

Jesus said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.  
[John 19, v30]



*April 2014*

# *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 place to belong**

**Spirituality - Prayer – Community – Welcome**

At Women's Meeting recently we were looking at our favourite hymns and "What a friend we have in Jesus" was mentioned. The first four lines set me thinking and have formed the starting point for my contribution in writing the monthly letter for the Recorder. I quote "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief's to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer."

Strangely enough the next week I was reminded about our need of prayer. Colin & I made our weekly shopping trip to Old Amersham but our return journey took us, not back along the High Street which is our usual route, but down Church Street. As we drove past the Parish Church of St Mary's I was taken back to the time when Andrew was very young and was rushed to hospital with appendicitis. While he was in the operating theatre I felt very scared and alone because Colin was still on his way to join me having to come from where he was working. I wandered down into the town and saw the church and went in. I sat there for ages just praying to God asking him to take care of Andrew and gradually I found the help and comfort I needed. That vivid memory is with me still.

In Jeremiah chapter 29 verses 12 and 13 it states: Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Recently I have been very aware of the power of prayer and the help it was to me whilst I was suffering back problems and other health issues. The thoughts and prayers of so many kind friends helped me through the bad times of pain and difficulty in walking and, also, I think, brought about the solution to the problem. One morning I somehow lost my balance and tripped over my own feet, I wasn't hurt at all but soon after that the back pain disappeared and the slipped disc in my spine seems to have gone back into place. Some people may say it was coincidence, maybe it was but I prefer to call it the answer to the prayers. I found a quote from Dan Hayes the other day and it was this. "All I know is that when I pray, coincidences happen; and when I don't pray, they don't happen". I agree .

At Trinity there are a lot of things that we need to pray about at the moment. We are seeking a new Minister and hopefully a Church Related Community Worker. At a recent special Sunday morning church meeting I felt strongly that about the need for a CRCW and said that though we may not have the funds at the moment we should go forward in faith and see what God's purpose for us is. Again I quote, this time from Alvin VanderGriend. "Praying in faith is not an inner conviction that God will act according to our desires if only we believe hard enough. It involves believing that God will always respond to our prayers in accord with his nature, his purposes, and his promises."

The greatest gift we can give to others is our prayers, so, I will finish with a poem by Kathleen Benton

I said a prayer for you today and know God must have heard,  
I felt the answer in my heart although He spoke no word.  
I didn't ask for wealth or fame (I knew you wouldn't mind).  
I asked Him to send treasures of a far more lasting kind.  
I asked that He be near you at the start of each new day:  
To grant you health and blessings and friends to share your way.  
I asked for happiness for you in all things great and small.  
But it was for his loving care I prayed the most of all.

God bless

*Margaret*

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## April Services

### Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am unless otherwise stated

- April 6 Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Kate Pryde  
April 13 Palm Sunday All Age Worship led by Barbara and David Sparks  
April 17 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service at Wesley Methodist  
April 18 10.15am Good Friday Service at Trinity with Union Baptist led by Alan Yates  
followed by Walk of Witness in the town  
April 20 Easter Sunday Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Mike Wallace  
April 27 Morning Worship led by The Choir and Women's Meeting

*(Please note All Age Worship is on the second Sunday and there is no Evening Communion this month)*

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## Rotas for April

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in April



Monday 28th April - 10.30am - My trip to Iceland -  
Speaker Marian Mole. (*Hostess José Barber*)

## WOMEN'S MEETING

- Tuesday 8th April Name the Flower
- Tuesday 15th April Communion Service led by Rev Alan Kirkcaldy (Sanctuary)
- Tuesday 22nd April *No meeting*
- Tuesday 29th April Poems and Readings for Spring



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom unless otherwise stated*

## Diary Dates

Event	Day	Date	Time	Venue
Vision 2020 prayer meeting	Wednesday	2nd	9.30-10 am	Sanctuary
Elders' meeting	Wednesday	2nd	8.00pm	Lower School Room
Prayer Circle for Healing	Sunday	6th	4.00 pm	Lower School Room
Coffee Morning and Easter Egg tombola	Saturday	12th	10.30 am	Lower School Room
Prayer ministry	Sunday	13th	12 noon	Vestry
Housegroup	Tuesday	15th	8.00 pm	134 Brands Hill Ave
Vision 2020 prayer meeting	Wednesday	16th	9.30-10 am	Sanctuary
Coffee morning	Saturday	26th	10.30 am	Lower School Room

April 2014						
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### Not included in this version

To all my dear friends at Trinity,

Thank you all very much for the beautiful flowers and the vouchers that were presented to me at the AGM.

Although the garden is very small, it is in desperate need of some tender loving care, so I very much appreciate the garden vouchers.

I think the John Lewis vouchers, although equally appreciated, may take a little longer to spend as I shall use them for soft furnishings when I have decided on a colour scheme for the lounge.

I shall be visiting Wycombe from time to time and shall come to morning worship I am sure.

Thank you once again for all your love, friendship, encouragement and support over the past 32 years and the generous leaving gift.

I shall miss you all and measure any future church congregation by you all.

Love and blessings,



## Synod "Growth" Day – Saturday 21 June 2014

We have been talking a lot about church growth recently, so you may be interested in attending this Synod event which will be held at "Restore Hope", Latimer, Chesham, HP5 1TU from 10 am to 6 pm.

The theme for the day will be various aspects of growth and is a day for all. More information will be available in due course, but in the meantime, Synod office staff are keen to find as many helpers as possible so that the day is a success. They are seeking people to be involved in:

- Welcoming
- Stewarding
- Preparing/Serving Refreshment
- Preparing/Serving BBQ
- Setting up Sound Systems
- Setting up a Labyrinth – to be tackled on the Friday afternoon / evening
- Any other things as they crop up

If you are able to offer some of your time on the day the team at Synod office would be most grateful as the more helpers they have the less work there will be for everyone. Please contact Sandhya Pinn, Synod Administrator on 020 7799 5000 or e-mail her at [synodadmin@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:synodadmin@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

More information will appear in the Recorder when it is available!



### **As from the March 2014 AGM Trinity's Serving Elders will be:**

Glyn E  
Marian D  
Margaret L

Sue T  
Alan Y  
Kate Y

With Sue S moving away and standing down as Church Secretary, the Elders met immediately after the AGM & church meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March and voted Kate Yates (with her agreement) to be Church Secretary.

Pastoral lists will be revised at the April Elders' meeting.

### **Who to contact at Trinity**

1. If you are aware of a pastoral need please contact your Elder, or another Elder if you can't get hold of him/her.
2. If you hear of someone in our church family who is ill or in specific need, please let the Church Secretary know.
3. The vestry answerphone has a message that refers people either to the Lettings Team, or for other enquiries to the church mobile number (Gwen's old mobile) which is 07853 854623 and held by the Church Secretary. Messages can also be left on vestry answerphone and mobile answerphone and will be checked regularly.
4. This mobile number also appears on our welcome leaflet, on the posters outside the church, on the inside cover of the Recorder and on the website.

**Summary of church meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014, (preceded by AGM)**

**Not included in this version**



## ZIMBABWE

After poor harvests last season, many families in Zimbabwe are facing their toughest time of year as food runs out. Over two million people are expected to need food aid during the peak hunger period, which runs from January to March.

Emergency distributions are underway, and our partners Christian Care and Lutheran Development Services have been providing food aid in Matabeleland South, Manicaland and Masvingo provinces. However, World Food Programme funding shortfalls have meant that they haven't been able to reach as many people as they would have liked.

The next harvest is due in April, but unfortunately the growing season got off to a late start in many places after the first rains arrived December rather than the usual October/November start. The early weeks of 2014 have seen very heavy rains, and waterlogged soil may lead to low crop yields again.

Meanwhile longer-term food security work continues, and they are currently exploring ways to mechanise some farming labour, to enable elderly people, children and those who are physically weak through illness to grow more food. For example, Dabane Trust is currently trialling a donkey-drawn potholing plough.

## CENTRAL AMERICA Guatemala

Christian Aid Communications Officer Paula is currently in Guatemala. She will be visiting two partners – Caja Ludica and Bethania. Caja Ludica work with young people who live in some of the most violent and dangerous neighbourhoods of Guatemala City. They have a high risk of getting involved with gangs and Caja Ludica aims to offer them an alternative way of life. Bethania works with the Chorti indigenous people in the Guatemalan highlands where malnutrition affects over 70% of children under 5. Here, Bethania has been working with families on a nutrition programme, educating them about the importance of a varied diet and helping them to plant kitchen gardens and to bring back indigenous plants which are high in vitamins and minerals.

### Situation update – Nicaragua

Last week she was in Nicaragua where she visited partners the Hibiscus Cooperative and CEPREV (the Centre for the Prevention of Violence). She's emailed back some great stories. She saw hibiscus juice, jam and wine (produced by the Hibiscus Cooperative) in the supermarkets (80 Nicaraguan supermarkets currently stock these projects). She said "Hibiscus is not only tasty but the farmers tell me it's good for the kidneys & for ladies' pains & mens' troubles!"

Stories from CEPREV are transformational. Like the rest of Central America, Nicaragua has high levels of gang violence (often linked to the drugs trade) and violence against women is ingrained in the "machismo" culture. CEPREV aims to tackle all forms of violence, combining psychosocial work with community projects. Bayardo is a man who used to deal drugs, own an AK47 & nearly killed his stepfather. He is covered in scars and tattoos – signs of his violent past. Thanks to CEPREV he has become a gentle and loving husband (and father to a week-old baby girl!) He now helps young men in his community to keep out of trouble.



# Chiltern Area Committee Newsletter – March 2014 (*edited*)

## 1. News from the churches

### **Cores End**

Following the retirement of the Revd Dr Gwen Collins as Interim Moderator, Cores End will be a joint pastorate with Trinity. The Church Life Review has been completed and pastorate profile produced. Both churches are forming a joint vacancy committee following the Moderator's vacancy visit on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Last year some members attended the HOPE campaign meeting followed by a presentation made by Tim Reith, Synod Mission Enabler, last Autumn. A group was set up to pursue some mission initiatives with 800 leaflets distributed in the neighbourhood giving info about the church and its aims. Some events have been planned:

- on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April they are going to distribute hot cross buns with a leaflet in Bourne End
- There will be a party around the church on May Day bank holiday, aimed at neighbours and hall users, with a youthful focus (bouncy castle and face painting).

They have had one wedding of past members of Junior Church, and another wedding to come with the groom coming over from California.

During Lent they were invited to join Christchurch in Flackwell Heath undertaking a Lenten prayer course for six weeks. They also support Jars of Change, the Water Aid charity during Lent. Their Easter services will include a shared communion meal on Maundy Thursday. On Good Friday there is an ecumenical walk of witness in Bourne End. Services continue to be well-supported.

Over the past year they have received 7 new people into membership. That has been balanced by a review of the membership list with 7 people having been moved into non-active membership.

The heating project has been completed.

### **Trinity High Wycombe**

We are pleased that the Revd John Mackerness is willing to be Interim Moderator to see us and Cores End as a joint pastorate through the vacancy process.

We are currently trying to seek funds to allow us to advertise a vacancy for a Church-Related Community Worker (CRCW) for a five-year post but as yet these are not forthcoming.

We continue with our ecumenical work within Churches Together in High Wycombe, and our 2014 involvement with the Wycombe Winter Night Shelter ends in the morning of Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March. Several of our members have supported the evening and morning shifts.

Church life continues as usual, and our community groups using the building are appreciative of the support they have from Trinity.

## 4. New Area reps after March Synod

After Synod on 15<sup>th</sup> March our Area Reps will be: David Bailey; Jenny Gudgeon, John Hoar, Anthony Howells, Bridget Powell and Kate Yates. "Area Links" will be reallocated at our May meeting once we have our full complement of six elected representatives from the churches.

Grateful thanks were expressed at our March meeting to Alan Yates for his service as Area Convenor for the last six years

Hi, mate. A little bit of bad news

What's that then?

The thing I told you about has been postponed.

Oh?

Yeh - it is now going to be on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May.

Why is that, then?

Rumour has it that Colin Firth and Helen Mirren couldn't make it - so they have had to get better people in to play the parts.

So is it still worth going?

You bet. It is going to be even better now. Make sure you keep the date free.

I will. I was looking forward to it.

Good. See you there.



## Fun Evening

Last year we had a very successful fund raising evening for Christian Aid so it's been decided to hold another one this year which will be on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

It will be the same format as last year starting at 5.00pm with individual games of bagatelle, skittles, marbles, hoopla etc. and then a break at 6.30pm for a light meal and the second half of the evening will consist of a couple of team games. Last year it was short mat bowls and a variation on a cricket match played without grass, wickets or bats !!! This game belonged to Gwen & Bernie but hopefully I can get a replica made as it really was such fun and caused much hilarity. Tickets will be £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children so please come along with your family and friends and join in the fun and again there will be a small prize for the individual scoring the most points.

Margaret

### Sunday worship – latecomers to the service

We regularly have a few worshippers who for various reasons aren't able to arrive until after the service has started.

Rather than have someone get extra chairs out at the back of church the Worship Planning Group has suggested that we leave one row at the back unoccupied with "reserved" signs on, so that these can be used for these folk (unless they wish to go further to the front in unoccupied chairs). It was also suggested that the front porch greeter could replace these with an order-of-service when coming in just before the start of the service.

This should ensure minimal disruption for worshippers once the service has started, and lessen any sense by the latecomer of "being in the way" or "a trouble".

If you would be kind enough to leave this back row unoccupied so that we can extend this welcoming atmosphere to these folk that would be much appreciated.

Worship Planning Group

Dear all,

We have just heard that our work permits have been issued today (3<sup>rd</sup> April) in Port Moresby. The United Church Assembly Secretary is now able to apply for our visas. So after a long period of waiting ... a bit more waiting! But hopefully it won't be long before we can be on our way to join the staff at Rarongo (now the School of Theology and Mission [STM]).

As some of you know, the United Reformed Church will be commissioning us during the service this Sunday morning 6th April at Avenue St. Andrew's URC in Southampton. That is the congregation we have been attending since we moved to live in Hamble.

For those of you who pray - please hold the STM community and us in your prayers as we continue to prepare ourselves for teaching there. For all of you - we very much appreciate your interest and friendship.

*Gwen and Bernie*

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# Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Lesley B (5<sup>th</sup>)

Ella C (7<sup>th</sup>)

Norma G (9<sup>th</sup>)

Sam G (13<sup>th</sup>)

Rebekah S (15<sup>th</sup>)

Katie H (19<sup>th</sup>)

Erin L (21<sup>st</sup>)

Yan W (24<sup>th</sup>)

Colin L (27<sup>th</sup>)

a very Happy Birthday



# Congratulations

With Best Wishes to

Linda & Grant C (20<sup>th</sup>)

on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

with love from us all at Trinity.

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*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](mailto:editor@trinity-urc.org.uk)

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

## prayer page

Lord of beginnings and of birth,  
We thank you for the Spring on earth,  
When newborn lambs in fields of green  
White dots upon the grass are seen.  
After playing in the sun  
Each snuggles up when day is done  
Close beside its mother ewe.  
Lord, you are like a mother too,  
You nurture us and love us still  
Whether we do good or ill.  
You are with us every day  
And sorrow when we stray away  
And search for us in every place  
Dear Lord of all below, above  
We thank you for your mother love.



### ***For meditation***

The following is a modern version of a fourteenth century lyric in which Jesus addresses mankind.

Love brought me,  
Love made me,  
To be your companion.  
Love guided me,  
And love allows me to be here.  
Love killed me,  
Love drew me,  
Love laid me in the tomb  
Love is my peace.  
Because I love I chose  
To buy you at a costly price,  
Do not be afraid.  
I care for you both day and night.

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2014

Dear Lord, our Guardian and Defender, there are many dragons loose in this world today: dragons of wars, oppression, poverty, hunger, disease and despair to name but a few.

Grant your people the courage of Saint George to confront and fight against them. May this country and its leaders be in the forefront of this battle. Amen

**Christ is risen, Alleluia. Rejoice and be glad.**