



August 2006

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,

As I write this, I have just returned from the Anglo-French Protestant Conference in Birmingham, where we were fed and given hospitality by members of Wylde Green URC (Linda Curley's home church).

On Sunday we attended morning service in a church in Coventry. This was very similar to Trinity, but they had realised all the improvements that we are still planning, so I was very interested in the finished design.

At the front they added a large attractive vestibule where we gathered to chat on arrival, in which were toilets and facilities for making and serving coffee. Inside, the sanctuary had pillars and gallery with organ behind the pulpit, and was about the same size as ours. The organ console had been moved to the right of the dais, and the original pulpit replaced by a smaller, moveable, but tastefully designed lectern/pulpit in the middle of the enlarged dais. The design of the dais was similar to the one proposed here, and together with the sanctuary was carpeted in a plain, rich, rose-pink carpet which gave a feeling of warmth and space. I gather there had been long negotiations over the pews, but eventually they were replaced by chairs, upholstered in material toning in with the carpet. Modern lighting in a lowered ceiling completed the impression of a peaceful, worshipful atmosphere.

But the pièce de resistance was still to be seen. Because they had owned land which the City Council needed for building, they had funding and space to build a large, glass-domed dining room and kitchen, and they employed a chef to cater for their Outreach projects!! Needless to say, we were served an excellent Sunday lunch.

I was full of admiration for the whole project as I spoke with one of the members, so I was rather taken aback when she replied, "Yes, but we aren't very spiritual." I realised then that there had been only two children in church that morning, and apart from our delegation of about 30, a small congregation.

Perhaps they had been too active socially and had neglected their spiritual development, or perhaps this was only the opinion of just one person, but as I returned home, that lady's remark brought into my mind two verses which wouldn't go away. I share them with you.


Psalm 127, v1 – "Unless the Lord buildeth the house, the builders labour in vain", and John 15, v5 – "I am the vine; you are the branches . . . apart from me you can do nothing."

This is something that we in Trinity should take to heart, I feel. By all means let us update and improve our old fashioned buildings to make them suitable for modern use, but let us not lose sight of what our real purpose is – to worship and witness to Christ, and to encourage others on their spiritual journey.

We need to remember that we are branches that cannot bear fruit unless we are attached to Christ, the vine, and that we must allow God our Father to be the gardener to prune and shape, as He sees fit.

I wish you all happy holy-days, whether you are away or at home, that will bring you physical and spiritual refreshment and renewal for the work that we have to do.

Yours,



Minister : <i>There is no minister in post at present</i>
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Church Secretary : e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk
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August Services

Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

August 6th - Communion - Revd Erna Stevenson

August 13th - Mr Andrew Winton

August 20th - The Amersham preaching team

August 27th - Mrs Sue McCoan

Rotas for August

Not included in this version

What's on in August

WOMEN'S MEETING

We are on holiday until September, but we have one special meeting this month.

Tuesday 8th August - Margaret L invites us to her garden.
We meet at 2:30pm. See Olive Shepherd for lifts.



Scrabble

Relax - no-one cares about Scrabble this month!

Diary Dates

- 8 August - 8pm Elders' Meeting
- 20 August - Church Lunch
- 3 September - Morning Worship led by a Minister to 'preach with a view' (see page 7)
- 5 September - 7.30pm Elders' Meeting
8.15pm Church Meeting to vote on above
- 9 September - Pamper Afternoon
- 24 September - Harvest Thanksgiving led by Junior Church (see page?)
- 14 October - 2pm - Autumn Fayre
- 17 November - St Andrew's Dinner Dance

Not included in this version

Win Coulson – Committal and Service of Celebration, 12th July

We wish to thank everyone for their thoughtful cards and expressions of sympathy on the death of Joy's mother. The kindness of our church family has been a great comfort to us at this difficult time.

Special thanks go to Andrew B, Angus M, and Simon E for their invaluable help with the service at Trinity and to Rose C and Margaret L for sorting out the buffet lunch for us, together with the other helpers. Everything went really well. (Apologies to anyone we have left out unintentionally.) We thank you **all** most sincerely on behalf of our family.

God bless.

Joy and John S

It was a pleasure to play for the above service on 12th July. It can often be very difficult to get funeral congregations to sing, but on this occasion they did Winnie proud. The three rousing hymns were given a good airing by the many people attending. It was indeed a service of Celebration.

Angus

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe A Prayer

Open my eyes that they might see
The deepest needs of the people;
Move my hands that they may feed the hungry;
Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing;
Teach me generosity that welcomes strangers;
Let me share my possessions to clothe the naked;
Give me the care that strengthens the sick;
Make me share in the quest to set the prisoner free.
In sharing our anxieties and our love, our poverty and our prosperity, we partake of your divine presence
(©Canaan Banana, Zimbabwe)

One Year On

Hundreds of Christians have held a procession in Zimbabwe's second largest city of Bulawayo, in defiance of the authorities, to mark the anniversary of "Operation Drive Out Filth". "The march went on as planned despite the earlier ban by the police," Useni Sibanda, spokesperson of the Zimbabwe Christian Alliance told Ecumenical News International.

"At least 600 people participated undeterred by the heavy police presence."

Zimbabwean police banned the march which they had approved earlier after invoking the Public Order and Security Act which prohibits political rallies or marches without police clearance, and stems from a law introduced by white minority rulers before independence.

The church alliance had pledged to defy the ban and go ahead with the procession, arguing that religious meetings or marches were not covered under the security law.

"Operation Drive Out Filth" was an act that regime critics said was to punish people who voted against the government and to force them into re-education camps. The government argued the blitz was to rid Zimbabwe's cities of crime and grime. Churches in Bulawayo provided food and shelter to at least 2000 victims and some of them gave testimonies of life after the demolitions at the start of the prayer procession.

A United Nations report last year said the crackdown left at least 700,000 homeless and affected at least 1.2 million in various ways. Rights groups said after a tour of settlements where the victims had built new homes last week, that they were living in destitution a year after the destruction of their former dwellings. Church and rights groups were planning eight weeks of meetings, marches and prayers to remember the plight of victims of the crackdown.

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Autumn Fayre - 14th October - 2pm
Could you please help to collect any of the following items for the Fayre.
(See Audrey R for any more information)

New Gifts

Jewellery

Tombola items

Jigsaws

Groceries

Books

Bottles

A VERY IMPORTANT DATE FOR TRINITY!

SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

On Sunday 3 September and following the decision of the Church Meeting held on 17 July an ordained minister has been invited to 'preach with a view'. We hope that as many members and friends as possible will be present on this important occasion in the life of our church.

As usual the service will include the celebration of Holy Communion. It will be followed by a light lunch and a question and answer session. If you have any questions you'd like to ask please could let Marian Mole have them by Sunday 27 August but there will be an opportunity to ask additional questions during the afternoon of 3 September.

A Church Meeting will be held at 8.15pm on Tuesday 5 September to discuss and vote as to whether we call this minister or not. Postal votes will be considered if you have attended the service but cannot be present at the Church Meeting.

At the moment details of the minister are confidential although they were discussed at the Church Meeting. If you want to contribute to the calling, or not as the case may be, of this minister to Trinity make sure you're present on 3 & 5 September.

Please pray for God's guidance for us all at Trinity and also the minister as we prepare for this important time. [MM]

A couple of things from Churches Together.

The Churches together BBQ held in the grounds of All Saints Parish Church was a great success all the town centre churches were well represented with volunteer helpers from the various churches getting involved with a variety of tasks from cooking to handing out invitations and talking to our guests of which there were approximately 1500. I am given to understand that Tesco's, Sainsbury and Morrison's ran out of French sticks and burgers during the two days the event was on. A huge vote of thanks must go to the Rev Moira Peters of Wesley Methodist Church for all her hard work and for being the driving force behind the event. May I also thank those members of Trinity who also gave of their time and talents to help make the event so successful. It is hoped that the BBQ will be an annual event and there is already talk about next years event.

On page 13, you will find the summary of a meeting held at Union Baptist Church on 8th June on ways that we can jointly meet the needs of people of High Wycombe.

John P



July 2006 internal fundraising report

By the time you read this we will have had the following REVIVE events:

- Craft Fair
- Cream teas
- Caribbean evening
- Barbeque

We made £175.53 profit from the barbeque from the sale of tickets and contributions for drinks. However, we also had contributions from people of salads and puddings, as well as a contribution to cover all the expenses, which increased the total for REVIVE to **£325.50!**

Other dates for your diaries:

Event & venue	Date and time	Further details
Cream teas	Thursday afternoons in August from 3 pm (transport available if required)	
St Andrew's night dinner and dance - Crendon Hall	Friday 17 November 2006	
Ladies' pampering afternoon - Crendon Hall	Saturday 9 September 2006, 1-6 pm	Omitted from this version
Autumn Fair, Crendon Hall	Saturday 14 October 2006 time tba	
Craft Fair, Trinity URC	to be confirmed	
Burns' Night Supper & Ceilidh	<i>January 2007 - to be confirmed</i>	

The funds from these are a valuable contribution towards our fundraising target but we've got a very long way to go, especially if we plan to start work in January 2007. Let's recharge our batteries over the summer and be REVIVED by the Spirit for the autumn!

Kate Y



Message from Junior Church



At last the summer holidays are here and no more school!

During the summer holidays, only the creche will be in operation. We will, however, have some activities for the older children during services - word searches, colouring, puzzles etc.

These are available at the back of the church when you come in.

Junior Church starts again on Sunday 3rd September.

We all hope you have a fun Summer holiday and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Junior Church Leaders

HARVEST THANKSGIVING 24 SEPTEMBER

Junior Church and our young people will be leading the Harvest Thanksgiving Service this year and they have requested that our gifts should go to the YMCA at Cressex, High Wycombe. The YMCA have requested items to make up toiletry starter kits to give to their clients who often arrive without anything at all, having fled there for shelter. The items are not the usual ones we associate with harvest but I'm sure you'll agree that the service is all about expressing our thanks to God for ALL his gifts to us and not just produce. So please give generously as we try to reach out in God's love to others.

DONATIONS FOR YMCA

Soap
Shampoo
Conditioner
Shower Gel

Shaving Cream
Disposable Razors
After Shave Lotion
Body Lotion

Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Flannels
Deodorant

The annual revision of the Elders' Pastoral Lists which was printed last month has already been revised / corrected. The current details are shown below and on the next page. - but not in this version!!

Ever wondered why the “Bible” is so called?

It is the **B**asic
Instruction
Before
Leaving
Earth

I thought you might be interested to know about this new BBC1 series to be broadcast from **Sunday 6th August 18.35**. I've seen a 30 minute extract and thought it was really good. The series deserves a very wide audience within the church as well as outside it. The BBC has responded to a request from church leaders for a new style of programme which asks questions of meaning rather than science. It is a bold experiment which I think works well, giving Christians a valuable opportunity to share the Gospel in natural conversation. It will also provide excellent material on video for discussion groups of all ages too.

If the BBC gets increased viewing figures it enables the Religious Programming folk to put more pressure on for other programmes and for them to be broadcast at peak viewing times, so do please pass this on! [Kate Yates]

Rageh Omaar, the presenter says, "As a Muslim I am fascinated by this man Jesus he has changed the lives of millions of people ... so lets try and ask the question 'why?'"

Today miracles are seen as supernatural acts that defy the laws of nature but in the first century AD miracles were seen as a language - a set of shared signs with meanings known only to the Jews.

The miracles possessed many layers of meaning – about history, Israel, the Romans, God and Satan, good and evil. But above all the miracles were clues to the identity of Jesus of Nazareth.

This three part series explores what the miracles said about Jesus. Who did the disciples and his followers think he was? And did Jesus see Himself as the son of God? The latest findings from history and archaeology show the answers to be as surprising as they are fascinating.

Andy Mayo - live!

Reflecting the masters of jazz and blues and his work in a Serbian bible school, Andy's music is, by turns, uplifting, thoughtful, challenging and joyful.

Come and hear him!

returning to

Christchurch, Hitchin

on Thurs Sept 7th @ 7.30pm

Tickets (£5) and further details from:

Cath Edmonds (01462) 456045

Summary of 'Reaching Our Community' Meeting - 8th June - The Hub, Easton Street

- 18 people attended representing 7 churches
- Most people wanted to collaborate, share best practice and learn new ideas.
- Themes of parenting, homelessness and work with students were already on people's minds at the beginning.

Ideas suggested for future work:

Managing Money:

- Credit Union – already started by the Methodist Church for further details contact Rev Moyra Peters
- 'How to manage your Money and credit cards' courses would be useful
- Citizens Advice happy to run courses to teach financial management to 'at risk' groups
- Raise awareness of Benefits available – take-up often very low as people often not aware of what they are entitled to.

Relationships and Family related:

- PACES (Pregnancy, Advice, Counselling, Education and Support) small Christian charity doing very good work in pregnancy and post abortion counselling. Needs higher profile, more volunteers, prayer and financial support.
- Divorce and separation recovery group – run by Chris Pignon at Kings – very much needed but needs more volunteers who can be trained to do the work
- Parenting Courses – run by Chrissie Pignon at Kings will train trainers to go out and run courses in other churches
- Marriage enrichment courses are being run by St Andrews church – contact Barbara Prior for more details.

Eden Project and other Town centre outreach

- Kings ideally placed to reach out to new shops and thinking about how to do that.
- Nicky Tottle is involved in consultations to do work in the Eden project itself but details not known
- Fairtrade 'plus' market stall in town centre– Union Baptist and John from URC interested
- 'Healing Rooms' ministry is becoming a country wide ministry. Further details Paul and Eve Clift - contact@healingroomshalifax.com 01422 345654 or 'Preparing the Way' by Cal Pierce (McDougal Publishing) www.healingrooms.com - those interested were St A who already do lot of healing ministry, Totteridge Baptist and Union Baptist.

Homelessness and related topics

- Emergency night shelter - Union concerned about need for this and want to take it further
- Addiction to Employment Project – Union along with ACT and Probation have been given £8,000 of funding from the Bucks Foundation to run a project to provide clients with opportunity to do voluntary work under supervision in churches or charities to help the clients build up their confidence enough to seek employment. – once project up and running, will be seeking churches to provide projects such as painting and decorating for the project. – Julia from Quakers and Louise from Totteridge interested.

Relationships with Minority Ethnic groups

- Been resistance to building of new mosques and Muslims have had difficulty finding adequate venues for weddings and other family and religious ceremonies. Support for them is requested
- Mums and Tots groups have high numbers of Muslim women who are very open to talking about spiritual issues and indeed expect older women to be teaching them about spiritual things. – seen as an important outreach opportunity.

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

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

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

prayer page

God of all goodness,
you gave your only Son,
because you loved the world so much.

We pray for the peace of the world – the peace that comes from
you alone.
Move among us by your Spirit,
and break down all barriers of fear, suspicion, racism and hatred.
Heal your people and Church of our divisions
and draw us together with bonds of justice and peace.



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2006

We pray for our country,
remembering the tensions between cultures, religions,
classes and genders.
Help us to appreciate differences, to find commonality,
and see each person as being made in your image, O God.

Teach us to share the prosperity we have
so that those whose lives are impoverished
may be changed from need and despair
to life in its fullness,
and experience the joy of
being in your Kingdom.
Amen.

O God, our hearts are restless until they rest in thee,
our souls are hungry until fed by thee,
our wills are divided until untied with thee.
Give us grace to love what we long to love,
to do what we long to do,
to be what we long to be,
to live in godliness since it is to live in thee,
O God, our Lord and our Redeemer.

from *Asking God*, by Oliver Tomkins

In these troubled times, we pray for:

- peace negotiators – for wisdom and patience
- the emergency services – give thanks for their skill and resilience
- the military services – that they may not lose their humanity in the course of duty
- our own Government – for wisdom and humility
- world leaders and those in positions of authority
- those in religious orders – give thanks for their prayers of intercession