

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.
(1 Corinthians 3:18)



February 2015

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

I hope you have had the opportunity to read Kate's letter last month and thought seriously about picking up her challenge to invite someone to a church service this Easter. Wouldn't it be great to see our numbers doubled. When I thought about her challenge it prompted me to realise how vital prayer is in this. As we think of those we might invite lets commit to pray for them daily.

But is getting someone to come to church enough? I am reminded of a question posed by a preacher - Does sitting in church make you a Christian? any more than does sitting in a garage turn you into a car? Gradually you may become interested in cars but a miraculous transformation would have to occur for you to become one. Well, thank God he gave us the transforming power of the Holy Spirit who can, and does change us. So as we invite others to come and sit in church let's pray that the Holy Spirit will begin His transforming work. Let's be a church who support seekers on their faith journey, listen to their questions in love, offering to share their search for the truth. We do not need to have all the answers as we are a fellowship of believers who can support each other and open God's Holy word together.

For ourselves too, let's seek to grow in our faith, as Mike Birmingham said last month, taste and see that the Lord is good. Let's be bold in our prayers and let's share the answers, to encourage each other. I was given a lovely Christmas gift, a personal prayer diary for 2015 in which I can record prayer requests and answers when they come; it will be good to see God's hand at work. For my part I must commit to prayer, God will do the rest.

One place we support each other and share about our prayers is the housegroup. We would love for more to join us, we may consider a daytime group if that suits people more. Please speak to me or Kate if you would like to come along.

Finally does anyone else sense a calling to share their faith, to open scriptures with a small group of enquirers? I feel there is a need to offer a group for just an hour a week where anyone seeking God's truth can ask questions and be helped to find answers in the Bible. Are you willing to give your time to help others get to know Jesus and His love? Please talk to me about it.

God bless you,

Marian

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February Services

Morning Worship at 10:30am unless otherwise stated

February 1st	Revd Alan Kirkcaldy	Morning worship with Holy Communion
February 8th	Major David Scott	(retired Major in the Salvation Army)
February 15th	David Rogers	(from Marlow URC)
February 22nd	Guides and Brownies	All Age Thinking Day Service
February 22nd - 4pm	Revd Alan Kirkcaldy	Holy Communion

(Please note All Age Worship is on the 4th Sunday this month)

Rotas for February

Not included in this version

What's on in February



The Nightbirds will meet on Monday 23rd Feb- at 10.30am (Lesley B's) when the topic will be Book Reviews & a Book Sale in aid of this year's charity - The Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed.

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 3rd Feb	St Brigid
Tuesday 10th Feb	Quiz (Hymns)
Tuesday 17th Feb	Shrove Tuesday
Tuesday 24th Feb	Looking at the Chiltern Hills. Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Diary Dates

Every Tuesday in February:

- Movers and Shakers Chinese Style 10 am-1 pm (Kitchen, Lower Schoolroom, Sanctuary)
- Women's Meeting (Lower Schoolroom), 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Every Thursday in February:

- 2nd High Wycombe Trinity Guides (Crendon Hall), 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Every Friday in February:

- Movers and Shakers, Caribbean style (10 am start) (Sanctuary, Lower Schoolroom, Kitchen),
- Rainbows (Crendon Hall), 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm
- Brownies, 2nd High Wycombe (Crendon Hall), 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm

Monday 2nd February

- Housegroup at the Drakes's house - 8 pm

Tuesday 3rd February

- Special church meeting facilitated by our Interim Moderator (Sanctuary), 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Wednesday 4th February

- Vision2020 prayer (Sanctuary), 9:30 am - 10:00 am
- Trinity Elders' meeting (Lower Schoolroom), 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Sunday 8th February

- Prayer ministry in vestry, Noon - 12:30 pm

Saturday 14th February

- Coffee Morning (Lower Schoolroom), 10:30 am - noon

Wednesday 18th February

- Vision 2020 prayer (Sanctuary), 9:30 am - 10:00 am

Monday 23rd February

- Housegroup at the Drakes's house - 8 pm

Wednesday 25th February

- All Saints' Parish Church - Lent Talk and discussion, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Saturday 28th February

- Coffee Morning (Lower Schoolroom), 10:30 am - noon

Not included in this version

On Offer!

One computer desk - 780mm (H) x 500 (D) x 800 (W). Open fronted with sliding keyboard shelf and fixed shelf below. Beech effect.

Also - one pouffée (with castors). Off white with green pattern. 450mm (H) x 450 x 640.

Both items free to a good home - but a donation to charity would be appreciated.

Further details from Angus. (First come, first served. No queuing!!!)

Trinity Bookworms

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4th February at 2pm at the home of Joan Smith .
We shall be discussing "Light on Snow" by Anita Shreve



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 17th March at 7.30 pm

followed by Church Meeting at 8.00 pm

Our AGM will begin at 7.30 pm in the sanctuary on Tuesday 17th March. The outline agenda is:

- Opening Devotions
- Apologies
- Amendment & Approval of Minutes of Annual Church Meeting held on: 18th March 2014
- Annual Accounts 2014 – Treasurer's Report
- Election of Elders
- Appointment of Postholders

Election of Elders

Nominations for serving Elders should be received by your church secretary by the end of February, please. Please note: Alan Yates is standing down as Elder as from the AGM because of his national commitments and Margaret Lewis will have served a three-year term. Elders currently elected to serve are Kate Yates, Glyn Evans, Sue Thorne, Marian Drake.

Postholders' list

The postholders' list has already been published in The Recorder but if you wish to take on something new (or relinquish a longstanding role) please talk to me as soon as possible.

Our AGM will be followed by our usual church meeting.

Thanks for your support



Kate Y
Church Secretary

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 Monday 23rd February 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



New minister for Trinity High Wycombe and Cores End

The Revd Terry Hinks from Romsey & Braishfield preached with a view on Sunday 23rd November at both churches and was called to this joint pastorate. Terry's induction service will be held at Trinity High Wycombe on Saturday 25th April at 3 pm.

Vacancy on Chiltern Area Committee

Sadly we only had one nomination for two vacancies on Area Committee – the Revd Anthony Howells for a second three-year term. If anyone in your church is willing to consider serving whilst Area Committees are still in existence, please talk to the Revd Bridget Powell, Convenor, or Kate Yates, Secretary.

News from the churches

Cores End

Their most significant news is the recent call of a new minister, the Revd Terry Hinks, whom they will be sharing in a joint pastorate with Trinity High Wycombe from the end of April. Terry has served at Romsey & Braishfield in Hampshire for over 16 years and all are looking forward to a time of renewal under his leadership.

In the meantime membership and attendance remains steady and whilst, like most churches, the age profile remains quite high, there are encouraging signs that some of their younger adherents are becoming more interested in the everyday life of the church.

Regular weekly meetings continue to be held for fellowship and prayer and, emanating from a meeting in 2013 with Tim Reith, the Synod Mission Enabler, they now have a Mission Committee which meets regularly and is actively seeking ways to develop their outreach into the local community.

The Christmas Fair, although smaller than years past, still raised nearly £800, distributed to five charities pre-nominated by members. Also in the lead-up to Christmas, church members supported two of their regular charities firstly donating shoeboxes filled with gifts and useful items which are sent to people in need in Romania, and also through the annual Toy Service whereby toys were distributed to local children who receive support/care through Barnados in High Wycombe. Their carol service this year entitled 'Christmas Joy' featured a brass band plus a number of instrumental and vocal soloists and was much enjoyed by a 'full house' in the church.

Looking ahead there are plans to run lent groups within the church family.

Over the past two and a half years of our interregnum, finding worship leaders each week has been a difficult task at times but our Pulpit Supply Office has done extremely well to fill the pulpit each week. Our thanks go out to all those, both ordained and lay, who have helped us during this time.

News of the Revd Mike Wallace

The Revd Mike Wallace, whom many in the Area will know from leading services and playing the organ, has been called as 50% scoped minister at Newcastle-under-Lyme Congregational Church. His induction service will be there at 3 pm on Saturday 7th March.



ZIMBABWE

Christian Aid Zimbabwe is a pioneer in promoting conservation agriculture and, with the Food and Agriculture Organisation, they have developed a manual now used in all agricultural colleges in the country. They have broken new ground in piloting mechanised conservation agriculture, in response to community feedback regarding conservation agriculture's huge demands on women's labour.

Zimbabwe Project Trust (ZimPro) teaches farming methods known as conservation agriculture, which make best use of the land and water available. Conservation farming enables poor farmers to grow more food on small plots of land using the limited natural resources available to them. ZimPro also builds water tanks, toilets and 'drip kits' to water vegetable gardens.

Dabane Trust is working to provide communities with sand dams, so they have better access to a reliable water source, enabling them to grow extra crops and improve food security.

Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) was conceived by a group of churches and NGOs working in human rights and peace-building initiatives. ZPP seeks to monitor and document incidents of human rights violations and politically motivated violence. ZPP's trusted community monitors send text messages to a central database in order to keep up-to-the-minute records of cases of assault, intimidation and harassment.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Our newest region of Central America is experiencing real hardship. Over half a million people in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador have all been experiencing a food crisis due to prolonged drought in the region that shows no signs of abating. Those who have been affected the most have been subsistence farmers, farm labourers and low-income families, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Guatemala is one of the countries worst affected by climate change. The drought is causing high losses of corn and beans, the basic grains for the population, and the death of thousands of cattle. The government declared the State of Calamity in 16 of the 22 departments. The Eastern side of the country is the most affected, with total loss in Chortí municipalities. Christian Aid partner, Bethania, has been working with the Chorti communities who have, in most cases, lost all their crops. There have been 26 confirmed deaths due to malnutrition among children with 1 in 4 families suffering from severe malnutrition. Honduras and Guatemala have been working with UN Humanitarian Country Teams to draft Emergency Response Plans.

The situation is very similar in El Salvador, where more than 80% of farmers have reported that they lost all of their crops. UN Agencies have been supporting the government of El Salvador with emergency response.

Thanks so much for any help that can be given in the form of prayers to support the work that is needed there.

The Ministry and Mission Fund Formula

Some of you have asked in the past how the M & M formula is calculated. I have received an explanation from Thames North Synod explaining this. It is reproduced below. If you have any questions please let me know and I will try and help you.

Sue

“A formula is used to share out the agreed total the Synod will contribute to the national Ministry and Mission Fund. It is only possible to calculate an individual church’s share once the membership and the income of all the churches is known. These figures are calculated in the summer of each year for the following year, from the accounts for the previous financial year.

Membership

One-fifth of the agreed target will be shared amongst the churches on the basis of the number of members, as included on the annual returns at 31 December. Therefore, a fifth of our agreed target will be divided by the total number of members in the Synod and that amount will then be multiplied by the number of members in a particular church to give that church’s amount.

The remaining four-fifths of the Synod’s target will be shared amongst the churches according to their unrestricted income. (Unrestricted Funds may be used by the church for any of its ordinary purposes.)

Investment Income (including Bank and Building Society Interest)

On any investment income (whether it is retained by the Trustees or not) which a church receives, a contribution of 60% will be included.

Property Rent

The income received by the church from “commercial” rents from property including manses, a contribution of 50% will be included.

Letting Income

The total amount received by a church for letting its premises, less a third to cover the average costs of letting premises, a contribution of 33% of the net amount is included (i.e. the net figure would be approx. 22% of the total amount).

General Income

The amount still needed to enable the Synod to meet its target is shared amongst the churches on the basis of their general income for the year. General income is all amounts received by a local church which the Church Meeting has the discretion to spend or designate. It does not therefore, include restricted funds, monies received in special collections, grants received for a particular project etc. The contribution from general income is not calculated by a fixed percentage, but each church is asked to contribute the same ratio of their general income to meet the balance of the Synod’s target – it is anticipated that this will be in the region of 32%,

An individual church’s contribution therefore, is the addition of its share from each of the categories: membership, investment income, property rent, hall lettings and general income.

Legacies are excluded from the calculation of the requested amount but a church is encouraged to give at least 10% of any unrestricted legacy received to the Ministry and Mission Fund in addition to the amount requested.

Churches in a Local Ecumenical Partnership – where the minister is provided by the United Reformed Church the above formula will be used and a 10% reduction will be made recognising a contribution should be made to the other denomination to arrive at the church’s requested contribution. Where the minister is provided by another denomination the amount requested from the church will be the formula amount less 90% so a contribution is still made by the church to the mission element of the M&M Fund.”

Brief Summary of Church Meeting held on Tuesday 20th January 2015

Community Partnerships: One Can Trust – Sarah Mordaunt gave an inspirational talk about their current work which includes the One Can Food Bank and a new project – Hope.

Finance – Sue Thorne is working on year end accounts.

Spirituality & Prayer:

News from Churches Together Lent Talks – these start at 7.30 pm at All Saints' parish church on Wednesday 25th February. Trinity is "hosting" an evening, Wednesday 11th March, with Jeremy Moodey of Embrace the Middle East speaking about their work in the context of The Challenge of the Cross.

Synod plans to group churches and ministers – on Tuesday 27th January at 7.30 pm there will be an Area-wide gathering of ministers and Elders to explore how this might work in Chiltern area and what the implications might be.

Membership – removing some non-active members from the Roll

There was discussion and agreement on the proposal to remove some non-active members of many years from the Roll. It was agreed that the church secretary would write to inform them and request that they contact her if they did not wish this to happen.

Daytime housegroup – if anyone would be interested in attending a potential daytime housegroup/Bible study please let Kate Yates or your Elder know.

Hospitality & Diversity: Special church meeting Tuesday 3rd February re. same-sex marriage, facilitated by Revd John Mackerness

Copies of the "One plus One" booklet as background reading are available. We will not be voting on this, but noting views of the congregation to send to the General Secretary.

Church-Related Community Worker (CRCW) update – Grants, Loans & Property Committee have given agreement that if we sell part of the manse garden we may use the funds for a CRCW. (No news on manse garden.)

Organ repairs update – cleaning job completed on 18th December but no immediate need for re-leathering works.

Quinquennial repairs update – much of the work is now completed, other work still in hand.

AOB

We have heard that the Revd Mike Wallace was called to a 50% ministerial post at Newcastle under Lyme Congregational Church. His first Sunday was 4th January this year and his Induction Service is on Saturday 7th March. If anyone from Trinity and/or Cores End would like to attend he would love to see them.

Love Wycombe – is not taking place this year although the leaders are talking about other ideas.

Date of next Church Meeting: **Tuesday 17th March 2015 – AGM and Church Meeting**



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Grant C (5th)

Nathan C (9th)

Matthew H (9th)

Gwenda D (24th)

A Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.



Are you ready for Fairtrade Fortnight?

**23 February
to
8 March 2015**

*The March edition of the Recorder will be published on 22nd February.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 13th February*

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

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

prayer page

"It is good to sing praises unto our God" Psalm 147 v.1 (KJB)

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2015

Praise the Lord of the rising sun
Praise the Lord of the full moon
Praise the Lord of the planets and stars
Praise the Lord of the storm clouds
Praise the Lord of the blinding fog
Praise the Lord of the shining raindrops
Praise the Lord of the blanketing snow
Praise the Lord of the piercing hail
Praise the Lord of all creation
Praise him with song and shouting
Praise him in silence
Praise with a thankful heart
For he is a great God.

Dear Lord, this is a time when keeping New Year Resolutions becomes hard; the time when life seems flat and the winter unending; the time when it is easy to feel sorry for oneself and fret over life's inconveniences and frustrations. Grant us patience, Lord, when we feel we have too much to do or when we have too little to occupy us, and we long for spring to come with its warmer days.

Around us nature is preparing for those days as the seeds come to life under the ground and buds on trees and shrubs grow fat ready to burst into leaf and flower. They do not worry but grow silently in the dark of the year. Calm our minds, Lord, help us to relax and use this time of waiting to grow closer to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Lord of Compassion and Healing we pray for our world:
for places where famine and disease rage ...
for places where violence and war reign ...
for places suffering from natural disasters ...
for outcast and marginalised people ...
for all persecuted because of their race or beliefs ...
for all suffering illness, disability or bereavement ...
for ... (please add your own concerns)
Hold them in your loving care. We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen



Heavenly Father from whom all life comes,
Bless us, we pray, this and every day.
Lord Jesus, born as one of us and risen our Saviour,
Bless us, we pray, this and every day .
Holy Spirit, wind and flame and gentle dove,
Bless us, we pray, this and every day.
Holy Trinity, one God, three persons, community, mystery,
Bless us, we pray, this and every day.