

These things are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. *John 20: 31*



April 2008

The Recorder

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An edited version of this magazine is available on the Church Website.

(Personal details are NOT included)

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

Trinity - A Family Church

Worshipping together - Caring for one another - Sharing with others

Dear Friends,

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith.

“Easter”, writes Tom Wright “was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming forward from the future into the present.” Jesus challenged the authorities of his day. He was arrested, sentenced and executed. And on the third day he rose again. This was the first act of the renewal of heaven and earth, which will finally be totally accomplished.

As Christians we live in the light of that Resurrection hope. Reading Tom Wright’s book ‘Surprised by Hope’ has sharpened my awareness of that reality. In my letter in February’s Recorder I invited you to join me on April 4th to discuss the book. If you are ever inclined to go along with the general belief that things are getting worse and there is nothing we can do about it, this might be a good way for you to jolt yourself out of that draining and ruinous lie. I hope that we shall have a lively discussion. Having read the book first is desirable but not essential, because I will have selected key passages for us to read and talk about. We will meet at the manse, 10.30 – 12.30. If possible, let me know that you are coming [07853 854623].

At Trinity we are putting our Resurrection hope into practice in a very concrete way. Work on the sanctuary has begun! The contractors moved in on March 9th as agreed and it is truly amazing to see how much they have done already. Almost every day fresh surprises or questions surface, and decisions are needed. I want to take the opportunity of writing this letter to thank Kate Yates for bearing the brunt of all these demands, ably backed up by Simon Evans. Those readers who are regular members at Trinity will of course know both Kate and Simon well, but the magazine goes out to others who may not. So a word of introduction. Kate chairs the Revive group that is leading our redevelopment plans, and Simon is our Property Officer.

The refurbished sanctuary is going to be beautiful. Our goal of creating a warm, welcoming and flexible space for use seven days a week is a good goal, and people and organisations are already talking to us about what might actually happen in it. Someone was telling me today that in Nottingham they were in a church where they found that people of compassion were drawn in to help serve real needs, and only as a later step did they begin to explore faith. I wonder if that is going to be our experience too? I wonder if you have friends and family members who might really welcome the opportunity to work with us to make a difference because they are people who care, even if they would not describe themselves as Christians?

Holy Week is a very special time. Please look at the list of services and come to worship as often as you can during the week. Or, if you cannot, then I suggest that you make time each day to read:

Monday	John 12: 1 – 11
Tuesday	John 12: 20 – 36
Wednesday	John 13: 21 – 32
Thursday	John 13: 1 – 17, 31b – 35
Good Friday	John 18: 1 – 19: 42
Saturday	Matthew 27: 57 – 66
Easter Day	John 20: 1 - 18



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 5 - Palm Sunday

April 9 - Maundy Thursday 8.00 pm - **The Last Supper** - Holy Communion.
At Trinity, with Wesley Methodist Church.

April 10 - Good Friday 10.15 - **The Crucifixion**. Worship at Union Baptist Church.
11.15 Walk of Witness with Christians from across the town.
Gather behind old library at 11.00.

April 12 - Easter Day **Celebration of Christ's Resurrection**. We shall receive two new members; and the children will bake the bread for Holy Communion.

April 19 - All Age Worship
5.30 p.m. Holy Communion

April 26 - Morning Worship

N.B. Sunrise service at Disraeli Monument will not happen this year as half of those who normally come are not available. We hope to resume this tradition next Easter.

Rotas for April

Not included in this version

What's on in April



Monday 27th April - Tropical Islands.
A talk by Andrew Winton, at his home

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 7th April Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Dr Gwen Collins
Tuesday 14th April NO MEETING
Tuesday 21st April Last look at Pilgrim's Progress
Tuesday 28th April Psalm 23 and the hymns it has inspired. Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30



Spring is here - give your brains an airing to rid them of the winter blues

3rd & 17th April

at 2pm

Diary Dates

- April**
- 4 - Discussion on Tom Wright's book 'Surprised by Hope' 10.30 –12.30
 - 5 - Alan Kirkcaldy's Retirement Party at St Anne's Church, Wendover 6pm
 - 6 - REVIVE Committee Meeting 8pm at 21 Wordsworth Road
 - 10 - Good Friday Walk of Witness through Wycombe Town Centre
 - 11 - Coffee Morning 10.30am in Crendon Hall
 - 13 – 15 Gwen on holiday
 - 20 – 24 Gwen away at Spring School
 - 25 - Coffee Morning 10.30am in Crendon Hall
 - 26 - Prayer Circle For Healing 4.45pm in Crendon Hall
 - 28 - Elders' Meeting 8pm
- May**
- 9 - Coffee Morning 10.30am in Crendon Hall
 - 10 – 16 Christian Aid Week
 - 19 - Church Meeting 8pm in Crendon Hall
 - 23 - Coffee Morning 10.30am in Crendon Hall
 - 26 - Elders' Meeting 8pm
 - 30 - Fifth Brigade 9.30 – 12noon
 - 30 - Chiltern Area Elders' Day

Not included in this version

Some Important Future Dates:

June 20 Caribbean Evening (more details next month)

June 21 Church Picnic on The Rye

July 4 CWR Seminar for Women at Trinity

July 5 REVIVE BBQ at 317 West Wycombe Road (see below)

July 10 & 11 Wycombe Churches Together BBQs

July 20-24 Lighthouse Week

September 19 Harvest Supper & Social

September 27 REVIVE Phase 2 opening by Revd John Marsh

October 3 Autumn Fayre, REVIVE Auction & SV2G celebration of Black History Month

November 6 Haywood Trio with Roberta Rominger

Barbeque at the Long's

The Long family are hosting an open house/garden after Church on

Sunday 5 July

with a barbecue lunch. Donations from those who come along will be in aid of Revive. Children can play games in the garden (we'll hope for good weather!), and the rest of us can relax, eat and chat.

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe

Education

For a country that was well regarded for its education the fact that during the last school year, January 08 to January 09, Zimbabwe's 4.5 million pupils have had a total of 23 days uninterrupted in the classroom has been disastrous. The rest of the time they have not been able to get there, schools have been closed or teachers on strike because of no pay. To avoid the humiliation of total failure in 2008 the Government has cancelled the academic year. "It would be criminal if the Government allows examinations to go ahead," Raymond Majongwe, the secretary-general of the Progressive Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe, said. Teachers had their salaries doubled in January to the equivalent of £5.70 a month — barely enough for bus fares and bread for four days. The small number of private and state schools where parents can pay large supplements to teachers' salaries are the only ones operating. In most schools where teachers do turn up pupil attendance is low and getting lower because of the cholera epidemic which has now caused the loss of over 4000 lives and affected many thousands of other families.

Pray with us,

Lord of justice and wisdom, in whom we place our hope, we place before you the crisis facing the country of Zimbabwe.

We pray for immediate aid, wise leadership and an end to injustice at this critical time, as disease and extreme food shortages threaten to grip the nation.

Compassionate God, we know of your special love for the poor. We pray for relief for those who suffer, and action from those who watch their suffering.

As we stand alongside the people of Zimbabwe in prayer, we passionately oppose the social injustice and oppression affecting that nation.

We know that your love extends further than we can ever ask or imagine and pray for your protection, healing and close presence there.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen

(Christian Aid/David Brand)

Living water

Zimbabwe has experienced severe political and economic instability in the past year, making the work of our partners even more critical. Though government restrictions on this work have been damaging since March, the Dabane Trust managed to complete vital emergency work providing water points for drought-prone areas.

The United Nations estimates that by March 2009 — the height of Zimbabwe's dry season — approximately 45 per cent of the population will not have enough food to eat. Dabane Trust's work helping communities get water to drink, grow crops and water livestock will save lives, as the food and water crisis intensifies.

The rural district of Gwanda was recently identified by Dabane Trust as one of the most in need. Here more than 3,000 households rely on unsafe water sources as far away as 10km from their homes. Despite increasing difficulties importing cement and pipes, the Trust has restored 12 boreholes, and plans to continue this work through this year.

City dwellers are also experiencing a water crisis as running water provision is failing. The Combined Harare Residents' Association (CHRA), the focus of our July materials, has criticised the government's decision to hand over water-supply management from city councils to ZINWA, an arm of the government which CHRA says: 'does not have the financial and technical capacity to run and manage the water supply for the city of Harare'.

URC Flat in Bournemouth

Immanuel URC in Bournemouth has a self-catering flat available for a modest charge for members of the URC, for “purposes of recreation and relaxation.” The aim is to give “that much needed break” to URC people.

Bernie and I have stayed there quite often, when large family events meant that not everyone could fit into Meg and Chris’s manse. We were there again a couple of weeks ago. That is how I came across a request to publicise this more widely, as they really want more people to come so as to be able to cover their costs. They especially need people out of high season.

It sleeps 5, and is comfortable, with all the expected amenities and quite close to the cliffs in Southbourne. The one drawback is that it is up a flight of stairs. Décor is old fashioned, but fine!

If you are interested contact Louise Persaud on 01202 424994, or write to Immanuel United Reformed Church, (Self Catering Holiday Flat), 120 Southbourne Road, Bournemouth, BH6 3QJ.

Gwen

Thoughts on faith, prayer and Christian life

Andrew Winton has taken the opportunity of his extended break in warmer climes this winter to write down some thoughts on prayer. I have encouraged him to share a summary of these through the Recorder [see below]. I wonder if this could be a more permanent feature of our magazine? If you have some personal thoughts on prayer, or other aspects of faith or Christian life that you are prepared to share, please send them in to the editor. We all stand to benefit from those who allow us to read their insights.

Gwen

Focus on Prayer.

How many times do we offer up a silent prayer – in a church service – about to go into a hospital ward to see a friend – in a time of stress – a time of thankfulness when things turn out well?

Just think ... God hears our prayers, even though we do not speak out loud. He can read our minds, understands all our thoughts.

Well, that also means he knows all the **other** thoughts we have. Thinking about a job, or a date, or what to have for dinner. And how often when we are in silent prayer, do these other thoughts intrude?

Are we comfortable in the fact that God knows the good and not so good? He knows about our unspoken moods of anger, disappointment, jealousy. Should this not be a challenge to us whenever an unworthy thought comes into our mind – to ask for help to banish it.

Let us pray for God’s love to infuse us so that unholy thoughts become less and less frequent.

Prayer focused on Jesus can be helpful. Avoid specifics – God knows all our concerns – just immerse the mind in seeking His presence within us.

Andrew W

NEWS FROM CHILTERN AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 19 FEBRUARY 2009

1. (Non) elections to our two Area Committee vacancies

Only one nomination (Kate Yates – 3 year term) was made from our 17 churches for the two vacancies. It is disappointing that no other names were put forward. Gwen Collins was voted on as a co-opted member for three years. Unanimously carried. Synod had sent a letter to church secretaries about the election but a question was raised in the meeting as to how widely within the individual churches the vacancies and election was communicated.

Churches will need to be aware that each year there will be an election for at least two Area officers, with names to be put forward to Synod Office towards the end of the year.

2. News from the churches – Chesham, Wendover

Chesham

The weather has taken its toll and the proposed presentations by Architects had to be postponed until 28 February. We eagerly await the presentations by the Architects.

Burglars broke in on Saturday 14 February and stole the laptop and projector which were locked out of sight in a cupboard.

We have had a successful response to the Christianity Unwrapped Talks with a particularly popular visit from a local Muslim, Parves Aslam, who gave an insight into his faith. The talk by a local Rabbi had to be postponed. All normal church activities are happening.

Wendover

Darren Stickings and his family visited Wendover at the end of January for a service, lunch and church meeting. They had a friendly welcome at a well attended service. Good family atmosphere and participation of the children. Service based on Jonah – “are you running away from God”? They had feedback from a recent missionary visit to Africa; Wendover also seem active in the community. Darren announced who he was so people could put a face to the name. St Mark’s Aylesbury and Wendover are joining for a Fairtrade breakfast together in March.

3. Meeting the Moderator

A few churches have responded warmly to the request from Andrew Prasad to invite him to visit for a specific event. Andrew has already visited the three Slough churches.

4. Ministry

a. **Wendover** – Alan Kirkcaldy retires on 5 April. Impending vacancy notified to Baptist and URC leaders. Expectation that Interim Moderator and next minister will both be Baptist.

b. **Chesham** – the Revd Bridget Powell is in negotiation to transfer from non-stipendiary to stipendiary.

5. Vacancies

a. **Trinity Slough / St Andrew’s Iver**
No news.

b. **Beaconsfield / Holtspur**

Andrew Prasad met with the Elders of Beaconsfield and Holtspur on 12 January to discuss the vacancy. He was well received. David Simpson took over at Interim Moderator on 1 February.

6. Vacancies for appointments to Synod Committees

a. **Ecumenical Officer**

The Revd Daphne Williams has agreed to be the Chiltern ecumenical representative and was unanimously voted into the post. Daphne will replace Alan Kirkcaldy in this role and will attend Churches Together in Bucks meetings, Chiltern Area Committee meetings and Synod Ecumenical Committee meetings.

b. **Ministry & Mission Fund Committee (M&M)**

Post still vacant

c. **Nominations Committee**

Post still vacant

d. **Leadership Development Group (LDG)**

Post still vacant

e. **Synod Disability Coordinator**

Post still vacant

- f. **Disability Area Advocate**
Darren Stickings of St Mark's Aylesbury has agreed to be the Chiltern Area Advocate on Disability
- g. **Synod Disciplinary Panel (Section O Mandated Groups)**
Synod is seeking three names from Chiltern area of people who might serve on a Mandated Group (a pool of people) to deal with "Section O" ministerial disciplinary cases.
7. **Communication to/from churches in our area**
We hope that the summary we provide gives some overview of what's happening in the area. Do let us know what is happening in your churches, or if you have any particular events that you would like us to circulate among the 17 churches in the area.
- Events:
- Amersham – 'Bible Alive' exhibition from Saturday 14-Saturday 20 June
 - Amersham - Stainer's *Crucifixion* is being performed on Palm Sunday, 5 April at 8 pm
8. **St Mark's Aylesbury & Aylesbury Vale Community Church**
Plans for the two churches to redevelop St Mark's Aylesbury are progressing.
9. **General Assembly Resolution 23 – local leader**
The Leadership Development Group of Synod is seeking Chiltern's response to General Assembly's Resolution 23 in 2008 to provide a local leader for every church if required. Many questions to consider. Our area elders' day on 30 May will help us develop that response.
10. **Permission to celebrate**
- Alan Yates – Burnham on Easter Sunday
 - Margaret Howard – Wendover on Sunday 7 June
11. **30 May 2009 Area elders' day on "the challenges of church leadership in an era of reducing stipendiary ministry"**
31 names as at 8 February – really encouraging and should ensure a fruitful day. Further names of elders (and those in similar positions of leadership), ministers and interim moderators to Kate Yates by 20 March
12. **Pastoral consultation visits 2009**
We plan to complete four pastoral consultation reviews during 2009. Team convenors will contact church secretaries in the near future.
- We have some people trained up to conduct the visits but if your church has people willing and interested to be involved (training will be given!) please let us know.**
13. **Building projects**
- a. **Trinity High Wycombe** - Work starts 9 March.
 - b. **Amersham Free Church** - Revised plans have been submitted by architects
 - c. **Chesham** – embarking on redevelopment programme
14. **New Chiltern Woodland Burial Park – Inauguration Service, Friday 15 May 2009**
Being opened with a multi-faith service of dedication on Friday 15 May. Chiltern to send a representative.
15. **Dates of 2009 Chiltern Area Committee meetings**
Wednesday 1 April; Wednesday 13 May; Thursday 23 July; Wednesday 9 September; Thursday 19 November

Good News for Consumer Rights

On 1 October 2008 the "Cancellation of Contracts made in a Consumer's Home or Place of Work etc. Regulations 2008" came into force.

The legislation concerning cold callers selling items or services of £35 requiring them give consumers 7 calendar days' cooling off period has now been extended to cover solicited as well as unsolicited calls to homes.

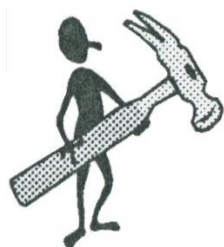
Now, if you answer a flyer or advert and invite a sales person to your home, you are covered.

Services covered:

- Home improvements, repair and maintenance services (including the construction of extensions, conservatories, driveways, patios and the supply and/or fitting of double glazing)
- Gardening services
- Personal items (including cosmetics, toiletries, jewellery and clothes)
- Household items (kitchenware, decorative and household cleaning items)
- Family items (including books and leisure items)
- Nutrition and health products
- Energy suppliers
- Mobility products (including stair lifts, scooters and buggies)
- Disability aids (including hearing aids)

What it means:

- The cooling off document must make it clear that the cooling off period starts on the day of receipt of a notice of the right to cancel from a trader.
- The notice of the right to cancel must be prominently displayed in the same document where the contract is completed wholly or partly in writing.
- If the consumer agrees to the work or service starting within the 7 day cooling off period, the consumer must record his/her agreement in writing,
- Beware of signing your rights away! Don't get caught by the old tricks of a salesperson saying sign here and here. Read any document first and seek advice.
- If work starts before a written 7 day cooling off period notice is given, then the debt is not enforceable.



30th May

The (Fifth) Brigade needs YOU.



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Sam Garden (13th)
Rebekah Sparks (15th)
Katie Hawes (19th)
Erin Lockhart (21st)
Ella Thompson (23rd)
Alex Firth (25th)

a very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.



Congratulations



With Best Wishes to

Linda & Grant Curley (20th)

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

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 26th April.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 17th April*

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

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

prayer page

Lord, we know that it is so much easier to relate our faith to our interior life, and our home and church life. But your vision is so much bigger. What use is a cosy church if society around us is in despair? Open our minds and hearts to confront the darkness with justice, and to embrace the broken with love. Lord, we pray that you will give to the gospel we proclaim the radical edge that we see in the words and actions of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve, and not to save his life but to give it up in the cause of the Kingdom.

From *The Intercessions Handbook* © John Pritchard

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2009

You asked for my hands,
that you might use them for your purpose.
I gave them for a moment then withdrew them
for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth
to speak out against injustice.
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes
to see the pain of poverty.
I closed them for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life
that you might work through me.
I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.

Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you,
only when it is convenient for me to do so,
only in those places where it is safe to do so,
and only with those who make it easy to do so.

Father, forgive me, renew me, send me out
as a usable instrument that I might take seriously
the meaning of your cross.

From *Bread of Tomorrow* © Joe Seremane, South Africa/Christian Aid



Lord Jesus Christ:-

Because you broke bread with the poor, you were looked on with contempt.
Because you broke bread with the sinful and outcast, you were looked on as ungodly.
Because you broke bread with the joyful, you were called a winebibber and a glutton.
Because you broke bread in the upstairs room, you sealed your acceptance of the way of the cross.
Because you broke bread on the road to Emmaus, you made scales fall from the disciples' eyes.
Because you broke bread and shared it, we will do so too, and ask your blessing.

From *Bread of Tomorrow* © Christian Aid

Sunday	For Churches Together in Wycombe
Monday	For anyone you know who suffers from depression
Tuesday	For vulnerable, traumatised and brutalised women and children of the Democratic Republic of Congo
Wednesday	Give thanks for the work of the Wycombe Winter Night Shelter – guests, workers, volunteers
Thursday	For children affected psychologically by war and abuse
Friday	Give thanks that our Christian faith gives us hope even in times of darkness and doubt
Saturday	For repentance of our own sins – the things we should have done but didn't, and the things we shouldn't have done but did