



July 2003

The Recorder

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Trinity - A Family Church

Worshipping together - Caring for one another - Sharing with others

'Made in God's Image.'

Revd. Michael Shrubsole

Minister of Trinity United Reformed Church

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness." (Genesis 1:26) This is how the Bible starts its story of God's dealings with humanity. We are made to be like God.

Last week we had a wonderful time together at our Church Weekend, at St. Katharine's, Parmoor. There were 23 residents, and about a dozen people came as non-resident day visitors, we also welcomed another dozen or so of you to Sunday worship. I think it was a great success! We were blessed with wonderful weather and had the full run of a lovely old house in which to spread out our programme of activities. I must tell you how much I enjoyed being there with you. There are two points I want to make following on from the weekend.

Firstly, our theme was 'Creativity'. It is fundamental to Christian thinking to remember that we are made in the image of a Creator God. When we look around we are surrounded by the amazing evidence of the creative power of our God. And we are like God. We too can create wonderful things. That applies to every one of us. Some of us are great artists, musicians, craftsmen etc. But we don't all aspire to fame and fortune as professional artists. For most of us our creativity is humble and hidden, often overlooked even by ourselves. Do remember how creative you are as parents, gardeners, homemakers, letter-writers, cooks, party hosts etc. Business men and women are creative with plans and schemes and financial figures. Scientists are creative with formulae. Engineers are creative with designs. We can all bring our creativity into worship and church life together; celebrating our creative gifts and sharing in encouraging and inspiring each other through our creative talents. I hope the Church Weekend might have helped you to think more positively about the ways in which you can use and share your creative gifts in worship and church life.

Secondly, we did all this together. One surprising thing about the Bible quote at the beginning is that God speaks in the plural. "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness." Who is God talking to? One answer suggested is that God is talking to his angels. But the more usually preferred answer is that God is talking within himself. Christians usually call this the Trinity – the plurality of persons in the godhead. God is like a family, a community, within his own divine nature. So, we are made in the image of a God whose essential nature is the unity of equal persons. We are created to live in community with one another. We are made to live as families. To share God's image is to share his united nature.

See the front cover of this magazine. Trinity Church has as its Vision Statement by-line the phrase 'Trinity – A Family Church' At the Church Weekend we played a game where we got into our decades of birth. In our residential group all decades were represented, from the 1910's to the 1990's (the biggest group was those born in the 1930's). We are an amazingly diverse cross-section of the wider human community. And we believe we are created to sustain and nurture that church family. This is where God wants us to be. When we work at getting on with one another we reflect God's own nature and find our own fulfilment.

Mike

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July Services & Rotas

Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

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

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|-----------------------|---|
| 6 th July | Morning Worship with Communion. Visiting leader of worship:
Revd. Geoffrey Bending. Mark 6:1-13, Ezek 2:1-5, 2 Cor 12:2-10 |
| 13 th July | Morning Worship. Commitment for Life Sunday.
Mark 6:14-29, Amos 7:7-15, Eph 1:3-14 |
| 20 th July | All-age Worship. Christening of Edward Forster
Mark 6:30-56, Jer 23:1-6, Eph 2:11-22 |
| 27 th July | Morning Worship. Visiting leader of worship:
John 6:1-21, 2 Kings 4:42-44, Eph 3:14-21 |

Evening Worship

Evening Communion Services will restart in the autumn.

Rotas for July

Not included in this version

What's on in July

WOMEN'S MEETING

The Women's Meeting is on holiday until September. This month, however, we have two special meetings - both at the usual time of 2.30pm

Tuesday 1st July Louise invites us to the Manse

Tuesday 22nd July Margaret Lewis invites us to Wood View,



CHURCH WALKS

Relax - or do your own thing!

There is no walk planned for July.



Scrabble

Celebrate American Independence Day!
Join the gang - usual time and place

Friday 4th July



Young People's Group

13th July Barbecue (Trinity)

Diary

Trinity Church – More Dates for your Diaries

Elders Meeting

Tuesday 1st July, 7.30pm in the Schoolroom.

Church Meeting

Tuesday 15th July, 8.00pm. in the Schoolroom.

Property Management Committee Meeting

Thursday 17th July, 8.00pm. Lionel Jowett Room

Trinity “Tuesday” - Friday 4th July (see page 8)

Not included in this version

John Wesley

Douglas Butterfield, County Ecumenical Development Officer, writes:

I am sure that the thoughts of many are with our Methodist friends who on 28th June celebrated the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley.

Methodists continue to draw inspiration from the life of John and Charles Wesley, and on 22nd June the congregation at Christchurch Cathedral in Oxford remembered the ordination of John and Charles Wesley in that cathedral into the Anglican ministry, and placed a plaque in memory of the brothers.

When I took part in the national pilgrimage in 1997 I found it inspiring to visit the home village of the Wesley brothers in Epworth, Lincolnshire, and visited the rectory where they grew up. This replaced the rectory which burnt down when John, then aged 6, was inside. Everyone except John was able to get out of the house. His father, the rector Samuel Wesley, unable to get him, prayed, and at last "gave up John's soul" to God. But John dragged a chair to an open upper window, called for help, and neighbours made a human ladder to the window and lifted John down to safety.

John's mother, Susannah, thanked God for this "brand plucked from the burning" (Zechariah 3 v2) and assured John that God had saved him for a special purpose. This incident made a profound impact on John which remained with him for the rest of his life, and he referred to it many times.

He referred to it at the time of his conversion in 1738. He visited a meeting in Aldersgate and had a religious experience in which he felt his heart "strangely warmed", and felt that his sins were forgiven through the love of God. He experienced a new sense of spiritual direction, and that evening together with Charles, composed the hymn

Where shall my wandering soul begin?
How shall I to heaven aspire?
A slave redeemed from death and sin,
A brand plucked from eternal fire,
How shall I equal triumphs raise,
Or sing my great Deliverer's praise?

It is reputed that John Wesley travelled on horseback over 225,000 miles during his ministry, and gave over 40,000 sermons, often preaching four or five times a day in the open air. John and Charles started the renewal of the church in the 18th century which became known as Methodism.

Commitment for Life

13th July Commitment for Life Sunday.

Concern over Zimbabwe

New and old supporters of Commitment for Life are asked to review again their response to the challenge to give 1% of their income to the Commitment for Life cause. Our special project is the Silveira House agriculture and development project in a rural part of Zimbabwe. This is a hurting part of the world that much needs our support at this time.

(The illustration shows a young man being instructed in metalwork at Silveira House, near Harare)

Comment by the Church and Society Committee - Like the rest of the world, we maintain a prayerful watch on developments in the Middle East. However, we are also deeply troubled about events in other parts of the world, not least those with which we have an especial bond through our *Commitment for Life* programme. Zimbabwe is one, and a letter received from the Director of Silveira House, Fr Dieter Scholz, brings home vividly how the rapidly deteriorating situation in that country is affecting our partners there.

After mentioning that food bought from South Africa can only be used for famine relief and not to maintain Zimbabwe's institutions, Fr Scholz states bleakly that, with all its staff and students in attendance, Silveira House has food only for ten days and fuel for less than a week. 'For the first time in the 35-year history of Silveira House I had to ask the staff who have no urgent teaching commitments to stay at home because we can neither feed nor transport them', Fr Scholz writes. The mood at Silveira House can only be imagined, for after his colleagues were given this news Fr Scholz records that 'there was total silence. No questions. No comments. That, too, has never happened before.'

But, Fr Scholz continues, 'we will not give up, and I will do everything I can to keep the Centre going. These days my heart resonates with the prayer of Habakkuk: 'Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation'.

Update from Zimbabwe - March 2003 - A recent report from the UN's Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) indicates that the food crisis is deepening at a time when half the population is already reliant on food aid.

Silveira House, whose sustainable agriculture programme is based in Marondera South, is not in the worst affected area, and in spite of the difficulties the farmers they train continue to be able to cultivate their land. The Silveira House compound in Harare is just starting to re-open programmes that had recently been forced to close due to shortages of supplies.

Unravelling the wonders of the natural world – Silveira House Sustainable Agriculture. Janet Mkombwe is happiest when moving round the rural areas on her motorbike. The farmers with whom she works know her well, and respect her wide knowledge of soils, plants, insects and human needs. Janet's bubbly personality endears her to all she comes in to contact with. They trust that she has their best interests at heart.

Sustainable agriculture is about getting back to the fundamentals of the relationship of soil, plants and humans and putting into practice many techniques which are not new but are not widely practised or have been forgotten. Janet's job is to teach small-scale farmers that traditional methods are actually the most productive. Trying to pull apart the different strands of sustainable agriculture is not easy. One technique or plant can have more than one purpose - plants to keep rats away from the compost heap, plants for their herbal properties, plants for income, plants for nutrition.

[Cont on page 7]

Often a starting point for farmers is water-harvesting, collecting rainwater with small dams, ponds (in which fish can be kept), using 'grey' water from the kitchen to water plants, digging fertility trenches and circular beds so that every drop of water lasts as long as possible for use on the crops.

Companion planting, another technique, is all about planting strategically so that one plant benefits from its neighbour – or at least does not competes for precious nutrients with its neighbour. Plants are not grown in straight rows, but 'intercropped'. So a cabbage is planted next to a leek so that the onion repels pests. Legumes are important to fix nitrates, lemon grass repels insects and is good as a herbal remedy for colds, its roots hold the soil so prevent erosion and the stalks can be used in mulching or for animal fodder. Milkweed attracts aphids away from crops. Pest control is important and nature offers dozens of different ways.

The added ingredient is enterprise. Janet freely admits that her ideas are not the final word on what works best. She encourages her farmers to have a go at experimenting with ideas. Sherry Murandu has had a go at making different types of jam to sell and making her own cola. The cola has not been easy to sell as people are used to the 'real' thing in cans.

Janet also has to maintain the demonstration garden at Silveira House where many of her ideas, and those of Edson Mashudu before her, are put into practice. When farmers come on courses they get to see that these traditional techniques do work. Seeing is believing. Her belief in a better way of farming is spreading hope.

Will you respond to the Commitment for Life Challenge on 13th July?

If the devil were to write his beatitudes, they would probably go something like this:

The Devil says . . . ?

1. Blessed are those who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour once a week with their fellow Christians -- they are my best workers.
2. Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked -- I can use them.
3. Blessed are the touchy who stop going to church -- they are my missionaries.
4. Blessed are the trouble makers -- they shall be called my children.
5. Blessed are the complainers -- I'm all ears to them.
6. Blessed are those who are bored with the minister's mannerisms and mistakes -- for they get nothing out of his sermons.
7. Blessed is the church member who expects to be invited to his own church -- for he is a part of the problem instead of the solution.
8. Blessed are those who gossip -- for they shall cause strife and divisions that please me.
9. Blessed are those who are easily offended -- for they will soon get angry and quit.
10. Blessed are those who do not give their offering to carry on God's work -- for they are my helpers.
11. Blessed is he who professes to love God but hates his brother and sister -- for he shall be with me forever.
12. Blessed are you who, when you read this think it is about other people and not yourself -- I've got you too!

WE ALL NEED TO BE REMINDED THAT THIS CAN HAPPEN TO ANY CHRISTIAN, INCLUDING YOU AND ME.

TRINITY TUESDAY FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 4th July - TRINITY BAR-B-Q on the Rye starting at 6pm.

We will meet on the Rye from 6 pm for a fun evening. Bring your own meat, but we will provide salads etc and puddings - and the Bar-B-Q itself of course. You will need to bring either chairs or rugs to sit on and any cold drinks (and glasses) or tea & coffee, whichever you prefer.

Please also bring cutlery and a plate and dish for the food. We are planning to organise games for the children before the meal and the energetic among us can join them in some gentle exercise afterwards.

To help with the catering, please let Daphne, Joy, John, Rose or Margaret know as soon as possible.

Friday 26th September POTTED SPORTS or GENTLE GAMES 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm

We are repeating this easy games evening as those that took part enjoyed it so much that they want to try again, and some that missed it want to have a go, so come along and have some fun. There will be Bagatelle, Shoveha'penny, Marbles, Putting and Darts etc with a small prize for the overall winner. Tea, Coffee, Squash and Biscuits will be provided.

Tuesday 28th October QUIZ EVENING 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm

Start organising your team now, more details later.

FUTURE EVENTS

We are hoping to organise some Scottish dancing in November and a musical evening in December.

If we could get the hand bells again that would be really great, and we have other musical ideas up our sleeve, so watch this space.

Wycombe Prayer – July Meeting

Calling all Intercessors

Prayers for those who wish to intercede for local issues concerning church and community. All welcome.

Venue this month: 6.00-9.00a.m. Saturday 5th July at Kings Church, Desborough Road.

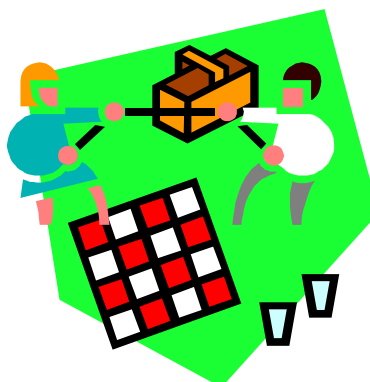
*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 27th July.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 18th July.*

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Church Picnic Sunday 13th July



**Meet at Hughenden Park on Coates Lane
after morning worship**

Bring your own picnic.

All welcome. Bring your family or friends.

Games for the younger ones – parachute, football, cricket etc.

Quiet conversation for the older ones – sit in the sun or shade, talk or dream.

Fun spot

A grade one teacher (in America) collected well known proverbs. She gave each child in her class the first half of a proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It's hard to believe these were actually done by grade one kids (6 year-olds).

Better to be safe than . . . punch a grade 7 boy.
Strike while the . . . insect is close.
It's always darkest before . . . Daylight Saving Time.
Never underestimate the power of . . . ants.
You can lead a horse to water but . . . how?
Don't bite the hand that . . . looks dirty.
No news is . . . impossible.

[More on page 11]

VISION PRAISE!

Wycombe Youth for Christ are holding their annual Vision Praise meeting at Union Baptist Church on Thursday 3rd July from 8 pm. Come and find out about present work and future ministry. We would like to praise God and thank our supporters; 10 minutes of AGM business will be included. Please come!

(Ring 01494 522777 for more info - Jan Mason or Derrick Burns)

On Sunday 1st June, at the end of the sermon, our Minister gave us a fine prayer by St Ignatius of Loyale. The Oxford Dictionary of Biography says about him:-

Born 1491, died 1556. He was a Spanish theologian and founder of the Jesuits. After being wounded as a soldier, he left military life and turned to prayer and a spiritual life. He founded the Society of Jesus. He wrote "Spiritual Exercises" in 1548; this was a scheme of meditations on the life of Christ and truths of the Christian faith and is still used in the training of Jesuits.

Apologies to those of you who know all this, and most of you will know this part of one of his prayers.

Teach us, Lord, to serve Thee as Thou deservest,
To give and not to count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest,
To labour and not to ask for any reward,
Save that of knowing that we do Thy will.

[Submitted by Olivia Price]

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

Are there any budding flower arrangers amongst the congregation who would like to join the rota to arrange flowers each week for our service on Sunday mornings? We already have several members who take on this task but it would be good if we could add some more names to the list. They don't have to be large arrangements, just a simple vase of flowers is fine, and there is a flower fund to cover the cost. Please see me at church or ring me at home if you think you can help or would like any more information.

Thank you

Nancy H

Gardener's Corner

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be happy
Lettuce really love one another

Every garden should have turnips:

Turnip for service when needed
Turnip to help one another
Turnip for the music and dance

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden, because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden we must have Thyme:

Thyme for fun.
Thyme for rest.
Thyme for ourselves.

[Origin unknown]

A professor stood before his Philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls.

He then asked the students if the jar was full? They agreed that it was. The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the golf balls.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

He then asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous - - YES.

The professor then produced two glasses of wine from under the table and proceeded to pour the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand.

The students laughed. "Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things -- your family, your partner, your health, your children, your friends, your favourite passions - - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full."

"The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car.

The sand is everything else - - the small stuff." " If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness.

Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out dancing. Play another 18. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and wash the dishes." "Take care of the golf balls first - - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the wine represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of glasses of wine!!!"

More proverbs (see page 9)

A miss is as good as a . . . Mr.

You can't teach an old dog new . . . maths.

If you lie down with dogs, you'll . . . stink in the morning.

Love all, trust . . . me.

The pen is mightier than the . . . pigs.

An idle mind is . . . the best way to relax.

Where there's smoke there's . . . pollution.

Happy the bride who . . . gets all the presents.

A penny saved is . . . not much.

Two's company, three's . . . the Musketeers.

Don't put off till tomorrow what . . . you put on to go to bed.

Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and . . . you have to blow your nose.

There are none so blind as . . . Stevie Wonder.

Children should be seen and not . . . smacked or grounded.

If at first you don't succeed . . . get new batteries.

You get out of something only what you . . . see in the picture on the box.

When the blind lead the blind . . . get out of the way.

Prayer Page

(Prepared by the Elders)

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For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love, which from our birth,
Over and around us lies.
 Gracious God, to Thee we raise,
 This, our sacrifice of praise.

[F S Pierpoint]

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father
of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
[James 1, v17]

Oh God we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the
blessed sun, for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills
 and the never resting winds, for trees and grass underfoot.
We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of the birds, and
see the splendour of the summer fields, and taste of the Autumn fruits, and
 rejoice in the feel of the snow and smell the breath of the Spring.
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty, O God our creator who lives
 and reigns for ever and ever.

CREATING GOD

You crafted the universe in wisdom,
you hold it balanced in your hand.
Help us to remember
that you are still in control,
that creation belongs to you
and only your voice
can still its tumult
and bring peace in the storm.



HEALING & COMFORTING GOD

You know my deepest needs
even when I can hardly put them
into words.
You see the plight of the rejected
ones,
the dying of the children
and include them all in your healing
love.
Help me to be sensitive to the needs
of others, and inclusive in care,
because I know that you have loved
even me.

Christ has:-

No body now on earth but yours;
No hands but yours;
No feet but yours;
Yours are the eyes
Through which is to look out
Christ's compassion to the world;
Yours are the feet
With which He is to go about
Doing good;
Yours are the hands
With which He is to bless men now.

[St Teresa]