

He has told you, mortal being, what is good and what the Lord requires of you: it is to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. (*Micah 6.8*)



July 2015

The Recorder

Inside - this month . . .

Pastoral letter	2	Special Assembly report	8
Services & Rotas	3	Church family & Life	6, 7, 9, 10
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 place to belong

Spirituality - Prayer – Community – Welcome

Dear friends,

There's been lots to take on board in the first weeks here at Wycombe, as Elizabeth and I have found our feet here and at Cores End. We have really enjoyed getting to know new people and exploring new places – and a few familiar ones too. The Thames has long been special to me and it's been good to walk along the Thames path at Spade Oak, Marlow and Hurley. Back in 1997 I walked the Thames path from the barrier to the source as part of a sabbatical, staying with religious communities, friends and strangers along the way. It was a special time for me which gave me immense encouragement in 'my walk with God' (Micah 6.8)

What and who encourages you? One of my favourite characters in the New Testament is Barnabas. His first name was Joseph, but he was given the name 'Barnabas' by the apostles, which literally means 'Son of Encouragement'. Barnabas lived up to his name in many different ways, by:

- **Showing generosity:** he sold an estate and brought the money to the apostles for the church's work and especially its care for those in need (Acts 4.36.37). This kind of generous spirit helped the church grow rapidly in those early years
- **Helping and encouraging new Christians:** he was sent to Antioch by the apostles to work with newly converted Gentile Christians (Acts 11.19-24).
- **Drawing others into the work:** Barnabas played a key part in bringing Saul (later known as Paul) into this missionary work (Acts 11.25,26). Without Barnabas' support and encouragement the church might not have accepted Paul, one of its greatest thinkers and theologians. Barnabas was always a team player, drawing out the gifts of others rather than focussing on his own.
- **Standing up for those who make mistakes:** when Mark let Paul and Barnabas down it was Barnabas who was willing to give Mark another chance (Acts 15.36-39). It may be that Paul later recognised Barnabas' wisdom and changed his mind (as there is mention of Mark in a later letter).
- **Being Open to God's Spirit:** in Acts Barnabas is described as a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (Acts 11.24).

It is easy to become discouraged by the suffering and evil we see in the world, the failings and weakness of the church and our own mistakes and doubts. We need encouragers – those people who like Barnabas are generous and good, faithful and supportive, full of the Holy Spirit. John's Gospel describes the Holy Spirit as the Comforter or Encourager (John 15.26), standing alongside us in the successes and setbacks, the joys and heartaches of life, guiding and urging us forward in our following of Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life. May that Spirit encourage us and may we in turn be encouragers to others, both within the church family and in the wider community.



Minister : Rev Terry Hinks

☎ 01628 525076

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

Church Secretary : Kate Yates

☎ 01494 672799

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

Church contact number
☎ 01494 520365 (answer phone)

July Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am unless otherwise stated

July 5	Revd John Mackerness	Morning worship with Communion
July 12	Mary Carpenter	
July 19	Revd Terry Hinks	All Age Worship
July 26	Revd Mike Wallace	
July 26 - 4 pm	Worship Band	Afternoon Praise Service

Our service on Sunday 26th July will be led by the Revd Mike Wallace, and we will also be welcoming members of the Faith Church, Colorado, who will be coming to talk about Lighthouse in the All-Age Talk. You may remember that we were blessed by members of Faith Church who visited us when helping with Lighthouse a few years ago.

Rotas for July

Not included in this version

What's on in July

Trinity Birds will be going to Witney on Monday 13 July to meet with Pat Wallace.

WOMEN'S MEETING

Summer break until the next meeting on 8th September



Diary Dates

Regular gatherings:

Every Tuesday :

Movers and Shakers Chinese Style 10 am-1 pm
Women's Meeting 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Every Thursday:

2nd High Wycombe Trinity Guides 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Choir Practice 8:00 pm

Every Friday:

Movers and Shakers, Caribbean style 10 am - 1 pm
Rainbows 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm
Brownies, 2nd High Wycombe 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm

Do please pray for the Lighthouse Christian holiday club in Wycombe from 27th to 31st July

Wednesday 1st July

Vision2020 prayer (Sanctuary) 9:30 - 10 am
Trinity Elders meeting (Lower Schoolroom) 8 - 10 pm

Saturday 11th July

Remembering Srebrenica:Wycombe Sharing of Faiths (Sanctuary) 4 - 6 pm

Sunday 12th July

Traidcraft (Lower Schoolroom) after morning worship

Wednesday 15th July

Vision 2020 prayer (Sanctuary) 9:30 - 10 am

Tuesday 21st July

Church meeting (Sanctuary) 8 pm

Change of date for September church meeting

Please note: our September church meeting will now be on **Tuesday 22nd September** instead of Tuesday 15th in the sanctuary at 8 pm.

Not included in this version

I would like to say a huge "Thank you" to the nine ladies who keep the Flower Rota going. You never chase me away when I appear with my notebook in hand.

Thanks again,

Ellen

BUCKS

Bucks New Uni has a project called "Bucks New Usage" where they clean and store items left by students and "upcycle" them for free use by other students and those in need in the community.

NEW

USAGE

They are seeking volunteers to help wash and clean items that have been left (washing machine and dishwasher are available in the store room), so if you can help please contact volunteering@bucks.ac.uk or

karen.johnstone@bucks.ac.uk

If you have any household goods to donate, please contact multifaithchaplaincy@bucks.ac.uk

Editor's note:

You may be aware that this edition was delayed due to a computer malfunction during the critical week for production. As far as I am aware, all contributions were successfully saved, but it is possible that any e-mails sent to me just at "the wrong moment" may have been lost. If so, please accept my apologies and, if it is still relevant, please resubmit for inclusion next month.

Angus

Trinity Bookworms

Our next meetin gin on TUESDAY 7 July at the home of Joan Smith, starting at 2pm. We shall be discussing "The Brutal Art" by Jesse Kellerman.



SUMMARY OF CHURCH MEETING HELD 19th MAY 2015

(full minutes available)

1. Update on manse provision for the Revd Terry Hinks

Terry & Elizabeth moved temporarily into Trinity's manse but hope Cores End's manse will be available in June.

2. Community Partnerships

• Facilities Co-ordinator

◦ Catriona has a job lined up for when she finishes university and has resigned as Facilities Co-ordinator. We will all miss her.

◦ We need to find someone to take over setting the heating in the winter, and also a few people willing to help set up/clear away and do sound for events for external hirers and ourselves (e.g. funerals, church meetings, other events). This doesn't have to be a Trinity person, but someone who is reliable and able to lift chairs etc.

• Update on grant application for Pilates mental health group

Elders proposed that Trinity bears the cost of the hour's hire of the sanctuary on a Thursday from 1-2 pm, and that the application be amended accordingly. Agreed.

• Hosting night shelter 2016

The Elders propose we host night shelter again next year on a Saturday night to Sunday morning provided that a Church Coordinator can be found to run it. Agreed.

3. Grouping churches in the Chiltern Area

Terry and Kate both spoke about the proposals for all 15 churches in the Chiltern Area of Thames North Synod to be grouped together for the purposes of fellowship, administration, training, and possibly mission (where this can be done jointly). Area Committees will be abolished and church groups will have more autonomy over decisions that affect them in future. There are discussions as to whether the 15 churches would become one group, two groups, or three groups. Further discussions are taking place between Area Committee and ministers, and there is a meeting to be held at Trinity on Tuesday 30th June at 7.30 pm where church members of all the churches can attend and participate in ongoing discussions.

4. "What is the Spirit saying to the churches?"

Church House is seeking views from the churches on the future of the URC, using the above booklet as a discussion starter.

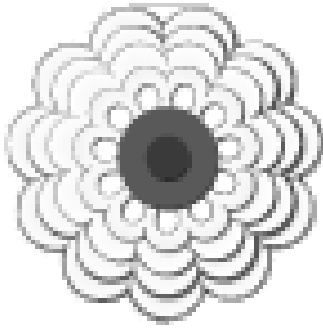
5. Forthcoming events

- Lighthouse Christian Holiday Club 27th to 31st July
- Saturday 17th October – 1st High Wycombe Boys' Brigade Reunion in Crendon Hall from 7.30 pm (and hopefully a special service on the Sunday).
- Saturday 12th September – Ride & Stride Historic Churches Bike Ride. Cyclists will be calling to sign the register on the side door.
- Harvest 20th September – as Part of "Back to Church Sunday / Season of Invitation."

6. AOB

- a) Do try out the housegroup (reflecting & discussing the Sunday service message, with time of worship and prayer – opportunity to grow and get to know each other.)
- b) Do come along to afternoon Praise Services – usually only a few Trinity folk plus 12 people that do not come to our morning service.
- c) Concern expressed about rough sleepers outside Trinity – Wycombe Homeless Connection are aware but there is little affordable accommodation around.

Date of next Church Meeting: **Tuesday 21st July 2015**



REMEMBERING SREBRENICA

Living the lessons 20 years on

We invite you to

Remember Srebrenica

on the 20th anniversary of the genocide

11th July 2015 4pm-7pm

An evening programme of words, pictures and poetry

Srebrenica was an integrated society that disintegrated.

Can we learn from the genocide and victims' lives?

How can we tackle racism and hatred?

at

Trinity United Reformed Church

London Road, High Wycombe HP11BJ

Entrance: Free. Suitable for 12 years +

Time: programme starts at 4.30 prompt

Public car park (Railway Place) opposite the Rye: next to the Church; £3.50 charge

Enquiries to: Saleema Burney: saleemaburney@gmail.com or text 07780 921 023

Light refreshments available for those not fasting

Supported by Wycombe Sharing of Faiths
who promote friendship, understanding, peace and harmony
between people of different faiths and culture



www.srebrenica.org.uk

www.facebook.com/wsof1

General Assembly 27th June 2015 – News Round Up

General Assembly Recalled

General Assembly 2014 discussed whether to allow local churches to offer marriage to same sex couples if they felt called by God to do so. It was unable to achieve consensus - although a large majority of members felt this was what we should do. Consequently we have engaged in an extensive consultation process with local churches and the 13 Synods on the issue of whether to allow churches to offer marriage to lesbian and gay couples.

Mission Council recalled Assembly proposing a resolution which offered a different way forward for the church. This declared it is inappropriate to offer a single view on same sex marriage on behalf of the URC and that the appropriate Council to decide if a church should offer to host marriage of same sex couples is the local Church Meeting. This, and an associated discussion about whether to refer the matter back to the Synods in line with our Structure, was the focus of our discernment.

Opening Worship

As always our time together was a mixture of worship, discernment, discussion and formal business. Opening and closing worship was led by both Assembly Moderators and started with a rousing rendition of Nahum Tate's *Through All the Changing Scenes of Life*. The chaplain, the Rev'd Nigel Uden, reflected on 2 Peter 1 - a letter written to a group of Christians living as a minority in a society with different ideologies and who were divided on doctrine and issues of lifestyle. Mr Uden reminded us that:

- Divine power gives us everything we need for godliness; the Church is God's creation not ours and that He sustains it. God's saving work does not stand or fall on our own efforts.
- Divine power transforms us. Mr Uden quoted Catholic theologian von Balthazar: "we were not made for unison but symphony" reminding us that other opinions than our own are also of God and that God's truth is most clearly discerned through discussion and difference.
- 2 Peter 1 points to the outcome. We were meeting on behalf of the entire URC to seek the best way to be effective and fruitful disciples in our knowledge of Christ and ministry. In Church history we have never all thought the same thing yet we are called to follow and see how the Good News we have heard inspires us to be Good News to our world.

After singing Stuart Townend's evocative version of Psalm 23 we settled into business.

Resolution 4

The remainder of the morning was spent discussing Resolution 4 (Resolutions 1-3 and 6 were technical about the composition of Assembly and the production of the post Assembly Minutes).

The Moderator, Mr John Ellis, reminded us of our purpose as a recalled meeting of Assembly: the wider URC was expecting us to make decisions, in the context of worship. The Moderators recognised that there were more than one view in the room but urged us to recognise that different views come from a desire to be a faithful disciple of the Lord Jesus and to work for the good of the Church. During discussion an attempt was made to acknowledge the consultation process but this did not, ultimately, find favour despite a lengthy discussion. There was a lively debate on **doctrine**. The Faith and Order Committee felt that there was no doctrine of marriage within the URC. Some members of Assembly felt that this discussion should be centred in our doctrine of the Bible – our highest authority for what we believe and how we live discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit; others felt that what was being discussed was our doctrine of the Church and where ecclesiastical authority lay. Those who were concerned about Scripture being our highest authority generally felt that the Bible does not support the marriage of same sex couples – others felt it was an issue of Biblical interpretation pointing out that many of our churches and ministers marry divorced people despite Scriptural prohibition. Those concerned with the doctrine of the Church felt that we believe the local Church Meeting is the main centre for our decision making. Members challenged Assembly about our **relationship to the world and secular culture**. Some representatives felt that allowing churches to decide if they wished to offer marriage to same sex couples was giving in to the ideologies of our present age; others felt that this was a false dichotomy not least because many members of the Church are lesbian and gay and wish to, or already have, married.

[continued on page 9]

After a long, and engaged, discussion we used our indicator cards to vote. It was clear that an overwhelming majority were in favour of the Resolution but it was not possible to resolve this by consensus.

After further discussion it was clear that it not possible to resolve this recognising disagreement. After a break, during which the Moderators met with blue cards holders, to hear their concerns in a smaller space, Mr Ellis, therefore, declared that he was minded, under our Standing Orders, to resolve this issue by moving to a majority vote as deferring it to a future Assembly was unlikely to change anything he had heard. The Resolution was then passed Overwhelmingly.

We were asked to vote on the Resolution again, this time clearly using the majority mechanism so that it would be possible to discuss referring the matter to the Synods. **205 members of Assembly voted in favour and 14 voted Against. Resolution 5**

The Rev'd David Grosch Miller took the chair and introduced the second resolution offered by Mission Council. This has the effect of referring Resolution 4 to the Synods prior to a second vote at General Assembly next year. This is the same process we use for all major decisions, including changing the Structure or Basis of Union of the URC.

The reason for referral was to make sure that we are legally secure in the event of a challenge through the courts based on a claim that we hadn't followed our processes properly. Whilst there were mixed views on whether the marriage of same sex couples is a change in doctrine, it is obviously a change in our practice. A challenge in the courts could cost much money and take a lot of time to resolve. The extra year this would take would be used to devise a liturgy for same sex marriage and to clarify the process that local churches would need to follow if they wished to register their buildings for these marriages. Some members felt there was no need for a delay given the consultation process; others felt that by moving ahead now we would be modelling the diversity and graciousness that had been urged upon us in the sermon and the Moderator's opening remarks. Some felt that time was needed for people who found this difficult to acclimatise to the new situation they found themselves in; that we should take great care to ensure that we are legally secure and to avoid a situation where marriages we celebrated were later called into question. **In the end 184 people voted to refer Resolution 4 to the Synods and 30 voted against.**

Closing Worship

After sincere thanks were offered to the Assembly staff and volunteers as well as to the host church, Carrs Lane URC in Birmingham, Assembly closed in an act of worship. After singing the Assembly Hymn we reflected on 2 Corinthians 13:4; 11-13 and closed with the rousing hymn, *This is the Truth We Hold* written by URC minister Basil Bridge.

What Happens Next?

Synods have until the end of March 2016 to decide if they wish to resolve that "this be not proceeded with." If five, or more, Synods resolve this then the Resolution declaring the local Church Meeting to be the appropriate Council to authorise the marriage of same sex couples will fall. If fewer than five Synods resolve this (all Synods voted in favour of allowing Church Meetings to decide about allowing same sex marriage in their church in the recent consultation) then the issue will return to General Assembly next year meeting in Southport. The Resolution will then require a two thirds' majority to pass. After that, local churches who wish to offer such marriage ceremonies will need to resolve to do so in Church Meeting and then the trustees of the building (most often a Provincial Trust Company) will need to formally make the application to the Registrar General upon direction from a Church Meeting.

During the coming the year, the URC will prepare everything it needs to do so, in the event of the resolution being ratified. The time taken for a church to be registered will then depend how quickly Trustees process requests and the Registrar General processes applications.

[Notes from Andy Braunston, NW Synod Clerk.]



WHC news:

1. WE HAVE APPOINTED KEVIN BOUGHEN AS A PART-TIME SUPPORT WORKER to strengthen WHC’s staff team and focus on setting up a new employment support service. Kevin’s experience as a WHC volunteer along with his professional background means that he will hit the ground running.

People in employment have more housing options open to them, so tackling worklessness is way of tackling homelessness. We will refer individuals to existing organisations that will help them improve their employability (through CV creation and volunteering opportunities, for example), while we ourselves will focus on helping them overcome the obstacles they face entering employment – such as surviving until their first pay packet.

2. WE HAVE MADE A BREAKTHROUGH ALLIANCE WITH RED KITE HOUSING. The housing shortage is WHC’s biggest challenge in helping homeless people find a roof. We have been working with RKH to see if we could access some of their housing units that would otherwise be empty. We have finalised a workable agreement that will let us nominate people into such units for period of six months while they find a more permanent solution. As part of the agreement, WHC will provide specific support to make sure the tenancies are successful. The number of units will be limited, but we are ready to nominate as soon as the first becomes available!

(Members may remember that Kevin was greatly involved in our Boys’ Brigade company for many years. - Ed)

"Senior version of Jesus Loves Me"

Here is a new version just for us who have white hair or no hair at all. For us over middle age (or even those almost there) and all you others, check out this newest version of Jesus Loves Me.

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.
(CHORUS)



*YES, Jesus loves me
YES, Jesus loves me
YES, Jesus loves me
The Bible tells me so.*



When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

(CHORUS)



Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

(CHORUS)



Happy Birthday



to

Jan L (14th)

Alison J (19th)

Sue T (24th)

Jan will be celebrating her
50th Birthday on 14 July and
Alison will be celebrating
her 60th Birthday on 19 July

Congratulations



and best wishes to

Julia & Tim S (21st)

Anne & Richard H (25th)

on celebrating their **Wedding Anniversary**

with love from us all at Trinity

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 26th July.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 17th July*

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

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

prayer page

"And the Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters." Genesis Ch 1, v 2 (KJB)

Creator God, Lord of the seas, the wide-flowing rivers, the mountain torrents, the tumbling waterfalls, the chalk streams, the shady brooks, the still ponds, the roadside puddles and the falling rain, thank you for your precious gift of water on which all life depends. Without it plants wither, bodies dehydrate and die. In it, even in the smallest ponds, life flourishes. Its power astounds us and its many moods defy our imaginations. Thank you, Lord. *Amen.*

J
U
L
Y

2015

Lord Jesus, some of your closest chosen followers were fisherman, we confess that we have not looked after our seas and rivers as good stewards should. We have over-fished some and polluted others with our industrial waste and with the refuse of our everyday living.

Forgive us, we pray, and make us more careful and responsible, heeding the warnings and advice of environmentalists who see the damage we are inflicting. We are truly sorry and seek to preserve the life of all sea and river living creatures. We pray in your name, Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord of compassion we pray for the many places in our world where there is lack of the clean, drinkable water we take for granted. We remember the women who travel many weary steps to carry home water for their families. We remember the communities who depend for water on heavily polluted waters which bring disease and death to so many. We thank you for all organisations which work to provide pure, fresh water in these areas. In Jesus' name, *Amen*

Thank you, Lord, for those who look after our water supply. Too often we think of them only when things go wrong and no water flows from the tap when we turn it on. Then we are angry and complain, forgetting all the times when we have had fresh water to wash in to drink and to enjoy. Give us thankful hearts for the unseen workers who are responsible for our comfort. *Amen*



As the summer warms up more and more people will be turning to water in their leisure time. Bless all those, Lord, who will be paddling, swimming, surfing, water-skiing, canoeing, rowing, sailing and in other ways enjoying the sea, the rivers and pools. Thank you for life-guards, coast-guards, lifeboat crews and all the rescue services ready to come to the aid of any who get into difficulty and danger. In Jesus' name. *Amen,*

Holy Spirit sweep over the waters of the world and into the hearts of all people, bringing hope and refreshment to the weary, the persecuted, the lonely and the despairing. In the name of Jesus who welcomed all who came to meet him. *Amen*