



July 2005

The Recorder

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*An edited version of this magazine is now available on the Church Web-site.
(Personal details are NOT included.)*

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

Trinity - A Family Church

Worshipping together - Caring for one another - Sharing with others

‘My Penultimate Letter’

Revd. Michael Shrubsole

Minister of Trinity United Reformed Church

I realise I will only be expected to write one more letter after this one. So I begin to worry if there are any remaining pearls of wisdom I really ought to make sure I impart to you all before I leave.

Many years ago a young friend of mine who was a local preacher was moving on to a new job and home. He chose to make his final sermon in the church an opportunity to tell everyone all the things he hadn't managed to say before. Unfortunately a very large number of his final thoughts were very negative. I can't now remember if anything he said was positive, or grateful, or thankful. I'm sure some of it must have been, but my overwhelming memory of his goodbye sermon is one of a list of gripes and complaints and a catalogue of failures of the church. The negative memories have totally swamped any positive memories. Which was also the impression you got as you listened to the sermon for the first time. As the sermon unfolded one wondered why he had been a member of the church at all! And the problem is, I'm sure this friend was trying to do something good. He was trying to shock people into taking notice and make some positive changes in the way the church was organising its priorities and mission and life together. And he failed. The response to such a list of negative ideas can only be to put the defences up; to cringe and hide and to wish good riddance to a former member who had now revealed himself to be a closet troublemaker. Unfortunately, he was probably quite right about everything he said. As you can imagine, the church was not perfect. There were plenty of problems that could be pointed out. Not because the church was in any way difficult or problematical. It was a perfectly ordinary church made up of perfectly ordinary people, just like you and me in High Wycombe. But as every good manager, parent, teacher, minister and local preacher ought to know, it is praise that gets the results, not criticism. Reward is a much stronger incentive than punishment.

So, I must think carefully about a few final comments to you. I loved the work we did together to produce a new Vision Statement and then research its implications and investigate ways forward - don't stop thinking and praying creatively like that. I admire the way groups like Womens' Meeting and Nightbirds and Scrabble meet regularly and sociably and prayerfully - never resist opportunities for that kind of quality fellowship. I am deeply respectful of the earnest desire many of you have to make our big building welcoming and useful to the wider community - don't ever get the cart before the horse, keep remembering that mission and service come before the big building. I am proud of your financial giving and fund raising generosity - the bills for building work are often beyond your capacity to cope unaided, but you have never failed to meet national M&M commitments, and year by year you produce annual budgets that are close to being balanced - whether it is widows' mites or bulging wallets, remember that you are stewards of all that God has given you. I also fondly remember our Church Weekends and groups to Spring Harvest - never forget how important it is to spend quality time with one another in worship and discussion.

And if you can think of any other praise I have missed out, don't criticise me, instead share those words of praise with someone who needs to hear them right now.

Mike

Minister :
Rev Michael Shrubsole,

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July Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

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

3rd July - **Communion Service** on White Band Sunday

Matthew 11:16-30; Zechariah 9:9-12; Romans 7:15-25; Psalm 145

10th July - **Morning Worship** - Matthew 13:1-13; Isaiah 55:10-13;

Romans 8:1-11; Psalm 65

17th July - **All-age Worship** - Matthew 13:24-43; Isaiah 44:6-8;

Romans 8:12-25; Psalm 86

24th July - **Morning Worship** - Matthew 13:31-52;

1 Kings 3:5-12; Romans 8:26-39; Psalm 119

31st July - **Morning Worship** - Matthew 14:13-21; Isaiah 55:1-5;

Romans 9:1-5; Psalm 145

Rotas for July

What's on in July

WOMEN'S MEETING

Our weekly meetings start again in September. This month we have two special meetings. Both begin at 2.30pm.

Tuesday 8th July - Olivia Pinvites us to her home.

Tuesday 19th July - Our President, Louise S, invites us to The Manse.

Lifts will be arranged - see Olive S



3rd and 17th June

Scrabble

at 2pm -

The last chance before the summer holidays. Get along and see your mates before they jet off for sunny climes!

Church Walk

Feet resting time. Sit back and think about some of the enjoyable walks from the past.



“Goodbye to the Shrubsole Family”

Church Social Evening

Saturday 23rd July
in Crendon Hall

6.00-7.30pm. - Tea Party followed by

7.30-9.30pm. - Barn dancing and fun and games.

All welcome, young and old.

Contact Anne H with offers to help with catering. Contact Margaret L to confirm attendance or offer apologies.



TRINITY CHURCH DIARY DATES FOR JULY

Prayer Circle for Healing

Sunday 10th July, 4.30pm in the Sanctuary.

All welcome to attend this church prayer meeting, which has a particular focus on the pastoral needs of members of our congregation. We meet to share a prayerful concern for the needs of each other. Do come and share with the Minister, Elders and others with a pastoral concern as we support each other through our prayers.

Elders Meeting - Tuesday 5th July, 7.30pm in the Schoolroom.

Church Coffee Mornings - Saturdays 9th and 23rd July,

Church Meeting - Tuesday 19th July, 8.00pm. in the Schoolroom. All Church Members are encouraged to attend.

Trinity Theological Discussion Group

Tuesday 12th July - "What does the Future hold for Christianity?"

All welcome to come and share in discussion and Biblical investigation.

Led by our Minister: Revd. Mike Shrubsole.

Tuesdays at 8.00pm. in the Schoolroom

Advance notice (1) !

Local Talent

*New Christian songwriter Jonny Patton will be playing at the Hub, Union Baptist Church, High Wycombe on **Monday 5th September** 2005 to launch his first album at 8pm. The album of original praise and worship songs will be available to buy on the night, and Jonny will be performing a few exclusive tracks that do not appear on the album.*

Tickets are £4 on the door and you can reserve tickets by sending an email to Mela@jonnypatton.com.

Jonny Patton is originally from Ballymoney, County Antrim, he is the worship leader at the Christian Union at BCUC in High Wycombe, where he is currently studying.

News from Church Meeting

“Wow!” “What a great feeling!” “Wasn’t that good?” These were the kind of remarks to be heard as church members left the church meeting on Tuesday 21st June. Not the kind of comments that you normally associate with church meetings. So what had happened?

This was mainly the result of the architect’s feasibility study. The meeting had a lively discussion about Jeremy’s recommendations and there was a real sense of purpose and unity that this was now the right time and the right set of proposals to agree to get on with things. The members realised that to discuss the individual proposals one by one would be a great distraction from a general feeling that in principle the feasibility study was getting it right this time. The members noted that the only point that anyone seemed to want to discuss further had to do with the pulpit. It was agreed that if that was the only controversial element then discussion about it could wait to a later date. The meeting noted that they could only seek to “agree in principle to take the proposed scheme further” because events beyond our control such as planning objections and/or funding limitations might make the scheme unworkable, or might oblige us to undertake a modified scheme, or might cause us to commence a partial and initial phase of the whole scheme as funding allows.

Church meeting passed the following resolution unanimously by all 26 members present:

“Church meeting approves the recommendations of the feasibility study and agrees in principle to take the proposed scheme further by:

- i) Seeking planning permission for the whole scheme,
- ii) Beginning to raise funds for the whole scheme.

Any future work which is necessary to fulfil these two objectives and which requires further expenditure is to be brought to the church meeting for prior approval.”

The church meeting also agreed to ask District to appoint a Development Team so that there would be District and Synod involvement in future property developments at Trinity. (M.S.)

Advance notice (2) !

Let's worship!

*Duggie Dug Dug's Praise Party Spectacular AND An Evening Celebration with Mike Piliavachi and Tim Hughes. At the Wycombe Swan on **24th September**, 11 am and 7.30 pm. Morning tickets all £2.50. Evening tickets £4.50, concessions £2.50. Hosted by Encounter in conjunction with Lighthouse Hazlemere, Soul Survivor, New Wine Networks, Xalt and Wycombe Youth for Christ. Sponsors The Entertainer toy shops and St Andrew's book shops. Tickets from the Swan on 01494 521000. See poster/leaflets for more information, or visit www.encounter-events.org. For an occasional prayer and newsletter from Encounter please send a blank email to prayer@encounter-events.org. Thank you!*

Angel Knocking at the Door

There came a frantic knock At the doctor's office door
A knock, more urgent than he had ever heard before.

"Come in, Come in," the impatient doctor said,
Come in, Come in, before you wake the dead."

In walked a frightened little girl, a child no more than nine,
It was plain for all to see, she had troubles on her mind.

"Oh doctor, I beg you, please come with me,
My mother is surely dying, she's as sick as she can be."

"I don't make house calls, bring your mother here,"
"But she's too sick, so you must come or she will die I fear."

The doctor, touched by her devotion, decided he would go,
She said he would be blessed, more than he could know.

She led him to her house where her mother lay in bed,
Her mother was so very sick she couldn't raise her head.

But her eyes cried out for help and help her the doctor did,
She would have died that very night had it not been for her kid.

The doctor got her fever down and she lived through the night
And morning brought the doctor signs, that she would be all right.

The doctor said he had to leave but would return again by two,
And later he came back to check, just like he said he'd do.

The mother praised the doctor for all the things he'd done,
He told her she would have died, were it not for her little one.

"How proud you must be of your wonderful little girl,
It was her pleading that made me come; she is really quite a pearl!"

"But doctor my daughter died over three years ago,
Is the picture on the wall of the little girl you know?"

The doctor's legs went limp for the picture on the wall,
Was the same little girl for whom he'd made this call.

The doctor stood motionless, for quite a little while,
And then his solemn face, was broken by his smile.

He was thinking of that frantic knock heard at his office door,
And of the beautiful little angel that had walked across his floor.

Thanks to Andrew Winton for providing this contribution - and also the one at the bottom of page 8.

Advance notice (3) !

Saturday September 3rd Ladies Pampering Afternoon in Crendon Hall from 1.00 – 6.00 pm
Please make a note of this date in your diary and keep it free so that you can come along to Crendon Hall, sometime between 1.00 and 6.00 pm, and spend awhile relaxing and being pampered. More details to follow in the August Recorder.

The Quiet Man speaks!

Iain Duncan Smith has the nickname of "the quiet man". We have our own, however - and he wants to speak to YOU!

The person who welcomes you at the church door on a Sunday morning, and the person who gives you a hymn-book and Order of Service, do not just "happen to be there"! They get there by the efforts of our "quiet man" - Willie Macleod, who works out a rota from those who volunteer for such duties. The more who volunteer, the less frequently we have to see the same faces at the door each week!

Willie would like to thank those diligent souls who have been on the rotas in the past, but would like to have some new names on his lists. Please think about this and have a word with him, (he doesn't bite!) to find out how this simple little task can be just what you are looking for as a way of serving the church!

Advance notice (4) !

Saturday October 15th Trinity Autumn Fayre in Crendon Hall – To be opened by Jim Tanner

I know this event is a little way off, but we need to start planning the details very soon. We hope to have the usual stalls, so would welcome items for the Tombola, the Gift Stall, Grocery Stall and Cakes. We would also welcome offers of help on the day and ideas for new stalls or side shows and competitions.

Adam in the Garden!

Adam was hanging around the garden of Eden feeling very lonely.

So, God asked him, "What's wrong with you?"

Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to.

God said that He was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman.

He said, "This pretty lady will gather food for you, she will cook for you, and when you discover clothing, she will wash it for you.

She will always agree with every decision you make and she will not nag you, and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will praise you!

She will bear your children, and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them.

Adam asked God, "What will a woman like this cost?"

God replied, "An arm and a leg."

Then Adam asked, "What can I get for a rib?"

Of course the rest is history.....

Friends,

In the midst of all the hype about Live8 concerts, the rally in Edinburgh, and all the hustle and bustle of everyday life let us just take a moment to reflect on why we are part of this campaign

Because we believe:

- It is wrong that 50,000 people die of poverty every day
 - It is wrong that a child dies of poverty every 3 seconds
 - Poverty is man made and we CAN do something about it?
 - The things we take for granted (education, health service, health and safety regulations to protect us at work) is the result of the campaigns of previous generations of Christians (and others) who worked tirelessly and did change the world for us? And we want to repay that debt by working for others today.
 - We are called to "preach good news to the poor" and "to act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with our God"

In all our activities let us remember why we are doing this. To think about those whose lives are blighted by the effects of poverty. To think how God calls us to respond.

Whatever you have done so far to highlight the effects of poverty and what we can do to change the world thank you. Whatever you may do in the months to come, thank you. Whatever you can do to raise awareness and apply pressure on those at the negotiating table in early July *please, please do it!*

Edinburgh – 2nd July -

Please go. **The more people there the bigger the statement we make. It will be a family friendly day and your presence is important.**

A special message of encouragement from Sheila Maxey is sent to you all

To all United Reformed Church people travelling to Edinburgh for 2 July in order to play their part in making poverty history. The United Reformed Church supports you and is proud of you. As the General Assembly opens on that very day you will be remembered in prayer and we will be very conscious that while we are meeting you and thousands of others are involved in the most amazing demonstration in support of the poor of the world. May God bless you and keep you as you seek to Make Poverty History and bring good news to the poor.

Sheila Maxey, Moderator of the General Assembly, 2004 – 2005.

There is still some transport available - visit www.makepovertyhistory.org for up to date details. Transport is mainly by coach, most train/plane tickets have now been sold or are at the top end of the price range.

Remember to wear white or light coloured clothes to help mark out the human white band around the city.

10.00 am Gathering for Worship in Methodist Central Hall, Edinburgh - all are welcome but place might be limited.

[Augustine URC is hosting a senior Parliamentary delegates meeting and so therefore not available to us]

The United Reformed Church muster point will be at "M" in the Meadows, a short walk from the station and coach drop off points. Folk from the Synod of Scotland will be there to greet us - you will be able to find them under a large banner!

Take plenty of water, wear sensible shoes, smile and "encourage one another" on the day, especially if you cannot quite be where you want to be when you want to be. Just being there you will be part of the largest mass movement on behalf of the World's poor that there has ever been.

General Assembly 2-5th July

Many cannot be in Edinburgh because they will be at Assembly. We shall be launching a new resource called 'Nine Lives' to tell the stories of those affected by trade rules. There will be a new postcards specially for the start of the UK presidency of EU – to be used at Methodist Conference (the week before ours) and General Assembly. Ask us for copies for your church.

MakePovertyHistory will be featured on stage, in the worship, in the resolutions and video clips from Edinburgh.

If you are there then why not wear white too? And let us have a fun competition to see who can mention MakePovertyHistory the most times that day (outside the debates that is, over meals) just in case there are fellow delegates not yet fully engaged with the campaign.

Around the UK – hold a prayer vigil

Not everyone can be in Edinburgh or Coventry, but everyone can do something to mark the G8 conference! Either join in something local, or organise something yourself!

Prayer vigils on the eve of the Rally, or during the week of the G8.

See CAFOD website for a vigil liturgy www.cafod.org.uk

Christian Aid www.christianaid.org.uk/worship/504mph/index.htm – bible readings and sermon ideas

Tearfund www.tearfund.org prayers especially written with the events of the next two weeks

It is not too late to sign a post-card, lobby your MP, or MEP, send a buddy to one of the G8 embassies in London (see www.sendmyfriend.org - nb the buddy hotel in Scotland is now full with over 3 million buddies sent to the G8 leaders from around the world).

Wear the wristband, t-shirt, hat! Put up the banner on the church!

Get out and about and tell people!

Other News

Please pray for the MakePovertyHistory Parliamentary reception 22nd June.

28th June a special service in St John's Church Waterloo Tuesday 28th June Preacher Jim Wallis (Christian Aid/CAFOD/Tearfund)

Special radio broadcasting station from Edinburgh on 2nd July - "G8: Are you listening?" 87.7 FM in Edinburgh or via the internet

Tickets for the Live8 concert now allocated - Tickets for "Edinburgh 50,000 - The Final Push" taking place at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh, on the 6th of July. Email us for information on how to get tickets.

Be Encouraged

At their meeting on 11 June the G8 Finance Ministers announced the biggest package of debt relief in years - *and acknowledged that it was the result of campaigning pressure!*

18 countries at present, theoretically increasing to 38, will have 100% of outstanding debts to the World Bank, African Development Bank and IMF. This is a HUGE step forward - but there is a very long way to go (no debts to the Inter-American Bank are included, how much money for aid was simply diverted, trade liberalisation, privatisation of utilities etc.)

Be encouraged and go forth and help to **MakePovertyHistory!**

Helen Warmington

MPH Campaign Officer - United Reformed Church

Tel 01580 891583 or 07950896640

Barbecue



Saturday 30 July

We hope you will be able to join us for an afternoon of fun and games for all the family at an informal get together in the garden of Elsje and Tony H.

The fun starts at 2pm.



Bring your own barbecue food and drinks.
The salads, bread and puddings will be provided.

To gives us an idea of numbers can you please let Jan L and Marieke F know or add your name to list in the Lower School Room.

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 31st July
Closing date for contributions is Friday 22nd July*

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prayer page
(prepared by the womens' meeting)

We remember the Make Poverty History Campaign and the G8 Summit.

O God our Father, in the name of him who gave bread to the hungry we remember all who through our human ignorance, selfishness and sin are condemned to live in want; and we pray that all endeavours for the overcoming of world poverty and hunger may be so prospered that there may be found food sufficient for all; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christian Aid Prayer.

Father, may those whose lands are rich remember the hungry. Let us work with our fellow men, pooling our skills and our resources that all the earth may yield the harvest of which it is capable. May the desert of the hungry be turned into fertile land.

We look forward to the future for our church.

We pray for our minister Mike Shrubsole and his wife Louise as they prepare to leave us.

We pray for ourselves and our future without them.

We pray for our plans to make our church building more accessible and open to all comers.

Dear Lord , we look forward to the coming months with apprehension and excitement. We thank you for the ministry of Mike and Louise. Make us worthy of their inspiration. We thank you for the work of our architect Jeremy Bell. Be with us we pray as we consider his plans and look forward to changes in our buildings. May we go forward in the power of the Holy Spirit, remembering the steadfast love and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We give thanks for summer activities.

For long days and warm evenings, for sun and afternoons in gardens, we thank you Lord.

For relaxation and summer games, for summer holidays and summer outings, we thank you Lord.

For time to reflect, to renew energies, to plan ahead, we thank you Lord.

A final thought:



Attempt great things for God: expect great things from God.
William Carey. (1761-1834)

**J
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