

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. [Hebrews 13:1-2]



July 2013

The Recorder

Inside - this month . . .

Pastoral letter	2	Commitment for Life	8
Services & Rotas	3	Church family & Life	9, 11
What's on?	4 - 7	Prayer Page	12

An edited version of this magazine is available on the Church Website.

(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,

Isn't it wonderful to arrive in a strange place and receive a truly warm welcome! Isn't it heart-warming to be in a situation where you are clearly very different from everyone else around you and yet to experience love and care, rather than indifference, or a feeling of being 'left out'.

Many times in our years in Papua New Guinea I was in a situation where I was the only 'European' foreigner present. I think, for example, of the annual 'Women's Retreats'. In the 1970's these weekends away were mainly gatherings of ten to twenty women from abroad who had come to work with the Highlands Region of the United Church as nurses, or ministers' wives, or in some other mission partner capacity. In the 1980's localisation of these roles proceeded apace as more and more young people had access to education and training. Mission partners from abroad were no longer needed to the same extent and the annual 'Women's Retreat' changed completely in make-up and in size. It became an event of the strong, local Women's Fellowship network and one or two hundred women would travel for hours, sometimes for a couple of days, to attend.

My experience of these occasions was overwhelmingly one of being included. Our differences fell away and we were in true human fellowship as sisters in Christ. There were a few time, but not many, when I was less sure of the benefits of inclusion - when for example it involved having to join my group performing a typical South Seas dance!

Just occasionally, very occasionally, someone would refer to me as 'the white woman'. How that hurt! It felt as though I had been de-personalised. I was not 'Gwen, our sister and friend', but 'that person who is of a different skin colour and who we regard as separate from ourselves'.

'Hospitality and diversity' is our third mission priority drawn from the URC's Vision 2020 framework. In May I wrote about our first mission priority, 'Spirituality and Prayer'. In June I wrote about our second mission priority, 'Community Partnerships'. This month I am completing the series by writing about 'Hospitality and Diversity'.

My dictionary has this to say about these powerful words and concepts: Hospitality - the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests or strangers. Diversity - variety; being unlike in nature or qualities.

As a mission priority 'Hospitality and Diversity' is both exciting and challenging. We are already well into it. We are on an adventurous journey. Our Vision 2020 target is:

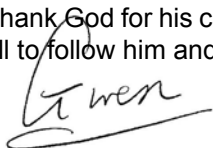
"We will be a church committed to becoming even more welcoming and hospitable, and embracing all people equally."

Suggested indicators are:

- The involvement of children and young people in all aspects of church life.
- The extent to which the congregation reflects the make-up of the local community.
- The extent to which the congregation recognises and affirms other aspects of diversity, including theological diversity.
- The number of members who have undertaken 'training' about diversity and inclusiveness.

Let's make it a bit more down to earth and personal. Can you think of times when strangers have given you a friendly and generous welcome? Do you feel truly included in our week-wide Trinity community? What would help you to be more included? How could you extend a friendly hand to those here that you currently don't have much to do with?

Thank God for his call to us to become more and more like Jesus - welcoming of strangers, and joyfully inviting all to follow him and become disciples.



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins

e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk

Church Secretary : Mrs Sue Saunders,

e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

July Services

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

This month we complete the 6 week theme: MEETING NEW CHALLENGES from Galatians, and begin a new theme: LIFE-INFORMING STORIES from Luke.

July 7 Holy Communion
 4.00 Prayer Circle

July 14 Morning Worship led by Amersham Free Church Worship Team.

July 21 All age worship

July 28 Morning worship, including looking ahead to Lighthouse Holiday Club
 4.00 Praise Service

Rotas for July

Not included in this version

What's on in July

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 2nd July Our President, Rev Dr Gwen Collins, invites us to the Manse.

Tuesday 23rd July Margaret L invites us to her home

Both meetings start at 2.30

We are then "on holiday" until Tuesday 10th September



Nightbirds Summer Meal will be on Monday 8th July 7.30pm at
The Boot & Slipper, Amersham

Diary Dates

Diary dates for the remainder of the year can be found on page 6.
The calendar below highlights the relevant dates for July

July 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Not included in this version



Question: Who are these people who meet under the secret sign of the owl?

Answer: 'Nightbirds' is a social meeting of women who get together once a month on a Monday evening at 8pm. They would welcome new members or visitors to any of their meetings.

Trinity Bookworms

We meet on Wednesday 10th July (NB - the second Wednesday, not the first) at 2pm Hostess Barbara Macleod. We shall be discussing Lionel Shriver's "We need to talk about Kevin".



Harvest Festival / Back to Church Sunday

This year our Harvest Festival and Back to Church Sunday will be on Sunday 29th September. As part of this celebration of gifts we thought that those of you with other gifts and talents may like produce an item that could be auctioned off with the Harvest produce. We know that there are a lot of talented people at Trinity. From artists to gardeners, folk who sew and knit, even cupcake and pie makers. So, if you would like produce an item for auction get out your needle and cotton or your paint brushes now.

Diary Dates - July to December 2013

Event	Date	Time	Venue
July			
Vision 20/20 Prayer Meeting	Wednesday 3rd	9.30am	Sanctuary
Mission Strategy Meeting	Friday 5th	9.30am	21 Wordsworth Road
The Rossendale Scout Band	Saturday 6th	7.30pm	Sanctuary
Prayer Circle for Healing	Sunday 7th	4.00pm	LSR
Trinity Book Worms	Wednesday 10th	2.00pm	(see page 5)
Radical Welcome – Mental Health “Digging Deeper”	Wednesday 10th	7.30pm	St. John’s URC, Northwood. See Sue S if you would like to go
Coffee Morning	Saturday 13th	10.30am	LSR
Church meeting	Tuesday 16th	8.00pm	Sanctuary
Vision 20/20 Prayer Meeting	Wednesday 17th	9.30am	Sanctuary
Praise Service	Sunday 28th	4.00pm	Sanctuary
Elders’ meeting	Tuesday 30th	8.00pm	LSR
August			
Elders Meeting	Tuesday 27th	8.00pm	LSR
5th Brigade	Saturday 31st	9.30pm	LSR & Sanctuary
September			
Prayer Circle for Healing	Sunday 1st	4.00pm	LSR
Churches Together in HW Meeting	Tuesday 10th	7.30pm	Wesley Methodist Church
Church meeting	Tuesday 17th	8.00pm	Sanctuary
Praise Service	Sunday 22nd	4.00pm	Sanctuary
Elders meeting	Tuesday 24th	8.00pm	LSR
Harvest & Back to Church Sunday	Sunday 29th	10.30am	Sanctuary
October			
Synod Training: Exploring Team & Group Ministry	Wednesday 16th	7.30pm	Sanctuary
Evening Communion	Sunday 20th	4.00pm	Sanctuary
Elders Meeting	Tuesday 29th	8.00pm	LSR
November			
Radical Welcome: What makes an All-age Church	Monday 11th	7.30pm	TBA
Church Meeting	Sunday 17th	After morning worship	Sanctuary
Gwen’s last Sunday at Trinity Praise Service	Sunday 24th	10.30am 4.00pm	
Elders’ meeting	Tuesday 28th	8.00pm	LSR
Gwen’s Retirement Social	Saturday 30th	TBA	
December			
Gift Service	Sunday 15th	10.30am	Sanctuary
Carols by Candlelight	Sunday 22nd	4.00pm	Sanctuary
Elders Meeting	Tuesday 25th	8.00pm	LSR

SYRIA

***HOW CAN WE BEST HELP?
HOW SHOULD WE BE PRAYING
FOR ITS PEOPLE AND
THE REFUGEES?***

COME AND MEET

MARY MIKHAEL

SPOKESPERSON FOR THE EVANGELICAL
(ie PRESBYTERIAN) CHURCHES OF SYRIA AND LEBANON ON THE PLIGHT OF SYRIAN
REFUGEES AND UNTIL RECENTLY PRESIDENT OF THE NEAR EASTERN SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY IN BEIRUT

at URC, 88 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RS

FRIDAY 19TH JULY

4pm

GRAB A CUPPA IN THE CAFÉ BEFORE COMING THROUGH TO THE CHURCH

THE MEETING WILL BE CHAIRED BY MARIE TRUBIC, URC REPRESENTATIVE ON THE
JOINT PUBLIC ISSUES STRATEGY GROUP

ALL ARE WELCOME

ZIMBABWE

Knowledge is power

Roses Moyo is a 62 year old grandmother and is the caretaker of the Silikwana nutrition garden in Matabeleland South, Zimbabwe, a project set up by Christian Aid partner, the Dabane Trust. The Dabane Trust help communities to sustain themselves by helping them to build dams with pumps and water tanks to extract and supply water to community nutrition gardens where they can grow food to feed their families.

Roses lives with her husband, 5 children and 2 grandchildren but has a further 7 children who have already left home. She sustains her family with food from the garden, including onions, pumpkins, tomatoes and maize, and also by a little money she makes from sewing school uniforms.

There are still some challenges for Roses and her community. Working the heavy pump which supplies water to the garden is hard and sometimes rainfall is so low that even with the pump, there is not enough water to sustain all the crops. Roses works hard though and says "I work so hard that not a day goes by where I am not able to provide my family with a proper meal". Education is also really important to her and she sews school uniforms and dresses to make extra money to send her children to school. When asked why this was so important she said because "knowledge is power. With an education, I know my grandchildren will be able to take care of themselves even when I'm gone".

In the future she would like her sewing project to grow and to have enough money to be able to build a kiosk in her homestead where she could sell the school uniforms, vegetables, sheets and dresses.

BANGLADESH

Shrimp Farms

The popularity of tropical shrimp – often marketed as scampi, giant shrimp or tiger prawns - is having a devastating impact on local communities in Bangladesh. Sales of frozen prawns have soared in recent years, eaten deep-fried, in stir-fries or as sushi.

Global production now exceeds 1.3 million tonnes a year and on the face of it provides much-needed trade for poor exporting countries, such as Bangladesh. Developed in the 1980s, shrimp farms have produced good profits for rich businessmen. However the environmental devastation is great. They cause pollution, degradation of agricultural land and loss of mangrove ecosystems protecting coastal communities against storm floods. Dead cows are often put into ponds to feed the shrimps creating health hazards.

This land used to be used to grow rice and feed the local population. It also provided work for many labourers, now it only needs a night watchman and about five other workers to keep an eye on the farm. These environmental and human costs far exceed the value of the prawns and scampi produced for western consumers.

Shrimps/prawns are already among the least sustainable fish produced. After being peeled and frozen they are shipped around the world at great cost, in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.

In Bangladesh fertile crop land has been flooded with waste from expanding shrimp farms, while bio diverse-rich Mangrove forests have been cut down. Prawn farmers were also found to be using a dangerous pesticide, banned in more than 150 countries around the world because of its toxicity to marine ecosystems and potentially consumers who eat products contaminated with it.

More than half of Bangladesh's prawns are exported to the EU before being sold on to supermarkets, wholesalers and restaurants. Campaign groups have been calling on consumers, shops and restaurants to stop buying and selling tropical shrimp.

CHILTERN AREA COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER – May 2013 [Edited]

News from the churches

Chesham

The redeveloped church building (sanctuary and hall) reopened this last Pentecost weekend (18th and 19th May), with activities on the Saturday and a service of rededication on the Sunday, at which General Secretary Roberta Rominger gave an inspiring sermon.

Wendover Free Church

The life of the church continues to be busy and all is going well. Special events for this year include the following:

On Sunday 12th May the church held a successful Away Day at the MS Centre at Halton. The theme of the day was growth and over 50 people turned up. They started with coffee at 10.30 am followed by their morning worship, then lunch and break-out sessions thinking about growth. There was a shared lunch, a walk in Wendover Woods and the day ended with tea and cakes.

The Princess Mary Gate Estate on the old RAF Hospital site is now nearly completed and most of the houses are occupied. They plan to use the MS Centre later in the year as it is nearer this estate to hold a Carol Service for the people there.

Future plans also include an Open Day on a Saturday in early September.

The church has a link with a church in Uganda and a recent plant sale to raise funds for this link church made nearly £1000.

Don't tell us you didn't know about it!

Wednesday 16th October 7.30-9.30 pm -

“Making it work: Exploring team and group ministries”

The Synod Deployment Group is holding a Chiltern Area training event/discussion at Trinity URC High Wycombe.

The Revd Anne Sardeson, Synod Training & Development Officer, will lead this session. **It is vital that each church is fully represented so that you can help to shape the future of sharing arrangements in the Area. This is your opportunity to discuss what the national, Synod and area-wide reductions in stipendiary ministry will mean in practical terms to your church over the next few years.**

Personnel

The Revd Dr Mary Cotes, County Ecumenical Development Officer for Bucks, leaves this role at the end of June 2013. We are grateful to Mary for all the work she has done during her time in this role.

Synod Deployment Strategy

– reducing numbers of stipendiary ministers in Chiltern Area

Chiltern Area continues to grapple with how to allocate ministry to our 16 churches with a further reduction in stipendiary ministers for the Area from 2013 to 2015. Some discussions have taken place but if you want to contribute, do come along to the “making it work” training session on Wednesday 16th October (see above).

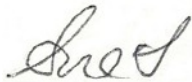
Some thoughts for reflection

1. A birth certificate shows you were born
A death certificate shows you have died.
A photo album shows you have lived.
2. Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.
3. A sharp tongue can cut your own throat.
4. If you want your dreams to come true, you mustn't oversleep.
5. Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.
6. The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.
7. The heaviest thing you can carry is a grudge.
8. One thing you can give and still keep - is your word
9. You lie the loudest when you lie to yourself.
10. If you lack the courage to start, you have already finished.
11. One thing you can't recycle is wasted time.
12. Ideas won't work unless ' You' do.
13. Your mind is like a parachute...it functions only when open
14. The pursuit of happiness is the chase of a lifetime!
15. It is never too late to become what you might have been.

Hospitality for Visiting Preachers

At March's Church meeting it was suggested that we should offer to host or take to lunch visiting preachers. To that end, I have produced a list of dates and names of those preachers leading our worship from now until December. Not everyone will take up our offer and some will have a partner or family with them. We do not expect you to supply a three course roast dinner, just a meal and rest before their return journey. If you are prepared to host, or take someone to lunch, please see the list on the LSR table after morning worship or contact me ASAP.

Thank you.



Over £20 has been collected from used ink cartridges in the past year. Keep them coming in. HP are the most re-cyclable at present, but things change from time to time. Epson, Canon and Kodak ones are NOT generally able to be recycled through our charity processor, but I am happy to dispose of them elsewhere if they cannot be turned to cash for the benefit of Act4Africa.



Happy Birthday



to

Jan L (14th)
Olivia P (24th)
Sue T (24th)

Congratulations



and best wishes to
Julia & Tim S (21st)
on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

with love from us all at Trinity

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 28th July.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 19th July*

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

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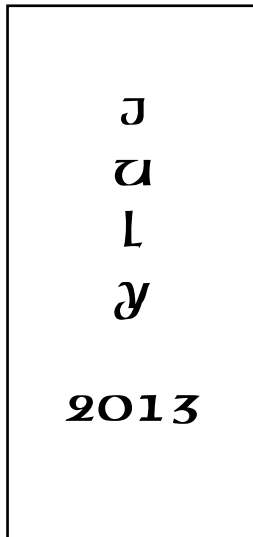
prayer page

Morning Prayers

We are the morning people,
Up with the lark,
Bursting with energy,
Ready for our day's work:
We praise you, Lord, for life and vigour.

We are the evening people,
We wake up slowly,
Easing ourselves back to life,
Preparing for the daily round.
Walk with us, Lord, we need your presence.

We are the still-tired people,
Unable to sleep in the dark hours,
Tossing and turning with worry or pain,
Grateful for morning light and our cup of tea.
Thank you, Lord, for all your mercies.



Midday Prayers

On those who have enough to eat today,
Lord have mercy.
On those who go through the day hungry,
Lord have mercy.
On the refugee and homeless seeking friends and shelter,
Lord have mercy.
On the busy people with too much to do,
Christ have mercy.
On the lonely people whose days are long and empty,
Christ have mercy.
On the sick and the wounded,
Christ have mercy.
On the strong and successful ,
Lord have mercy.
On the dejected and despairing,
Lord have mercy.
On the weak and the fearful,
Lord have mercy.

An Evening Prayer

Holy Spirit, as evening comes and darkness falls, with your mighty wind blow away the dust of the day, its triumphs and failures; with your flames of fire warm tired hearts and minds, kindle anew faith and hope; with your dove's soft feathers calm worries and fears, bring peace.

Amen

A Prayer for the Night

As we go to our beds this night we ask your blessing, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, on those who are preparing to work to keep us safe and provide the things we shall need tomorrow.

Amen