



June 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

‘Vision and Unity’

Revd. Michael Shrubsole

Minister of Trinity United Reformed Church

I believe that one task of a Minister is to keep on reminding the members how important their Vision and their Unity is. It is neither the Minister’s job to force onto others the Minister’s Vision, nor to enforce a shallow imitation of Unity. So as I prepare to leave I want to remind you of these two tasks which remain at the heart of church life.

Clarity of vision must answer the question, "Who does my church exist for?" If our vision is merely to care for the contented, then there will not be a passion at the heart of the church to reach those outside the boundaries of the church family. One of the exciting dynamics of having a clear vision is recognizing the need to be present in the community. Rather than waiting for the community to show up on the church’s doorstep, churches that break growth barriers practice what some call ‘Presence Evangelism’, realising the importance of being present in the normal network of society, being present in the ministry to physical needs of people, and being present in the spiritual battle for people’s souls.

"Churches that are effective at reaching people for Christ see the needs of the unchurched, establish ministries that allow the church to be present in the community, and have a process by which they are able to draw these unchurched people into the safety of Christ and a local church," (Gary McIntosh and Glen Martin in "Finding Them, Keeping Them.")

One third of our Vision Statement expresses our desire to be “Sharing with others”. As you talk together about what your future holds as the church enters a ministerial vacancy, you must never forget your vision for that future, and must keep thinking about ‘others’ just as much as you think about ‘yourselves’. You must not let the vacancy process trap you into an introspective preoccupation with internal matters of ministry and leadership to the exclusion of wider concerns.

It is our agreed vision which unites us. Without unity, there will be no lasting growth that breaks through barriers. "Get the key influencers in your church to share a common vision. Sacrifice today for the promise of tomorrow in these people’s lives." (Larry Osborne in “The Unity Factor”) When we unite around our vision then our energy, our money, our time and our assets are all being harnessed in a way which we all agree is worthwhile and which we want to support. Without that unity around our vision, people bicker and disagree, they get down-hearted, they stop attending worship and meetings, they search elsewhere for a better sense of purpose to which they can commit themselves.

As I further my plans to move on to a new church, I hope I am leaving you with a good sense of unity based on your vision for your church. And remember, there is no unity unless you as an individual are doing something to be part of it; there is no worthwhile vision for the church unless you have committed yourself to it. Vision and Unity are a shared responsibility. Do you want to share it? As McIntosh and Martin said: growth is about drawing people in. Have you allowed yourself to be drawn in enough to feel that the Vision and the Unity are your responsibility too?

Mike

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June 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.

5th June - Communion Service

Matthew 9:9-26; Hosea 5:15-6:6; Romans 4:13-25; Psalm 50

12th June - Morning Worship -

Matthew 9:35-10:8; Exodus 19:2-8; Romans 5:1-8; Psalm 100

19th June - All-age Worship on Fathers' Day

Matthew 10:24-39; Jeremiah 20:7-13; Romans 6:1-11; Psalm 69

26th June - Morning Worship led by Revd Erna Stevenson

Matthew 10:40-42; Jeremiah 28:5-9; Romans 6:12-23; Psalm 89

Rotas for June

Not included in this version

What's on in June



Monday 13th June - Presentation of cheque to Brownies -
Nightbirds Charity 2005
(8pm. Hostess - Daphne M)

Monday 27th June - Meal at The Crown, Penn. 7:30pm

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 7th June

"Sumer is Icum in"

Tuesday 14th June

Two favourite hymns - video

Tuesday 21th June

"Amazing Grace"

- the story of John Newton

Tuesday 28th June

Breaking-up teal party



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

3rd and 17th June

at 2pm

Scrabble

If the weather is bad, this is a nice way to pass an afternoon.
If the weather is good, a break from the sun will do you no
harm!

Church Walk

There is no walk arranged for this month



Not included in this version

Diary

Prayer Circle for Healing

Sunday 5th June, 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 7th June, 7.30pm in the Schoolroom.

Chiltern District Council of the URC

Wednesday 8th June, 7.30pm

Church Coffee Mornings

Saturdays 11th and 25th June
10.30-12.00am in the Schoolroom

Lighthouse for High Wycombe town centre 2006?

Saturday 11th June, 8.00am at the Hub, Union Baptist Church

Come to a breakfast meeting to talk about planning for a new town centre base for the children's Lighthouse holiday club. Contact Alan Molyneax, tel: 529387 if interested.

Church Picnic for Fathers' Day

Sunday 19th June. Approximately from 1.00-4.00pm

Meet after morning worship at Hughenden Park just off the Coates Lane entrance. Fun and games for the young and lively. A quiet chat in the shade for the more mature of us. Don't let Dad get fat and lazy in a restaurant! Bring him out for some fresh air and fun and games! Work up an appetite to justify a special meal.



Church Meeting

Tuesday 21st June, 8.00pm. in the Schoolroom. All Church Members are encouraged to attend.

Goodbye to the Shrubsoles

Saturday 23rd July, 6.00-7.30pm - Tea Party; 7.30pm onwards - Entertainment.
In Crendon Hall.

To my friends at Trinity

- from Glyn E

I am now home again (Friday 20 May) after a rather prolonged stay in hospital in Oxford. On 10 March, due to my Rheumatoid Arthritis, I had an operation to have my left ankle fused (made solid). Unfortunately because of an infection I had to be re-admitted and further surgery was necessary. I am now on the road to recovery and I must thank you all for your prayers and good wishes for me during my stay in hospital. Although full recovery is still some way off I hope to be back in Church soon.

BEATING THE BOUNDS

Sunday May 1st the Mayor and her guests came to Trinity for a Civic service and it happened to be the day for Beating the Bounds. They needed a volunteer so I agreed. After the service and refreshments we walked in procession to Bird Cage Walk led by a drummer. Once we arrived at the appointed spot the Town Clerk placed a small black wooden stool on the ground and then I stepped forward. The Beadle and the Maces Bearer each took hold of an arm and a leg, tipped me upside down and lowered my head onto the stool. This was repeated at Saffron Road and again at Stuart Road. It didn't hurt but helped get my brain in gear. Then we processed onto the Rye and I got an ice-cream while I waited for the Mayor to open the Carnival.

Daniel H

The Directors of HoverAid send sincere thanks to everyone who has supported our Tsunami Appeal for Sri Lanka. Your concern and generosity has so far raised a total of almost **£25,000**. Although the appeal officially closed at the end of March, some donations are still arriving, so we cannot yet give a final figure.

We have already sent £12,000 to Pastor Dharshan Fernando's relief team at People's Church. A detailed report will be circulated to supporters in due course, but in the meantime the website <http://www.peopleschurchsl.org/home.htm> will give you a good idea of how the funds are being used.

Mike H

for The HoverAid Trust

SUNDAY LUNCHES

We are hoping to have another Sunday lunch sometime in June, but are not yet able to fix the date. As soon as this has been confirmed I will announce it in church and have a sign up list in the Lower Schoolroom.

Margaret L

MIKE'S INDUCTION AT COGGESHALL

Mike is to be inducted into the Pastorates of Coggeshall and Great Notley on Sunday 4th September and the service will be held at Christ Church, Coggeshall at 4.00 pm. There will be a sign-up list for those wishing to attend this service and, if we have enough names, we could hire a coach to take us. We could perhaps bring a packed lunch to eat after morning worship at Trinity before boarding the coach for our journey to Coggeshall.

Margaret L

This month's prayers from **Commitment for Life**

June-
A Prayer for the G8 meeting

Big Places and A Small Room

God of the big visions and the expanding horizons, you teach us to think of all the world and all of its people. Your eons of engagement with creation urge us to look to the long-term. Your Son's cross draws all humanity to you and opens a bigger salvation than we can grasp. Your Kingdom defies our frontiers of place or time or thought. With you it is good to think big.

But right now, we need to think small. This month we pray for a small room a handful of people with an agenda that may not be big enough. We offer to you the meeting of the G8 and the leaders of the world's richest and most powerful nations.

We offer them into your care and ask your blessing upon them. In the small
room in which they meet,
around an intimate table,

they will risk and wield amazing power. We pray that your Spirit will sit alongside our
leaders and their advisors.

pray that your Spirit will help them to sift the competing claims and warring factions crying out for attention. We pray that your Spirit will give to everyone in that room a sense of the true significance of this moment: and make it a moment not just for the powerful, but also for the powerless;

a moment not just for the rich, but also for the poor; a moment not just for the full, but also for the empty; a moment not just for the secure, but also for the dispossessed; a moment not just for the few, but even for generations unborn.

In that small room, let your big world loom large.

Let the talk and the action embrace Africa and AIDS, debt and global warming,
trade injustice and Middle East peace every bit as much as national self-interest and the
"war on terror."

God of power and might, we give to you our leaders.

Give to them hearts and imaginations big enough to know your real blessing.

And give to us who watch and wait outside the door renewed energy and commitment
to hold our leaders accountable, as we must hold ourselves accountable, for the world's
future and your Kingdoms presence. Amen.

Trinity Theological Discussion Group

Future Date for your Diary

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 S .

Tuesdays at 8.00pm. in the Schoolroom

The Good Samaritan.

A man appeared before St. Peter at the pearly gates.

"Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St. Peter asked.

"Well, I can think of one thing," the man offered.

"Once, on a trip to the Black Hills out in South Dakota, I came upon a gang of high-testosterone bikers, who were threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So, I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker and smacked him on the head, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring and threw it on the ground. " I yelled, "Now, back off biker boy or you'll answer to me!"

St. Peter was impressed. "When did this happen?"

"Just a couple minutes ago."

A message From God.

The pastor's church is called God Tabernacle. On a Saturday night several weeks ago, this pastor was working late, and decided to call his wife before he left for home. It was about 10:00 PM, but his wife didn't answer the phone.

The pastor let it ring many times. He thought it was odd that she didn't answer, but decided to wrap up a few things and try again in a few minutes. When he tried again she answered right away. He asked her why she hadn't answered before, and she said that it hadn't rung at their house.

The following Monday, the pastor received a call at the church office, which was the phone that he'd used that Saturday night. The man that he spoke with wanted to know why he'd called on Saturday night.

The pastor couldn't figure out what the guy was talking about. Then the guy said, "It rang and rang, but I didn't answer." The pastor remembered the mishap and apologized for disturbing him, explaining that he'd intended to call his wife.

The man said, "That's OK. Let me tell you my story. You see, I was planning to commit suicide on Saturday night, but before I did, I prayed,

'God if you're there, and you don't want me to do this, give me a sign now.'

At that point my phone started to ring. I looked at the caller ID, and it said, "God". I just now got the courage today to call back.

Remember? The reason why it showed on the man's caller ID that the call came from "God" is because the church that the pastor called from is God Tabernacle!!

~Author Unknown~

Thanks to Andrew W for providing the contributions on this page.

The perils of e-mail.

A couple from Hitchin decided to go to Malaga to thaw out during one particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the very same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier. Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel schedules. So, the husband left Hitchin and flew to Malaga on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day.

The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an e-mail to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her email address, and without realising his error, he sent the e-mail.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Scotland, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister of many years who was called home to glory following a sudden heart attack. The widow decided to check her e-mail expecting messages of condolence from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read as follows:

To: My Loving Wife

Subject: I've Arrived

Date: 7 April

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send e-mails to your loved ones.

I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then!

Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. Sure is hot down here.

[Contributed by a member who wishes to remain anonymous]

Another laugh!

NEW RESTAURANT

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly."

The other man said, "What is the name of the restaurant?"

The first man thought and thought and finally said, "What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... the one that is red and has thorns."

"Do you mean a rose?"

"Yes," the man said. He turned toward the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

The Tablecloth (a true story)

The new pastor and his wife — newly assigned to their first ministry in New York to reopen a church — arrived in Brooklyn in early October and were very excited about the opportunities that their calling might present. At the sight of their new church their hearts sank, for the building was very run down and needed a lot of work. However they set to, aiming to have everything done in time to hold their first special service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing, plastering, painting and generally decorating everywhere in sight. On 18th December they finished and, feeling very pleased, they began to prepare for their first service. The next night a terrible storm hit New York and the driving rain lashed the city keeping everyone indoors for a couple of days. On 21st December the pastor went to his church and his heart sank again. The roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster to fall from the wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit. With a heavy heart he cleared the mess, concluding that the restoration must now remain unfinished.

On the way home he noticed a local business was having a flea market for charity so he stopped to see what was on offer. One of the items was a beautiful handmade, ivory-coloured tablecloth with the most exquisite needlework in fine colours and, in the centre, an elaborate cross was embroidered. He picked it up and spread it out. It was exactly the size of the hole in the church wall! He bought it and headed straight back to the church to hang it up.

By this time the snow had started to fall. An elderly lady was running from the opposite direction to catch a bus — and she missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church until the next bus came along. Thanking him, she sat herself in a pew, not taking much notice while the pastor got on with the job of hanging the tablecloth as a tapestry. He stepped back to admire his handiwork and it looked wonderful! It was then that he noticed the elderly lady walking towards him — her face drained and white.

“Pastor”, she said “where did you get that tablecloth?” The pastor explained the lucky find at the charity sale. The lady asked him to see if the initials EBG were embroidered in the right-hand corner. They were.

These were the lady’s initials and her fingers had worked the cloth 35 years earlier when she lived in Austria before the war. She explained that she and her husband had been fairly well off before the outbreak of war but when the Nazis came they were forced to leave. She had left first, leaving her husband to clear the house. He was to follow her a week later, however in her flight, she was captured by the Nazis, imprisoned and never saw her husband again.

The pastor wanted to give her back the tablecloth, but she insisted that he keep it for the church as it did indeed, look very good on the damaged wall. So the pastor insisted on driving her home — it was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and had only been in Brooklyn for the day to do a house-cleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had in the church on Christmas Eve! The pews were full and the music and the atmosphere were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife stood at the door to greet everyone. However, one elderly gentleman whom the pastor recognised from his own neighbourhood, continued to sit in his pew, head still, eyes staring ahead. The pastor went to gently say it was time to leave. The gentleman turned and said, “Where did that tapestry come from?” So, once again the pastor explained the story of his find. “Do you know” said the gentleman, “it is identical to the one my wife made many years ago in Austria before the war.” Then he continued the tale of how he had forced his wife to flee for her own safety . . . that he was supposed to follow her . . . that he was arrested by the Nazis and put in a concentration camp . . . that he never saw his wife or his home again . . . it had been 35 years but he had never forgotten her.

The pastor asked the gentleman to go with him for a little ride in his car. They drove to Staten Island and returned to the same flat where the pastor had delivered the lady a few days before. He helped the man climb three flights of stairs and struck the doorknocker. Then the pastor stood back as the door opened and, with tears in his eyes, he watched the greatest Christmas reunion he had ever seen.

[Submitted by Audrey B]

Forward planning!!

It is proposed to have a Barbeque on **Saturday 30th July**, as an informal social gathering (and further goodbye to Mike and Louise), where we will ask for volunteers to make a salad or pudding to share, and ask everyone to bring their own meat. The Barbeque, bread and condiments, and cutlery and plates will be provided. There will be fun and games (for all hopefully)!

Please let either Jan L or Marieke F know if you would be interested in coming so we can gauge if there is enough interest for it to go ahead.

LORD - HELP ME!

Now's the time when you are feeling low,
All your effort, with so little to show.
When life is getting on top of you,
God's Word doesn't seem true.
You're looking for a boost,
Chickens home to roost!
Nothing's working,
Life so hurting!
Indescribable!
Unbearable!

"Hey!
Pray!"
"Do I hear,
Voice in ear?"
"Now, listen to me,
One plus two, can be three!
If today, you will let me help you,
Your dreams, they can still come true.
When you rest your all in my gentle hand,
Your horizons, I will again, begin to expand."

Why do we ignore His advice?
Unwilling to pay the price,
Of giving all our being over to Him,
Rather let life's light, grow so dim.

Yes I'm still learning to understand,
Life, when it's placed in His hand,
Will simply, so much better be,
Than if it's only guided by me!

[David Tait]

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

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

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

prayer page
(prepared by junior church)

Due to production difficulties, this item is not reproduced in this edition

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2005

