

We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him. (Romans 8: 28)



February 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 website: <http://www.trinity-urc.org.uk>

Trinity - a place to belong

Spirituality - Prayer – Community – Welcome

When I returned to High Wycombe and Trinity in 2007 after my six year sojourn back in the land of my birth, I heard about the intention of Trinity to become a venue for Wycombe winter night shelter, I said, quote "I could do that" unquote. At our last elders meeting with Gwen in the chair the question arose, "who will do the church letter for February"? Discussion ensued and it was suggested that since I would be retiring from eldership at the next AGM, that I should be the lucky person. This I agreed to do, not without a degree of hesitancy I assure you, but I felt it was the right thing to do at that time.

Six years ago I would have probably asked for someone else to do it. As a new elder I would not have had the courage nor experience to take this on. Now, all these years later I have the knowledge and experience of the times we have been through together, the good years and the lean years, the mammoth changes we have made to our building, our response to and welcoming of all the different groups who pass through our portals, to find a warm and loving welcome. Our sharing of our sanctuary and other space with churches of other denominations, has been particularly meaningful to me as I had never before experienced this sort of sharing of space.

What I am trying to say is that all of these things took courage in varying degrees, and none of it is possible without the help of the Holy Spirit.

The people who quail at the idea of reading the lesson, leading a service, helping with the notices, speaking on behalf of a fund raising effort, and who do this despite their reluctances, do it for the love of our lord and father Jesus Christ, and you know, after you have done something once the fear subsides and it will never be as hard again.

Because when you are doing whatever you do within the church and outwith the church in the name of the church, you are doing it for our lord, and doing something for someone else gives greater joy and pleasure than not ever trying.

We will be needing new elders at the AGM. Could you give it a try?

We have several vacancies in the various groups, could you take a supporting role somewhere?

All you need is love, and a measure of courage, combine the love of Christ with your personal courage and you can't go far wrong. Give yourself credit for having untapped depth of courage and you will be rewarded. Is this the right time for you?

1 Corinthians chapter 13 verse 7 tells us that "love never gives up; and it's faith, hope and patience never fail".

We are now on our journey into our future and all that that future holds. Our sharing of a minister with Cores End URC, and possibly a CRCW minister to guide us in our community work. Let us be forward-looking and loving on our journey and embrace the changes with love and compassion and understanding of the needs of others we come into contact with.

Thank you for reading this letter, and may God go with you all whatever you do.



Minister :

Church Secretary : Mrs Sue Saunders,

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

February Services

Morning Worship at 10:30am unless otherwise stated

Feb. 2		Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Alan Kirkcaldy
Feb. 9		Morning Worship led by The Amersham Free Church Worship Team
Feb. 16		Morning Worship led by Mrs Mary Carpenter (from Trinity URC, Slough)
Feb. 23	10.30am 4.00pm	All Age Thinking Day Parade Service led by the Guides and Brownies Service of Holy Communion led by Revd Mike Wallace

(Please note All Age Worship is on the fourth Sunday this month)

Rotas for February

Not included in this version

What's on in February



Monday 24th Feb- at 10.30am Books we have enjoyed (Discussion)
Also a book sale in aid of our charity, Medical Detection Dogs.
If anyone would like to join us they would be very welcome.

Hostess - Marian Mole

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 4th Feb	The Shortest Month
Tuesday 11th Feb	Picnic on the Grass
Tuesday 18th Feb	The Thames (4)
Tuesday 25th Feb	Looking at Egypt. Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Diary Dates

FEBRUARY

Communion Service led by Revd. Alan Kirkcaldy	Sunday	2nd	10:30	Sanctuary
Vision 20/20	Wednesday	5th	09:30	Sanctuary
Coffee Morning	Saturday	8th	10:30	LSR
Elders meeting	Wednesday	12th	20:00	LSR
Church Meeting	Tuesday	18th	20:00	LSR
Vision 20/20 Prayer meeting	Wednesday	19th	09:30	Sanctuary
Coffee Morning	Saturday	22nd	10:30	LSR
Thinking Day Parade Service	Sunday	23rd	10:30	Sanctuary
Housegroup	Wednesday	26th	20:00	134 Brands Hill Ave

MARCH

Women's World Day of Prayer	Friday	7th	10:30	St Augustine's
			19:30	Oakridge Baptist

February 2014						
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Not included in this version

Greetings from **Gwen and Bernie** in Hamble! We miss you all, but we are settling happily into our new home and location. The beautiful Junior Church banner hanging in our hall reminds us that 'The Lord is with us'. I am typing this on my new laptop. Thank you very much for the gift of money that has enabled me to get that, with some to spare. I am very grateful, too, for all the other gifts, cards, prayers and the super lunch-party with which you sent us on our way.


We do not yet have the 'green light' for our departure to Papua New Guinea. We are waiting for CWM to draw up the Memorandum of Understanding that has to be agreed and signed by the United Church in PNG and the URC. As you know, we had thought that we were needed at the College by the end of January. However last week we heard from PNG that teaching will begin on March 3rd, which gives us a bit more time. We would really like to leave UK by mid-February if at all possible. Even when all the church paperwork is completed there will still be visas and work permits to get. As Wesis said on the phone when Bernie rang him at Christmas, 'We just have to be patient'.

In the meantime we are enjoying doing much more 'grand-parenting' than has been possible previously. And there is a lot to do on the house too. So we aren't idle!

This comes with very fond memories, love and prayer,



Gwen S writes from Horsham to send her good wishes. Last year, she was proud to tell us that she had become a Great Grandmother. She liked that so much that she has done it again, with a great grand-daughter (Rose) born just before Christmas. She also says that, like Trinity, the congregation at Horsham is getting older and would benefit from having a few more "not so old" members!



February 2014
The Recorder
The Recorder is published by the United Church in England and Wales. It is a quarterly journal of news, views and information for members of the United Church in England and Wales.

Apologies for the late publication of this edition of The Recorder, which has been caused by major problems with the photocopier/printer.

Worship Planning Group

The Worship Planning Group has existed for many years primarily to assist the minister with planning and overseeing a balance and variety to our worship at Trinity. The members of the group have all been chosen as they represent different groups and ages throughout the congregation. The members are: Andrew W, Catriona S, Joy St, Kay E, Marian D, Olive S, Sarah E and Sue S.

At our last meeting with Gwen we discussed the remit of the group and together came up with the following points:

- Having an overview of worship under the guidance of the Elders and to be able to receive feedback from members of the congregation about worship.
- Planning in special topic services as they are needed, and being able to identify that need.
- To be a reference point for Kay as she asks people to come and lead our worship.
- Ensure a balance and a variety of worship, we must not let it revert back to entirely traditional but maintain and develop our current styles.
- Prayerfully keep a dynamic development of our worship.
- Look at when our Worship Band can play, include intercessions, reflections and all-age talks to maintain and develop our congregational talents.

In order to widely reflect the congregation's views we welcome any feedback about our worship at Trinity and also about those who are invited to lead it. Please speak to any member of the group if there is something you would like to share with us.

Gwen was nurturing us all in our abilities to lead parts of worship and she expressed the desire that we keep using and developing these talents. Members of the congregation are prepared to lead intercessions, reflect on Bible passage, give a talk for all ages, or to be part of a drama group. If you feel prepared to do any of these but are not currently on the list we hold again please speak to one of the Worship Planning Group and we will be happy to add you.

Sarah E

Women's World Day of Prayer 2014



Friday 7th March

The theme for 2014 is "Streams in the desert", prepared by the Christian women of Egypt.

The services for the town centre are:

10.30am. - St Augustine's, Amersham Hill Speaker - Angela Taplin

7.30pm. - Oakridge Baptist Church - Speaker: Judith Smith

Traidcraft update

In December Traidcraft took your call to rein in the retailers right to the heart of the European Commission. Along with our European colleagues we presented Commissioner Barnier's office with a staggering 43,437 campaign actions that have been taken by campaigners from 28 countries worldwide, calling for tough EU regulation to stop supermarket bullying.

Over the last year Traidcraft campaigners have joined forces with people from as far afield as Colombia and Honduras in calling for fairer supermarket practices. Your demands have been heard in Brussels where a senior colleague at the Commissioner's office thanked campaigners for raising the issue and agreed that supermarket bullying needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Barnier will soon decide how to guide the European Union's approach to tackling unfair supermarket practices. Your calls for fairer supermarkets are being heard, but we need to keep the pressure on.

If you've not already done so, it's not too late to take action by taking on GreedCo, Traidcraft's tongue-in-cheek take on the supermarkets that dominate our groceries sector. Or you can get involved in our Twitter action to Commissioner Barnier.

Elizabeth Baines
Campaigns Officer



Are you ready for Fairtrade Fortnight?

24 February
to
9 March 2014

Church Meetings

Following a unanimous vote by those present at the church meeting on Sunday 19th January 2014, church meetings will now revert back to Tuesday evenings, in both summer and winter. Please see dates below for 2014 church meeting dates.

Tuesday 18th February – Special meeting to discuss CRCW

Tuesday 18th March – AGM. NB meeting to be held in CRENDON HALL

Tuesday 20th May – Church meeting

Tuesday 15th July – Church meeting

Tuesday 16th September – Church meeting

Tuesday 18th November – Church meeting

All meetings will be held at 8.00pm in the LSR unless otherwise stated.



ZIMBABWE

Silindeni Gumbo is 28 years old and moved to Matabeleland South from Mashonaland in the north of Zimbabwe. It took her a while to get used to the lack of rain in Matabeleland South and the new language was challenging for her to understand. She also described how it was hard being away from her parents.

Unlike many of her peers who have left Zimbabwe to find work, Silindeni believes that she's made the right decision by working at the Asenzeni garden and health club set up by the Dabane Trust in Matabeleland South. She works hard for her family and wants her 10 year old daughter, Talent, to also make the right decisions when she's older.

Silindeni started work in the community garden when it opened in 2009. She lives 2km from the garden and it takes her 30 minutes to get there each day. She grows onions, butternuts (*squash*) and maize during the rainy season and likes working in the garden because she is growing her own crops and getting her own food.

The garden has changed her life because with the money from selling left over vegetables she has been able to buy clothes for her family, send Talent to school, and buy chickens to raise and sell.

The introduction by Christian Care of the local processing centre has been particularly life changing. Silindeni says:

"I used to grow vegetables and compete with other members of the community to sell vegetables in other villages. I didn't have time for anything else. Now one member takes all vegetables from the garden to the processing centre (12km away). Now that we are no longer competing, life is much easier"

This story is available at www.cforl.org.uk

CENTRAL AMERICA

This region, though small, suffers a disproportionate number of extreme climate events such as hurricanes, floods and droughts. These have a considerable impact on water infrastructure and economic development and are key factors for local nongovernmental organisations.

According to the Fourth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, this situation is bound to worsen. Central America is home to 40 million people of whom 70% live on the Pacific coast where only 30% of the water resources are available. The main problem in the region is weak water governance.

Central America is also affected by unsustainable use of forests and soils, and pollution from industries and agriculture that degrades water quality and reduces water availability. This is aggravated by the lack of good structures for the storage and regulation for water. Drinking water and sanitation coverage is uneven with rural populations being the most disadvantaged (93% of urban and 60% of rural populations have access to drinking water, 78% of urban and 58% of rural populations have access to basic sanitation). Huge efforts need to be made in improving the quality of the services and access to water.

BANGLADESH

Global Citizen are working hard to highlight the need for action on safety and working conditions for garment workers in Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Fire and Safety Accord has now been established and more than 100 retailers, from across the world, signed the Accord.

However, some companies established an alternative. 'The Alliance for Bangladesh Workers Safety' both looks and sounds the same but lacks legal accountability.

External repairs to Trinity – your involvement?

It is two years since our quinquennial inspection highlighted numerous essential repairs to the outside of the building.

In 2013 we got some estimates and in the light of those sent off a bid to the Veolia Environmental Trust. It was several months before we got the reply – sadly a “no” as reported to church meeting – and have since been looking at other options.

The estimate for all the works comes to close on £60,000 including VAT – some of which we should be able to reclaim unless the Government changes the rules – and at the end of December 2013 we had about £15,000 plus the £15,000 grant from the Synod which has been rolled over into 2014, so around £30,000 available.

We urgently need to do some of these repairs: you will probably have seen the amount of water overspilling the guttering when it’s raining, and the wet walls! If we don’t do some of these works the building will deteriorate even faster.

Simon Evans and Kate Yates have reviewed the scope of works needed and prioritised the urgent jobs, and the estimate for those comes to just over £28,000 – but this will probably rise a bit because of the elapsed time since the original estimates.

It would be great to be able to do all the works required but we need help in raising funds. In 2013 three of our community group friends - Armintha Walcott of Movers & Shakers Caribbean Style, Pastor Dawn McDowall of Church of God of Worldwide Mission International, and Aston Johnson of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith – put on a concert which raised around £900 towards this. This helped our fundraising enormously.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DO SOME FUNDRAISING? PUT ON EVENT? HOST A TEA-PARTY? MAKE AN EXTRA DONATION?

PLEASE TALK TO KATE

Thank you.



Has Trinity got Talent ???

O YES IT HAS! - and we will prove it on 26th April. At the time of going to press the cast is being gathered, the scripts printed off, the musical instruments and dancing shoes polished, costumes and scenery lists made and the cups and plates lined up for refreshments. It will be a variety show of many talents, finishing with a very potted pantomime. The only thing missing at the moment is the audience and that’s where you come in.



Trinity Bookworms

We meet on Wednesday 4th February at 2pm at 11 St Bernard’s Court - Hostess Joan S.

We shall be discussing “The Road Home” by Rose Tremain.



Over the line??

In the 19th century, ships were often recklessly overloaded, resulting in those ships going down and the crews being lost at sea. In 1875, to remedy this negligent practice, British politician Samuel Plimsoll led the charge for legislation to create a line on the side of a ship to show if it was carrying too much cargo. That "load line" became known as the Plimsoll Line, and it continues to mark the hulls of ships today.

Sometimes, like those ships, our lives can seem overloaded with fears, struggles, and heart-aches. We can even feel that we are in danger of going under. In those times, however, it is reassuring to remember that we have a remarkable resource. We have a heavenly Father who stands ready to help us carry that load. The apostle Peter said, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7). He is capable of handling the cares that overwhelm us.

Though the testings of life may feel like a burden too heavy to bear, we can have full assurance that our heavenly Father loves us deeply and knows our load limits. Whatever we face, He will help us to bear it.

[Submitted by Andrew W]

AGM Reports

If you need to make a report and have not yet done so, time is running out!! All reports **MUST** be received by 2nd March at the very latest if they are to be included in the Annual Report package!! Either paper (typed) or e-mailed reports will be fine, but any handwritten ones need to be with me without delay to give me time to type them up!!

Each group or activity within the church fellowship should make a report, so that all members can see what has been happening in the past year.

[E-mail address can be found at the foot of page 11]

Angus

Christian Aid

Last June we had a fun evening of games and competitions starting at 5.0 o'clock and also shared a meal together. It was very successful both as a fund raiser for Christian Aid and also for the enjoyment that those taking part had. So we have decided to repeat the idea again this year and have booked the sanctuary for May 17th. Please put this date in your diary, invite your friends and neighbours and join us for another jovial evening.

We will also be raising funds for Christian Aid in other ways but this will be the really fun part.



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Arthalié P (2th)

Grant C (5th)

Nathan C (9th)

Matthew H (9th)

Gwenda D (24th)

A Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.

A prayer from Commitment for Life

We pray for:

- **all** Christian Aid partners in the region who are facing a challenging time - but especially Silveria House which works with communities to help build small enterprise schemes including plumbing, carpentry, sewing and juice making. We pray that these schemes allow people to financially support their families and give something back to their local community.
- those who have been part of the six- week plumbing training scheme run by Silveira House and who *are* now able to support their families and dependants.
- Silveira House's educational work on HIV/AIDS, book keeping and reconciliation skills.

*The March edition of the Recorder will be published on 23rd February.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 14th February*

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

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

prayer page

The year is no longer new
It has become quite ordinary
We go about our daily work and tasks
Bless us, God and Father, you make all things new.

As the days grow longer,
The cold grows stronger,
So the old ones say and it is often true
Bless us, God and Father warm us with your love.



Beneath the winter ground
The seeds are stirring to life.
We see only the bare surface with a few early flowers
Bless us, God and father, quicken our little faith.

Come, Holy Spirit –

Come, Mighty Wind, blow away all cobwebs and specks of dust from the eyes which see people of different race, tribe or age as enemies to be defeated, misfits to be eradicated, with no place in the world,
Come, Tongues of fire, burn away prejudice and misunderstanding, kindle the embers of love and fellowship;

Come, Dove of Peace, seek out hidden unhappy corners bringing light and healing on your wings, whisper in the ears of the leaders of nations words of reconciliation, calm negotiations between opposing factions and speed the coming of God's Kingdom on Earth.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

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2014

Lord Jesus, grant us the grace to recognise your presence in our lives and speak of its power to others as Simeon and Anna did when you were presented in the Temple as a baby. They welcomed you as the bringer of salvation and redemption. They did not live to see how this came about. We are privileged to know the whole story but do not always find it easy to talk about it to others. Forgive our shortcomings and strengthen us in your service.
Amen

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple is found in Luke – 2:v21-39. The church (but not as far as I am aware, the URC tradition) celebrates the event on 2nd February, with the feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary – or Candlemas.

Light a candle for Candlemas
In the dullest time of the year,
Light a candle for Candlemas
Jesus, the Saviour, is here.

Light a candle for Candlemas
Let it shine out clear and bright,
Light a candle for Candlemas
For Jesus, the world's true light.