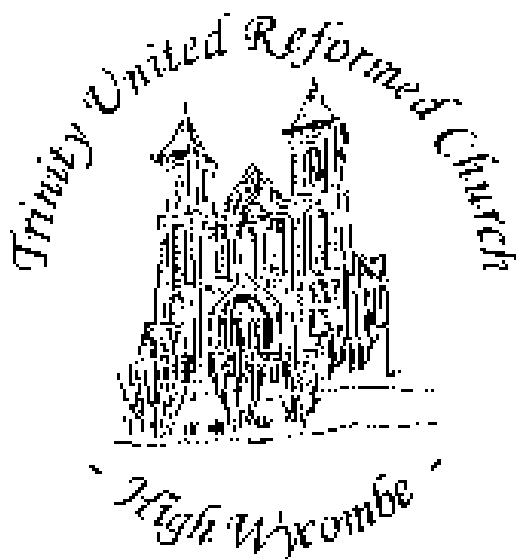


By the seventh day God finished what he had been doing and stopped working. He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day, because by that day he had completed his creation and stopped working. *Genesis 2: 2-3*



August 2010

The Recorder

Inside - this month . . .

Pastoral letter	2	Commitment for Life	6
Services & Rotas	3	Church family & Life	5, 7 - 9
What's on?	4	Prayer Page	10

An edited version of this magazine is available on the Church Website.

(Personal details are NOT included)

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

Trinity - A Family Church

Worshipping together - Caring for one another - Sharing with others

Dear Friends,

What do you most enjoy about a good holiday, I wonder. Is it beautiful scenery? Or time to relax? Maybe it's the chance to spend more time with friends or family. A good holiday, in my books, ticks all those boxes and more.

Bernie and I are looking forward to our summer holiday. We both feel ready for it! I expect that many of you know that feeling.

Someone reminded me earlier today that the word holiday comes from Holy Day. In the Middle Ages popular religion flourished, with the veneration of saints whose holy relics and holy days 'took over' from the old spirit-shrines and pagan festivals. A passion for pilgrimage developed. As Lion's 'History of Christianity' puts it, "There was a new and restless desire to explore the mystical holy places and to experience the sights and smells of foreign places ... A pilgrimage could be a very light-hearted affair (witness Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*). Like modern tourists, the pilgrims tended to travel in groups, gossiping, singing and stopping at minor shrines along the way. The pilgrimage gave the faithful a combination of religious duty and holiday relaxation."

That sounds like a good recipe! "A combination of religious duty and holiday relaxation". As Christians our religious duty is as clear and as deeply unfathomable as those aquamarine seas over teeming coral reefs that some of you may have explored on holiday. Love God and love your neighbour as you love yourself. It's a religious duty of the highest order, and surely life's greatest adventure and challenge. As Christians our obligation to take holiday relaxation may seem less clear, until we recall the sabbath. Holidays are sabbath seasons, intervals of apartness that we need in order to restore true perspective.

For the Mediaeval Christians, though, pilgrimages had another dimension as they sought healing for their ills and relief of suffering. Those same needs are ours still today. But we do not need to travel to a holy shrine to meet our compassionate Lord. Instead, He meets us – right where we are.

So, may God be with you. That is my prayer this month for all who read this magazine and are part of the Trinity family in its broadest reach, whether August sees you relaxing on holiday, or having to deal with medical problems, or just carrying on your normal routine. This is a prayer we can all pray with confidence. For 'In Him we live and move and have our being' Acts 17:28.

Peace,



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk
--

Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole, e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk
--

August Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am - led by the Minister unless otherwise indicated

1 August		Infant baptism and Holy Communion
8 August		Led by Andrew Winton
	4.30	Prayer Circle
15 August		Led by Catherine McFie
22 August		Led by Worship Team from Amersham Free Church
29 August		Led by Revd Graham Long
	6.30	Welcome service at Wesley Methodist Church, for Revd John and Deacon Ruth Richey.

Rotas for August

Not included in this version

What's on in August

WOMEN'S MEETING

The Ladies really ARE on holiday this month.
Next Meeting is on September 7th.



Diary Dates

July 26-30 Lighthouse Week
27 Elders' Meeting
31 Fifth Brigade 9.30-12noon

August 2-22 Gwen away on holiday
8 Prayer Circle For Healing 4.30pm
14 Coffee Morning 10.30 –12pm
25 Worship Planning Meeting **2pm**
27-30 Greenbelt Weekend
28 Coffee Morning 10.30 –12pm
31 Elders' Meeting 8pm

September 11 Coffee Morning 10.30 –12noon
12 Junior Church & Creche restarts
18 **Wedding:** Evans Moore & Katie Blair 2pm
21 Church Meeting 8pm
26 **Harvest Thanksgiving**
27 Elders' Meeting 8pm

August 2010						
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				

Not included in this version



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 12th September.

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

Junior Church Leaders



No Accommodation Network London Group

HOSTING DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Offering hospitality to our stranger within our gates (Exodus 20.10)

Following our initial hosting workshop on 26th June, we are now

- o Recruiting individuals willing to host people with no recourse to public funds in their own homes, both for short term emergencies (one night or more) or for longer periods.
- o Ready to support local groups who may be thinking of starting their own hosting project, perhaps in conjunction with an existing winter night shelter
- o Needing more people on our tiny development team.

Interested? Please contact Tatiana Tomayeva at Praxis
tatiana.tomayeva@praxis.org.uk 020 7749 7609

Commitment for Life

ZIMBABWE

April 18th 2010 marked Zimbabwe's 30th anniversary of Independence. Yet on that day most Zimbabweans will have mourned their lack of basic freedoms, including their freedom of speech.

In their last report we highlighted the work of Habakkuk Trust who is helping people demand accountability from their leaders. This time we would like to report on a project run by some brave student activists – staff and members of the Student Christian Movement of Zimbabwe. Through our partners such as SCMZ, Christian Aid is focusing on helping Zimbabweans in deeply scarred communities to choose alternative, constructive and peaceful means to have their voice and opinions heard. There are increasing numbers of predictions that elections will take place in 2011. Christian Aid believes it is important we act now to do what we can to limit the likelihood of the violence that marred the 2008 elections.

Student Christian Movement of Zimbabwe (SCMZ)

Many young Zimbabweans have suffered arrests and beatings for being student activists campaigning for an end to extreme poverty in Zimbabwe. During the 2008 elections, many people living in extreme poverty - particularly young people - became caught up in and incited as perpetrators of violence during a period of politically motivated conflict. As a result, many young adults were also severely beaten, bullied and intimidated.

The I-stories booklet brings together the stories of some of the young people caught up in this violence to help them understand each other and what happened. It includes eight personal student testimonies, including stories from several SCMZ staff and student activist members. With support from Christian Aid, the booklet has been successfully distributed nationwide through SCMZ groups in schools, colleges and universities to its 5,000 members.

Christian Aid has produced a powerful audio-slide show featuring these brave and outspoken young people. You can view it on You Tube here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96Rodk715co>

BANGLADESH

A refuge from the storm

Christian Aid partners have nearly completed its cyclone Sidr rehabilitation projects. Through their efforts, the partners have reached more than 33,000 households covering more than 150,000 cyclone affected poor people who are among the most vulnerable to natural disasters and the impact of climate change. Last year, the construction of five multipurpose cyclone shelters was completed which now provide a safe refuge for 4,500 people. These shelters were put to the test in May 2009 when 3,000 people sheltered from cyclone Aila. Mosharraf Hussain Howlader and his family weathered out cyclone Aila in one of these shelters. He described the shelter as 'heavy and strong', adding, 'If the shelter had not been strong, we would have not gone there. Rather, we would have protected ourselves by taking shelter in the trees as we did during past cyclones when we lost some of our family members.'

As well as shelters, the cyclone Sidr projects provided 625 households with help to reconstruct homes and 8,500 households received help to revive their ability earn a living. Throughout the rehabilitation projects, Christian Aid partners focused on working with women-headed households and targeting women and the most vulnerable from excluded communities.

Telling The Story

'Telling The Story' this was the theme for the URC's General Assembly held at Loughborough University 2 – 5 July this year. General Assembly is now held every other year so the last one was in 2008. It is the key decision making body of the URC and there were some very important ones to be debated such as whether or not to adopt the Vision2020 programme, a 10 year framework to encourage spiritual and numerical Church growth in the URC.

On arrival at Loughborough I got on the shuttle bus to take me to registration with the Assembly's Minuting Secretary for the past 12 years who told me he wasn't sure if he'd manage to stay awake this time. I wondered what lay ahead in the next few days. I needn't have worried as the sessions were both informative, interesting and with everyone very much involved. There were about 400 delegates, 45 of which were children from 20 churches. The Children's Assembly ran concurrently but each morning we were asked to leave 2 spaces on each table (the Assembly was held café-style with round tables for 8 which made discussion much easier) so that the children could join us. On the Sunday they arrived with bread, which they had baked for the Communion Service (I thought Trinity got there first!). 'Fury' young people had been at Loughborough since Tuesday so were settled in and it was good to have them join in throughout Assembly.

There are now two Assembly Moderators, a Minister and an Elder. Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe and Mrs Val Morrison took it in turns to chair the sessions at which the resolutions were debated and voted on. In our pre-Assembly pack were cards, an orange one, a blue one and a green voting one. I was reminded of the TV show 'Let's Cook' where the audience hold up red tomato or green pepper cards to vote for the team they think best as we were to use the Orange Card if we warmed to the resolution and the Blue Card if we felt cool towards it. The majority of the voting was done by consensus and on the whole it worked very well.

Resolutions which we, at Trinity, will need to consider include: Vision2020; the ministerial working week; guidelines for conduct and behaviour of ministers, elders and Church Related Community Workers; and the vetting and barring scheme. Watch this space!!!!!!

Worship each day was inspiring and uplifting and I was thrilled to listen again to Gerard Kelly who led the Bible Studies each day. If you haven't already done so I'd recommend reading the interview with him in July's issue of Reform magazine.

I was pleased to meet Revd Mike Shrubsole, our previous minister at Trinity before Gwen, and Jeanette Chamberlain, who some of you may remember and catch up with all their news. They both send love and greetings to you all. I also met Eileen Town's minister at Hayling Island and, of course, Roberta Rominger, John Marsh, Andrew Prasad and others.

Experiencing the workings of the URC at first hand was a privilege and I thank you for putting my name forward as a delegate. It's an experience to be recommended.

MM

Britain's child soldiers -

By Michael Bartlet (12 Jul 2010)

Sixteen-year-olds are too young to drive a car, buy a drink in the pub, or place a bet in Britain. They are too young to have civil contracts enforced against them. They cannot vote. Yet they are old enough to join the army where, in the event of hostilities, they may become a legitimate target, even while not serving in the front line.

The next Armed Forces Bill, announced in the Queen's Speech, is where the coalition will implement proposals relating to its 'military covenant' – the "contract" between the nation and its armed forces. There are plans to increase leave, create provisions to help families of soldiers, and give war veterans more support. The gaping hole in those plans is the nature of the legal agreement affecting under eighteens in the armed forces. It is not too late to give them the protection that they richly deserve.

Under the terms of the Bills of Rights 1689, the Crown cannot maintain a standing army in peace without the explicit approval of the House of Commons. It does that by voting each year the exact figures of servicemen and women that the three armed forces can maintain. But the armed forces also operate under a separate and distinct legal framework – military discipline. To maintain this separate jurisdiction, the government must obtain the consent of Parliament by re-enacting the Armed Forces Act every five years. This also provides an opportunity to amend and update the law relating to military discipline and other matters concerning the armed forces.

With the exception of Russia, and apprentices in Ireland, the British Army is unique in Europe in recruiting at the age of 16. Of 14,185 recruits into the army last year, 3,630 or over 25 per cent, joined under the age of 18. Those who join the army at this age are required to make a longer commitment than those joining as adults. Sixteen year olds joining the army are required to serve for six years, while 18 year olds commit themselves to four years. After a six month 'cooling-off' period there is no right to leave. While 'unhappy minors' may leave at the discretion of their commanding officer, the fact that there is no discharge as of right leaves them uniquely open to bullying.

The current regime in the army is unlike any other apprenticeship. A breach of army discipline may lead to a criminal prosecution. Those joining the army at the age of 16 often come from the poorest and least educated backgrounds. Some have reading ages of a child of half that age. They lack the confidence to seek a change in their career in the same way as those training for professions. The nature of their legal status – it is not a contract - makes that worse.

The army is in loco parentis to its under 18 year olds. Its responsibility is that of a parent to a child with the particular abilities and characteristics of the individual recruit. During the period 1995 to 2002 four young soldiers died at the Princess Royal Barracks alone. Two of them were seventeen. During this time there were 59 incidents of self-harm. The situation is made worse by the lack of clarity of the legal commitment of those young people concerned. In enlisting in the army they become liable to military discipline under subsidiary legislation made under the Army Act 1955. But how many semi-literate teenagers read subsidiary legislation?

Bullying in the army should be as unacceptable as any intimidation in civilian life. Being locked into a six year commitment makes the impact of bullying potentially more serious and if it happens, harder to escape from. As long as we have recruitment at the age of 16, only a wider discharge as of right would provide an adequate safeguard by ensuring that young people could not be compelled to remain in such a situation against their will.

The forthcoming Army Bill offers the new Liberal Democrat and Conservative coalition the opportunity of righting these wrongs. Under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UK is obliged to pay attention to the best interests of a young person. Present practice subordinates the interests of the child to administrative convenience and military effectiveness. By setting the age of enlistment at 18 the UK government would ensure both a consistent attitude to the age of adult responsibility and follow best practice in the European Union. It would enable the UK government to implement the recommendations of Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights.

The bill is traditionally examined by a select committee set up for that particular purpose. This is an opportunity for those with concerns to lobby for change.

=====

Michael Bartlet is Parliamentary secretary for the Quakers and a co-author of *Nonsense on Stilts ? A Quaker view of human rights*.

This article reproduced with kind permission of Open Democracy



Happy Birthday

Samuel H (1st)

Katherine C (11th)

Eileen T (6th)

Kate Y (21st)

Destiny J (8th)

Olive S (28th)

Aurelia A (11th)

A very Happy Birthday

Birthday Congratulations



Erica H (7th)

on celebrating her 90th Birthday



Congratulations

and Best Wishes to

Andrew & Yan (12th)

on celebrating their 10th Wedding Anniversary

With love from us all at Trinity

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 29th August.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 20th August*

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

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

prayer page

A Prayer for Refugees

Almighty and merciful God,
whose Son became a refugee
and had no place to call his own;

look with mercy on those who today
are fleeing from danger,
homeless and hungry.

Bless those who work to bring them relief;
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;
and guide the nations of the world towards that day
when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

from www.invitationtoprayer.org

A Prayer for Reconciliation

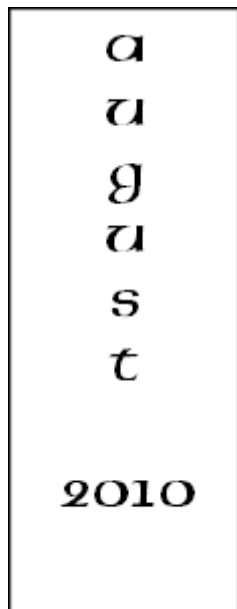
Gracious God,
ruling the earth and its people
not by terror but in love;
we worship you.

We confess that too often
our words hurt others
and our deeds are selfish;
forgive us.

In this time of uncertainty and fear,
help us to love our enemies
and do good to those who hate us,
in the name of Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

from www.invitationtoprayer.org



Lord God, we live in disturbing days:

across the world,
prices rise,
debts increase,
banks collapse,
jobs are taken away,
and fragile security is under threat.

Loving God, meet us in our fear and hear our prayer:
be a tower of strength amidst the shifting sands,
and a light in the darkness;
help us receive your gift of peace,
and fix our hearts where true joys are to be found,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

from www.invitationtoprayer.org

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day
our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.*



Weekly prayers through August:

Sunday	Give thanks for Jesus and his love for us
Monday	Pray for the thousands of child soldiers, actively recruited throughout 13 countries
Tuesday	If you have a godchild or godchildren, pray that they would develop and strengthen their own faith
Wednesday	Give thanks for adults who have been or who are your role models
Thursday	Pray that we at Trinity may deepen our prayer life individually and together
Friday	Pray for Operation Noah and its climate change campaign
Saturday	Pray for midwives who work in South Bucks