

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.
Matthew 28:8



April 2012

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,

“Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy.”

My eye caught this quote in a book on my shelves. I love it. It has the power to rekindle for me the wonder of being alive. I saw that it was a quote from the works of Abraham Joshua Heschel, and that set me on an internet search to find out about this man whose name I was vaguely aware of, but of whom I knew nothing. I discovered that Heschel was a Polish-born American rabbi and a leading Jewish theologian. His mother and three sisters were killed in the 2nd World War. To me that makes this quote all the more meaningful and poignant. Death and destruction gave him, eventually, a deeper and more profound appreciation of life.

What is it that makes you feel glad to be alive, I wonder? We are surrounded by signs of Spring. I have just spotted the first grape hyacinth under the flowering cherry, which is nowhere near flowering yet but has buds that promise much! I heard yesterday that my daughter-in-law's about to become sister-in-law has over 90 lambs on her family farm. This morning I saw a mass of daffodils in a sunken roundabout at a busy junction in West London. Thank God for Spring.

Sometimes, though, we need deeper and more profound truth than the annual re-awakening of life after winter to cheer our hearts. Family concerns, distressing world news, illness, busyness or weariness all take their toll. What is there that can revive our spirits?

Easter is God's response to all that robs life of its joy.

The Apostle Paul is the first to set down in writing what Easter meant. He says it is of first importance. Christ died for our sins, was buried, and he was raised on the third day. He appeared to more than 500, including Peter, the twelve, James and Paul himself. You can read it in 1 Corinthians 15: 3 – 8. This is the cornerstone of Christian faith and experience. God in Christ removes the grime and dirt of human lives as they are given over to him. God gives life back, washed and clean. God gives life for the here and now, and for eternity.

Make the most of Easter this year. Do whatever it takes to reconnect with these deep truths and life-renewing power. What might that be for you? Listening to a recording of the Messiah perhaps? Worshipping at Trinity, hopefully, or wherever you are if elsewhere? Taking time to listen to God and follow His promptings, personally?

Life is too precious to waste. “Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy.”

Alleluia!



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins

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April Services

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

April 1		Palm Sunday & Holy Communion, with visiting speaker, Jeremy Moodey, CEO Biblelands.
April 5	7.30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, at Wesley Methodist Church
April 6	10.15 a.m.	Good Friday worship at Trinity, with Union Baptist Church
	11.15 a.m.	Good Friday walk of witness
April 8		Easter Day beginning with Church Family breakfast at 9.00
	10.30 a.m.	Celebration of Christ's Resurrection including Holy Communion and confirmation and reception of new member.
April 15		All age worship, lead by Rev Kate Pryde.
April 22		Morning worship, lead by Rev Michael Wallace.
April 29		Morning worship including infant blessing.
	4.00 p.m.	Praise service

Rotas for April

Not included in this version

What's on in April



Monday 2nd April - Book Evening in aid of this year's charity
8pm (Hostess - José Barber)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 3rd April Holy Communion - Rev Gwen Collins - Sanctuary
 Tuesday 10th April *No meeting*
 Tuesday 17th April David and his Court
 Tuesday 24th April Betty Massy - The Land Army. Bring & Buy
All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom



Diary Dates

Event	Time and date	Venue
Palm Sunday. Guest speaker Jeremy Moody - Biblelands	Sunday 1st April 10.30am	Sanctuary
Housegroup	Tuesday 3rd 8.00pm	134 Brands Hill Ave.
Maundy Thursday Service	Thursday 5th 7.30pm	Wesley Methodist Church
Good Friday Service followed by Walk of Witness	Friday 6th 10.15am	Trinity (Sanctuary)
	11.15am	Meet behind the "old library"
Easter Morning Breakfast	Sunday 8th 9.00am	LSR
Easter Morning Worship with Communion & Confirmation & Reception of new Member.	Sunday 8th 10.30am	
Coffee Morning	Saturday 14th	LSR
Coffee Morning	Saturday 28th	LSR
Morning Worship with Infant Blessing	Sunday 29th 10.30am	
Praise Service	Sunday 29th 4.00pm	

April 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Not included in this version

May Church Meeting

“Stop press We will be discussing dais furniture amongst other agenda items at the May Church Meeting, so do please come along to give your views.”

Thanks,
Kate

Christian  Aid

Just to remind you that Christian Aid week this year is May 13th – 19th so please make a note in your diaries. I will be looking for people to collect from our allotted roads and will prepare a list in a couple of weeks for ‘willing volunteers’ to sign. The weather is improving all the time so by the middle of May it will a pleasure to have a stroll in the sunshine as you gaily wander along your chosen area !!! Well that’s the theory, not sure yet how it will work out in practice.

Margaret

Commitment for Life

ZIMBABWE

The Christian Aid team in Harare is thankful that there is relative peace prevailing in Zimbabwe at the moment. The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) has remained firm and demanded that the 'road map' to free and fair elections be complied with. This includes the drafting of a people-driven constitution and the holding of a subsequent referendum. However, pockets of violence have been reported, and the talk of a potential election taking place without these provisos is getting stronger in the government media. It is thought, however, that the government will not dare to go against the SADC ruling.

The rainy season has been patchy and in the areas where they work, the situation is already worrying as they approach the midpoint of the rainy season. In some areas, crops have begun to be affected and destroyed by pests such as ladybirds, which thrive in drought conditions.

On the economic front although the use of the multi currency regime (USD, GBP, and South African Rand) has stabilised prices, poor people still face challenges in accessing these hard currencies. As a direct response to this challenge, this year, partners again distributed electronic (swipe cards) and paper vouchers to communities. This is instead of direct input distribution (such as seeds etc) which negatively affects local businesses. People can then access what they need from local traders. This has stimulated business for the local agro dealers and improved access to cash as communities can now sell their produce and get cash, rather than having to resort to bartering their goods which leads to a loss in value.

On the social side, there has been a marked upsurge in people joining Pentecostal churches preaching the 'prosperity gospel'. These churches are attracting tens of thousands of people and church services are typically held in football stadiums in order to accommodate the masses. These churches offer people some form of hope and also represent a rallying point for them as they have been disappointed by politicians on both sides of the divide, making empty promises. However, these churches are also known to extort money as worshippers are urged to 'sow the seed' for prosperity by giving to the church. It's perceived that, as a result, most of these church leaders have become wealthy overnight.

BANGLADESH

While a fast response to the devastation caused by the rains and floods in August was important, Christian Aid and its partners continue the long term work of building the resilience of communities. Even when the floods recede, the land still remains waterlogged. The problem then faced by people is the ability to grow vegetables and feed themselves. CCDB is working closely with families, supporting and preparing them for future floods.

Living in an area affected by water logging, Shakti Kirtoniya, 42, and his wife Monika Kirtoniya, 30, used to struggle to feed their family. Thanks to CCDB, with the aid of a floating garden, Shakti can grow vegetables even when much of the land is underwater. This innovative approach uses bamboo and hyacinth plants to form a bed in which seeds of all varieties can be planted. It simply floats on the water.

Shatki said, *'They gave me 1,600 BDT (approx £14) to start a floating garden. I was taught about the size of beds and how to make and cultivate them. They showed us how to start small, and then supported us to build bigger and better beds.'*

Shatki now grows chillies, turmeric, cabbages and okra to eat and to sell. The floating garden has made a massive difference to him and his family's life.

Monika said, *'Every year the area is flooded. The biggest problem is water logging. Now, when it rains heavily, the gardens float and the bamboo protects the floating gardens.'*

CCDB continues to work with these communities, helping them to adapt to the challenges which climate change has only served to intensify. The problem to contend with now is the increasingly saline water brought on in part by climate change. Due to rising sea levels and stronger tidal surges, the salty sea water is beginning to mix with the fresh water near the coast.

Shatki said, *'This salt water destroys our crops. I worry in the future that increased salination will kill the floating gardens.'*

Report from Synod held at St Thomas's URC, Watford – 10 March 2012

To give you a very brief summary of the March Synod, please see below. Worship interspersed the day and the Synod office staff also did a brief drama sketch. Children's Synod also took place at the same time.

1. Olympics – More than Gold

Churches were encouraged to consider ideas to mark the Olympics, even if that were an 'indoor street party' or an 'Olympic-free venue'! More than Gold are looking for 800 volunteers to provide rooms within 1 hour's journey of an Olympic venue for athletes' families/trainers for up to 8 days (maybe less). More info available from More Than Gold <http://www.morethangold.org.uk/> or ring 0845 475 2012.

2. General Assembly Moderator Val Morrison

Val talked about hidden treasures. She has visited nearly 120 churches, many of them with small congregations but containing hidden treasures. It's important to celebrate, enable and encourage good, solid Christians in small congregations.

3. Elections

In the Chiltern Area, elections for Chiltern Area Committee resulted in Revd Gwen Collins, Kate Yates and Revd Anthony Howells (The Church on Fairford Leys, Aylesbury) being elected to serve.

4. Thames North Synod 40th birthday party – Saturday 23 June 2012

This will take place at Latimer Park, near Chesham and is open to all. There will be workshops, celebrations, Bible study, picnics and a host of activities. Put the date in your diary!

5. Back to Church Sunday – Sunday 30 September 2012

Lots of churches are using this date to invite people who haven't been to church for some time along to a service. The service should be a 'usual service so that if they decide come again they'll experience consistency.

6. Next Synod – Saturday 15 September at Vine URC, Ilford, Essex

7. Appointments in Synod

Adrian West, Convenor of Nominations Committee, put out a plea for people to serve and fill the various vacancies on different Synod committees. Lots of people will have specialist skills that can be made available to the wider Church.

Those attending Synod were asked how churches can better support their Area Committees, and how communication between Synod committees and local churches can be improved.

8. LMMR/MASA (Local Ministry & Mission Review/Ministerial Accompanied Self Appraisal)

An update on this will be given at September's Synod. People willing to be Pastorate Partners (for the Church Life Review part of LMMR) and willing to be Appraisal Partners (for MASA) are being sought.

9. Synod election results

Gwen Collins and Bernie Collins were both elected to attend General Assembly in Scarborough in July 2012, in addition to several other ministers. Sue Saunders as a lay person will also be attending General Assembly. It was noted that there were no nominations for attendees in the 26-year-old and under category and no BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) lay nominations.

Christian Aid/ FURY Volunteer Intern

Task Description

As a volunteer intern you will be involved in working with FURY age groups as part of their ongoing engagement with Christian Aid. This work will fall into the following key areas:

1. Work with Christian Aid's Youth Team to deliver co-ordinated youth work on development issues nationally
2. Work with FURY to champion issues of social justice and development in local URC youth groups and nationally
3. Work with the United Reformed Church to rebrand and reinvigorate Commitment for Life for members of FURY
4. Take part in the Christian Aid Collective Internship group activities and Christian Aid week events

1. Work with Christian Aid's Youth Team to deliver co-ordinated youth work on development issues nationally

The Youth Team are responsible for all Christian Aid's youth work on a national scale

- you will work with colleagues in the team to deliver Christian Aid Collective resources, articles and campaign actions on the new Youth website
- you will help to create and run national youth events including our presence at various Christian festivals such as Soul Survivor, Spring Harvest, Pentecost Festival, Momentum and Greenbelt.

2. Work with FURY to champion issues of social justice and development in local URC youth groups and nationally

- you will be responsible for embedding the Christian Aid Collective youth identity into FURY groups at a local level, holding events with FURY young people and speaking in URC churches about your trip
- you will help champion a strong social justice message at national level through appropriate forums such as the FURY Advisory Group, Synod reps and Assembly

3. Work with the United Reformed Church to rebrand and reinvigorate Commitment for Life (C for L) for members of FURY

- you will work with the Commitment for Life Co-ordinator in an advisory capacity to refresh C for L for a FURY audience
- you will create and update C for L materials for the FURY audience
- you will encourage and recruit C for L Youth Advocates & support new Youth advocates
- if required, you will help present Commitment for Life at General Assembly and Youth Assembly
- you will also be given a non voting place on the FURY Advisory Board.

4. Take part in the Christian Aid Collective Internship group activities and Christian Aid week events

- 3 day London induction
- 2 week overseas trip – including briefing before, debrief and writing resources
- 3 day de-brief at the end of the year
- other events (e.g. campaigning) on ad hoc basis.

Division of Time

You will be based in Christian Aid's London office in Waterloo and embedded in the Youth Team. Work will be managed by the Commitment for Life Programme Co ordinator.

Pastoral support and supervision will be given by Christian Aid

Chiltern Area Committee Newsletter - February 2012 (edited)

1. News from the Churches

Colnbrook & Poyle United Church

Revd Barbara McIntivey will be retiring next July to Isleworth. Her farewell is on 22 July 2012.

From 1 September, a Probationer, the Revd Margaret Dudley will take over pastoral charge of the Methodist churches in Windsor, Old Windsor and of Colnbrook & Poyle United Church. Margaret is at present training at Wesley House Cambridge and will be a Probationer Minister for two years until her ordination in July 2014. Her welcome service, together with other new members of circuit staff, is to be at Windsor Methodist Church 6.30 pm on Sunday 2nd September 2012.

Kingsway Slough

The majority of the former SURACC members are now members of Kingsway. The former SURACC members are generally attending worship every Sunday.

Wendover Free Church

New initiatives have included a monthly book club. This started last September on the third Saturday morning each month and has been well supported. Conversation is shared about books that have been read with refreshments served. Churches Together in Wendover is still active and they will be sharing joint Lent Groups on prayer. A joint evening service, led by Revd Mary Cotes, was held during the week of prayer for Christian Unity in January.

Revd Heather McIntyre returned to work last September following a period of compassionate leave and is now back working full time. Her ministry and leadership is much appreciated.

2. Celebrating the URC's 40th anniversary in 2012 – Saturday 10 November

An Area-wide celebration is planned for Saturday 10 November 2012. The Revd Dr Michael Jagessar has confirmed that he will be very pleased to preside over the proceedings at the 40th Anniversary of the URC. The celebrations will consist of a service, food and fun – more details to follow but please book the date in your diaries now!

There will also be a Synod-wide celebration at Latimer Park near Chesham on 23 June which will include 'learning taster' sessions. More information to follow.

3. Joint Working – Burnham, Iver, Deanway United (Chalfont St Giles)

Sadly this has not worked out so Area Committee will be looking at other possibilities.

4. Accredited Lay Preacher available

Mrs Mary Carpenter, a member at Trinity Slough, is now an Accredited Lay Preacher and is available for preaching engagements. Her contact details have been sent to church secretaries.

5. Synod training day for Elders and others – 13 October 2012

Please put the date in your diary – more information to follow in due course.

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Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Lesley B (5 th)	Katie H (19 th)
Ella C (7 th)	Erin L (21 st)
Norma G (9 th)	Ella T (23 rd)
Sam G (13 th)	Yan W (24 th)
Rebekah S (15 th)	

a very Happy Birthday



Congratulations

With Best Wishes to

Linda & Grant C (20th)

on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary
and to

Colin L (27th)

on celebrating his 80th birthday

with love from us all at Trinity.

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

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

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

prayer page

He is risen! Alleluia!

Jesus's death and resurrection to new life gives us hope for today and the future – God is involved in our lives here and now! And we have the promise of the Holy Spirit to help us live more fully as God intends, and to bring about change and justice in our world.

Lord of life

We pray for all who bring your word of life

As a light to those in darkness

For those who bring your word of peace

To those enslaved by fear

For those who bring your word of love

To those in need of comfort

Lord of love and Lord of peace

Lord of resurrection life

Be known

Through our lives

and through your power

Christ the Lord is risen to-day

Alleluia!

From www.faithandworship.com/prayers



Lord,
the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it.

From New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book

A
P
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2012

(Psalm 19)

Creator God, the heavens tell out your glory,
by day and by night, in the power of the sun and the depths of space,
in wordless wonder.

Spirit of justice, you speak to our hearts,
showing us how to live in your way: what need for written rules
when humanity fulfils your promise?

Jesus, Redeemer, setting us free to share in your work:
may we find the words – and the integrity –
to tell your Good News to the world.

© Christian Aid

There continues to be a lot of media coverage about tax avoidance, tax loop-holes and tax evasion, particularly for large companies. The taxes we all pay (income tax, VAT, etc.) provide vital services not just for ourselves but for others in need. Just as an encounter with Jesus changed Matthew the tax-collector forever, let us pray that God would bring about tax justice in our world today::

Christian Aid prayer about tax

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope,

In you is life, and the life is the light of all people.

Your light shines in the darkness.

We give thanks for all through whom your light shines

And pray for an end to all secrecy that is life-denying.

Sift out our laws and our lives with the light of your presence

So that our aim is honesty

And our measure is love.

Amen