

If we live by the Spirit, let us also be  
guided by the Spirit.  
[Galatians 5:25]



**August 2012**

# ***The Recorder***

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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,

Our daughter Jo and her husband and children are going to live in Australia, where Peter has a two year contract with his current employers IBM. Back in January Pete and Jo had told us that they were thinking of seeking a post abroad. Jo was born and raised in Papua New Guinea. Pete's childhood years were spent largely in Zambia. No wonder they feel that if they don't 'spread their wings' as adults they will regret that in later years. Sad as we all were at the prospect of how badly we would miss them, we also recognised that they were right. And we encouraged them to pursue that exploration.

I'm reminded of Denis Ward writing in the current issue of Reform about his reasons for seeking baptism at the age of 88. He has been a Christian all his life. To quote Denis, "I have spent – perhaps wasted – a great deal of time over many years, worrying about whether I should ask to be baptised." He continues, "The Baptist doctrine says that we cannot accept other people's promises on our behalf. We must wait until we are old enough to decide for ourselves. And now I feel it's about time I recognised that I have reached that point. I hope that little David Marshall who was blessed at Reigate Park Church a month before my baptism will be able to reach the decision point sooner than I did!"

Do you see, as I do, that Jo and Peter in their decision to move to another country have got something in common with Denis and his decision to be baptised at age 88? It's something about acting on your dreams, or attending to that question or possibility that keeps raising its head in your thoughts. For Jo and Peter it was, "Should we move abroad for a while?" For Denis it was, "Should I get baptised?" What is it for you? Is there something that beckons you?

I believe that we should expect God to be speaking to us through these kinds of nagging questions that keep recurring. We should pay attention to them, discuss them with people we trust, look at the pros and cons sensibly, and then take action.

It's highly likely that many of you reading this have done something in your life already that you did in response to a question that kept nagging at you. If so, I'd be really interested to hear about it sometime.

Olympic and Paralympic athletes are people who have acted on their dreams. As we watch them compete this summer let's be ready to allow our own dreams to surface. Who knows where that might lead?



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## August Services

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

Main theme for August: DISCOVERING JOHN CHAPTER 6

5 August	Trinity Bible Sunday and Holy Communion*
12 August	Infant and child blessing
19 August	Led by Revd Michael Wallace
26 August	Led by Mrs Wilma Frew
4.00pm	Praise service

\* Count how many Bibles you have; bring your favourite to church with you; bring a 'Family Bible' if you have one.

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### Rotas for August

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in August

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 14th August:- Margaret Lewis invites us to 'Wood View' Greenlands Lane, Prestwood for 2.30 p.m

(Last month's visit postponed because of rain. We hope for better weather this time.)

Lifts as usual.



## Diary Dates

"Window on the World" CWM Europe Conference	Monday 30th July – Thursday 2nd August	Ditchingham, Suffolk
Coffee Morning	Saturday 11th 10.30am	Lower School Room
Infant Blessing	Sunday 12th 10.30am	Sanctuary
Morning Worship: Revd. Mike Wallace	Sunday 19th 10.30am	Sanctuary
Coffee Morning	Saturday 25th 10.30am	Lower School Room
Morning Worship: Mrs Wilma Frew	Sunday 26th 10.30am	Sanctuary
Praise Service	Sunday 26th 4.00pm	Sanctuary
Elders Meeting	Tuesday 28th 8.00pm	Lower School Room

August 2012						
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	

## Trinity Bookworms

We meet on Wednesday, August 1st at 2 p.m. at 11, Bernard's Court to discuss Barack Obama's 'Dreams from my Father'. Further meetings are arranged for Thursday 6th September and then the first Wednesdays of October, November and December.



Watch this space for details of times, place and books to be discussed.

## Not included in this version

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At the Church meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, church members voted unanimously to become a collection point for the “One Can” help appeal following our guest speaker, Ruth Ritchey’s explanation on how the charity works. The idea is that each week when you are doing your shopping you buy “one can” or a packet of food to put in the collection box, to help families and individuals who have been referred to the charity. There are leaflets and wallet/purse size shopping lists to carry with you at all times.



The One Can Foodbank was established to provide people in crisis with a short-term free emergency food supply of non-perishable items. Each food parcel provides enough nutritious basic ingredients together with menu cards to create a range of meals.

Recipients are individuals and families deemed “in crisis” by professional care workers, already working with them for reasons such as bereavement, probation, redundancy, family breakdown etc. Agencies, schools and Ministers can contact the One Can Trust and refer anyone in need until the “crisis” had been addressed.

Since starting in May 2011 One Can has had the privilege of having delivered over 400 parcels and fed over 900 children and adults within Wycombe District.

For more information you can go to the website [www.onecantrust.org.uk](http://www.onecantrust.org.uk) or contact Sarah Mordaut, the Project Director on 07731 789313, or talk to me.

If you would like to be more involved than just donating food, the trust need help in delivering food parcels and also with preparing the parcels ready for delivery.

I would like to thank all church members who voted in favour and I pray that Trinity will be a successful addition to the “One Can” Trust.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sarah'.

**Don't** assume that page 11 is ONLY the Birthday Page. Make sure you read about the forthcoming cycling event of the decade!!

## ZIMBABWE

This second update shares a report from the Matabeleland South Food and Livelihoods Security project in partnership with Zimbabwe Project Trust (ZimPro) and Lutheran Development Services (LDS) (this is the second part of this update).

Lutheran Development Services (LDS) is responsible for the implementation of the project in Gwanda district wards 18 and 20. Here Christian Aid present the achievements for 2012 first quarter (January to March):

- LDS and AGRITEX personnel carried out demonstrations for farmers on how to scout for pests and weeding. During the reporting period, 25 lead farmers were trained specifically for pest identification who in turn passed on the knowledge to a further 570 farmers. 45 lead farmers were also trained on the principle of weeding who in turn demonstrated the same to 638 farmers.
- Four water tanks were constructed in the first quarter to improve access to water for domestic and livestock consumption. Gutters have not yet been fitted to most tanks but plans are under way that all the tanks should be completed soon.

Two livestock training workshops were held in which 58 people were trained on small livestock production. Topics included general management of livestock and the roles of livestock committees and unions

## BANGLADESH

### Homestead raising and duck rearing

With a population of 160 million living in an area the size of Scotland or England and Wales, Bangladesh is a densely populated country. Over 60% live in rural areas with people working mainly in agriculture, forestry, fishing, garment manufacturing and quarrying. Two out of every three people live on less than \$2 a day while the rich make up just 1% of the population. These are facts about Bangladesh, but to fully appreciate the country you need to know the people and how they adapt in difficult circumstances.

Prosanta Bala, his wife Lipika and their children, daughter Rupali and son Protip live in Goal Gram, Gopilgonj district in South West Bangladesh. This area is constantly waterlogged because of flooding, cyclones and rainfall. Life has been transformed for the Bala family because they were chosen to have their homestead raised with the help of Christian Aid partner, The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB). The Bala family live next door to Prosanta's brother, who was also chosen for the homestead raising. Today you climb a steep embankment to get to the two homesteads with their separate cooking area, vegetable garden and cattle shed for their cows.

Rupali, who is in class 7 at the local school, thinks the new home is great. "Water does not affect us anymore. Now we can grow vegetables and trees; it makes life easier."

CCDB also provided the families with a duck pond and ducks. Campbell ducks were chosen because they are more resilient to saline water and give a high yield of eggs. The eggs provide a source of income and nutrition for the family. When they are past egg laying, they are sold at market. One duck can lay around 250 eggs a year. This has been a vital source of income for the family in an area affected by waterlogging, which is destroying vital crops.

So, as Rupali tells us, life is easier and that must be a good thing for the Bala family.

CCDB is a long term Christian Aid partner. They focus their Poverty Reduction Programme in strategic areas providing long term development through bringing communities together in Forums. Forum members receive training in skills, advocacy and disaster preparedness.



- L - Local held within the local Area
- I - Introductory – a starting point
- T – Training – not just theoretical, but practical
- E - Experiences – social, spiritual; they're all in it somewhere.

This is an accessible course that is ideal for any one who enjoys learning. It offers guidance to all involved in Church work, especially if you help to lead services.

- No entry qualifications needed.
- The only expense is the price of the units
- Written work is optional

It consists of 6 short units:

- Introductory course
  - Getting to grips with the Bible
    - Talking about God
      - Leading Worship
        - Preaching
  - Valuing Community Experiences

Each study unit is worked through at home taking about 2-3 hours.

The group will then meet to discuss the unit. Group meetings will last 2 hours with refreshments.

If possible study days will be included to allow deeper exploration of the materials.

I hope to start a TLS Lite Group in Chiltern Area this autumn. Come and try the Introductory Course and then decide if you wish to continue. There will be an initial meeting in September when dates for the first unit will be arranged to suit the group. Part of the learning is sharing with each other so it would be good to have a mix of churches represented.

It should be fun not hard work!

Please let me know if you are interested in joining this group by the end of August.

Revd Bridget Powell, Minister at the URC Chesham  
[bridget.powell@cheshamurc.org.uk](mailto:bridget.powell@cheshamurc.org.uk) 01494 772510

*P.S. from Gwen:*

*I would like to encourage any Recorder reader who is at all interested or curious to 'have a go' and try the introductory course. Having Bridget leading a TLS Lite in our area is a real opportunity to dig that little bit deeper into what you believe and why, and how that plays out in life.*

*TLS Lite is relevant for our top two priorities for Trinity 2013 – 2015 as agreed at Church Meeting in July: i.e. 'Spirituality and prayer' and 'Community Partnerships'.*



## General Assembly News Roundup

**New moderator inducted to URC General Assembly.** In the opening session of Assembly, the Revd Dr Michael Jagessar was inducted as moderator of General Assembly 2012-14.

During his two-year moderatorship, Dr Jagessar will continue in his permanent role as URC secretary for racial justice and multicultural ministry. Mrs Val Morrison was reaffirmed in her lay moderator's role. She is expected to hand over to the newly-elected lay moderator, Mr John Ellis, next summer.

The Revd Dr Michael Jagessar gave a passionate and lively address, appealing to Assembly members to embrace a habit of trusting in a generous God instead of allowing our lives to be determined by scarcity.

He said: "The re-authoring of our conversations along positive stories of generosity and abundance is not about avoiding tough questions or not dealing with pain or grief: it is about facing them squarely but through a different set of optics – God's expansive generosity through Jesus Christ." A full version of the address is available online. <http://bit.ly/IErmtQ>

Rapturous applause for jubilee ministers Rapturous applause greeted the "jubilee ministers" – those ministers celebrating more than 50 years of ministry – when they were presented to General Assembly this afternoon. The Revd Roberta Rominger, URC general secretary, made particular mention of the Revd Reg Dean, whose 83 years of ministry make him the longest serving URC minister.

**Assembly enables civil partnerships to be registered in local churches** Assembly agreed a resolution allowing local churches to decide on whether to allow civil partnerships to be registered in their buildings. In taking this decision, the URC has become the first mainstream Christian denomination to allow same-sex partners to register their civil partnership in church.

This resolution takes effect immediately and enables local United Reformed churches in England and Wales to consider whether they wish to allow civil partnerships to be registered on their premises (i.e. for the legal formalities, as well as the religious ceremony, to take place in church). Once a church has decided to take this step, it will need to ask its trustees to apply to the superintendent **registrar of the relevant local authority to become registered as an approved venue.**

### **Awards highlight community action**

Four diverse projects were honoured as part of the 2012 Community Project Awards sponsored by the URC and insurer, Congregational & General.

Winning a first-place prize of £3,000, The Edge Project was named the overall winner – a youth centre whose varied support programme has helped transform the lives of underprivileged young people in the Holmewood area of Bradford. Three other projects were awarded joint second place and received £2,000. Our Tribe – an Edinburgh-based project whose work supports greater integration between the lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender (LGBT) community and the local church; The Terminus Initiative – an ecumenical project in Sheffield, offering a variety of community services; and The Avenue Centre – a project that works with families in the community surrounding Southampton. For more on this story, including links to the winning projects, visit <http://bit.ly/M77gQp>

### **Report shows youth and children's work growing**

Presenting the first part of the Youth and Children's report, Rob Weston, convenor of the youth and children's work committee, detailed growth in areas of the committee's work. He said: "We have seen nine new Pilots companies begin in the last 12 months; the change of title from FURY Assembly to Youth Assembly has enabled the participation of more young people at January's Youth Assembly; and Children's Assembly has evolved to become a vibrant and integral part of General Assembly." Assembly agreed to "affirm the Youth and Children's work offered by Pilots



and commend it to all local churches” and to celebrate Pilots through a dedicated Sunday service each year. Mr Weston also expressed his thanks to “talented staff”, including Jo Williams, who will be leaving the role of children’s secretary in July, and John Brown, who leaves his role as URC youth work development officer in October.

### **Major budget cuts agreed**

Accepting the recommendation of Mission

Council, which met in March 2012, General Assembly asked six of its committees to achieve expenditure reductions amounting to £600,000 in 2013 relative to their 2012 budgets. The decision came after an emotionally charged debate, which reflected the particular consternation of many members over cuts to programmes affecting children and young people in the church. It continues a process that began in November 2011, when Mission Council agreed the deficit in the budget for 2012 was not sustainable and asked the Mission Council Advisory Group to oversee a review that could lead to recommendations to the Assembly for cuts.

While Mission Council chose to identify £600,000 of savings in net expenditure in March 2012, the Moderators’ Think Tank, on the advice of Finance Committee and the URC Trust, had recommended that £1m savings be found at that time. Treasurer John Ellis warned that committees would need to review their longer-term costs to produce further savings. Changes to ministers’ pension benefits URC ministers wishing to receive full retirement benefits will need to work until age 68 in the future. Following changes to the Rules of the Ministers’ Pension Fund agreed at the URC General Assembly in Scarborough, younger ministers in the United Reformed Church will need to work until age 68 to receive as good a pension as that which has hitherto been available to retiring ministers.

This will make little difference to older ministers approaching retirement, since the benefits they have earned through service up to 2012 will still be calculated on the old basis assuming a retirement age of 65. The changes make clear that it will still be possible for any minister to retire at age 65 if they so wish, with reduced benefits where applicable. Separate decisions were taken allowing the church to pay higher ill-health pensions to stipendiary ministers with longer service, and to simplify the church’s pension arrangements in the light of new government regulations.

### **Independent commission appointed**

In recognition of a variety of general issues brought to a head by the resignation of the 2010-elected moderator-elect, Mr Lawrence Moore, General Assembly has passed a resolution to appoint “an independent commission to consult with those involved to identify issues that arise from this unhappy experience.”

### **Final airing for Zi**

Roberta Rominger, speaking as co-convenor of the Zi steering group, took a variety of questions on the end of the campaign. She confirmed that Mission Committee would be taking the lead on moving forward the URC’s work on radical welcome and that the copyright for posters created for the campaign belongs to the URC; decisions as to their availability have not yet been taken. As to funding, she informed Assembly that Zi had been mainly funded by a grant from CW M. The accounts to the end of 2011 showed a total expenditure of £325,000; final accounts are now being prepared.

*[continued on page 10]*

## **In Brief**

- The Revd David Grosch-Miller was announced as the ministerial moderator of General Assembly for 2014-16. Mr John Ellis was announced as lay moderator for 2013-16. • General Assembly gave warm applause to new URC ministers, who have been inducted since the last General Assembly 2010. Welcoming them, the Revd Dr Michael Jagessar, said: "Go in peace, take risks, have fun, serve God."
- Two new churches were formally received into the URC at Assembly: Heston Asian URC in West London and Bournemouth International Church. Both began as mission projects of the Church – and both are thriving.
- During its Sunday morning session at St Andrew's URC, General Assembly gave thanks for the life and service of ministers who had died since the last General Assembly in 2010. To view the written commemoration, visit <http://bit.ly/ri276s>
- Stories from the Children's Assembly can be found online at <http://urc.org.uk> and the Children's Assembly blog can be viewed at <http://urcchildrensassemblies2012.blogspot.co.uk>
- General Assembly received notice of 22 local church closures and thanked God for their worship, witness and service. • Recognising the reducing number of adults aged 20 to 40 in the URC and the concerns of the URC youth assembly 2012, Assembly asked Mission Council to address these issues and to consider how to improve the integration of this age group at every level of the URC.
- On Saturday evening, Assembly celebrated the rich history of the URC in a joyous hour-long party, which marked several significant anniversaries including: the 40th anniversary of the URC, 75 years of Pilots, 25 years of TLS (Training for Learning and Serving), 25 years of the Windermere Centre and 20 years of Commitment for Life. A rendition of "Happy Birthday" was accompanied by the sound of dozens of party poppers popping!
- Assembly has voted to change the normal retirement age of full-time stipendiary ministers from 65 to 68. No minister will be forced to work beyond 65, but 68 would be the full pensionable age. Ruth Whitehead, convenor of the ministries committee, which brought the resolution, said: "Ministries will receive any requests to work beyond 68 with acclaim and amazement."
- Hundreds of members of Assembly and Children's Assembly marched with members of the congregation of St Andrew's URC, from St Andrew's church to Scarborough Town Hall on Sunday. Their "walk of witness" gave expression to the concerns of many about the disproportionate impact of spending cuts and welfare reforms on the most vulnerable in our society. At the Town Hall, the walkers, led by the moderators of the General Assembly, The Revd Dr Michael Jagessar and Mrs Val Morrison, met Scarborough's MP, Robert Goodwill, and presented him with a copy of the Scarborough Statement and the URC's Report on Poverty and Inequality. (Both documents are available from <http://bit.ly/MPa0aK>).
- The Ministries Committee report was sent back to Mission Council for further work.



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## **Sunday 9th September**

### **Commitment for Life Service**



A typical African lunch will be served after the Morning Service. For catering purposes we need an indication of the numbers attending. Please sign-up on the sheet which will be found on the table at the side of the Sanctuary.

*This month we would like to wish a*



**Happy Birthday**

to

Samuel H (1<sup>st</sup>)

Katherine C (11<sup>th</sup>)

Erica H (7<sup>th</sup>)

Kate Y (21<sup>st</sup>)

Destiny J (8<sup>th</sup>)

Olive S (28<sup>th</sup>)

Aurelia A (11<sup>th</sup>)



**Congratulations**

and Best Wishes to

Andrew & Yan (12<sup>th</sup>)

on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

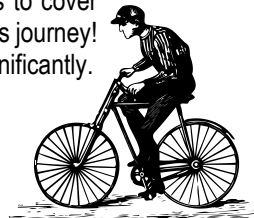
*With love from us all at Trinity*

Alan Yates – sponsored cycle ride Land's End to John O'Groats

It is nearly 10 years since my wife, Judith died from cancer. In memory of her I am going to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats (the End2End) with the aim of collecting money for Cancer Research UK. My aim is to cover almost 1000 miles in 12 days. I hope I don't regret using my bike and not my free bus pass for this journey! In the decade since Judith died the survival rate for women with breast cancer has increased significantly. Let's help to make the improvements in the next decade as significant.

If you would like to sponsor me, you can do so through a form which will be in the Lower School Room, or through the Virgin Money Website (see below).

As important as sponsorship is, I would really appreciate your prayers that I can complete the challenge safe and sound! <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AlanYates>



Donations through Virgin Money Giving will be quickly processed and passed to Cancer Research. Virgin Money Giving is a not-for-profit organisation and will claim gift aid on a charity's behalf where the donor is eligible for this. I am paying for all the costs of this challenge so all your gift will go, less a small fee, to Cancer Research. I really appreciate all your support and thank you for any donations.

Thanks for your support and encouragement. Alan

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

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

# prayer page

Loving Lord, we pray for all students  
awaiting exam results at this time...  
may they know your peace  
may they know your guidance for the future  
may they know they are loved for who they are,  
not what they achieve.

Amen.

You keep us waiting.  
You, the God of all time,  
want us to wait  
for the right time in which to discover  
who we are, where we must go,  
who will be with us, and what we must do.  
*So thank you ... for the waiting time.*

*from The Lion Prayer Collection*

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2012

Almighty God, we thank and praise you that you are love.  
We bring to you in sadness the many people in prison  
who have never received love as children or as adults.

Through your Word, your Spirit and your church,  
may they discover your love for them  
shown in Jesus Christ  
and experience the joy of the love  
which you long to give them. Amen.

*from The Lion Prayer Collection*



Love:  
Original  
Vital  
Essential of

Life,  
Our  
Vision of  
Eternity

Lord of  
Our  
Very  
Existence

**hear our prayer.**

*from the URC Prayer Handbook 1997*

I scuffle around, trying to fit everything into my busy day

...

*have I forgotten to involve you, Lord?*

I worry about the little things, and the big ones ...

*have I forgotten to involve you, Lord?*

I speak too quickly, and listen too rarely ...

*have I forgotten to involve you, Lord?*

I ask people I meet how they are, but forget to pray ...

*I have forgotten to involve you, Lord.*

Forgive me my sins, and help me to change.

Amen (so be it).