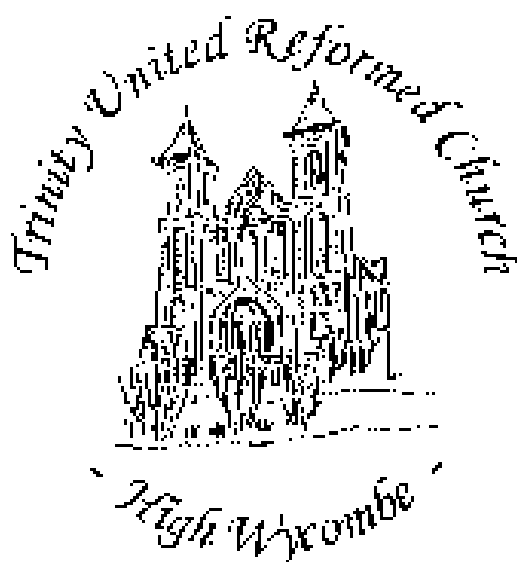


The Lord is my strength and my might;  
He has become my salvation.  
*Psalm 118 v.14*



*August 2007*

# *The Recorder*

## **Inside - this month . . .**

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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,

Before the month is out part of our premises will have become a building site as the long-locked door facing the approach to Railway Place car park is opened up and replaced. Soon we shall be going in and out that way, under shelter of a new porch roof. Once in the building we shall be able to turn right into the church or left along a new corridor that will take us around past the kitchen and to the stairs. It will no longer be necessary to interrupt whatever is going on in the Lower Schoolroom, but if that is where you are heading then just go in, straight through from the new entrance. The toilets that have served generations and are well past their 'sell by date' will be replaced with up-to-date facilities situated conveniently near the new entrance.

The one day a week I work at Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College is also spent in the midst of a building site as the front section of the Queen Alexandra Road Campus is being demolished. The Chaplaincy has had to move out of its 'Drop-in' office and abandon the upstairs chapel cum meeting room. We have re-located for the time being to a shared office along the first-floor Student Services corridor. We hope, a year hence, to be able to occupy more suitable premises. In the meantime rooms nearby can be booked for meetings and we arrange to have non-confidential conversations in the College's smart new cafeteria. In the main reception area there is a model of what is to replace the old building that is currently being knocked down. The new building looks light and beautiful, with graceful lines and imaginative design.

Getting ready for this building work to be done has meant, in both places, hours spent with others emptying cupboards and filing cabinets, sorting out piles of papers and discovering objects that had lain undisturbed for some considerable time. At Trinity we found a rather lovely picture of the front of the church with people walking by in mid-nineteenth century dress. In the 'chapel' at BCUC we found books that we hadn't realised were there, but now want to read.

Building sites mean mess and disruption. Building sites mean treasures unearthed. Building sites mean hopes in the process of being realised.

All this has set me thinking about lives as building sites. Not an original thought, I know. But it has sent me back to look at what St. Paul and St. Peter wrote about lives as building sites. As Christian people, we are, I am reminded, being built into a spiritual house. In fact, on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and with Christ Jesus himself as the keystone, we are being built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. WE are God's building. How amazing is that!



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins

e-mail: [gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk)

Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole,

e-mail: [secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk)

## **August Services**

### **Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am**

August 5th - Communion Revd Angela Singleton (Retired Methodist Minister)

August 12th - Mr John Shaw (Oxfam and Wendover United Church - Methodist Lay Preacher)

August 19th - All Age Worship - Mrs Barbara Sparks (Wesley Methodist - Lay Preacher)

August 26th - Revd Dr Gwen Collins

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### **Rotas for August**

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in August

## WOMEN'S MEETING

There are NO meetings this month. Watch this space for the time and PLACE of the first meeting in September.



## Diary Dates

2-21 August	Gwen on holiday
18-22 August	Trinity Guides camping at Thirtover Place, Berkshire
23 August	8pm REVIVE Meeting
24-27 August	Green Belt Festival (Gwen & our Youth Groups will be attending)
26 August	Songs of Praise Service led by the Elders
1 September	Elders' Day at Worminghall
4 September	8pm Elders' Meeting
11 September	8pm Church Meeting
16 September	Harvest Thanksgiving
1 October	Bible First
2 October	8pm Elders' Meeting
6 October	Autumn Fayre

### **Think positively**

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.

know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough."

*[Submitted by Andrew Winton]*

**Not included in this version**

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## **Truthful Job Descriptions**

A programmer is someone who solves a problem you didn't know you had in a way you don't understand.

A consultant is someone who takes the watch off your wrist and tells you the time.

A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining and wants it back the minute it begins to rain.

An economist is an expert who will know tomorrow why the things he predicted yesterday didn't happen today.

A statistician is someone who is good with numbers but lacks the personality to be an accountant.

An actuary is someone who brings a fake bomb on a plane, because that decreases the chances that there will be another bomb on the plane.

A mathematician is a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat which isn't there.

A lawyer is a person who writes a 10,000 word document and calls it a "brief."

A psychologist is a man who watches everyone else when a beautiful girl enters the room.

A professor is one who talks in someone else's sleep.

A schoolteacher is a disillusioned woman who used to think she liked children.

A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip.

# Commitment for Life

## Zimbabwe

Last week I managed to pay primary school fees for a child of a young widow. Primary school used to be free, but the fees now come to Z\$86,000, less than 2 pounds at today's street exchange rate, but as much as many employed people earn in a month. Then there is, as always, a long list of uniform to be bought, costing a lot more, but parents may have ways of arguing their way out of that. The previous week, the child's mother lost her whole stock of bananas and tomatoes which she sells in the street as her only income. The police had been up and about earlier than usual, so she lost the lot before she had sold any. She had paid Z\$150,000 for them, her whole working capital.

Since then, the price of the staple maize meal has gone up several hundred percent, making it temporarily more expensive than potatoes, so anyone with the money would be better to buy a sack of potatoes before their price increases proportionately. But how are the poor to live? Earlier this year, you may have seen Harare described as the most expensive city in the world for expatriates, but that is only because the calculations were done assuming they use the official exchange rate, then Z\$250 to US\$1, but expatriates all use the black market rate, then about Z\$10,000 to the greenback, which puts it all in a different light, but for local people, who have to live on a pittance with prices rising daily, things just get more and more difficult.

Brian McGarry Jesuit Mission

## All you need is a hoe

Christian Aid partner Christian Care, is working with local rural communities to help them make a real difference to the amount of food they harvest. VB Ndlovu, an agriculturalist for Christian Care, explained how farmers are taught a method lovingly called 'God's blanket'. Mulch is put over the soil which stops precious rain being lost. Individual holes are prepared with manure and when the rains are due, seeds are planted. By working in this way, results have been amazing. The corn is both healthy and plentiful. This method has also produced good quality sorgum and millet for food. When asked what made conservation farming work so well,

VB explained "All that is needed is a hoe! By doing everything at the right time, to high standards, with minimum wastage and with joy. All this makes for a good harvest."

Christian Care work with around 400 families who, in turn, teach others families. Conservation farming is helping people cope in increasingly difficult circumstances and has led to a five fold increase in production. It is a positive step, as VB said, from "enslavement to liberty".

Read more about VB and Christian Care in this year's Christian Aid Harvest materials.

## Bangladesh

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May David Baroi finally got on the plane home, after his first ever trip outside Asia. David works in northwest Bangladesh, for CCDB's Ethnic Communities Development Programme in Dinajpur. So ends his three week whirlwind tour of churches in England and Scotland, hosted by Commitment for Life and Christian Aid. It was just as well, when he arrived in a cool, windy Scotland that he said, "it would be better for me if I could kindly be provided with warm waterproof shoes, warm jumpers and a warm jacket." He has certainly needed them!

David leads a team of 32 who work amongst 5 different groups of Adivasis people, or indigenous tribal people in the Dinajpur area of northwest Bangladesh. The Adivasis are ethnically and culturally quite different from the majority of Bangladeshis. Uneducated, with their own languages and no written tradition, with their own cultures and religious practices, they are marginalised and discriminated against -- these are indeed Bangladesh's 'poorest of the poor'.

Historically, the Adivasis held and worked their land communally, without any concept of individual ownership, yet now they are landless. And without land, they cannot lift themselves out of poverty. They work as day-labourers -- for a wage of about 50 pence a day -- instead of being able to grow their own food on their own land.

CCDB is doing a lot of good things here such as helping the Adivasis to redeem their mortgaged land and grow their own food. Women particularly are taking an active part in local affairs. CCDB is providing day-care centres, where children are looked after while their mothers work in the fields.

Here they are properly fed, and receive medical care, and the older ones also receive primary

education. CCDB is undoubtedly making a difference, taking people out of hopeless poverty, into a situation with more food, better health, more education, more opportunities, giving them a proper dignity and the prospect of a real career path. David said CCDB is 'renowned' in Bangladesh as a well run organisation.

All this was very interesting of course. But we were just as interested to know what David's reactions were to being in the UK. When asked what had struck him most here, David said, the wastefulness -- of water, of consumer goods, of food. Asked if it upset him to see how we live, he said, in his very polite, understated way:

'In Bangladesh people may have no food in the house but they smile. In Scotland, sometimes I see those foods are thrown out that could save thousands. I am sorry for this.'

Barbara Bruce: Helensburgh United Reformed Church

By the time this is printed we will be about two weeks away from the first part of our redevelopment! It seems as if we have been waiting a long time to get to this moment, and of course there is still a long way to go before phase 1 of the west entrance and new toilets is completed.



Whilst we have not had any big fundraising events recently, money still continues to come in from various tea parties, church lunches, sponsored events, skills sharing, donations and promises of intent.

Thank you for your work, support and prayer so far. Please continue to pray – for funds, for all of us who use the church building and will be coping with doing things differently over the coming weeks, for the workmen, and of course the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee who are considering our revised proposal for the sanctuary.

*Kate Yates*

**Revive yourself!!**

**For Sale**

Pale green all leather reclining easy chair

Excellent condition

£85

Proceeds to go to to **Revive** Fund

Please ring Audrey R

### **HARVEST THANKSGIVING 16 SEPTEMBER**

Harvest Thanksgiving this year will be an All Age Worship Service on Sunday 16 September and we will again be supporting the YMCA at Cressex to provide items for their clients who often arrive without money or possessions.

Listed below are some of the food items they would appreciate but anything which has a long shelf-life and can be cooked easily will be very acceptable so please give generously as we try to reach out in God's love to others.

#### **DONATIONS FOR YMCA**

Pasta	Ready made Sauces	Tinned Fruit
Rice	Tinned Tuna	Tea
Spaghetti	Tinned Meats	Coffee
Baked Beans	Tinned Tomatoes	Sugar
Biscuits		



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECISIONS

The United Reformed Church General Assembly was held in Manchester, July 7 – 10. I was there as one of the Chiltern District representatives. At Church Meeting I gave a brief report and promised to give more details in the Recorder. Here, then, are some of the decisions that were made.

### On Climate Change

General Assembly:

- i) notes with approval the work already underway on climate change, and reaffirms the need to build this into the whole life of the Local Church;
- ii) recognises that all society, including the URC, must shrink its carbon footprint;
- iii) calls upon the Church and Society Committee
  - a) to determine how carbon emissions can best be monitored across the church;
  - b) to develop plans in consultation with the relevant agents of the church to implement year on year cuts in carbon emissions ...
  - c) to roll this out across the church ...

### On Human Sexuality

General Assembly adopts the Commitment on Human Sexuality on behalf of the church.

*The Commitment is quite long. In essence it says that we recognise that within our church there is a wide range of views, all held with integrity. It ends, "in love and submission to Christ who holds us together, we therefore commit ourselves to stay together, to work and pray together, to treat one another with respect, and to seek God's gifts of unity, harmony, wisdom and deeper understanding."*

General Assembly asks Mission Council to set up a task group to oversee the process of addressing issues of human sexuality, particularly those set out in the report, and to enable the process of widening discussions to involve the whole church.

General Assembly urges members of councils and local churches not to press for policy decisions on these matters during this process, but to join in discussions that might help to increase understanding and unity.

### On Mission and Spirituality

General Assembly instructs Mission Council and the Nominations committee to do such further work as is necessary to create a 'think-tank' on mission and spirituality.

### The giving of the members of the Church to central funds

General Assembly gratefully acknowledges the giving of the churches in 2006 to the Ministry and Mission Fund, and the work of the local church, district and synod treasurers.

### Anniversary of the abolition of the British Slave Trade

We recognise the inhuman treatment of Africans transported across the Atlantic as slaves and forced to work in degrading conditions.

We are sorry for the legacy of that oppression which still distorts our relations with one another.

We rejoice in the courage of those, black and white, who challenged the values of their day that allowed the slave trade to happen, and we pledge ourselves to recognise the dignity of all God's people and to build our society on that principle.

We commit ourselves to the continuing struggle for justice for all the oppressed, including the many who are held in bondage today.



## **Assisted Dying**

- i) As Christians we regard all human life as being God given, and therefore precious; we believe that death is not the end and we have faith that there is a more perfect life to follow.
- ii) We recognise that there is a time to die and that there are circumstances in which it will be wrong to continue to provide treatment designed to prolong life.
- iii) We recognise that some palliative treatment for the terminally ill, makes the patient more comfortable and pain free, but can also hasten death. We believe this to be acceptable, as long as the intention of the treatment is pain relief and comfort of the patient.
- iv) We could not support legislation that would empower medical staff to intervene in ways which deliberately seek to assist a patient to die. We would therefore oppose any change in the law to permit voluntary euthanasia or assisted suicide.
- v) We believe that a Living Will or Advance Directive which has been prepared by a patient of sound mind, can be helpful for carers and relatives; however we do not believe such a document should be used to facilitate a person's death.
- vi) We believe that additional resources are needed to provide more uniformly available and more high quality palliative care.
- vii) We recognise the valuable contribution made by carers. We express our prayerful support for those who work in, and promote hospices, and others who care, befriend and provide support for the dying.

## **Lottery Funding**

Having re-considered its position on Lottery funding, General Assembly accepts, reluctantly, that some local churches will need to make application to the Lottery Fund to assist with the upkeep, repair and [alteration] of their *listed* church buildings and, in that respect, revises the advice contained in Resolution 20 of General Assembly 1995, which urged members and councils of the Church to disassociate themselves from the Lottery.

I have not quoted all of these in full. If you are interested in the full text please either ask me, or access it on the website [www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk) The last two subjects that I have included above generated the most debate and opinion was divided. The first five were accepted with huge majorities, or unanimously. These are the topics from the Assembly that are probably going to demand most attention from us as a local church in the coming years. I am grateful for the opportunity to have attended Assembly and to have heard the views of the wider church as a background to our own discussions, decisions and actions.

Assembly also agreed an emergency resolution that I would like to share here:

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, meeting in Manchester, reaffirms its view that resorting to violence, and attempts to bomb and kill, are not the way to address senses of grievance and injustice. It expresses its dismay at the recent terrorist incidents in London and Glasgow. It realises that such actions are an affront to the overwhelming majority of Muslim communities, when they are claimed to have been committed in their name. We understand that there is a potential for some to respond negatively; our prayer is that this should not happen.





Dear friends

I am writing this report at a time of high expectation and some uncertainty.

We were delighted to receive the news that work on the new west entrance, new toilets and new kitchen hallway is expected to commence on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August, with a target date for completion in late November / early December. We have had to make contingency plans for emptying the contents in the planned building sites and notifying users that the Lower School Room is likely to be unavailable after Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August, until work is completed.

We have also decided that we will move the Worship services to the Crendon Hall for the duration of the redevelopment work, from Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August, as we will have no access to toilets downstairs and also because we are anticipating a considerable amount of dust in and around the Sanctuary.

Following the resolution at the May church meeting to more radically remodel the Sanctuary, a draft application has been forwarded to the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee for initial comment and feedback. We will have a period of uncertainty, most likely until the end of 2007, while we await formal approval of our proposals. We have, in the light of a deferral of work commencing in the Sanctuary until around mid 2008, agreed to install a temporary ramp from the Lower School Room to the Sanctuary to facilitate access from the west entrance into the Sanctuary.

Regarding finance, we are now within £15000 of our target for the development work, agreed at church meeting in May, based on taking up a Synod loan of £50000.

Marian has asked me to comment specifically on the subject of Sharing Skills and I am delighted to report that the activities have so far raised over £300 for the Revive project. Sincere thanks to those who have given of their talents and time.

In summary, we have come some way since Gwen joined us in January and thanks to her drive and encouragement we have managed to address a number of key issues and defined a clear path ahead.

August 2007

If you are arguing with an absolute fool, make sure he is not doing the same thing.

Conscience is that small part of you that aches when the rest of you is having a good time.

You can fool some of the people all of the time; you can fool all of the people some of the time. But remember - you can make a fool of yourself at any old time.

It takes only a few words mumbled in church - and you're married.

It takes only a few words mumbled in your sleep - and you're divorced.

*[Submitted by Joan Smith]*

## High Wycombe Central Aid Society (Established 1906)

### ANNUAL REPORT

Most of you know that Trinity give £100 a year to this organisation to further its work in this area. The objects are:

The alleviation of distress amongst persons resident in the High Wycombe area.

To promote the welfare of persons who are aged or physically disabled.

To establish and maintain a system of organised personal service in the area, to encourage co-operation amongst voluntary and official agencies, and to promote and support new effort.

As Trinity's representative I went to the AGM and I cannot hope to report in detail all that was said there nor to pass on all the information in the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Report and Statement of accounts, but here is a brief account of the proceedings:-

The chair was taken by the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Valerie Razzaq, and also present was the Chairman of Wycombe District Council, Cllr Mr John Savage. Reports were given by the Chair of Central Aid, Mrs Rosemary Vale, and by the Treasurer, Mrs Margaret Stagg, and the committee was elected.

Financial grants are made by Wycombe District Council and Chiltern District Council but not by Bucks District Council. Donations are received from private donors and organisations like Trinity. Most clients asking for help are referred by social Services.

The Furniture Warehouse project helps needy people with good furniture and household goods. The Pop-in Centre meets in the Reggie Goves centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays to provide meals and social contact, and there are cheerful activities like Keep Fit and bingo and often weekend holidays and outings are organised. The Treasurer said there had been no reduction in the numbers of people needing help. Food, clothes, support and advice had been asked for and provided.

There was time for refreshments after the business was completed, and time therefore to greet volunteer, staff and friends.

If any of you reading this have time to spare and are looking for an opportunity to help a valuable local charity here is a golden opportunity where your help will be very welcome. They need fundraisers, help at the Pop-In and help on their Flag Days.

Central Aid Society and Age Concern  
103 Cornmarket, High Wycombe  
Phone 01494 535890

*Olivia P*

#### **Did I really read that?**

*A sign outside a restroom:* Toilet out of order. Please use the floor below.

*In a laundromat:* Automatic washing machines - Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

*In a London Department store:* Bargain Basement - Upstairs



*Edited highlights from the Wycombe Youth for Christ newsletter of June 2007, relating to Secondary schools.*

I would like to take this opportunity to once again, thank you for all your prayer support. It makes a big difference to our work and we really appreciate the time you put in.

The secondary department has been very quiet on the schools front over the past half term, due to the exam period in schools. This, however, has opened up some fantastic opportunities to expand the work into different areas. We have been helping local churches, getting involved in out-reach projects and also building links between different organisations. We thank God for these opportunities and pray that He will continue to provide them.

### **Cross section**

Cross section is a new Bi-monthly gathering for young people from across the town and surrounding areas. The next one is being held on 24<sup>th</sup> June at St. Michael and All Angels, Hughenden, focusing on the 'armour of God.'

Pray that God will move among the young people who attend

### **Christian Unions**

We continue to run the C.U in both Ramsay and Holmer Green. This term we are focusing on different aspects of God. The majority of the students who attend aren't Christians and this has led to the clubs become a very effective evangelism tool within the schools.

Towards the end of the last half term and throughout this half term, Cat Blow (Marlow Christian Fellowship) and I have been asked to run the Friday meeting of the Christian union in Wycombe High. We will be focusing on the book of Ruth.

- Pray for the students who attend that they may learn about God and His love for them
- Pray for an openness from the students to explore new ideas
- Pray for continued favour within the schools

### **Lessons**

This term we have been offered lessons within Ramsay and Cressex. The subjects include; The journey of faith, The Bible, God Debate, Respect amongst others.

As always, these lessons all contain a very strong challenge to the students beliefs.

- Pray that the lessons run smoothly
- Pray for the students who will be participating in the lessons, that they may learn more about God
- Pray for the teachers, that they may learn more about God

### **Looking Ahead**

It is this time of year when we start looking to the scholastic year ahead of us and making plans. There is still some uncertainty as to team for next year, which affects the planning ahead.

- Pray for God to provide sufficient numbers of workers for next year
- Pray that the schools will continue to be open to WYFC and the work that we do
- Pray for new opportunities to share God with the community of Wycombe
- Pray for continuing and strengthening links with the local churches and other organisations

### **Contact details**

If you feel that God has spoken to you whilst you are praying for us, then please feel free to contact us and share it with us.

**Paul Scott** (secondary schools leader)

**Tel:** 01494 522777

**E-Mail:** wycombeyfc@talk21.com

**Address:** Kingfisher House,  
109a West Wycombe Road,  
High Wycombe, HP12 3AB



# Happy Birthday



Samuel Hobbs

Destiny Johnson

Katharine Collins

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Having thought about honest job descriptions (page 5), what about the other end of the employment cycle - getting the sack.

Presumably an electrician would be discharged  
a fashion modeller - defrocked  
a mathematician - disfigured  
a Civil Servant - deformed  
a Hairdresser - distressed  
a Musician - disbanded  
an Artist's model - deposed  
. . and surely a clegyman would be dis-spirited

If the "jokes" in this magazine do not send you into fits of hysterics (!), the editor would welcome any material suitable for filling in odd pages which crop up from time to time. Any contributions would be appreciated - preferably items of a non-topical nature.

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

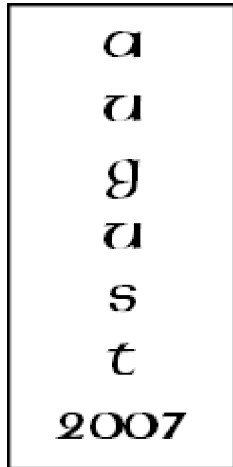
Recorder Editor : e-mail : [editor@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:editor@trinity-urc.org.uk)

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

# prayer page

We give thanks for teachers – those in primary, secondary and higher education, and those who impart their knowledge to us in other ways. May they have time to rest and be refreshed over the summer holidays.

We pray for all students awaiting the results of exams. Lord God, may you give them and their families your peace, and guide them in their next steps. Amen



Grant us, Lord God, a vision of our land as your love would make it:

- a land where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
- a land where the benefits of civilised life are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;
- a land where different races and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect;
- a land where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

And give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## A Responsive Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven,  
**Remind us constantly that you are parent to all your children, Whoever, or wherever, they are or come from.**

Hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come,  
**Establishing peace and justice, hope and life for all peoples.**

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
**Disturb us into awareness of the needs of others.**

Forgive us our sins,  
**Our pride and our prejudices.**

As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
**Especially keep our hearts and minds open To see the good in others.**

Deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
**Just and true,**

The power,  
**Gentle and fair,**

And the glory,  
**Shot through with the colours of love,**

Are yours for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

[From: *From Shore to Shore* by USPG and SPCK]



## Weekly prayers through August:

Sunday	for members of our church who struggle physically in some way
Monday	for those in the emergency services
Tuesday	for our MP
Wednesday	for REVIVE
Thursday	for the Chaplaincy team at BCUC
Friday	for the last person who served us - whether in a shop, café, work, or elsewhere
Saturday	for our next door neighbours