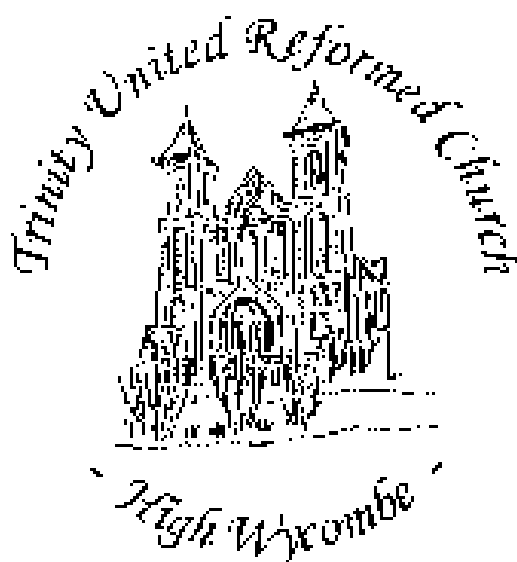


Jesus said, "The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." *John 4:14*



August 2008

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,

Schools have 'broken up' for six weeks; Parliament has gone into summer recess; Junior church is taking a break until September. It's the summer holidays.

What makes a good holiday, in your opinion? How about this for a checklist: good company; new places to see; lots of fun things to do [or, blissfully, nothing to do], ...

Our first posting in Papua New Guinea was to a little place called Kip in a very beautiful and very remote mountain valley. It was called the Lai Valley, pronounced as in lie. You can imagine the jokes cracked by our friends and family back in the UK. "Oh, hard work isn't it, this missionary business, going to Kip in the Lai valley!"

Despite that, it was hard work. It was Bernie's first appointment as a minister and he had over thirty congregations in his patch. I was not a minister myself in those days, but I was a commissioned mission partner, sent together with Bernie by the URC in response to a request from the United Church in Papua New Guinea for extra workers. We both worked hard - learning languages, beginning to understand a very different culture, trying to respond appropriately to the huge responsibilities that were placed on our shoulders. After a year we were more than ready for a holiday. Word reached us over the two way radio that a Missionary Aviation plane was going to be flying from our Provincial capital down to the coast and there were two spaces - would we like to go? We would!

Having a holiday was not a familiar idea to our neighbours in the Lai Valley. We explained what we were going to be doing and why. As I thought about writing this letter on the subject of holidays a remark has come back to me from all those years ago. It was made by a village pastor, Saong, who rather disapprovingly said what can be roughly translated as: "Jesus never had a holiday and I won't take one either!"

We understood what he meant - but we didn't agree with him, and we took that plane!

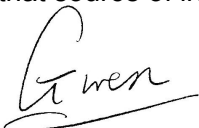
Taking holidays was not part of Saong's culture, and wasn't part of Jesus' either. But it is part of ours. And, like many aspects of culture, holidays can work for good or for bad in our lives and the life of the earth.

It is wonderful to be able to enjoy the beauty and variety of the planet. It is refreshing to have a change of scene. Tourism is big business. It is near the top of the list for generating revenue globally. Millions of people depend on it for their livelihoods.

On the other hand air and car travel are major polluters. There's an inequality too in the fact that whilst millions can afford holidays many millions more can't. And for those who can, within some families fragile relationships can break down completely in the intense togetherness of holiday time.

What is God's perspective on holidays, I wonder? What makes for a godly holiday?

My prayer for all of us at Trinity this summer, young and old, is that whether we go away or stay at home we will be refreshed in spirit by the Spirit. As you look at the sea, or kayak down a river, gaze at a waterfall, or simply wonder by the Wye as it flows through the Rye - take a moment to tap into that source of living water that never runs dry.



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August Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am


August 3rd Holy Communion and Baptisms, led by the Minister
August 10th Worship led by Margaret Howard and the Amersham Team
August 17th Worship led by Revd Angela Singleton
August 24th Worship led by Revd Jack Ramsbottom

Rotas for August

	Aug 3rd	Iris Hook & Janet Roake
	Aug 10th	Sue Saunders & Margaret Lewis
	Aug 17th	Joy Standfield & Pat Wallace
	Aug 24th	Audrey Richardson & Daphne Murnane
	Aug 31st	Norman Reeves & Andrew Lewis

Aug 3rd	Sue Thorne
Aug 10th	Audrey Richardson
Aug 17th	Barbara Macleod
Aug 24th	Rose Cornwall
Aug 31st	Audrey Richardson



	Aug 3rd	??
	Aug 10th	Margaret Lewis
	Aug 17th	Barbara Raleigh / Sue Saunders
	Aug 24th	Elsje Hatton / Sue Thorne
	Aug 31st	Sarah Hobbs / Barbara Raleigh

Aug 3rd	Lesley Bogart
Aug 10th	Abigail Lokko & Pat Wallace
Aug 17th	Joan Smith & Tony Hatton
Aug 24th	Ken Fisher & Kate Yates
Aug 31st	Arthur Winning & Audrey Richardson



It is "Go thirsty" month!!



(No coffee served after services) . . . BUT . . .

. . . there will be a supply of long-life milk and some biscuits in cupboard no 11 so that if anyone feels like serving coffee then you have the necessary bits to do so.

What's on in August

WOMEN'S MEETING

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



Diary Dates

- 28 July–1 Aug Lighthouse Week
- 3 Aug 4pm Prayer Circle For Healing
- 4 – 21 Aug Gwen on holiday
- 9 Aug Coffee Morning
- 14 Aug 8pm REVIVE Committee Meeting
- 22-25 Aug Gwen will be attending Greenbelt Festival with our Youth Groups
- 23 Aug Coffee Morning
- 26 Aug 8pm Elders' Meeting
- 30 Aug 9.30am-12.30pm Fifth Brigade
- 6 Sept 12 – 4pm Night Shelter Garden Party at Wycombe Museum
- 16 Sept 8pm Church Meeting
- 19-21 Sept Church Weekend at Wycliffe Centre
- 23 Sept 8pm Elders' Meeting
- 29 Sept – 5 Oct Gwen on holiday
- 11 Oct Elders' & Pastoral Assistants' Day
- 19 Oct Harvest Thanksgiving
5.30pm Communion Service
- 25 Oct Autumn Fayre

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

News of the Family

We were pleased to welcome into the church family by infant blessing, **Aylsia Grace Warwick** on 13 July, daughter of Stuart & Helen and by infant baptism on 20 July **James Patrick Toner**, son of Paddy & Alison and grandson of Arthur and Marie Winning.

We said our farewells and thank yous to **Ian and Maureen Buchanan** on 6 July and they are now settling into their new home in Alnwick. **Glyn and Kay Evans** are hoping to move in a few weeks time to Totteridge Lane, High Wycombe.

Ian Bogart will be married to Jaime McLeod on Saturday 9 August in Great Malvern, Worcs.

Unfortunately, **Nina Shepherd** and **Athalie Pope** have both had falls at home recently and we hope and pray that they are recovering well and will soon feel more confident. **Pauline Starck** has been in hospital and we pray that she will continue to benefit from the treatment she received.

Amongst members of our congregation who continue to suffer with ill health, pain, disability and may be undergoing treatment are **Rose Cornwall, Robin Garden, Elaine Smith, Win Garred, Colin Lewis** and **Gwenda Dicker**.

Many of our members will be enjoying holidays this month, including our minister, **Gwen**, and we pray that they will travel safely and that it may be a time of rest, relaxation and refreshment.

Please remember all the above in your prayers. Thank you.

MM


Amendments to Church Directory

Correction! Last month's amendments gave an incorrect telephone number for Audrey Bruton. It should be as follows:- 02476 675100

Easy-to-absorb financial information!

The Treasurer reports the following amounts have been collected at Trinity for the benefit of others, and passed on accordingly:-

Burma Appeal	£211.00
Biblelands	£168.50
Songs of Praise Proceeds to Revive	£201.86

 I have given Sue Thorne £60 which is the left over monies from the coffees on a Sunday morning. This is after all the ingredients have been paid for, and I also provide mulled wine and goodies for Candles by Candlelight, so not a bad return. Thank you so much for your generosity in giving and also in your willingness to help prepare coffee weekly. It is appreciated by all the congregation.

Bless you all

Anne Harding x

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe

Please pray with the Bulawayo Churches at 3pm on a Wednesday to stand in solidarity with them

Latest reports say the capital of Zimbabwe, Harare, is tense but quiet. According to Christian Aid partner the Zimbabwe Christian Alliance (ZCA) most humanitarian agencies are taking a wait and see attitude. Robert Mugabe was sworn in as Zimbabwe's president on Sunday June 29 after a presidential run-off in which he was the sole candidate.

"We are hoping that church and civil society leaders may meet quite soon to discuss the situation," said Useni Sibanda of the ZCA.

The Pan-African Parliament monitors said the pre-election period could not produce 'free, fair and credible elections' while the observers from the Southern Africa Development Community said the election results did not reflect the will of the people. The UN and humanitarian agencies in Zimbabwe have been unable to effectively carry out their mandate during the election period.

"We exist to serve vulnerable communities who are struggling to cope with entrenched poverty. State support services are incapable and unwilling to meet the demand," said William Anderson, Christian Aid country manager in Harare.

"Yet in the past three months we have been prevented from serving the people and exposing the scandal of poverty. The fear factor has paralysed the nation and very few have been bold enough to experience, witness and publicly reveal the barbaric and anarchic violence that young men in the employ of ZANU-PF have meted out on their fellow citizens."

For development to be successful in its fight against poverty there must be good governance; health and education services must also be fully functioning and available to the majority, say campaigners. None of these exist in Zimbabwe. Mr Anderson says this makes Christian Aid's work in the country even more vital.

"We are in a unique position as we are the only international NGO with an office in the country which is outspoken on the issues of justice and oppression. Our policy, which promotes accountable governance, supports strategic partners who literally put their lives on the line to work for a democratic, peaceful and free country."

Christian Aid also supports communal and chronically poor communal households by training and empowering them in conservation agriculture. Through increased knowledge families can easily treble their harvests by simply scratching out planting holes rather than ploughing, and placing compost or mulch on the bare soil.

© Ekklesia

By agency reporter 30 Jun 2008

Bangladesh

The husbands of Kardupara are getting used to working with their wives to make the most of being good members of their Peoples' Institution. Set up with the help of the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh this group helps the community work for access to money, advice and practical help. In the past the Orao people lived a year at a time in their isolated villages. Now group members like Mahik Kojur are looking as far as ten years ahead. The land she used for crops was not that productive so she has planted trees. Now she has the confidence to tell us "I hope and believe that these trees will benefit us in future".

This step marks a big change both in land use and also attitude, and shows a readiness to take responsibility rather than rely upon handouts.

Richard Todd (who visited CCDB recently)

THE FIFTH BRIGADE NEEDS YOU!



Saturday 30 August 9.30am to 12ish is the next fifth Saturday in the month when we can continue doing odd jobs, tidying, dumping, sorting, etc. Whatever time you have to spare please come along and help. We achieved a lot when we held the last Fifth Brigade morning at the end of May and with REVIVE Phase 2 starting soon there's plenty for us to do!
MM

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A big, big thank you to everyone who sponsored me to walk the 36 miles of The Coleridge Way in aid of The Alzheimer's Society at the end of June. I did it, although the last few miles were very hard going as my right knee didn't like going downhill after climbing a steep grassy bank when we (my sister & I) lost our direction and aimed for the wrong wood! The knee has now recovered although I think my legs may be even shorter.



Never having done anything sponsored in my life before I have been overwhelmed with the support and encouragement. Initially I set out to raise £200 but the charity has now benefited from £857 plus Gift Aid and a considerable amount of this is thanks to YOU.

Marian

Garden Party

& Auction of Art @ w y c o m b e m u s e u m

Sat. Sept 6th 2008 12-4pm

at Wycombe Museum, Priory Avenue, High Wycombe.
Attractions include live music, cream teas, children's games, side stalls, portrait photographer, croquet on the lawn, fun for all.

Bring picnic and blanket or garden chair.

Proceeds to Wycombe Winter Night Shelter

How can I help with WWNS?

- ❖ put date in your diary
- ❖ think about who to invite
- ❖ make cakes, jams, chutney, anything homemade
bring on the day or hand into the office



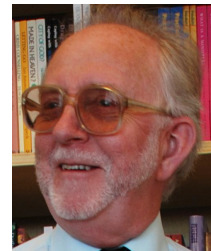
The Revd John Marsh becomes Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, knowing he will be the only person to serve alone in the role for two years. He takes on this challenge in Edinburgh on July 11.

From this year, members of the United Reformed Church will meet in Assembly in alternate years. From 2010, two moderators will serve together for two years. However, during the changeover period there will be only John Marsh.

He is an unassuming man, who is still getting used to being in the public eye. He says 'After four decades of ministry with local churches, and no eye-catching headlines, I now find myself thrust into the spotlight. I bring whatever I am; humour, a long-sustained personal faith, lots of mistakes and more than my fair share of fun and joy from life.

'I hear all sorts of voices claiming to speak for Christians or Muslims. Very often they don't speak for me. Shocking statements are more likely to attract attention than good honest sense. But at least that means that good honest sense can get on with its work without being mugged. Better to be unremarkably committed to peacemaking and community building than to be heard everywhere for being weird and cruel'.

John Marsh was ordained at what was then Knowle Park Congregational Church in Keighley, West Yorkshire in 1967. That was before Congregationalists and Presbyterians came together to form the United Reformed Church in 1972. Further unions followed and nearly one hundred thousand adults and children now make up 1600 congregations, served by more than 700 ministers across England, Scotland and Wales.



As a United Reformed Church minister, John Marsh went on to serve churches at Washington new town, Sunderland, Worcester, Stourport-on-Severn, Leek and Norwich. He and his wife Jackie moved to Redditch in Worcestershire in 2005. They have two sons who both live in London, and one grandchild born in 2006.

Some of John's retirement plans have gone on hold while he devotes himself to the task of being Moderator. He says, with his usual humour, 'I anticipate with delight the prospect of visiting local churches across Scotland, Wales and England. But not all of them, of course!'

Have you ever wondered who we really are?

The United Reformed Church

Through a series of unions over the past 35 years, the United Reformed Church has brought together English Presbyterians, English, Welsh and Scottish Congregationalists and members of the Churches of Christ. Nearly one hundred thousand people make up 1600 congregations, with more than 700 ministers, paid and unpaid.

Although one of the smaller mainstream denominations in Britain, the United Reformed Church plays a dynamic and challenging part in the country's Christian life. It seeks to work with Christians of all traditions, believing that all God's people should be one. It is committed to theological and cultural diversity.

Worldwide, more than 70 million Christians are members of the Reformed family of churches, the largest Protestant tradition. We call ourselves Reformed because our churches began to emerge with reform movements in the sixteenth century.



REVIVE update

At our Church Meeting on 15 July, I summarised where we currently stand with regard to Phase 2 (the redevelopment of the sanctuary):-

1. Appeals Procedure

We have entered the negotiation stage of the appeal process, and we think that we are the first URC church to do this. The Grants, Loans & Property Committee (GLPC) will call upon the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee (LBAC) to conduct informal negotiations within two months. The URC procedure says we should have every opportunity to express our views. If we are not satisfied with results of negotiation we can go to full appeal, which has to be done within 6 months.

2. Costs for Phase 2

The costings the Quantity Surveyor provided recently were much higher than anticipated. However, we will still be able to do the central work we planned (heating, floor and chairs, extended dais, redecoration) but possibly not the external doors and ramp, storage rooms, coffee bar, and expensive lighting at this stage.

3. Tendering process & costings

We have met with the Kelvin Sampson (Architect) and David Skipp (Synod Property Officer) and work is going out to tender. They strongly advise us to get costs at tender for all the work we would like to do as in the current economic climate contractors may be reducing costs and if we don't do all the work now that we could possibly do for the money we will probably never do it and may regret it. It is likely the costs for all the work we would like to do will come in considerably less than the QS's previous figures.

4. Cost possibilities for Phase 2

Previous QS estimate:	£352,000
JBKS reworking:	£268,000
Our budget:	£210,000

We will test the QS's costing against the tendering process (builders' quotes) and there is no commitment to any builder at that stage. Some consultancy costs will be involved for:

- Construction Design & Management (Health & Safety)
- Lighting
- Electrical Consultant
- Heating Consultant
- Quantity Surveyor
- Structural Engineer
- NHBC

We were advised that we need to get accurate information about scope & costs from the consultants so that we don't get any nasty budget surprises during the work!

5. Funds to date

as at end 2007	£46,705.36
Interest-free loans	£6,500.00
Income this year to date	£10,456.00
Synod grant (to come)	£100,000.00
Initial income from Ronnie Boxall's estate	£12,500.00
Possible additional income from Ronnie Boxall's estate	c. £17,500.00
Anticipated funds available	£193,661.36

(but it is likely that we will have £200/210,000 by the time we start work)

6. Our vision

We want a warm, welcoming, flexible space for worship and mission. We will not authorise work for extras that go beyond what we can afford but we are asked to keep an open mind to other solutions.

7. Proceeds from sale of manse garden

If the manse garden were sold and proceeds put to Revive this would probably make it straightforward to do the whole job at once.

Anticipated income	£200,000/£210,000
Anticipated costs	£268,000
Shortfall c.	£70,000

A discussion then took place for the church members to agree on what they wanted the proceeds to be used for.

Two proposals were put forward:

- (a) put them towards purchasing a manse that would meet the acceptable standards required by the URC, or
- (b) put them towards Phase 2 and do all the work we can.

Everyone present had an opportunity to express their thoughts, concerns and hopes, and views of one absent member were also tabled. A vote was taken which resulted in a unanimous decision to allocate any proceeds from the sale of the manse garden to Phase 2 of Revive.


Kate Yates, Chair

THEOLOGY: READ AND DISCUSS

Here is an offer for those amongst us who like to read something that may challenge our beliefs or expand our ways of seeing faith. I propose one book for the autumn and one for the winter. The idea is that you read the book yourself and then we get together one evening to discuss what we have read. The two books I have chosen are very different from each other in subject matter and style.

God at Ground Level, ed. Peter Cruchley-Jones, 2008. This is a collection of essays about faith and religion as experienced and expressed by people in a variety of grass roots situations in contemporary Britain. The authors are all researchers who have listened intently to what people say. The book shares some of their insights. It raises disturbing questions and yet is strangely comforting in its rigorous honesty. David Cornick, our former General Secretary, reviewing the book in May's Reform wrote, "If you care about mission and contemporary spirituality, you shouldn't miss this important book." I must declare an interest here as I wrote one of the chapters!

Surprised by Hope, by Tom Wright, SPCK, 2007 is a book about life after death. I have not read it – but my interest has been kindled by an article in the current issue of 'In Gear', written by Stuart Nixon whose view of heaven had been challenged by a seminar at Spring Harvest. This book shares the ideas expressed in that seminar. The author, Tom Wright, is Bishop of Durham and a much respected New Testament scholar and his work is always worth reading. He seems to me to have a gift for expressing fresh perspectives on profound truths. In this book he is writing about eternally important themes. It's one I do not want to miss.

If you would like to join in this reading and discussion let me know and I will choose a date that suits everybody interested.

We will discuss 'God at Ground Level' in November, and 'Surprised by Hope' in March. I am putting this notice in the August Recorder so that you can start your reading early. I have copies of 'God at Ground Level' and can sell you one for £6.00.

Gwen



Happy Birthday



Samuel Hobbs

Destiny Johnson

Katharine Collins

A very Happy Birthday
With love from all at Trinity.

Synod want to remind members that anyone can attend Synod meetings but only ministers and church reps can vote. If anyone would like to attend the next meeting it is at St Andrew's, Ealing, London on Saturday 20 September (unfortunately the same date as our church weekend). If church members would like to know of future Synod dates, please ask Kate Yates to keep you informed.

A TOURISTS' PRAYER

Heavenly Father, look down upon us, your humble, obedient tourist servants, who are doomed to travel this earth taking photographs, writing post-cards, buying souvenirs and walking round in drip-dry clothing.

We beseech you, Lord, to look after us during our flight, to ensure our baggage is not lost and our overweight luggage and illegal imports not discovered.

Lead us to good, inexpensive restaurants, where the wine is included in the price of the meal and the staff speak our language.

Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in foreign currency we do not understand.

Grant us the strength to visit the museums, palaces and cathedrals, and if perchance we skip a historic monument to seek private pleasure, have mercy upon us, for our flesh is weak.

Protect our wives from bargains they do not need, or which I cannot afford. Lead them not into temptation for they know not what they do.

Keep our husbands from looking at foreign women and comparing them with us.

Save them from making fools of themselves at social gatherings. Above all, do not forgive them their trespasses, for they know exactly what they do.

And finally, when our wanderings are over, grant us the favour of finding someone who will look at our movies and photographs and listen to our chatter, so that our travels as tourists have not been in vain. Amen. *(Author unknown)*

The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 31st August.

Closing date for contributions is Friday 22nd August

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prayer page

May we be able to join with generations of believers who have read, "Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place."

(2 Chronicles Chapter 7 verse 15)

May we learn from each other as we pray
May we learn about each other as we pray
May we support each other as we pray
May our fellowship grow as we pray

A unique offering

Lord, help each of us to discover the unique creative gift that is ours, so that we may know that each praises you as no one else can do.

(Oliver Tomkins)

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2008

O Lord, we beseech you to deliver us from the fear of the unknown future, from fear of failure, from fear of poverty, from fear of sickness and pain, from fear of age, and from fear of death. Help us, O Father, by your grace to love and fear you only. Fill our hearts with cheerful courage and loving trust in you through our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. Amen.

Akanu Ibaim, Nigeria

My spirit has become dry because it forgets to feed on you.

St John of the Cross (1542-1591)

God of all space and time,
and God of stable, fishing boat, market place and cross,
show yourself in today's world
as God of factory and paddy field,
of stock exchange and coffee co-operative,
of university and refugee camp,
as well as of our own hearths and hearts.
May all our journeys be pilgrimages,
and when we reach a goal
may it be the starting point
of positive change and 'another way' of life.

Author unknown



Weekly prayers through August:

Sunday	Pray for Gwen and Bernie Collins
Monday	Pray for Roberta Rominger, new in her post as General Secretary of the URC
Tuesday	Give thanks for holidays or breaks from work and routine
Wednesday	Pray for the work of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf
Thursday	Pray for the new Thursday evening drop in at The Hub – a follow-on from the Winter Night Shelter
Friday	Give thanks for all the children and young people we have at Trinity
Saturday	Pray for our Junior Church, That Lot, and That Other Lot and their leaders