



February 2006

The Recorder

Inside - this month . . .

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|---------------------|--------|
| Pastoral letter | 2 | AGM | 6 |
| Services & Rotas | 3 | Prayer Page | 12 |
| What's on? | 4 | Commitment for Life | 8 - 10 |
| Church family & Life | 5, 7 | | |

*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

The decorations are all down. The celebrations are all over, and a New Year has begun. As well as looking forward to whatever opportunities this year will bring, I can't help looking back over some of the events of last year.

I have had an amazing three months, visiting parts of the world I had only dreamed of, and I am still glowing with wonderful memories. I hope you will allow me to share a few personal reflections. As I travelled through Singapore, New Zealand, and Australia I was constantly reminded of the lines from my favourite hymn "How Great Thou Art. So often I found myself "in awesome wonder" considering all the works his hand has made. The lofty mountain grandeur, the woods and forest glades, the birds singing sweetly in the trees, the Great Ocean road, the fantastic rock formations, beautiful lakes, glaciers, and so much more." WOW!" just couldn't do justice to the wonders of nature, the flowers, the trees, and the strange animals and birds. My soul wanted to sing "O Lord my God, how great Thou art".

It is no wonder that New Zealand was chosen for the filming of "Lord of the Rings" and "Narnia", or that New Zealanders refer to their country as Godzone. I can see why.

We were privileged to be able to worship in lofty cathedrals in Singapore, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Auckland, as well as in small simple churches built by the early settlers. All were very special, but my favourite was the Knox Presbyterian Church in New Plymouth. We were made so welcome there, and they sent greetings to all at Trinity, High Wycombe. These I gladly bring.

Four contrasting highlights. A Helicopter flight over Mount Cook and Fox Glacier, magnificent scenery at Milford Sound, descent into a gold mine, and coming across a beautiful bay along Australia's Great Ocean Road. Its name? Murnane's Bay! What a wonderful world. "How Great Thou Art"

Back to the present, and all that 2006 holds in store for us. In some words of William Barclay

O God, as we pray to you today
Tell us what you want us to do with this year
And give us the strength and courage and determination to do it.



Minister :
There is no minister in post at present

Church Secretary:
Mrs Margaret Lewis,

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

February Services

Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

5th February - Morning Worship with Communion -

Rev Erna Stevenson (Amersham URC)

12th February - Morning Worship - Rev Geoff Bending

19th February - All-age Worship & Thinking Day - Mr John Shaw

26th February - Morning Worship - Mr Peter Crang

Rotas for February

Not included in this version

What's on in February



Monday 13th Feb - Valentine Theme
(8pm. Hostess - Daphne M)

Monday 27th Feb - Pancake evening (Bring your own fillings)
(8pm. Hostess - Ellen M)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 7th Feb

Old Testament Women - Rebekah

Tuesday 14th Feb

Jean & Jim Stanbury -

Slides of Bucks villages

Tuesday 21st Feb

Andrew Winton - A Musical Afternoon

Tuesday 28th Feb

Preparing for Womens World Day of Prayer -

South Africa. Bring & Buy

All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom



3rd & 17th February

Scrabble

Social afternoon with an attempt at mental exercise

CARIBBEAN EVENING SATURDAY APRIL 29th

If you remember the wonderful time we had on 30th April last year, then please make a note in your diary and join us for another fun-filled evening on April 29th. There will be food and entertainment and a great social evening. Rose Cornwall is arranging this event and will have tickets for sale nearer the time.

Watch this space!

Not included in this version

Church Meetings

At the church meeting on 17th January the decision was taken to hold future church meetings bi-monthly. This means that the next meeting will be in March (the AGM) and then May, July, September and November. If any urgent business arises between meetings then a special church meeting can be called.

Sunday Lunch

The next church lunch will be after worship on 12th February. There will be a sign-up list in the Lower Schoolroom so please make sure you add your name if you would like to join us for a meal on that Sunday.

Prayer Day for Trinity Saturday March 25th

Please make a note in your diary to keep this day free, if at all possible. The exact details have not yet been arranged but this will be a special day in the spiritual life of the church. We will be asking God to guide us in all that we undertake together. Andrew Busby will be leading us and Jeremy Bell, our Architect, has said that he would like to be part of the day. Please check for final details, these will be in the March Recorder.

A gentle reminder.

The undermentioned volunteers have offered a service for any members who have need of a lift (for hospital appointments etc). Please do NOT simply pick the first name on the list. Each of the three would like to take their turn and not deprive each other of the privilege!!

Names omitted from this version

Please try to place your booking well in advance. (Whilst no formal charge is made for this service, a donation to Church Funds would be appreciated.)

**Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 28th March at 8.00 p.m.**

Secretaries of Organisations and Committees – Angus M would like to receive your annual reports by Sunday 5th March please. If they can be submitted by e-mail (editor@trinity-urc.org.uk) or on a floppy disc (in any format) so much the better. Otherwise a typed report would be appreciated. Any manuscript contributions should be sent as soon as possible!

At this meeting we will be electing Elders and we will also reconfirm or re-elect church members to the many posts, committees and responsibilities that we have within the church. The list will be on display in the church during the month of March so that you can signify whether or not you are happy to continue in the job that you have been doing. Of course you might like a change and we are always looking for new volunteers. Please do consider where you think your talents lie, and how you can best serve the church.

Elders Elections

Nominations for Elders for the coming year are required. Elections will be held at the AGM on Tuesday 28th March, please note that this is the 4th Tuesday of the month and not the 3rd. Please use the slip provided (or a hand written alternative), and ensure your nomination is with me on or before Sunday 19th March, so that the nominations can be announced on Sundays 19th and 26th March.

We have 3 vacancies this year, Audrey B has come to the end of a three-year term and is willing to stand for re-election. Joan S has also completed a three-year term, but has decided not to stand again for health reasons. We thank her for her loyal service to Trinity over many years, and we extend to her our love and a wish for better health in the future. I also will be standing down having been an Elder for 7 years.

Margaret Lewis
Church Secretary

**Elders Election AGM 2006
Nomination Form**

NAME NOMINATED:.....

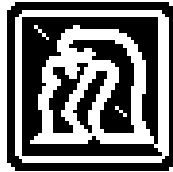
NOMINATED BY:.....

SECONDED BY:.....

If elected I am prepared to serve the Church as an Elder

NOMINEES SIGNATURE.....

The Leprosy Mission



For many years the Women's Meeting has supported The Leprosy Mission, (TLM). World Leprosy Day this year was January 29th so I am a little late with this.

The good news about leprosy is that it can be cured. The bad news is that in 2004 over 400,000 new cases were detected and every 75 seconds someone hears the news that they have leprosy. 81% of detected cases are in countries where TLM works (Latest statistics from World Health Organisation)

Readers of the Recorder may like to use this prayer in remembering the work of TLM:

Lord, we pray for people with leprosy in the developing world. Please provide The Leprosy Mission with the necessary resources to reach out to them. May the sick have access to doctors and nurses and to the care and help they need. Sustain those who have to walk many miles to the nearest hospital. Please guide and inspire the doctors researching a vaccine for the disease. Thank you Lord for your love that never fails. May we never fail to extend your compassion to others. In Jesus' name, Amen

I regularly get copies (free) of the TLM magazine New Day. Most of these are taken by the Womens' Meeting members, but I can order more if anyone is interested. I hesitate to add this as we have heavy financial commitments for our buildings but I can also get collecting boxes if anyone would like one.

Olive S



Women's World Day of Prayer . . .

. . . has this year been prepared by the women of South Africa. The services will take place on Friday 3rd March 2006 at the following churches:

10.30am - All Saints (HW) Rev. Janet Pettipher
1.30pm - St. Peters (Micklefield) Rev. Linda Richardson
7.30pm - Our Lady of Grace (Booker) Mrs Joan Van de Waal.

All are invited (men and women) and there will be a creche during the morning service. If you would like any more information please see Sue S or Olive S

Commitment for Life

January 2006

Dear Commitment for Life Churches,

As I write this letter, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon fights for his life. Whatever the outcome, the Middle East is again in turmoil. It looks towards an uncertain future for 2006. 2005 was such a fantastic year in terms of campaign moments and support to make poverty history. Many may feel unsure of the future but we must show that we meant all we said on trade, aid and debt. We need to take further action to address some of the root causes of poverty, by getting the governments to "Stand and deliver" on all they promised.

Last year will also be remembered for the many disasters that prompted people to give and give again. Bearing this in mind, we are very happy to report that **£553,000 was raised**. Thank you to all the Churches who have given so generously. This has enabled real change to be made in some of the most deprived countries in the world. I am delighted to share with you Daleep Mukarji's note of gratitude from Christian Aid. Many churches were able to hear how this money is spent when they invited Daunette Wellington, from Christian Aid's partner JAS for Life, to speak. She was inspiring and brought alive the problems faced by those living with HIV/AIDS. Thank you again to all those churches that hosted Daunette during her visit to us. She was most touched by all the enthusiasm and interest.

New Resources

We now have two email resources. '**Moving Stories**' (about the Israel/Palestine situation) which is produced monthly, together with our new feature '**Stories for Change**'. This is an exciting new venture for anyone who seeks to bring God's kingdom to the poor and the marginalized. It will keep you up to date on any campaigns by charities and non-government organisations that are working towards making poverty history. You will find prayers for peace and justice, worship ideas and lots more. It will also include stories and news from the Commitment for Life partner countries of Jamaica, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh.

Bible Reflections

After all last year's activity why not explore again how God calls us to love in an unjust world. I would recommend 'Facing Forward', reflections on the Scripture readings from the common lectionary for each day of Lent 2006. Contributing authors include Kathy Galloway, Esther Mombo and Martin Warner. It is published by ChristianAid/CAFOD/Darton, Longman and Todd price £4.95. Call 08700 78 77 88 to get a copy. Alternatively MPH still have copies of an A5 booklet called 'Voices from the South,' looking at bible readings and responses. This is still available from MPH tel. 01733 325002 or by email sales@mph.org.uk. Price per copy £3.95 plus p&p £1.50

Future Events

Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 6th – 9th March and the slogan is 'Got the Fairtrade habit?' This year they have a creative pack to encourage people to draw, paint and sew pictures about Fairtrade. This also highlights the introduction of the Fairtrade Cotton Mark. The Creative Pack costs £15 and would be a great expressive activity in worship.

Christian Aid Week

No doubt we are all thinking ahead to Christian Aid Week 2006 (14th – 20th May). The theme is one of growth, building on last year's 'You add we multiply'. It will focus on Ethiopia, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Bangladesh. The pack will be available very soon and introduces the new logo and corporate image and also contains an excellent CD Rom.

FURY!WDM

It is hoped that a resolution will be passed at FURY Assembly to support the 'Dirty Water' Campaign run by the World Development Movement. This campaign is calling on the UK government to stop misusing aid money on funding a corporate takeover of the world's water and to start supporting real solutions that will make a difference.

Actions to be taken

In Spring 2006, the Company Law Reform Bill will come before Parliament. The Trade Justice Movement and Christian Aid will be calling on the government to put trade justice into action by ensuring that UK companies have a legal obligation to consider their impact on people and the environment, wherever they operate. Campaign postcards are available from Eve at Traidcraft 0191 497 6448 or by emailing policy@traidcraft.org.uk. Look out for an on-line action commencing 19th January to Alun Michael MP, Minister of State for Industry and the Regions. This should be able to be found on either the TJM or Christian Aid websites.

Christian Aid have invited Peter Mandelson to Ghana to see the error of his ways on trade policy. Email him at http://www.pressureworks.org/dosomethin/act/PC_mandelson_form.html

All that remains is to thank you again for all you do and to wish you a peaceful and justice-filled New Year.

Linda Mead

[Commitment for Life Co-ordinator]

Q: How do you know if your cat has eaten a duckling?

A: She's got that down in the mouth look!

Q: What do you get if you cross a cat with a canary?

A: Shredded tweet.

Q: What do you get if you cross a cat with a tree?

A: A cat-a-log!

Q: Why did the cat join the Red Cross?

A: Because she wanted to be a first-aid kit!

Q: How do you know that cats are sensitive creatures?

A: They never cry over spilt milk.

Q: Why was the cat so small?

A: Because it only ate condensed milk!

Q: What does the lion say to his friends before they go out hunting for food?

A: "Let us prey"

Q: What happened when the cat swallowed a coin?

A: There was some money in the kitty.

The Editor wishes to make it clear that he is in no way responsible for the above contribution, except inasmuch as a lack of other material has made it necessary to fill this space in any way possible. If you don't want more corny stuff like this, the remedy is in your hands. Send something better in for next month!!

2006 — What now?

One of the most powerful sounds of 2005 was the sound of fingers clicking. A stark illustration of a shocking fact: that a child dies as a result of poverty every three seconds. It was a reminder of the vulnerability of millions of people living a life of poverty perpetuated not by chance or nature, but by human decisions. The click was a call to action from **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**, the Campaign launched in January 2005 to challenge these decisions. 2005 presented a series of exceptional international opportunities which campaigners rallied to in thousands. But what has been achieved?

On aid... When G8 leaders met in Scotland they promised an extra £50 billion in aid for Africa, a significant amount going towards fighting the HIV/Aids pandemic.

However the extra money will make a real difference to poor peoples lives and importantly the G8's announcement means that aid levels are now rising again rather than falling.

The second major area was debt - an issue on which the churches have been campaigning for many years.

Again 2005 led to a significant new announcement with 18 countries immediately receiving more debt cancellation effectively having the debts they owe to some international institutions written off.

In the future it is hoped that far more countries will be included. But still there was real progress. We know debt cancellation does benefit poor people.

But it is possibly on trade where campaigners managed to move the government the furthest. (We have to remember that on aid and debt the government began 2005 already saying they wanted to deliver more aid and debt cancellation.)

But on trade the government had said nothing on the Trade Justice campaigns key demand - not to force poor countries to open their economies and to give them the right to protect and support vulnerable producers and new industries.

It was going to be a real challenge. But during 2005 this all changed as a result of your campaigning. We now regularly hear statements such as this one from Gordon Brown, issued at the time of the Wake Up to Trade Justice event in April.

'because of the challenge you posed to us', the government have said clearly that poor countries should not be forced into trade liberalisation.' ' Gordon Brown 15 April 2005

Finally, a statement in the G8 communiqué, we now know was only achieved through considerable argument from the UK — that poor countries should be free to choose their own economic policies. So we have achieved an amazing amount.

The UK government now regularly echoes the Trade Justice Movement in the language that it uses. And importantly it has pledged not to use strings attached to aid to force countries to open their market.

We have come a long way in twelve months, but there is still much to do.

2005 was a fantastic year but like any world changing campaign (the campaign to end slavery, the civil rights movement, the anti apartheid campaign) it will take more than one year to bring about change. Many new people got involved with campaigning for the first time making campaigns even stronger and we won some big changes that could help thousands of people in poor countries. So in 2006 we need to keep on campaigning, to ensure the government acts on its promises.

[From Commitment for Life]

The final poem in the “positive No” series.

AT LAST

No stress,
No Monday morning blues.
No suit, no ties,
No traffic queues.
No tedious meetings,
No rush, rush!
No pressure and no overtime.
No telephone's insistent ring.
No "wage slave" mental attitude.
No gobbled lunch - convenience food.
No wishing you could be elsewhere.
No more by "good results" inspired.
No more "no time to stand and stare".
No dreading that you might get fired.
No limits to your holidays.
No boss.
No worries...
NO?
YES! Retired!!

[Joy Standfield]



For some time now, the Prayer Page has been prepared by members of the various organisations within the Church. Times have, however, changed, and the page is now prepared/collated by Kate Y. She will, of course, be happy to receive any contributions anyone may wish to submit. On behalf of all readers, I would like to thank all those who have made a contribution, however small, to the efforts of their particular organisation in the past. *[Ed]*

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

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

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

prayer page



f
e
b
r
u
a
r
y

2006

Central American Lord's Prayer

Our Father
who is in us here on earth,
holy is your name
in the hungry who share
their bread and their song.
Your kingdom come,
a generous land where
confidence and truth reign.
Let us do your will
being a cool breeze for
those who sweat.
You are giving us our daily
bread when we manage to
get back our lands
or to get a fairer wage.
Forgive us for keeping
silent in the face of injus-
tice and for burying our
dreams.
Don't let us fall into the
temptation of taking up the
same arms as the enemy,
but deliver us from evil
which disunites us.
And we shall have believed
in humanity and in life
which is being built for ever
and ever.

Freedom to dissent

O God, where your Spirit is, there is liberty: forgive us when we compel others to go out from our fellowship if they are to be free, and grant to your church such gifts of the Spirit that there may be freedom to dissent without breaking fellowship or denying truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whom truth and freedom meet.

Who was I before I was born?

You were a song that had yet to be sung.
You were a word on the tip of a tongue.
You were a plan chalked up on a board
You were a gleam in the eye of the Lord.

© Steve Turner

I dream of a church

I dream of a church that joins in with God's laughing,
as she rocks in her rapture, enjoying her art;
she's glad of her world, in its risking and growing;
'tis the child she has borne and holds close to her heart.

I dream of a church that joins in with God's weeping
as she crouches, weighed down by the sorrow she sees:
she cries for the hostile, the cold and no-hoping,
for she bears in herself our despair and dis-ease.

I dream of a church that joins in with God's dancing,
as she moves like the wind and the wave and the fire:
a church that can pick up its skirts, pirouetting,
with the steps that can signal God's deepest desire.

I dream of a church that joins in with God's loving
as she bends to embrace the unlovely and lost,
as church that can free, by its sharing and daring,
the imprisoned and poor, and then shoulder the cost.

God, make us a church that joins in with your living,
as you cherish and challenge, rein in and release,
a church that is winsome, impassioned, inspiring:
lioness of your justice and lamb of your peace.

© Kate Compston, England

Gifts of the Spirit – Godliness

O God, our hearts are restless until they rest in thee,
our souls are hungry until fed by thee,
our wills are divided until united with thee.
Give us grace to love what we long to love,
to do what we long to do,
to be what we long to be,
to live in godliness since it is to live in thee,
O God, our Lord and our Redeemer.

Fruits of the Spirit – Faithfulness

Faithfulness means keeping promises: so when God seems not to keep his promises and our faith is stretched to breaking point, we can only suppose that we misunderstood him.

O God, reassure those who feel they can no longer trust you. Take us by your Spirit into the secret counsels of the Father with the Son, where he who seemed so abandoned was able to accept his bitter cup and comment himself trustfully into your hands at the last.