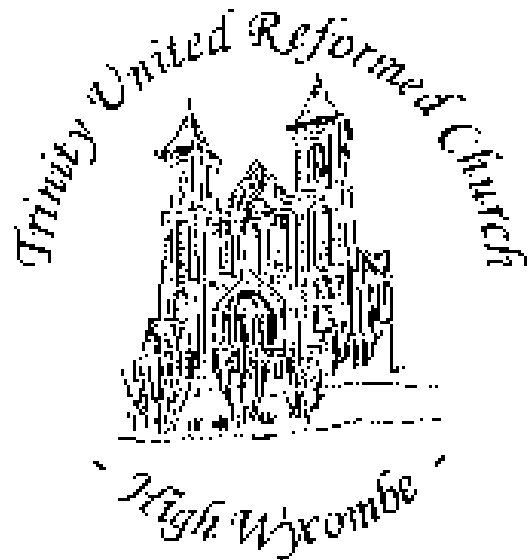


You are the salt of the earth;
Matthew 5:13



July 2007

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

Dear Friends,

Marian Mole, Margaret Lewis, Alan and Kate Yates, and I spent a very good evening of food, fellowship and worship, together with about fifty other people, at Beaconsfield URC last week. We were marking the last meeting of the Chilterns District Council of the United Reformed Church. People spoke about how the life of the Council has been marked by friendliness and a happy atmosphere. Now its functions are to be taken up by Synod committees, and the one that we shall relate to most directly will be the new Chilterns Area Committee.

But I don't want to develop the point here about church structures, but rather think about people in the church who 'do jobs' on behalf of us all and for the good of the church as a whole.

The people I have named above, together with Audrey Richardson, have all served on the Chilterns District Council. This is just one of many, many ways in which individuals make the work of the church happen. How many 'jobs' are done, do you think, by people in our own church in order to keep it working and developing well?

I have counted well over a hundred. Some are on the post-holder list, and in addition there are all the people who take their turn on rotas, and those who informally 'look out' for us all. It is a real team effort, isn't it?

I have been at Trinity for six months now. I have had time to see that Trinity is very well served by all who take up these various responsibilities, with commitment and good humour. THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU.

It is a great encouragement. I hope that over the summer months all will have a chance to have some rest and refreshment.

All this reminds me of some of my favourite parts of the New Testament. They are the parts of Paul's letters when he refers to his team-mates in the Gospel by name. If you'd like to look them up and enjoy them too, here are some of the references: Romans 16:1-16 & 21-23; Cor. 1:1, 16:10 – 20; Eph. 6:21-24; Phil.4:1-3 & 21-22; Col. 4:7 – 17; Thess. 1:1; 2 Tim. 4:19-21; Titus 3:12-15.

And the final part of that last verse seems a good way to end this letter:

"Grace be with all of you".



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk
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Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole, e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk
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July Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am - led by the Minister unless otherwise stated

July 1	Holy Communion: With prayer for URC General Assembly
July 8	Morning Worship: Led by Amersham Worship Team (Leader Margaret Howard)
July 15	Morning Worship: Sharing inspiration & concerns from the General Assembly
July 22	All Age Worship: Focus on Sport, Leisure & Holidays
July 29	Morning Worship: Featuring highlights from Lighthouse

Rotas for July

Not included in this version

What's on in July



In view of the very short nights during the summer months, the Nightbirds go into hiding. No doubt they will reappear in September!

WOMEN'S MEETING

The group is "on holiday" until September, but this month they have three Garden Parties to pass the time, thanks to two members and the President. All will start at 2.30pm, and lifets will be arranged. (See Olive S)



Tuesday 3rd July
Tuesday 17th July
Tuesday 31st July

Olivia P invites us to 1her home
Margaret L invites us to her home
The minister invites us to the Manse.



Watch the dates again this month - they are not in the normal pattern.

Last chance before the summer break!

20th and 27th July

Diary Dates

3 July	8pm Elders' Meeting
6 & 7 July	Faith Fair in Wycombe Town Hall
7-10 July	Gwen attends General Assembly
8 July	Sharing Skills Stall after Morning Worship
11 July	8pm Church Meeting
14 July	Coffee Morning
23-27 July	Lighthouse Week
2-21 August	Gwen on holiday
24-27 August	Green Belt Festival (Gwen & our Youth Groups will be attending)
26 August	Songs of Praise Service led by the Elders
1 Sept	Elders' Day
4 Sept	8pm Elders' Meeting
11 Sept	8pm Church Meeting
16 Sept	Harvest Thanksgiving

Not included in this version

Amendments to Church Directory

Not included in this version

HOW & WHY DO WE READ THE BIBLE?

If you would like to contribute to this Bible Society research please go to <http://www.communicateresearch.com/biblesurvey/> and do the online questionnaire. It takes about 10 minutes. If it raises any issues about using the Bible that you think it would be worth exploring more as a church, together, let me know.



CHRISTIAN AID

A big thank you to all those involved in Christian Aid Week this year. I'm sorry, guides, that you had such a wet evening to deliver the envelopes. It was very noble of you and the adults that went with you, thank you all very much. Thank you also to Marian, Gwen, Nancy, Joy, John and Tony for doing the House to House collecting and to the Women's Meeting and church members for their gifts. We collected a total of £655.50.

Thank you all once again.



Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe has warned Roman Catholic bishops who published a pastoral letter criticising his government over the country's mounting economic and economic crises, saying that they have chosen "a dangerous path."

Mugabe said the Bishops had become political. He described the letter written by the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference and read to congregations across the country on Palm Sunday (1 April) as "political nonsense".

"Once they turn political we regard them as no longer being spiritual and our relations with them would be conducted as if we are dealing with political entities and this is quite a dangerous path they have chosen for themselves," Mugabe is quoted as saying in an interview in the latest issue of the London-based monthly *New African* magazine. The article was also published in the government-run *Herald* newspaper on 4 May.

Mugabe said he would meet with the bishops over the letter, but launched a fresh attack on outspoken Archbishop Pius Ncube, a longtime critic of his from the country's second city of Bulawayo.

"He thinks he is God, that's why he says he is praying for me to die," Mugabe said. "But unfortunately God has not listened to him for all this duration."

Archbishop Ncube said on 24 April: "We cannot be sweet any more with these people who have oppressed us." He noted: "Churches must have some kind of contract with civil bodies to have a common front and to have common actions with trade unions and so forth through non-violent actions. There must be a contract to bring the government down if they are refusing to negotiate."

Zimbabwe is reeling under economic and political crises with annual inflation at 2200 percent, widespread poverty, and tensions between the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front party and the main opposition Movement for Democratic Change.

Mugabe, who was himself brought up a Catholic, said: "If I had gone to church and the priest had read the so-called pastoral letter I would have stood up and said 'nonsense'." Mugabe added:

"It's not something spiritual, it's not religious, the bishops have decided to turn political."

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Christian Care

Christian Aid partner Christian Care was formed over 40 years ago by the churches, in Zimbabwe, to bring comfort to those affected by HIV/AIDS. Today they are involved in drought recovery and conservation farming. Although subsistence farming has always been part of life in Zimbabwe, the farmers are facing many challenges. Drought conditions, poor land management and rising costs all make for a worrying future. The people who suffer most are those who are poor, of which seventy percent live in rural communities. Ninety percent of them live on less than one dollar a day. The only food they eat is that which they grow themselves: not for them the weekly trip to the supermarket. Over fifty percent of families rely on money coming in from family outside the country. Inflation is around 2200 per cent but it is expected to dramatically increase further. With inflation so high, every item becomes out of reach of all except the richest. People with jobs walk long, long distances to work. It is humbling when you see how they have developed coping mechanisms for survival.

SHARE YOUR SKILLS

We thought it was time to reissue the list of skills on offer as a reminder of what's available. So below is a list of what people have offered to provide, for a donation, which will go to Revive. Please contact any of the people on the list and help boost the funds we need for our redevelopment of the church premises. We hope that the ideas below will encourage others to come forward with more offers.

Not included in this version

SHARE YOUR SKILLS STALL

8 JULY 2007

Following Morning Worship on Sunday 8 July all those who have offered to make things as part of the Share Your Skills initiative are invited to provide items for sale.

Visit to the Environment Centre. (by the Women's Meeting)

On the sunny afternoon of Tuesday June 5th members of the Women's Meeting gathered on the Rye at the Environment Centre to be shown round by Frances Alexander who had opened the building especially for us. For many it was their first visit and all were impressed with the exhibition on the ground floor where photographs of Special Trees and art work based on them were on view. The Centre is keeping a book of special trees so if you have one let them know.

The highlight of the afternoon for many of us was the visit upstairs (lift available) where we were entranced watching the bees at work and learning more about them. Everywhere there was evidence of the work which is done with children to develop their appreciation of the natural world and to help them (and us) to look after the environment for the future.

The meeting ended with delicious cakes and tea served by Frances and Margaret Simmonds who had been helping. Margaret, as many of you know, looks after the garden at Pann Mill. She also spends a lot of time as a volunteer at the Centre welcoming visitors.

If you have not been to the Centre the Women's Meeting warmly encourages you to look up the opening times and the current exhibitions which change frequently and pay a visit. It is well worth while for all ages. We are very grateful to Frances and Margaret for showing us round and giving us so much information.

Olive J

More traveller's tales

The people of Cheshire must be obsessed with their diet!

Seen recently in Wilmslow and Congleton - in each case outside churches:-

- Don't become a Custard Christian - upset by trifles
- The best vitamin for a Christian - B1

Why We Love Children !

NUDITY

I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening when a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard my 5-year-old shout from the back seat, "Mom! That lady isn't wearing a seat belt!"

OPINIONS

On the first day of school, a first-grader handed his teacher a note from his mother. The note read, "The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents."

KETCHUP

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone. "Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle."



Message from Junior Church



At last the summer holidays are here and no more school!

During the summer holidays only the creche will be in operation. We will, however, have some activities for the older children during services – word searches, colouring, puzzles etc.

These are available at the back of the church when you come in.

Junior Church starts again on Sunday 2nd September.

We all hope you have a fun Summer holiday and look forward to seeing
you again soon.

Junior Church Leaders

Help needed during August!



During the summer holidays, there is no formal Junior Church running, but we still do have a creche available for the under 5's. We need 2 adults to run the creche when there is no Junior church for safety. During August, we always have one regular creche helper on, but so we are allowed some time off as well, I wondered if anybody may be willing to offer their services for one of the four weeks. Skills needed are to be able to read a story, play games and have fun

!Please speak to myself or any creche helper if you feel that you may be able to help.

Thank you

Julia P

Wycombe Half Marathon.

I thought I would just give you an update on my training for the half marathon on July 15th.

I am trying to run 3 times a week, increasing each run by a mile each time!!! It is getting quite hard, but I am still enjoying it.

*Sponsor forms are at the back of the church if you would like to sponsor me.
All money raised will go to **REVIVE**.*

Thank you to everyone for all your support.

Sarah.

Edited highlights from the Wycombe **Youth for Christ** newsletter of June 2007, relating to Primary schools. Next month the Secondary schools details will be published in the Recorder (if there is room!)

We would like to say a huge thank you for your support and prayers over the last school year. Paul in his letter to the Philippians says this, "I thank my God every time I remember you." (Philippians 1:3). This is true for us. We continually thank God for you; it is because of your prayers and support that we can serve the children and schools.

If as you pray, you feel that Lord has spoken to you please do contact us and let us know; it will be a great encouragement.

Thank you once again,
God Bless

Erica Holt
(Primary Schools Leader)

Wycombe YFC, Primary Dept.
St. John's Hall
Desborough Road
High Wycombe, HP11 2PU
01494 528400
primarydepartment@btinternet.com

If you would like any more information or have any questions please contact me using the details above.

BREAKING NEWS & ANSWERED PRAYERS

Yet again, it is a blessing to be able to say that I have seen God answer so many prayers; here are just a couple ...

- Both Castlefield and Kingswood school children are incredibly eager to remember the memory verses that I do in assemblies. They are excellent at this!
- At Chepping View School the assemblies are going very well; we are receiving a very warm welcome from both children and staff.
- The clubs continue to thrive and the children are enthusiastic and receptive in hearing about God. These children are a privilege to work with.
- With God's leading, I will be running a second Children's Workers Training Conference later this year! For your diaries, it will be held on Saturday 3rd November.

Children's Workers Training Conference Saturday 3rd November 2007

The aim of the conference is to train, equip, resource and network those working with children.

Speakers include: Benedict Mwendwa (National Children's Advocate, Salvation Army), Nigel Roberts (Youth for Christ), Wayne Dixon (Scripture Union), and OneWay UK Please contact Erica Holt for further info

Chiltern Gate

In partnership with St. Birinus & St. John's Church

Last term we were asked to take part in their RE Week, which focused on the Lord's Prayer. God answered many of our prayers that week and it is a delight to be involved in this school.

Whole School assembly
Tuesday 3rd July @ 3.00pm



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Luke Koletch (9th)

A very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.



Congratulations



With Best Wishes to

Julia & Tim

on celebrating their 6th Wedding Anniversary
with love from us all at Trinity.

Lest there be anyone who is still perplexed by your editor's choice of closing voluntary, (whilst wearing his organist's hat,) on 3rd June, he has not lost his sense of patriotism by playing a bit of Land of Hope and Glory. The occasion was the 150th birthday of Edward Elgar, who wrote the Pomp and Circumstance marches!

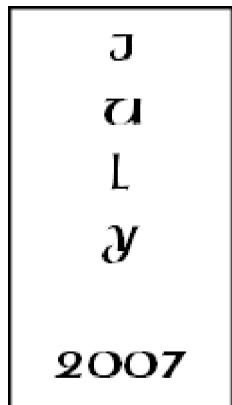
*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 29th July.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 20th July*

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

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

prayer page

We pray for those who are away on holiday;
for those who have holidays still to come;
for those who cannot afford a holiday
or have no-one to go with;
for those who find holidays stressful or not much change from their usual day-to-day life;
We pray most of all, Lord, that you would make each day a holy-day for us.
Amen.



Eternal God
We confess to you our sinfulness.
You made the world a paradise
but we have turned our lands into
places of tears and unhappiness.
People are fighting with each other race against race,
The holocaust of chauvinism sweeps through countries,
devouring humanity,
terrorising us into submission.

Liberating one,
free us from all bondage
so that our faith in you will make us free
to create with courage
a new world – new societies.

Prayer from Sri Lanka –from the Lion Prayer Handbook

God, you alone see every side of every question without being paralysed by doing so. Grant to me the gift of understanding, by which I may see both this side and that, yet still choose, for there are two sides to every question – the right side and the wrong. Only you know for certain which is which, so give me faith, courage and forgiveness, for Christ's sake. Amen.

From 'Asking God' by Oliver Tomkins

Weekly prayers through July:



Sunday	for people struggling with a disability
Monday	for carers – young and old
Tuesday	for our local District Council
Wednesday	for the emergency services
Thursday	for the Samaritans
Friday	for local hospices
Saturday	for the street in which each of us lives.