

The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl. *Matthew 13, v. 45*



July 2008

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,

Have you ever visited London's Silver Vaults? If not you may not have even heard of them. The leaflet I picked up there recently calls them "one of London's best kept shopping secrets".

North of the river, very close to Lincoln's Inn Fields, an unobtrusive entrance leads into a vestibule and down many stairs to over 30 shops occupying 'strong-room' underground vaults. Every one has a window packed with silverware. You can buy anything from a silver lid for your jar of marmite or bottle of tomato sauce, to a contemporary work of art and design in silver for £100,000. It is like something out of Aladdin's cave, or Harry Potter.

For people wanting to buy silver this must be heaven.

For people wanting to find God it is a parable.

The parable of the silver vaults. Jesus told parables like that: the parable of the hidden treasure [Matt. 13:44] and the parable of the pearl [see front cover]. Our search for God is one to which we have to be ready to give everything. Or, perhaps more truly, our finding God is an experience so satisfying and wonderful that we want to respond with everything we have.

God knows, though, that our finding of Him, and our response to Him is often more muddled and less wholehearted than this. He doesn't condone that, but he understands it. Jesus makes it clear through the Gospels that He seeks us out where we are, not where we think we should be. He welcomes us as we are, not as we would like to pretend to be.

Silver has its place. Maybe some of the bevy of babies we are welcoming and blessing at Trinity this summer will be given something in silver by a relative or friend. Many of us will have pieces of silver that are family heirlooms and have special associations for us.

But we are called to lay up our true treasure in heaven where moth and rust cannot corrupt or robbers break in and steal [Matt. 6:19-21]. The dozens of high security vaults, and the women I saw busily polishing to remove tarnish, show very clearly that silver, like all of this world's riches, can be damaged and can be lost. Even if it is not, it's real value is not lasting.

Laying up treasure in heaven, though, that is something else. It is incorruptible and is kept for us in safety. We can and should add to that treasure store every day. The parents who are bringing their children for baptism this summer are opening those spiritual treasure depositaries for them – may they all grow up to add many, many treasures to their spiritual store as they come to know our Lord for themselves. Then they will be blessed indeed.

"For Your heart will always be where your riches are."



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July Services


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


- July 6th Holy Communion, with BibleLands speaker and retiring collection.
July 13th Morning worship, including thanksgiving & infant blessing.
July 20th All age worship, including infant baptism.
July 27th Morning worship, Vision4Life: Evangelism
-


Rotas for July

	July 6th	Barbara Macleod & Sue Saunders
	July 13th	Sue Thorne & Marie Winning
	July 20th	Anne Harding & Leslie Bogart
	July 27th	Audrey Richardson & Elsie Hatton

	July 6th	Audrey Richardson
	July 13th	Joy Standfield
	July 20th	Janet Roake
	July 27th	Nancy Hawes

July 6th	Elsje Hatton	
July 13th	Barbara Raleigh	
July 20th	Kay Evans / Sue Thorne	
July 27th	Sarah Hobbs	

	July 6th	Julia Sparks & Margaret Lewis
	July 13th	Andrew Long & Daphne Murnane
	July 20th	Lesley Bogart & Sue Saunders
	July 27th	Joy Standfield & Norman Reeves

July 6th	Joy & John Standfield	
July 13th	Janet Roake	
July 20th	Sue Thorne	
July 27th	Sue Saunders	

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!



Scrabble

The season is nearly over.

Get your old gossip out of the way before the break!

11th and 25th July

at 2pm - 21 Westover Road

Diary Dates

1 July	8pm Elders' Meeting
4 & 5 July	Faiths' Fair at The Guildhall
5 July	9.30am –1pm 'Bread To Spare' at Wendover Free Church
5 July	That Lot & The Other Lot Sleepover at 12 Lime Avenue
12 July	Coffee Morning
15 July	8pm Church Meeting
19 July	2pm Elders' & Pastoral Assistants' Quarterly Meeting
20 July	Share Your Skills Stall following Morning Worship
26 July	2-4pm Jumble Sale in aid of Lighthouse
28 July–1 Aug	Lighthouse Week
4 – 21 Aug	Gwen on holiday
9 Aug	Coffee Morning
22-25 Aug	Greenbelt Festival
23 Aug	Coffee Morning
26 Aug	8pm Elders' Meeting
30 Aug	9.30am-12.30pm Fifth Brigade
16 Sept	8pm Church Meeting
19-21 Sept	Church Weekend at Wycliffe Centre
23 Sept	8pm Elders' Meeting

We were pleased to welcome into the church family by infant baptism on Sunday 15 June, **Ella Annie Thompson**.

Audrey Bruton has settled into her new home in Earlsdon, Coventry. Please see Amendments to Church Directory for her new telephone number.

We will greatly miss **Ian and Maureen Buchanan** when they move to Alnwick on 7 July. Both have been very active members of Trinity and taken important, and at times demanding, roles during the past 20 years. We are extremely grateful for all they've done and wish them every happiness in their new home. (Also see below)

Sadly **Betty Large** died on 9 June after a spell in hospital. Her funeral was held at Bradenham Church on 19 June. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Andrew Busby, our Interim Moderator during the interregnum, has been diagnosed with secondary cancer of the liver and is undergoing treatment.

Amongst members of our congregation who continue to suffer with ill health, pain, disability and may be undergoing treatment are **Rose Cornwall, Robin Garden, Nina Shepherd, Elaine Smith, Pauline Starck, Win Garred, Colin Lewis** and **Gwenda Dicker**.

Several of our members will be helping with Lighthouse Week during 28 July –1 August and some of our children will be attending and learning more about what it means to follow Jesus and have Him as a friend. We'd be grateful for your prayerful support before and during the week itself.

Please remember all the above in your prayers. Thank you.

MM

An Appreciation

Maureen and Ian Buchanan are leaving us to move to Alnwick, Northumberland in the second week of July. We are going to miss them sorely. It is my privilege to write a few words of appreciation for the Recorder on behalf of the church.

Maureen and Ian have been part of Trinity for twenty one years, and brought Maureen's parents along too after they moved to the area. We owe a debt of gratitude to Marie and Arthur Winning who introduced the Buchanans to the church back in the 1980's. It was an introduction that has proved to be a blessing to Trinity. They have embraced the responsibilities of Church membership with enthusiasm and been ready to take on important jobs that needed to be done. Maureen as Pulpit Supply Secretary has arranged for people to lead worship when the church had no minister, or when the minister has been away. I know from my own experience of coming to lead worship here for the first time that she has been doing this with courtesy and care. Ian as treasurer and Chair of the Revive project committee has led with tremendous enthusiasm and diligence. We would not be where we are today without his energy and vision. He leaves us with our finances in good order, and with Phase 1 of Revive completed and Phase 2 imminent. Well done, both of you.

We value the work that you have done among us, but more than that we value you yourselves as Christian friends and fellow pilgrims. If I had to sum you both up in one word it would be this word – encouragers! We hate to see you leave, but we pray that in God's good purposes you will be blest by all that lies ahead up north. Don't forget us. We look forward to seeing you on a regular basis when you return to visit Jo, Douglas, Ali and your many friends.



May I use the editor's privilege to finish this page by extending my own thanks to Maureen for her occasional help behind the scenes in "vetting" items for the Recorder. Without her, you will never know what you would have missed - but her guidance has been much appreciated!!

Angus

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe

PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

God Our Father,
You have given all peoples one common origin,
And your will is to gather them as one family in yourself.
Give compassion to our leaders, integrity to our citizens, and repentance to us all.
Fill the hearts of all women and men with your love
And the desire to ensure justice for all their brothers and sisters.
By sharing the good things you give us
May we ensure justice and equality for every human being,
An end to all division, and a human society built on love,
Lasting prosperity and peace for all.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

At the time of preparing this edition of the Recorder, the so-called Election Run-off is about to take place. The following report was prepared before the MDC withdrew for the sham.

After police invoked security laws to ban open-air prayer meetings in some parts of the country, a Zimbabwean church group has said that freedom to worship in the southern African country is being infringed in the weeks before a presidential election run-off in June.

"We were told last week that churches are no longer allowed to hold prayer meetings in the open except on church premises," Pastor Useni Sibanda, a spokesperson for the group called Churches in Bulawayo, told Ecumenical News International on 20 May.

'Churches in Bulawayo' is a loose coalition of congregations in Zimbabwe's second-biggest city. "In the past there were no restrictions on where churches could hold meetings, and for us this is actually an infringement on our right to freedom of worship," Sibanda said.

Zimbabwe held local, parliamentary and presidential elections on 29 March, as a result of which President Robert Mugabe's ruling Zanu-PF party lost its majority in parliament. According to the official results, none of the four presidential candidates managed to get the majority vote required to avoid a second round.

Bangladesh

Global Coal Management (GCM), a UK company, is planning an open-cast mining project near Phulbari in north-west Bangladesh. More than 40,000 people face resettlement, and thousands more are at risk from a reduced or contaminated water supply. The loss of land also threatens to decrease food security in the area. This mine is opposed by local people as it will have devastating impacts that would last for generations to come. One protest ended in the death of three people. Zakir Kibria, an activist from Bangladesh, says

"The poorest people of Bangladesh will suffer at the hands of a start up UK Corporation, who want to mine our land and destroy our environment for profit. Phulbari communities gave a verdict written in blood that they do not want the mine. Please campaign with the people of Phulbari to stop it"

He has asked the World Development Movement to help the Bangladeshi people oppose this mine. Please challenge GCM, and its shareholders (many of whom are British) to demand that they pull out of this disastrous coal mine project before it destroys any more lives.

Amendments to Church Directory

Please amend your Church Directory to the following:

- **Audrey Bruton's telephone number is: 02476 675106**
- **Please delete Betty Large's details**
- **Also please note the Buchanans new details as shown below.**

Please let the church secretary, Marian Mole, know of any amendments or additions in order that we can all keep in contact with one another.

MM

From Tuesday 8th July 2008 **Ian and Maureen Buchanan**'s new contact details are:

2 Springfield Meadow,

Alnwick,

Northumberland, NE66 2NY.

phone 01665 510178

e-mail: ian@buchanan.entadsl.com

maureen@buchanan.entadsl.com

CHRISTIAN AID 2008

This year Trinity raised £860 for Christian Aid through door to door collections, a donation from Women's Meeting members and Christian Aid envelopes put into the offertory bags during worship £450 of the amount donated was Gift Aided so this will raise another £126.

A big thank you to the Guides who distributed the envelopes and the members who went from door to door collecting them in again.

A really worthwhile effort, thank you all

Margaret

Wycombe Winter Night Shelter

Garden Party
& Auction of Art @ w y c o m b e m u s e u m
Sat. Sept 6th 2008
12 noon - 4pm

See next month's Recorder
for more information

. . . an offer you can't refuse!

Your FREE copy of the "REFORM" magazine

"Reform" the magazine of the URC is being relaunched. A number of free copies are being sent to all URC churches in the middle of July. There should be enough magazines sent to Trinity for each non-subscribing family to have a copy. I will try and hand a copy to each family, but if I haven't given you a copy and you would like one please let me know. If, once you have read your copy you wish to place an order for "Reform" please speak to me after church or contact me by e-mail.

Would regular subscribers please note their copies will also be available in the middle of July instead of the last Sunday in June.

Thank you.

Kay Evans
(kay@trinity-urc.org.uk)



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 7th September.

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

Junior Church Leaders

I wanted to learn how to make ice cream, so I attended sundae school.

Vision4Life – dressing up to go out...

'Vision4Life' is going to be the next phase of the United Reformed Church's 'Catch the Vision' Process.

A group of us wanted to do something to enable the faithful people in our United Reformed Churches (people like you) to find fresh excitement and encouragement in the basic things of our faith – the things that make us who we are. We know that every church is different, with its own pressures and its own delights, but we rather suspect that the very things that should be God's particular and special gift to us have, for many of us, become a little flat or even a little scary. Can we, church by church, recover some 'oomph', risk some excitement, get excited again about dressing up to go out... ?

How would that be, then?

Well, we say that the Bible is important to us, but our historic Reformed emphasis on the central importance of the Bible and an educated ministry means many of us are a bit wary of the Bible, unsure of our own ability to read it aright, happy to leave the study bit to the minister. Can we do anything to enable more of us to ENJOY engaging with the Bible? Can we help people recover their confidence in the Bible and confidence that they have something important to bring to the shared task of making the Bible speak excitingly to us all today?

We mainly have a deep sense that prayer is important, but how much of a help is it with the frustrations, sadnesses, pains and pressures of life? Couldn't we do better at finding God's support in the midst of our lives and the lives of the communities around us? Are we sometimes a little confused or afraid of prayer? Couldn't we change that for the better?

We know that we want to see more people sharing our faith, but many of us are not very good at doing the sharing, even when others seem interested enough to listen. For many of us faith is not something we talk about very often. So, if we got more comfortable talking about our faith with one another, might we be better able to talk about our faith with others in our community – and do it in a way that was true to who we are, not forced or out of character?

That's what Vision4Life is about. It's three years where each church is invited to tailor its own programmes from the selection of colourful materials we'll be putting on offer. We'll try to give you a great selection of ideas for a Bible year, a Prayer year and an Evangelism year and you and your church get to cut them up to fit who you are. And if we all share in the process, all contribute our own flair and skill and courage, we can all get dressed up, we can all get excited again and we'll all get to go out....

The whole programme will get started in the Spring and Summer of 2008 with some special church discussions (tailored to fit your church, obviously) and if you decide to go ahead your church can then join in the Bible Year from Advent 2008 and the Prayer year from Advent 2009 and the Evangelism year from Advent 2010 – and remember, your church gets to choose what you'll wear.

John Campbell

[Principal, Northern College]

CHURCH WEEKEND 19th – 21st SEPTEMBER
AT THE WYCLIFFE CENTRE, HORSLEYS GREEN



As you may have guessed from the logo at the start of this item, the theme for our weekend is a 'Desert Island'. So why not come along and relax, enjoy a wide range of activities and also use the opportunity to explore your faith in God. The surroundings are delightful so you can take a stroll through the grounds or just sit and admire the view. There is an area set aside for a camp fire, and plenty of wood to gather for it, and we'll be sure to take along the matches – it takes rather a long time if you have to rub 2 sticks together ! There is a football pitch and a volleyball court so we can organise our own tournaments and there is a play area for the children. Inside we will have the use of a large room where we can meet for bible study, discussions or doing art and craft. We could have our own 'Desert Island Discs' programme and watch videos or DVDs of films like Swiss Family Robinson and we can explore the inter-active Bible Discovery Centre. We will be well fed in the spacious dining room which offers varied menus of freshly prepared meals and tea and coffee making facilities are provided in our meeting room and in the bedrooms. This promises to be a great weekend where we can have fun and get to know each other better. You can be as busy or relaxed as you wish, so come and be a 'castaway' with us, book your place now for a great weekend.

If you have not yet received a copy of the booking form, or if you would like more information please contact a member of the planning team - Gwen Collins, Marian Mole, Linda Curley or Margaret Lewis



JUMBLE SALE
IN AID OF LIGHTHOUSE

SATURDAY JULY 26th IN CRENDON HALL 2 – 4 pm

We would welcome donations of jumble, bric-a-brac, and most importantly **offers of help on the day.** Please put the date in your diary and if you can spare a couple of hours on that afternoon we would be most grateful for your help.



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Luke Koletch (9th)

A very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.



The photo aside shows the presentation made by the choir to Audrey Bruton on her departure to the West Midlands

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Closing date for contributions is Friday 18th July*

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prayer page

Lighthouse:

We pray for all leaders,
helpers and youngsters,
and all preparations in hand.

May God bless their endeavours,
the practicalities,
the physical preparation,
and their prayers.

May all the children attending
find out something new about God,
about themselves,
and about each other.
May Lighthouse shine in their hearts –
not just for the week,
but their whole lives through.

Amen.



O God of many names
Lover of all nations
We pray for peace
in our hearts
in our homes
in our nations
in our world.
The peace of your will.
The peace of our need.
George Appleton

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2008

Give us the grace, Lord, to tell our children
the truth and nothing but the truth.
To issue no idle threats or promises.
To keep our word.
To apologise when we have been wrong.
To be disciplined over time.
To be courteous in all our dealings.
To answer children's questions as honestly and as simply as we can.
To let them help in all the ways we can devise.
To expect from them no higher standard of honesty, unselfishness,
politeness than we are prepared to live up to ourselves.
Joan Kendall

Vision4Life - Lord, here is my Bible,

here is this quiet room, here is this quiet time, and here am I.
Open my eyes; open my mind; open my heart; and speak.
Dick Williams

When you stand and pray, forgive anything you may have against anyone, so that your Father
in heaven will forgive the wrongs you have done. *from Mark 11*

Weekly prayers through July:

Sunday	for Pastor Dawn McDowall and the Church of God of Worldwide Mission
Monday	for children and young people coming to the end of exams
Tuesday	for our Synod as they seek to elect a new Moderator
Wednesday	for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)
Thursday	for the work of Wycliffe Bible Translators
Friday	for General Assembly in Edinburgh from 11-14 July
Saturday	for our redevelopment project, REVIVE