



December 2004

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

Revd. Michael Shrubsole

Minister of Trinity United Reformed Church

Like many millions of folk I have just upgraded my computer with Windows Service Pack 2. This free upgrade from Microsoft is intended to make computers more secure from attack by viruses and other invasive and destructive bits of software. Now my computer keeps on warning me that my anti-virus software and my firewall software "may be out of date", and that my computer "might be at risk". Now Windows encourages me to download updates of my software to make sure I am always up-to-date and fully protected. It can often seem frustrating when I turn my computer on to find that I am advised not to get on with the task that I intended, but first to spend time updating my security; but the preparation and precaution ought to be worth it, preventing more serious, time wasting damage later on.

This is not meant to be a computing magazine article! All of the above serves as an illustration. My computer says, "Upgrade, for updates are available." And in my Bible Jesus says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Just as Windows tells me to get my computer sorted out, so the season of Advent tells me to get my life sorted out. I can have the latest update for my computer; and I can have Emmanuel, 'God who is with us', for my life. But I can't have the update unless I'm willing to take the time and download it; and God can't come close to me unless I make room for God and invite him to come close. A free update is a tantalising offer; just think how much time and effort a team of software engineers will have put into creating each download. And it's ours for free, if only we can be bothered to set the download running and deal with the consequences of sorting out the changes it will make to our computer. God want to come close to us, he freely offers to enter our lives and change us from within. The Christmas story is a reminder to us of the difference God makes when he becomes Emmanuel - God-with-us. But can we be bothered to let him in? Will we face up to the difference that God makes when he comes to sort our lives out?

If you say 'No' to all the updates and your computer crashes, then you really regret it! If you say 'No' to God, then the eternal consequences and regrets can be infinitely the greater! The season of Advent is intended to be your wake up call. Make the changes now, enjoy the free gift unveiled to us at Christmas which is worth so much. Don't regret it later.

May I take this opportunity to send you all Christmas greetings from the Shrubsole family - Mike, Louise, Andrew and Christopher. This year the church is promoting a new charitable fundraising Christmas card display scheme. Julia Sparks is working on the details of it for us. The Shrubsoles will be joining in with the scheme in the church, but we are thinking specially about any of you who read this magazine, but who won't get into the church during the Christmas season to see the greetings displayed. So for the benefit of all we want to say "Thank you!" for the past year, for all your love and support, for the many ways in which you have helped enrich our lives through your company and through the things you do in the life of the church. May Christmas be for you all a time of blessing and closeness to friends and family and especially to the one who is God-with-us. Amen.

Mike

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December Services

Normal Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m. (Other services as indicated.)

Children of all ages meet for part of morning worship using the new 'Light Years' material from Scripture Union. Adult worship usually follows the texts of the Revised Common Lectionary.

5th December - Advent 2 - Morning Worship with Communion.

Matthew 3:1-12, Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13, Psalm 72

12th December - Advent 3 - All age Christmas Worship. With Christmas Gift collection.

Matthew 11:2-11, Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10, Psalm 146

[See page 9 for further information regarding this service]

19th December - Advent 4 - Morning Worship.

Matthew 1:18-25, Isaiah 7:10-16, Romans 1:1-7, Psalm 80

19th December - 4.30pm - Carols by Candlelight

24th December - 11.30pm - Watchnight Communion Service on Christmas Eve

25th December - Christmas Day Family Worship

26th December - Sunday Worship - St Stephen's Day.

Come and chose a favourite carol. One choice will be:

'Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen'.

Rotas for December

Not included in this version

What's on in December



Monday 6th Dec

Christmas Meal
at the
Rose & Crown
Saunderton

at 7.15pm

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 7th Dec

Carols. Preparation for party.

Bring & Buy

Tuesday 14th Dec

Christmas Party

All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

We are now on holiday until 2005



3rd December

at 2pm

Scrabble

Only one opportunity to expound your
"vocabularic" knowledge this month. Don't waste it!

I am unable to commit myself to leading a walk over the Christmas period. Perhaps someone else (a younger member possibly?) would like to organise one.

Remember, Monday and Tuesday following Christmas Day are both Bank Holidays.

Olive S

Not included in this version

Diary

CHURCH DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

Induction of Revd Alan Kirkcaldy to the pastoral charge of Wendover Free Church

Saturday 4th December, 3.00pm, at Wendover Church.

Elders Meeting

Tuesday 7th, 7.30pm. in the Schoolroom

Chiltern District Council Meeting

Wednesday 8th, 7.30pm at Deanway Church, Chalfont.

WANTED

As many of you will already know, Michelle B is moving away. She will not only be missed from church, but also from Trinity Brownies where she has been an assistant Brownie guider.

Trinity Brownies is therefore again looking for a new guider/ unit helper. No experience is needed but if you wish to undertake some training there is plenty of opportunity to do so.

Brownies are from 7-10 years old and meet from 6-7.15 on Thursdays in Crendon Hall. There are 20 girls in the unit at the moment and all very enthusiastic. If you want any further information please ask either myself or Gina W (Brown Owl).

Please think of whom you could ask about this. I can assure you that working within Brownies and Guides is a truly rewarding experience.

Thank you.

Julia S

. . . And again . . .

Anyone wishing to help with the decoration of the church with flowers etc for the Christmas season should contact Nancy H or Margaret L. The effort will be needed on Saturday 11th December

£££

Finance report

The 2005 budget was presented at the November Church Meeting and was approved.

Highlights include:

Budgeted income	£55075
Budgeted expenditure	<u>£60170</u>
Deficit	(£5095)

We have agreed to maintain our 2005 M & M contributions at 2004 levels at £32500, but we are budgeting for a decrease in Offertory from £29500 in 2005 to £28000 in 2004, due to decreasing membership.

The budget does not include any exceptional expenditure associated with our plans for disability access and premises refurbishment.

Church Meeting in September approved the following donations from the church in 2004:

Sudan Fund	£100
Iain Rennie Hospice	£100
Central Aid	£100
South Bucks Hospice	£100
Fresh Noise	£100
Bucks College Chaplaincy	£100
Children in Distress	£225
Historic Churches	£600

Finally Church Meeting in September also approved the following Gift Aid repayments to a number of charities:

Commitment for Life	£14.10
Christian Aid	£52.04
Children in Distress	£19.04
Open Door/Café Days	£ 7.05

Ian Buchanan

December 2004

KEEP FIT

A small group of us meet in Crendon Hall for some **gentle** keep fit exercises and would be delighted if others would like to join us. We meet at 7.30pm on the 1st, 3rd and any 5th Mondays and also the 4th Tuesday of each month. We work to a cassette tape for just over 30 minutes, at our own pace, and feel much better for it (honestly!) So please come and join in the fun, especially after Christmas if you feel you've eaten too much and need to get back in shape. A towel or small rug would be useful to lie on for the floor exercises. If you need any more information please see Rose Cornwall or Norma Garden.

COFFEE MORNINGS

It seems as if the Coffee Mornings in the Lower Schoolroom are becoming popular and we thought it would be worth trying to have them more frequently. These cheerful mornings raise some good sums of money and they go, of course, to our Restoration Fund. We get **about** £25 each time for about 12 times a year. So we thought it might be a good idea to have these events more frequently, at least for the next few months. We offer tea or coffee and something to nibble at and a Tombola chance. We'd like to have a few more friends to help make and serve the refreshments and be welcoming and chatting – 2 or 3 people each time is plenty. No training necessary, pleasant company provided free.

These are the future dates – all Saturdays from say 10 am to 12.30.

December 11th 2004, and January 8th and 22nd 2005.

Please contact either Rose C or Audrey R to offer help.

The Joy of Christmas

Salvation Army
High Wycombe
with Reading Phoenix Choir
(and other special guests)

Saturday 18th December

7pm

The King's Centre
Desborough Road

[A collection will be taken in aid of the Scanappeal]

Tickets - £5 - from 01494 530299

Christmas Card Greetings.

As mentioned in a previous Recorder, this year there will be no Trinity post box. It was decided at the November church meeting that the best way to send our Christmas greetings this year should be for individuals or families to write just one card to the whole congregation.

We are suggesting that any money saved by not buying as many Christmas cards could be left as a donation for the restoration fund.

You will be able to put your card for the congregation on the notice board by the piano in the church and donations can be put in the collection box by the board.

The board will be ready for your cards from Sunday December 5th

Julia S.

It was October and the Indians on a remote reservation asked their new Chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a Chief in a modern society he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared.

But being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?" "It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold" the meteorologist at the weather service responded.

So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared. A week later he called the National Weather Service again. "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?" "Yes," the man at National Weather Service again replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter."

The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find. Two weeks later the Chief called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely," the man replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked. The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting firewood like crazy."

Christmas All Age Worship and Gift Service Sunday 12th December

As part of the Christmas All Age Service, which is traditionally prepared by Junior Church, it is also an opportunity to give gifts to local groups. Our choice this year is the same as last – please read the details carefully. Please do not wrap the gifts. We always receive letters of thanks as your gifts are very much appreciated.

Friday and Saturday Café – meeting in our Schoolroom on a weekly basis. The group would like to be able to give a gift to their regular customers, men and women. (15 men and 20 ladies) It is aimed to wrap up a small toiletry and a small box of sweets/chocolates or biscuits for each person. Suggestions: small sizes of shower gel, body spray. Body lotion etc; small packets of special biscuits, bars of chocolate, small gift boxes of chocolate or Christmas type sweets etc.

Women's Aid and Women's Refuge – as in past years they would appreciate new toys and gifts for ladies, teenagers and children to help fill Santa's sack for their Christmas party and for other celebrations around Christmas Day.

Both groups also welcome money or gift tokens so they can purchase selected gifts and food

Further details from Louise S Tel 637583

LORD - HELP ME!

[A poem by David Tait:.... 24 May 2004]

Now's the time when you are feeling low,
All your effort, with so little to show.
When life is getting on top of you,
God's Word doesn't seem true.
You're looking for a boost,
Chickens home to roost!
Nothing's working,
Life so hurting!
Indescribable!
Unbearable!

"Hey!
Pray!"
"Do I hear,
Voice in ear?"
"Now, listen to me,
One plus two, can be three!
If today, you will let me help you,
Your dreams, they can still come true.
When you rest your all in my gentle hand,
Your horizons, I will again, begin
to expand.
Why do we ignore His advice?
Unwilling to pay the price,
Of giving all our being over to Him,
Rather let life's light grow so dim.
Yes I'm still learning to understand,
Life, when it's placed in His hand,
Will simply, so much better be,
Than if it's only guided by me!"

GOD'S CAKE

Sometimes we wonder, "What did I do to deserve this?" or "Why did God have to do this to me?" Here is a wonderful explanation!

A daughter is telling her Mother how everything is going wrong, she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away. Meanwhile, her Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, "Absolutely Mum, I love your cake."

"Here, have some cooking oil," her Mother offers. "Yuck" says her daughter. "How about a couple raw eggs?" "Gross, Mum!" "Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?" "Mum, those are all yucky!"

To which the mother replies: "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake! God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful! God is crazy about you. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.

IRAQ - VERY INTERESTING - DID YOU KNOW?

1. The garden of Eden was in Iraq.
 2. Mesopotamia, which is now Iraq, was the cradle of civilization!
 3. Noah built the ark in Iraq.
 4. The Tower of Babel was in Iraq.
 5. Abraham was from Ur, which is in Southern Iraq!
 6. Isaac's wife Rebekah is from Nahor, which is in Iraq.
 7. Jacob met Rachel in Iraq.
 8. Jonah preached in Nineveh - which is in Iraq.
 9. Assyria, which is in Iraq, conquered the ten tribes of Israel.
 10. Amos cried out in Iraq!
 11. Babylon, which is in Iraq, destroyed Jerusalem.
 12. Daniel was in the lion's den in Iraq!
 13. The three Hebrew children were in the fire in Iraq (Jesus had been in Iraq also as the fourth person in the fiery furnace!)
 14. Belshazzar, the King of Babylon saw the "writing on the wall" in Iraq.
 15. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, carried the Jews captive into Iraq.
 16. Ezekiel preached in Iraq.
 17. The wise men were from Iraq.
 18. Peter preached in Iraq.
 19. The "Empire of Man" described in Revelation is called Babylon, which was a city in Iraq!
- And you have probably seen this one. Israel is the nation most often mentioned in the Bible. But do you know which nation is second? It is Iraq! However, that is not the name that is used in the Bible. The names used in the Bible are Babylon, Land of Shinar, and Mesopotamia. The word Mesopotamia means between the two rivers, more exactly between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The name Iraq, means country with deep roots. Indeed Iraq is a country with deep roots and is a very significant country in the Bible. No other nation, except Israel, has more history and prophecy associated it than Iraq.

Our history

Chapter 8 of the writings of Rev Auty in 1924

TRINITY CHURCH BEFORE THE AMALGAMATION.

IN November, 1825, the Rev. Thomas Ashwell, who had been at Chalfont St. Giles and at Poyle, was ordained Pastor, and apparently remained until about the end of 1833.

In the following year the Rev. John Hayden, who had studied at Homerton, and had been for nine years Pastor at Swanland, in Yorkshire, came to Ebenezer. It was to his energy and generosity that Trinity Church, the fine structure where the united Congregational Church now worships, was due. The project for its erection was initiated in 1836 but the building was not completed until 1850. The cost was about £4,000, of which £1,000 was contributed by Mr. Hayden himself. The minute book before alluded to is singularly reticent in reference to this great undertaking. There is a note, on a fly leaf, that the Building Fund was formed on March 1st, 1836. An entry in March, 1851, states that in consequence of the heavy debt still remaining on Trinity Chapel "it is expedient that the sum of £500 be raised on the said chapel, and that we as members of the church assembling in this place do hereby sanction the Trustees of Trinity Chapel in raising the needful sum." Beyond these two references the enterprise passes unnoticed. There is, however, an entry dated August, 1858, when a resolution was passed by the Church to the effect that "the purchase or erection of a house for the minister of Trinity Chapel is an object worthy of serious attention," and a Committee was formed to take the project into consideration. Apparently it did not attain realisation.

An entry in the old book (in Mr. Hayden's writing) deserves reproduction. It tells how on every evening of the week beginning: Sunday, September 2nd, 1849, a prayer meeting was held at Ebenezer "on account of the cholera," and how on Thursday, September 6th, a public prayer meeting was held in the afternoon, in the Town Hall, for all denominations, "and such were the numbers that attended that the Church was filled with the overflowings of the Town Hall." Mr. Hayden presided in the Town Hall during the first part of the service, and subsequently the Rev. Mr. Foy, a Church of England clergyman, while the Rev. H. Paddon, Vicar of the parish, preached a sermon in the Church. Mr. Hayden estimated that there were from two to three thousand persons present.

The Rev. J. Hayden's pastorate terminated in October, 1868, when he resigned his charge. He went to reside at Weybridge, where he died suddenly in 1880. He was buried at Wycombe.

Mr. Hayden's successor at Trinity was the Rev. Taliesin Davies, who will be remembered by many persons in the district—particularly as an ardent and uncompromising advocate of total abstinence. He was Pastor at Cores End, Wooburn, from 1857 till 1864, and during his ministry the chapel there was renovated and a new schoolroom built. He went from Wooburn to Plumstead, and in 1869 accepted a call to Trinity, where he remained until 1878. He afterwards held charges at Rolton and Rakewell, and upon finally retiring came back to spend his closing years at Wooburn.

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

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

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

prayer page
(prepared by the children of junior church)

D e c e m b e r

2004

Due to production difficulties,
the Prayer Page is not included
in this version this month



Carols by Candlelight, heartily sung,
Holly and mistletoe, lovingly hung,
The turkey is ready, mince pies are made,
Pudding is steaming, table is laid.

The tree in the corner with twinkling half-lights,
Heart warming scene, giving fancy her flights,
Such wonderful things here, simply to say
“Gentle Lord Jesus, it’s your special day.”

*[from the magazine of the Disabled
Friendship Club]*

*It is hoped that any unintentional
breach of copyright will be forgiven.*

Greetings Card Campaign

In previous years a number of people have taken part in the campaign for sending greeting cards to prisoners of conscience or those under threat of death in various parts of the world.

Details are sent by Amnesty International, and this year are in book form and arranged according to countries.

I have put several of these books (green cover with snowflake design

at the back of the church and also in the Lower Schoolroom, and it would be good if we could send cards again this year.

Would you please take the book, choose the prisoners you wish to write to, then replace the book in church for others to use. The campaign runs to the end of January, but please don’t leave it until the last minute!

Amnesty reminds us that we must not mention their name nor refer to any of the prisoners’ details.

Also, if a non-religious card is requested, this must be strictly adhered to and the message must not contain any reference to religion. A simple message like “we are thinking of you” is safest.

We are assured by released prisoners that these messages mean a lot to those who have lost hope and feel forgotten, and also are a reminder to authorities that their actions have been noticed. Please include your name and address, and if by any chance you get a reply, let us know.

Thank you for your support.

Audrey B