

And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.
[Matthew 4: v24.]



August 2014

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 place to belong

Spirituality - Prayer – Community – Welcome

Dear friends at Trinity,

Summer is here, many of us have much to thank God for as we take time out to visit new places or go back to old favourites. Martin and I returned to our most favourite place in the Swiss Alps (where we honeymooned over 40 years ago) to marvel again at God's awesome works and wonders of creation.

Our lives get so cluttered with material needs or should I say wants, it was refreshing to just take some bread and cheese with a bit of salad and go walking in God's wonderland. In many places on the mountains Bible texts were inscribed on plaques secured to large rocks, words from the Psalms pointing the reader to praise our creator. By an amazing waterfall were these words from Revelation 1 v 15, 18 "and His voice was like the sound of rushing waters. I Am the living one, I was dead, Behold I Am alive forever and ever".

Our God is so amazing, so powerful, so trustworthy, so eternal. He alone knows the plans He has for us- Jeremiah 29 v11,. He goes before us.

On holiday we were reminded several times that He will provide for us, that His timing is perfect. As we trust and offer ourselves to do His will, God brings people into our pathway who provide, encourage, guide and bless us. We were wonderfully blessed by strangers more than once, we too can be a blessing as we walk with our Lord.

Recently Peter Willetts led our service ending with that familiar hymn Trust and Obey

"As we walk with the Lord, in the light of His word what a glory He sheds on our way, when we do His good will, He abides with us still and with all who will trust and obey". We seek God's will through prayer and reading His word. Peter Willetts spoke of how an evening of prayer, seeking God as a fellowship really encouraged and strengthened his church.

A small group of us meet for the Vision 20/20 prayer on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays on each month at 9.30 am to 10 am. It is a very special time. Please consider committing to join us, God loves that we seek Him, you will be blessed and be a blessing too. We have also struggled with low numbers at housegroup, this is another opportunity to look into God's word together, to share our faith walk to encourage one another. In Acts we read the early church met together daily to pray and the Lord added daily to their number. We will resume housegroup in September, why not come along?

As we long for God to lead us we need to trust Him, trust His promises, trust His perfect timing, then seek Him with all our heart, together. Let us grasp the vision He has given us, keep praising, keep praying and wait eagerly on the Lord for what He has in store.

God bless you all.

Marian

Minister :

Church Secretary : Kate Yates

☎ 01494 672799

e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

Church contact numbers:

☎ 01494 520365 (answer phone) ☎ 07853 854623 (mobile)

August Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am

| | |
|----------|--|
| Aug 3rd | Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd John Danso (from Trinity URC, Slough) |
| Aug 10th | Morning Worship led by Pete Montague |
| Aug 17th | Morning Worship led by John Shaw |
| Aug 24th | Morning Worship led by Alan Yates |
| Aug 31st | Morning Worship led by Mary Carpenter |

Rotas for August

Not included in this version

What's on in August

Diary Dates

| Event | Day | Date | Time | Venue |
|--|-----------|------|-------------|-------------------|
| Churches Together in Wycombe Civic service to mark 100 years since World War 1 | Sunday | 3rd | 9:45am | All Saints Church |
| Churches Together in Wycombe service to mark 100 years since World War 1 | Monday | 4th | 12 noon | War Memorial |
| Vision 2020 prayer meeting | Wednesday | 6th | 9.30-10 am | Sanctuary |
| Elders' meeting | Wednesday | 6th | 8:00pm | LSR |
| Coffee morning | Saturday | 9th | 10:30am | LSR |
| Prayer ministry | Sunday | 10th | 12 noon | Vestry |
| Vision 2020 prayer meeting | Wednesday | 20th | 9.30-10 am | Sanctuary |
| Coffee morning | Saturday | 23rd | 10:30am | LSR |
| Fifth Brigade (DIY morning) | Saturday | 30th | 9.30am-noon | |

| August 2014 | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|----|-----------|----|----|-----------|
| 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 at 2pm on Wednesday 6th August. We shall be discussing "Miss Garnet's Angel" by Salley Vickers



Not included in this version

NEWS UPDATE FROM GWEN & BERNIE
At School of Theology and Mission – Rarongo
United Church College of Higher Education
17th July 2014

In the month since we last wrote, we have spent two weeks with Jo, Pete, Amy and Matthew in Melbourne, and been here in Rarongo for nearly two weeks. Our arrival was marked by speeches, introductions, sandwiches and fruit from the staff gathered in the college conference room, and by the news on the office phone that Tom and Helen's baby had arrived!

Timothy Micah, brother for Joshua David, was born on 4th July, our 7th grandchild. We have been delighted to receive a family portrait and news of good progress.

A spacious house was prepared for us by the Principal's wife, the maintenance man, and students from what are now the Hela and Highlands Regions, where we worked 1974-90. Nine of the 51 students are from there, including Joy (daughter of Pastor Lembe) who was a child with Jo and Meg and recalls borrowing their books to read, Nickson from Nipa, and Rex, the first from Kip in the Lai Valley to train as a minister. Nickson and Rex constructed a clothes line for us and Joy introduced Gwen to the Women's Fellowship washing machine.

The congregation at Vunairima streams back to the campuses of United Church schools, pastors' college and STM after Sunday morning service. STM also has an afternoon service in its chapel. Faculty meeting this week confirmed Gwen is to teach Cross Cultural Communication, Climate Change, probably HIV/AIDS with others, and supervise the Masters student; Bernie Homiletics, Ecumenical Movement, and assist in Library development.

Most students left on Monday for 2 weeks practical experience in local church circuits. Before students went we had all the Highlands and Hela students and children for a shared meal, to pray together and to thank them for their help. Moderator, UCCoHE Director and other key people come this weekend for Academic Board, Resource Planning, and to induct us two and Rev Walo Temo who is rejoining the staff after studies in Singapore.

Thank you very much for your prayers and thoughts which are helping to carry us through the adjustments to the way of life here, the emotional struggles of change and being away from family, and the preparations for new responsibilities.

With our greetings and prayers for you,

Gwen and Bernie

FIFTH BRIGADE – WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?



A few years ago we decided that our church premises needed some TLC in order to keep it welcoming to everyone who uses it. So, as there is no Coffee Morning or Café Days whenever there's a fifth Saturday in the month we chose to use that morning to tackle DIY and other jobs which aren't covered by the cleaners, Catriona, etc. Jobs can be as simple as tidying all the hymn books & checking them for any repairs or we might be cleaning glue off the Crendon Hall tables, sweeping the walkway on the eastern side or putting up a shelf or picture. We meet from 10am to 12.30pm and refreshments are provided. We welcome anyone of any age and will always find a suitable job for each to do for however long a time he/she is available.

Our next Fifth Brigade morning is on Saturday 30 August. Will we see you there?

Marian

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Nightbirds' Cream Tea last month. We raised £227 towards the Quinquennial Fund and had an enjoyable afternoon blessed by good weather.

Trinity Nightbirds

Retirement Some of the older members of the congregation (in the sense of longer association) may be interested to know that Peter Rand has retired from the ministry from Blyth & Seaton Delaval.



Recycle no more!

In the past two years we have managed to raise over £70 for the charity "Act 4 Africa". Unfortunately times have changed. The organisation which took our spent cartridges no longer does so on the same basis, and other similar arrangements with other organisations all seem to have got OFF the band wagon. To recycle in the future, we need to pay for boxes, and then pay again to have them collected. Not for us thank you!

Regrettably, this means that you now need to dispose of your old ink or toner cartridges as you think fit. We will no longer have a box in the Lower Schoolroom for this purpose. (Do NOT put them in the recycling bin which is there for "acceptable" recycling!)

Angus

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

It was a delight to welcome Harry B into membership at our May church meeting and to formally receive him into membership at a service in June. If you worship regularly at Trinity and have not fully considered church membership before, do talk to your Elder. The information below sets out what is involved in becoming a member.

WHAT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP MEANS

Christians at baptism, or at confirmation, make the promises below. The Church then receives them into membership. Membership is both local – membership of one local church – Trinity United Reformed Church; and also global membership of one worldwide Church of Christ. The promises remind us of the privileges and responsibilities of membership. We are each called to

1. *Do you confess anew your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, maker of heaven and earth, redeemer of the world, giver of life? **I do.***
2. *Do you, trusting in God's grace, repent of your sins, renounce evil, and turn to Christ? **I do.***
3. *Do you promise, trusting in God's grace, to be faithful in public and private worship, to live in the fellowship of the church and to share in its witness? **I do.***
4. *Do you promise, by that same grace, to follow Christ and to seek to do and to bear his will all the days of your life? **I do.***
5. *And do you trust in his mercy alone to bring you into the fullness of the life of the world to come? **I do.***

Explaining the Promises

The Membership Roll is a list of those who have made these promises and now try to live by them. (*Exceptions are made for those who want to take their promises seriously but are prevented from doing so in an active way due ill health or other unavoidable personal circumstances.*)

Members should always seek to live in accordance with the promises they have made. This is what can be expected of members who take their five promises seriously:

Nos. 1, 2 and 5. Members should express through their lifestyle and conversation a personal belief and trust in God.

No. 3a. Members should be able to explain the ways in which they seek to be faithful in private worship. **No. 3b.** Members should be seen to be faithful in attending and sharing in the public worship of the Church, offering their gifts and talents to enhance the worship of God.

No. 3c. Members should share in the fellowship of the Church, for example by: meeting with other members, helping with the needs of other members, making regular financial gifts to support the work of the church, sharing the responsibility of the decision making processes of Church Meetings, giving time and talents in the support of Church activities, and so on.

No. 3d. Members should share in the witness of the Church, by supporting organised initiatives of the Church in the wider community, and by sharing their faith with others.

No. 4. Members should show by the actions and choices they make in life that they are continuing to seek to follow Christ, and are trying to do his will, and are willing to bear the cost of that decision.

No one is perfect; we can only try to do our best, trusting in God.

All members who actively struggle with their promises are welcome. But membership is not for those who are not willing to try to live by their promises.

Kate Yates, Church Secretary



BANGLADESH

Many United Reformed Church congregations will remember Joyanta Adhikari who visited us on a couple of occasions as Director of the

Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh in partnership with Christian Aid. He has spoken about his work in Newcastle, Warrington, Hadleigh and many other places in the UK. This article was written for the World Council of Churches weekly newsletter.

Joyanta Adhikari, a Bangladeshi member of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Central Committee, speaks about socio-political realities for Christians in his country, aspirations for protection of human rights, as well as what the WCC's call for a "pilgrimage of justice of peace" means for the region's churches.

Adhikari, a Baptist by faith and director of the Christian Commission for Development in *Bangladesh* (CCDB), shared these views in an interview conducted in Dhaka on 5 June.

What are the socio-political realities in which Bangladeshi churches live today?

Christians in Bangladesh are a small religious minority among the Muslim majority. Yet, starting from the independence of the country in 1971, they have been engaged in numerous fields. Many Christians have sacrificed their lives in the freedom struggles. Since then, footprints of the churches can be traced in the work for nation-building, education, humanitarian initiatives for climate disasters and development. These are the contributions that should be recognized and evaluated by the state, as well as by ourselves.

The Bangladeshi Christians, along with other religious minorities, are always affected by the regional and global geo-political situation. The conflicts in neighbouring countries that involve religion often create a spill-over in our country. Many a time, occurrences in the West create a backlash on Christians here who are mistakenly associated with the West.

We live in a religiously plural society in Bangladesh. At times it becomes a challenge for the churches to earn trust due to practices of some Evangelical churches who consider conversions a priority. Such actions by these churches can be counterproductive in a situation like ours.

What human right issues concern Bangladeshi churches the most? And how are churches addressing these issues?

Through the National Council of Churches in Bangladesh and the United Forum of Christians, we try to speak about human rights issues in every possible way we can. These human rights issues related to women, youth, children and underprivileged groups have been the focus of local projects of the churches.

I feel that Christians in Bangladesh are living peacefully with other religious communities. However, if we want to protect the fabric of social and religious harmony in the country, promote our foundational values insuring protection of rights for all citizens regardless of their religious association, we must uphold secular values of the Bangladeshi constitution.

To ensure the protection of human rights in our country, we hope that a certain radical religious mindset can be curbed by the government. We hope that they can do more to make sure that peaceful co-existence and economic growth continue in Bangladesh.

What is the significance of a "pilgrimage of justice and peace" for Bangladeshi churches, a phrase which is a call from the WCC Busan assembly?

It might be easy to say that we are taking on a pilgrimage of justice and peace; however, to put this call into action is not easy. As churches, we are trying our best to transform this call into a reality. We have attempted to develop several initiatives of dialogue, especially with people of different faiths so that we can work together towards the common cause of peace and justice.

Yet at times this becomes a challenge when actions from those in power and groups who use religion as a political tool disrupt the peace, destabilize the society and hamper the process of justice. In order to make peace and justice a reality in Bangladesh, issues such as corruption, a radical Islamic mindset and manipulation of religion must be addressed by both the government and the people.

WCC June 2014

Summary of church meeting held on Tuesday 15th July 2014

1. Community Partnerships:

Alex Britton from *Talkback* gave a very interesting and illuminating talk about their work with people with learning disabilities, helping them to learn self-advocacy skills and take more control of their own lives including help with shopping and managing money. Talkback was started in 1999. They endured significant cuts a few years ago and weren't sure if they'd survive. Many are thriving through the group that meets here on a Wednesday and also a Thursday afternoon. Alex also gave some history of what people with learning difficulties have endured over several decades and the changes in attitudes and society that have resulted. In more recent times a lot of people with learning disabilities were often sent away from home. Nowadays young people can stay at home and go to local schools and colleges and are taught how to live and work in the community. There were lots of cuts in recent years, with day centres in Bucks cut from 26 to 8. From having gone to a centre every day some clients didn't even go out once or twice a week. Talkback 2 then started here with 17 people now attending, including our own John Taylor. Mix of age groups from young to 60s. There is a scheme called "Safe Place" in many shops and banks in High Wycombe, Aylesbury, and Amersham where staff have been trained to help people with learning disabilities/Alzheimer's who might have got lost etc. We watched a short DVD showing how things have changed since the 1930s for people with learning disabilities.

2. Finance - How the budget looks at present

We have £80,000 in the bank (some of which we hold for other organisations).

Budget for offertory was £12,500

Actual is £13,500

Budget for premises hire was £19,000

Actual is £24,000

M&M contribution 2015

We have been asked for £29,112 (£708 more than 2014). Church meeting agreed this. Although we are losing Crown House income we believe it is right to pay this, on the understanding that if we find we are unable to meet the payment through other hire income then we will request a reduction.

3. Spirituality & Prayer: Pastoral update/news of the family: People shared news of people in our congregation and their families, and we prayed for those in need.

Proposed Policy for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults at Trinity – approved unanimously. The congregation is encouraged to be familiar with this (and the Child Protection Policy) as the protection of children and vulnerable adults is a shared responsibility.

How does Sunday worship equip us for living out our Christian faith during the week?

Discussion on this – general sense that people feel sufficiently resourced.

4. Property - Manse tenants: We will be seeking new tenants from the end of September for a year on the basis that we can serve notice if we need the manse for a CRCW.

Quinquennial repairs update - The estimate comes to £33,037 plus VAT, totalling £39,644.40. Current funds including the Synod grant not yet received come to £42,528.39. We should be able to reclaim much of the VAT from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme which would go back into the quinquennial fund for future repairs. There may be some additional costs for extra broken panes of glass, etc. Church meeting voted to authorise Kate Yates & Simon Evans to permit expenditure up to £42,500 if necessary.

Offer from Shanly Homes for part of manse garden – Discussions still continuing

AOB

- **Kate asked if members wanted to suggest topics to cover at church meeting**
- **"Virtual tour" on website** - For those who are online, please visit <http://www.trinityurc.org.uk/about-us/virtual-tour>

Date of next Church Meeting: **Tuesday 16th September 2014**

Pastoral Groups

Not included in this version

This month we would like to wish a



Happy Birthday

to

Samuel H (1st)

Katherine C (11th)

Abigail L (4th)

Kate Y (22nd)

Aurelia A (11th)

Olive S (28th)



Congratulations



and best wishes to

Marian & Martin (4th)

Andrew & Yanna (12th)

on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

With love from us all at Trinity

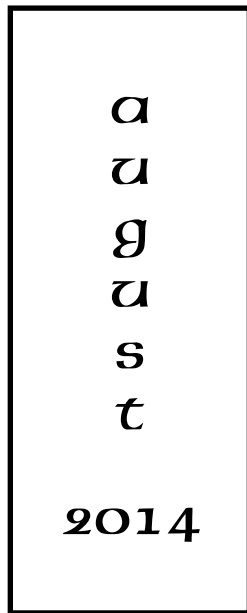
*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 31st August.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 22nd August*

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

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

prayer page

Thank you, lord, for summer sun, for days when sitting in the garden is a pleasure, when walking in the woods or the park lifts the spirits, when swimming in the pool or the sea is a delight, when children can build tree-houses and sandcastles and all can enjoy cold drinks and ice-cream. We pray in the name of Jesus who called the little children to come to him.
Amen



Lord Jesus you knew the need for a time of quiet away from your busy life which included teaching your disciples and the crowds about your kingdom. Grant that in these school holidays teachers may have time to relax. Be with those who give up some of their holiday to arrange activities and help for their pupils. Watch over those who take children on adventure holidays and trips abroad.

Guide the thoughts of those preparing lessons for next term. Calm the anxieties of those who, like the children, are waiting to hear their classes' examination results. Strengthen all to meet the demands of the coming school year.

Amen



Heavenly Father, we pray that summer heat may not encourage anti-social behaviour, loss of temper and angry exchanges between individuals and communities leading to the endangering of lives and livelihoods.

Amen

We pray for the many areas of the world where there are no holidays only uneasy pauses in war and destruction. We long for the day when cease fire means what it says and hostilities cease between and within nations. Lord of love and reconciliation hasten the day when your peace will break out and your kingdom will come on earth.

Amen