

August 2005

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’

Revd. Michael Shrubsole

Minister of Trinity United Reformed Church

Dear Friends, this month I have to write a final letter for my last edition of the ‘Recorder’ magazine for the High Wycombe church, and I have been invited to write a first letter for the ‘Courier’ magazine for the Coggeshall church and for the ‘Newsletter’ for the Great Notley church; and I wondered whether I could write the same letter for all three churches? Is it possible to write the same message in a meaningful way to three different churches? After all, the folk in one church know me well, and I am saying goodbye to them, but the folk in the other two churches hardly know me at all and I need to introduce myself to them. But I do want to say the same thing to all three churches.

Dear friends, my inspiration for these words comes from the New Testament, from John’s first letter. It is not clear from this letter whether or not John knows the people he is writing to, if he does know them it is not clear if he knows them well. It is not in any sense a personal letter and it contains no personal details. But that does not stop it being a very passionate letter! The whole of the letter is full of John’s concern that the Christians to whom he writes should know and practice the love of God between one another. “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.” (4:7) But John goes beyond calling the people to whom he writes his ‘dear friends’, he also calls them ‘dear children’, not because he sets himself above them by considering himself a father figure, but because of each Christians’ relationship with God: “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are!” (3:1)

And John is careful to explain what that means in practice: “Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” (3:18) “This is how we know that we love the children of God, by loving God and carrying out his commands.” (5:2)

So, ‘dear children’, what a pleasure it is to be part of your family. And it is not a family limited to one place or time or church. I can find God’s children wherever I go. Here are people I can call dear friends, not just because they are likable, (and how can you help but like people who believe that putting love into action is their one true calling in life?) but because they claim the same family affinity as me – part of the family of God. So as I say “Goodbye” to one part of the family in Buckinghamshire, so I say “Hello” to another part of the family in Essex. And it doesn’t make any difference where I am because I am always within the embrace of my heavenly Father.

So for all the love which I have experienced from my ‘dear friends’ and ‘dear children’ in High Wycombe I say a deep, profound and sad “Thank you and goodbye.” and to all my new ‘dear friends’ and ‘dear children’ in Coggeshall and Great Notley I say an equally sincere “Hello.” May love in action unite us all and remind us of the love which we first received from our heavenly Father.

From your dear friend and child.

Mike

Minister :
Rev Michael Shrubsole,

e-mail : minister@trinity-urc.org.uk

Church Secretary:
Mrs Margaret Lewis,

e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

August Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

Children of all ages meet for part of morning worship using the 'Light Years' material from Scripture Union.

- 7th Aug - **Communion Service** on White Band Sunday
Matthew 11:16-30; Zechariah 9:9-12; Romans 7:15-25; Psalm 145
- 14th Aug - **Morning Worship** - Mr Peter Crang.
Peter is a URC Accredited Lay Preacher from Great Missenden.
- 21st Aug - **All-age Worship** - Mr & Mrs David Sparkes
(Tim's parents and Lay Preachers)
- 28th Aug - **Morning Worship** - Mr Graham Wright
(Graham is a Lay Preacher from Wendover.
This will be the first time that Graham has led worship at Trinity)

Rotas for August

Item omitted from this edition

What's on in August . . .

WOMEN'S MEETING

Our weekly meetings resume in September. This month we have one special meeting, beginning at 2.30pm.

Tuesday 9th August - Margaret L invites us to her garden - at 2.30pm

Lifts will be arranged - see Olive S



. . . and beyond

Local Talent

New Christian songwriter Jonny Patton will be playing at the Hub, Union Baptist Church, High Wycombe on **Monday 5th September 2005** to launch his first album at 8pm. The album of original praise and worship songs will be available to buy on the night, and Jonny will be performing a few exclusive tracks that do not appear on the album.

Tickets are £4 on the door and you can reserve tickets by sending an email to Mela@jonnypatton.com.

Jonny Patton is originally from Ballymoney, County Antrim, he is the worship leader at the Christian Union at BCUC in High Wycombe, where he is currently studying.

Let's worship!

Duggie Dug Dug's Praise Party Spectacular AND An Evening Celebration with Mike Pilivachi and Tim Hughes. At the Wycombe Swan on **24th September**, 11 am and 7.30 pm. Morning tickets all £2.50. Evening tickets £4.50, concessions £2.50. Hosted by Encounter in conjunction with Lighthouse Hazlemere, Soul Survivor, New Wine Networks, Xalt and Wycombe Youth for Christ. Sponsors The Entertainer toy shops and St Andrew's book shops. Tickets from the Swan on 01494 521000. See poster/leaflets for more information, or visit www.encounter-events.org. For an occasional prayer and newsletter from Encounter please send a blank email to prayer@encounter-events.org. Thank you!

Autumn Academy - see advert on page 10

. . . and still more

CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS 13th & 27th AUGUST

Coffee Mornings for August will be held as usual in the Lower Schoolroom from 10.30am till noon, so why not come along and meet your friends for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee, or you could bring a friend or neighbour with you. We're a happy, sociable bunch and always pleased to meet new friends. Look forward to seeing you there.

PAMPERING AFTERNOON SATURDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER
CRENDON HALL 1.00 – 6.00 pm

Ladies, have you got this date down in your diaries? It's an afternoon not to be missed. 20 minute mini-treatments will be available at £5 a session and you can sample Reflexology, Facials, a Manicure and Indian Head Massage. You can book appointments in advance from Sunday 21st August. Rose C will have the details. Entry will be £1 and tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

TRINITY AUTUMN FAYRE SATURDAY 15th OCTOBER

This event will be held in Crendon Hall and opened at 2.00pm by Mr Jim Tanner. Have you had a chance yet to think up ideas for different stalls or perhaps a sideshow? We would welcome your thoughts and offers of help, the more the merrier. October 15th is only 76 days away and with holidays in between, we really need to start planning now. If you can help out in any way **PLEASE** have a word with either Rose C, Audrey R, Joy S or Margaret L.

THANK YOU.

MIKE'S INDUCTION AT COGGESHALL

Mike is to be inducted into the Pastorates of Coggeshall and Great Notley on Sunday 4th September and the service will be held at Christ Church, Coggeshall at 4pm. If you would like to attend this service and would like transport, would you please make sure your name is on the list which is by the coffee bar in the Lower Schoolroom. If you need any more information, please see me.

Margaret L

Unfortunately, a parting humorous item from Mike has fallen foul of the editor's nightmare - a lack of space. Don't miss next month's Recorder to catch up on "Jewish tradition"! [Ed]

MakePovertyHistory

Dear friends,

The G8 summit in Gleneagles has finished with world leaders falling short of what is needed to end global poverty - but the fight for more action will continue.

The G8 leaders promised up to \$50bn in aid, ratified existing debt cancellation agreements, but said little on trade. On trade justice, there is language on letting African countries set their own trade policies but it falls short of a clear commitment. (see attached DETAILED STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO G8 COMMUNIQUE. There is still much to be done.

MESSAGE TO SUPPORTERS from MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

Never before have so many people stood in solidarity with the poor. While there is a great deal more G8 leaders should have done in Gleneagles, today they responded to our roar for justice by making significant commitments to increase aid, cancel some of the debts of some of the world's poorest countries, and saying they will apply fewer conditions to them. These commitments will give hope to millions, and they're down to you.

Are you wearing a white band? Remembering the thousands of emails you've sent? Did you rally along with quarter of a million people in Edinburgh last weekend? Then you helped deliver the pressure that made 2005 the year the world accelerated on the road towards justice.

The announcement from the G8 marks a turning point in the human story, but it falls far short of the plan that would truly make poverty history. To do that, and secure a place in history, world leaders must go a lot further at the UN Millennium Development Goals summit and world trade talks. Millions of people are trapped in the prison of poverty. Today the G8 chose not to do all that we have asked them that could set those people free. The people of the world are already on the road to justice. They expect their leaders to be with them. The G8 need to run much faster to catch up.

Three messages to you all:

Firstly, to all who went to Edinburgh and took part in the largest demonstration that Scotland has ever seen - thank you. July 2nd, Edinburgh and the Live8 Concerts together were a Kairos moment, a spirit-filled moment when millions roared at world leaders. General Assembly was very aware of events in Edinburgh and was shown footage from the Meadows and from the March. We need to keep up the clamour but have no doubt that your presence in Edinburgh, your vigils back home is all part of creating the climate in which politicians operate.

Secondly, the campaign goes on. General Assembly passed this resolution:

"As part of the United Reformed Church's renewed commitment to challenging the world's injustices under Catch the Vision, General Assembly warmly welcomes the MakePovertyHistory campaign and calls on all relevant councils of the church to engage fully and imaginatively with the campaign actions for the remainder of the year"

This is your mandate for action – your encouragement to renew our efforts for Christ's sake.

Thirdly, trade justice is the issue on which least progress has been made to date – this being the hardest issue to achieve (though at least now issues of subsidies and enforced liberalisation are much more widely understood as the causes of poverty). The resources from the United Reformed Church to help you to engage fully and imaginatively with the campaign actions for the rest of 2005 are '**Nine Lives**' – stories of how trade liberalisation is harming people in different ways across the world, and **Praying for a Change 2**. Praying for a Change points to the key dates in the latter half of the year – the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals and the World Trade Organisation meeting in December.

These have been sent to all Commitment for Life Churches but ask if you have not seen them.

Be of good heart for there is much to win.

The world needs the church to sustain the pressure for a more secure world for all.

Shalom

Anne and Helen (*URC MpH co-ordinators*)

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

DETAILED STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO G8 COMMUNIQUE

Make Poverty History has become an unprecedented movement of passion, energy and solidarity. Never before have so many people in the world come together, fully united in demanding action to end poverty, with a roar for justice that they felt was impossible to ignore. Today the G8 have chosen not to do all that campaigners insist is necessary to free people trapped in the prison of poverty. Important steps have been taken - steps that will bring hope to millions.

But more action is urgently needed if they are to play their role in bringing about real change for the world's poorest people and consigning extreme poverty to the history books.

To secure a deserved place in history, the G8 must go a lot further and secure real change by working with other world leaders at the UN summit on the Millennium Development Goals and talks around the World Trade Organisation. The people of the world are already on the road to justice. They expect their leaders to be with them. Today's announcement has shown that the G8 need to run much faster to catch up.

TRADE

The G8 have not met the challenge of trade justice as clearly set out by Make Poverty History. There is language in the communiqué on letting African countries set their own trade policies. Yet at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) they continue to force open developing country markets.

What we have asked for is action not words.

G8 leaders decided not to set a date for ending the export subsidies that destroy livelihoods of poor countries around the world. By forcing free trade on poor countries, dumping agricultural products and not regulating multinational companies they have chosen not to take the necessary decisions to make poverty history.

The challenge of trade justice remains. The governments of the G8 must now urgently take these steps at the WTO and in other trade negotiations as well as through the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Rich countries are the obstacles to trade justice. This must stop if trade is to benefit the poor rather than keep them in poverty.

DEBT

The G8 has done no more than confirm the proposed deal by the G8 Finance Ministers, cancelling some of the debt owed by some countries. The principle of cancelling 100 per cent of the debt owed to multilateral institutions is a positive step, and a tribute to the unceasing efforts of Make Poverty History campaigners and campaigners worldwide; but this debt deal is a small step compared to the giant leap that was called for.

While an important contribution, the G8 debt deal will provide less than \$1 billion this year - the equivalent of no more than one dollar per person in the countries that are due to benefit. It is an inadequate response to the global debt crisis, which needs an estimated \$10 billion a year of debt cancellation to eradicate extreme poverty.

Major issues on debt remain unresolved - the damaging economic policy conditions attached to debt relief, the many indebted countries not on the list, debts not covered by the deal.

So there is much more work to be done - the deal is yet to be ratified and then it needs to be delivered. Our campaigners expect more and will be continuing to seek significant improvements and advances during the rest of the year.

[continued on page 8]

AID

While this aid increase is a step forward, it is far from the historic deal that millions around the world have been demanding.

There is no doubt that this aid increase will save lives and Make Poverty History campaigners can be really proud of the role they have played in securing it. But this aid will still arrive five years too late and falls far short of the scale of aid that is needed to end poverty in the world's poorest countries. In real terms, much of the pledged funds are a restatement of recent aid announcements.

For most of the 50 million children who will die of poverty over the next five years, the G8 leaders have offered too little, too late. By 2010, we will still see the awful inequity whereby a child dies every 3.5 seconds, just because they are poor.

The G8's promise of US\$48 billion boost to aid in five years is mostly made up of money already pledged. MPH calculates that only around US\$20 billion is new money. Some of this money is also likely to be raised through borrowing from future aid budgets, rather than new contributions.

Make Poverty History welcomes the G8's recognition that poor countries should be free to decide their own economic policies. These words must now be turned into actions by putting an end to the damaging conditions that the World Bank and IMF push on impoverished countries.

If the G8 are really serious about reducing poverty, they should be doing much more to improve the quality of their aid, including untying aid from donors' goods and services and ensuring that aid is focused on the poorest.

On both areas, they have offered warm words, but little in terms of concrete commitments.

HIV/AIDS

G8 leaders have produced one of the summit's successes by responding courageously to the scale of the AIDS emergency. In pledging AIDS treatment to everyone who requires it by 2010, the G8 have started to restore hope to the 40 million people currently living- and dying- with HIV.

However, insufficient new aid will undermine the target's delivery. The additional aid announced today is not sufficient or fast enough to truly make AIDS history.

Positive people will now be looking to donors to deliver full AIDS funding at the Global Fund Replenishment conference this September. Without adequate financing, this bold and visionary target could become another of the broken promises that litter the history of the pandemic.

UK GOVERNMENT

In the last 20 years the G8 has repeatedly failed to take the action it could to eradicate poverty. This has been an unprecedented year in which millions of people have campaigned to make poverty history and the UK government have responded by placing Africa on the agenda as a priority for the G8.

They have worked hard with European Union and G8 colleagues to deliver significant steps towards debt cancellation and more and better aid. Throughout this summit, the UK government have demonstrated leadership on these vital issues

The G8 choosing not to deliver all that campaigners feel is necessary will disappoint the millions of campaigners in the UK but we will judge the UK government by its contribution to the delivery of all our campaign demands for trade justice not free trade, more and better aid and debt cancellation for all developing countries.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The G8 has missed the opportunity to make progress on climate change, the impacts of which are already affecting poor countries and will seriously undermine efforts to eliminate poverty in the long term. We now look to the UK's Presidency of the EU for effective action to rectify this lack of progress.

Wanted !

voices
Lonely hearts- column

ADVERTISEMENT

Lonely tenor WLTM men with high voices & exhibitionist tendencies, at Choir practice, at 8pm on Thursday 7 September, in the Lower School Room. Come and have a go - please!

Tony

FLOWER ROTA

Is there anyone who could please take on the task of organising the monthly flower rota and then giving the details to Angus Massie for inclusion in the Recorder? There are about 10 or 12 ladies who are willing to arrange the flowers for Sunday morning services and a flower fund is available. Also, if you would like to join the flower rota, you would be most welcome.

Please see Margaret L if you can help.

Changes of address



Item omitted from this edition

I would like to say a big Thank You to the many people who have helped me in so many different ways since my unfortunate fall down the steps in the organ loft. I was visited, fed, telephoned, and generally supported during a very painful period. My special thanks go to my neighbour (Elsje Hatton's sister) who has been tireless in her care. Not only did she look after me throughout, she also cut the lawn and weeded my borders for good measure! When I needed a neighbour, she was certainly there!!

Thanks also to Simon and Colin who have set about repairing the steps, putting in a handrail and improving the lighting for other organists.

As a "disabled" person, I have now had first hand experience of the inaccessibility of our buildings. I found the front steps with a sturdy hand rail not too bad, but the long trek up the cobbled side path that sent shock waves through my back as I trundled my zimmer on the way to the Lower Schoolroom was an agonising experience.

Please, please, let's get on with fund raising to put our first phase of improvements into action. A minor accident can make even the fittest vulnerable. How much more, then, must it affect people who are more permanently disabled?

It would be sad indeed if, when we most need our church, the very buildings that we preserve become the obstacles which prevent our entry.

Audrey B

Autumn Academy 2005

“Let me tell you a story...?”

Come along to the 2005 Autumn Academy and reflect on how our personal stories as individuals and worshipping congregations interact with the greatest story ever told - the epic tale of God's love for the world and the reclaiming of creation. We may know the stories contained within scripture, but can we share these with people who perhaps have never heard them, or who think of them as equivalent to fairy tales? Can we convey the truth of the old, old story in a new way? Can we gossip the Gospel in an age of texting, e-mails and reality television? Come and see.

Our main session leader for the weekend is Revd Stephen Thornton, currently in ministry with a congregation in Fleet in Hampshire, who has previous experience as Director of Training for Wessex Synod and pastoral ministry in the North of England. Additional workshops will be led by Joyce Berry, Lay Leader with the Islington & Stoke Newington Area of Shared Ministry who teaches in Hackney and has storytelling skills and interest; and by Lucy Berry, a poet and Elder at Muswell Hill United Reformed Church, who regularly contributes poetry to the Jeremy Vine show on Radio 2. Our worship leader will be Revd Daphne Williams, Senior Chaplain at the Whittington Hospital and Silence & Retreats Link Person for the Synod. Revd Fiona Thomas, Synod Training Officer is the overall coordinator for the event.

The cost of the weekend is £100, for full residence from Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime. Day visitors will be charged pro-rata. United Reformed Church/LEP participants will be eligible for a grant of up to 50% of the cost from the Synod Lay Development Fund, while people from other churches are encouraged to approach their own denominations for financial support if necessary.

Further details and a booking form are available from:

Sue Russell, PA Development and Training
Thames North Synod of the United Reformed Church
Ipalo House, 32-34 Great Peter Street, London, SW 1 P 2DB
Tel: 020 7799 5000, sue.russell~urcl0.org

Bookings must be received by Monday 3 October at the latest

Good idea for all ?

Following the disaster in London . . .

East Anglian Ambulance Service have launched a national "In case of Emergency (ICE) " campaign with the support of Falklands war hero Simon Weston.

The idea is that you store the word " I C E " in your mobile phone address book, and against it enter the number of the person you would want to be contacted "In Case of Emergency".

In an emergency situation ambulance and hospital staff will then be able to quickly find out who your next of kin are and be able to contact them. It's so simple that everyone can do it. Please do.

Please will you also email this to everybody in your address book, it won't take too many 'forwards' before everybody will know about this. It really could save your life, or put a loved one's mind at rest.

For more than one contact name ICE1, ICE2, ICE3 etc.

The editor has received information suggesting that this is a scam which can cause unsolicited calls to be made from your mobile phone - thereby incurring charges. Others may have heard this also, however - **there is no evidence to support this view.**

'FAREWELL TO THE SHRUBSOLES'

What a lovely evening we had on July 23rd when we had a farewell party in Crendon Hall. The hall had been made ready in the morning. Tables and chairs had been set up and the stage erected for the band and 40 lavender coloured balloons blown up and bunched around the room together with banners proclaiming 'Sorry You're Leaving'. With white cloths and lavender serviettes and candles the hall looked very festive. Anne Harding had organised a wonderful buffet with contributions from many people and what a spread it was.

We gathered at 6 o'clock and after chatting for a short while, we tucked into the delicious food. Ian Buchanan then expressed our thanks to Mike and Louise for all that they had done for the church and Mike for his ministry among us over the last seven years. He finished by presenting a cheque to Mike and Louise with the love and grateful thanks of the Trinity Family and asked them to buy something that they would really enjoy and that would remind them of us.

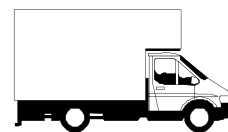
Then it was over to Mike and Louise for their part of the evening. They had booked the Bodger's Wood Band with their caller for a Barn Dance and what fun we had. Everyone was encouraged to join in the dances, the very young, the quite young and the not so young. And in between, while we got our breath back we were entertained with a solo Morris Dance, and also a demonstration of hand puppets, that the children also had a go at. But all good things must come to an end and so at 10 o'clock we had the last dance, gave our thanks to Mike & Louise and tidied everything away.

It was a wonderful party, enjoyed by everyone and our thanks to those who worked so hard to make it a success. For the preparation of the hall, setting up the sound system, arranging and serving the buffet and also clearing it away and of course the clearing up at the end of the evening. It is an evening that we will remember and talk about for a long time.

We will miss you Mike and Louise and thank you again for all your caring love and devotion to us and the church over the last seven years and you Mike for you inspirational leadership, guidance and teaching

God bless you all.

Item omitted from this edition



*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 28th August
Closing date for contributions is Friday 19th August*

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

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

prayer page
(prepared by the minister)

This month's prayer page is composed of 'Bible Prayers' from the book of the same name by Michael Perry.

Drawing Near to God - from Isaiah 55

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near:
Forsake all wicked ways and evil thoughts.
Turn to the Lord, that he may have mercy on you,
And to our God, who will freely grant you his pardon.

Confessing our Sins - from Psalm 101

Lord God, our hearts are guilty,
we have been dishonest,
we have looked on evil,
we have clung to our selfish ways.
We have talked about others behind their backs
with haughty eyes and a proud heart.
Lord, forgive us and help us;
Renew us in righteousness every morning:
Make our lives faithful
And our talk blameless
That we may live in your presence for ever.

An Affirmation of Faith
- from Philipians 2

(Getting gradually quieter)
Equal with God
Jesus is Lord
Emptied himself
Jesus is Lord
Came as a slave
Jesus is Lord
Found as a man
Jesus is Lord
Humbly obeyed
Jesus is Lord
Went to his death
Jesus is Lord
Death on a cross
Jesus is Lord
(Getting gradually louder)
God raised him up
Jesus is Lord
Gave him the name
Jesus is Lord
Higher than all
Jesus is Lord
Every knee bow
Jesus is Lord
All tongues confess
Jesus is Lord



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Praying Together
From Isaiah 61

Sovereign Lord, you have anointed us with your Spirit, and have sent us to preach good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to announce freedom to the captives and release for the prisoners of darkness; to proclaim your grace and your judgement, to provide for those who mourn. Bless all to whom we go; bring your beauty into their lives, joy instead of mourning, praise instead of despair; through us, make them like trees you have planted, rooted in righteousness, that they may display your splendour; through Jesus Christ our saviour.

Offering our Gifts to God - from 2 Corinthians 8

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ,
That though you were rich,
yet for us you became poor
that we through your poverty
might become rich.
By your grace
Let our riches supply the needs of others,
So that we may not have too much,
And they may not have too little;
For your names sake. Amen.