwe News Online.
© Ekklesia

QUOTE

For hundreds of years, Europeans have sailed to our shores. They have taken our gold, our food, the best of our men and women as slaves. Still they come today, they take our pictures and they take our stories, and still we see no benefit. They have cheated us. You will not cheat us will you..... ?

A Ghanaian Cocoa Farmer

Bangladesh

For many of the poorest of the poor in Bangladesh, the year 2007 will be remembered as a double disaster. In July and August, hundreds of thousands of people in coastal and southern Bangladesh were displaced and lost their crops and livestock in severe flooding. As if that was not enough, in November, the worst cyclone to hit the country in over 16 years came as a further blow just as communities were beginning to plant crops again following the floods.

Cyclone Sidr, a rare Category Four storm, claimed over 3,300 lives, left 55,000 people injured by flying debris and millions homeless. Wind speeds reached 155 miles per hour in some parts. Tubewells, livestock, trees and crops were destroyed leaving millions of people without adequate food, income and water supplies.

Despite the ferocity of the super storm, many lives across southern parts of Bangladesh were in fact saved thanks to early warning systems and an army of volunteers which meant that a total of one million people were successfully evacuated to specially-built cyclone shelters. Christian Aid partners alone helped move over 100,000 to safety. 44 of these concrete shelters were built by CCDB with Christian Aid appeal funds after the last super cyclone in 1991 which killed as many as 140,000.

The damage, first from the monsoon floods and then Cyclone Sidr, has nevertheless been catastrophic. 2.2 million hectares of agricultural land was destroyed in the cyclone alone and almost 9 million people are still without a source of income. The Bangladesh government has called the situation a silent famine, with half a million tonnes of grain needed to overcome the food shortfall caused by the disaster.

CHURCH AGM 2008

Not included in this version

Do you know WHY - Easter this year was on Sunday March 23 ??

- **You may not know that Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox (which is March 21st).**
- **This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar.**
- **Found out a couple of things you might be interested in!**
- **Based on the above, Easter can actually be one day earlier (March 22) but that is pretty rare.**

This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives! And only the most elderly of our population have ever seen it this early (95 years old or above!). And none of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier! Here are the facts:

The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913 (so if you're 95 or older, you are the only ones that were around for that!).

The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than this year!

[Thanks to Maureen Buchanan who passed this article on for publication.]

Fair Trade Fashion Show

Thanks to everyone who made the Fair Trade Fashion Show so successful. This includes all of you who helped in anyway and all of you who came with friends.

We sold goods totalling £1440.62.

The Fair Trade shop in Southampton gave us a discount on what we sold and we added this to the entrance money. This means that we have made a total of £606 for Traidcraft Exchange

Traidcraft Exchange is Traidcraft's registered charity. There is a limit to the number of producers that Traidcraft can work with. Traidcraft Exchange was set up to broaden their impact on a much larger number of producers. This is achieved through a range of trade-related development programmes across Africa and Asia, helping poor producers to improve their businesses and access new markets for their products. They also undertake lobbying and advocacy work to encourage decision makers to take the needs of poor producers into account.

CHURCH WEEK-END

**If you have not already done so book these dates in your diary
NOW**

for a week-end of Christian fellowship, friendship and fun!

September 19-21 2008

at

**The Wycliffe Centre
Horsleys Green**

Come and stay or visit by the day

Facilities include: Sports courts, sauna, outdoor pool, brand new Discovery Centre
En suite rooms available, full disabled facilities, children's menus

More details coming soon.

"Taster" events (see page 5)

Saturday 19 April

9.30-13.00

Manor Road United Reformed Church, London, N16 5NU

Wednesday 23 April

7.30-9.30 pm

St Ninian's United Reformed Church, Luton, LU2 7NR

Saturday 3 May

9.30 - 13.00

Ealing Green Church, (URC/Methodist) London, W5 5Q5



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Sam G (13th)
Rebekah S (15th)
Katie H (19th)
Erin L (21st)
Alex F (25th)

a very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.

THE FIFTH BRIGADE NEEDS YOU!

There are many odd jobs which need doing around the church premises like fixing bolts, putting up pictures and noticeboards, fitting a door bell to the new west entrance, clearing the side alleyway, generally tidying up and clearing away rubbish.

Anyone who feels they could help in any way (and you don't necessarily have to be good at DIY) and can spare an hour or two whenever there's a fifth Saturday in the month is invited to join the Fifth Brigade between 10am and 12 noon!

We have a lovely new west entrance, etc but there are other areas of the building which are fast becoming dumping grounds and I'm sure you'll agree that Trinity should be a place which reflects our reverence to God as His house.

The dates for this year for the Fifth Brigade are:

31 May
30 August
29 November

More information next month.

MM

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

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

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

prayer page

Prayers for Lighthouse 2008:

- Please pray that the LH Team would be renewed and refreshed by God; that God would reignite their fire and pour out renewed energy and enthusiasm over the coming weeks.
- Please pray for inspiration for the writing of the teaching material. Much of the teaching is coming together but continued and renewed inspiration that is God-centred is needed.
- Please pray that God would speak as to how many children Lighthouse High Wycombe should endeavour to reach this year. Some practical requirements are linked to the number of children, i.e. marquee sizes!
- Please pray that the grant application to the Churches Together in Buckinghamshire would be viewed favourably.

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2008

Psalm 139.1-6

God, investigate my life;
get all the facts firsthand.
I'm an open book to you;
even from a distance, you know what
I'm thinking.
You know when I leave and when I get
back;
I'm never out of your sight.
You know everything I'm going to say
before I start the first sentence.
I look behind me and you're there,
then up ahead and you're there too –
your reassuring presence, coming and
going.
This is too much, too wonderful – I can't
take it all in!

The Message – Eugene Peterson

Just as an infant
comes to know his mother
through form and colour,
scent and sound,
so we come to a knowledge of God
through the universe.

Listening to the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality © J Philip Newell



Come, Holy Spirit,
our friend and our lover.
Come Holy Spirit,
unmask our pretending.
Come Holy Spirit,
expose our lives.
Come Holy Spirit,
sustain our weakness.
Come Holy Spirit,
redeem our creation.

Enter our trusting,
enter our fearing,
enter our letting go,
enter our holding back.

Flood our barren spaces,
make fertile our deserts within.
Break us and heal us,
liberator of our desires.

Come Holy Spirit,
embrace us and free us.

Amen.

Neill Thew, Oxford 1990 © Christian Aid

Sunday	For all the volunteers and workers of the Wycombe Winter Night Shelter as the 2008 Night Shelter project closes on 1 April
Monday	For our police force
Tuesday	For those combating slavery in all its forms, in the UK and abroad
Wednesday	For our local Council
Friday	For the Wycombe Town Chaplains
Saturday	Give thanks for those whose music speaks to our souls and hearts