

“So then,” said Jesus, “anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain poured down, the rivers overflowed, and the wind blew hard against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock.” *Matthew 7: 24-25*



*June 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,

A book 'jumped out at me' from my study bookshelves this week. Those of you who are drawn to books will know that feeling. "Take me off the shelf! Read me!" it seems to say.

This particular book was enticingly thin, with a bright yellow and red spine. Its title was intriguing – "Praying our Goodbyes" it was called. I can't remember exactly when I got this book, but it wasn't more than a year or so ago and I'd not yet read it.

I pulled it off the shelf. Then I could see that it is part of a series on exploring prayer and that Joyce Huggett is the series editor. Looks promising! Joyce Huggett is a well respected writer and speaker on prayer and the spiritual life more generally. My little volume, I discovered, had a sub-title, "Praying our Goodbyes: The Spirituality of Change".

The author is also Joyce. Her name is Joyce Rupp. She writes about her own struggle to come to terms with loss, grief, change and disappointment. After many years this struggle culminated in an intense moment of spiritual choice – a 'fork in the road' moment that led her to take an extended retreat. What she discovered then is best conveyed by quoting her own words.

*"So many essential, life-giving wisdoms surfaced during those days: the hello-goodbye pattern as an integral part of human existence, the necessity of change in order to have growth, and the need to let go before one can truly move on ... following of Jesus ... means goodbye to some parts of life and hello to others.*

*"Most important, I discovered that for the Christian, hello always follows goodbye in some form if we allow it. There is ... new life, although it will be different from the life we knew before."*

At our Church Meeting in May we chose to say goodbye to the old, familiar look of our sanctuary. Goodbye to pews and pulpit, or at least to press forward with seeking permission from the Listed Building Advisory Committee to say that goodbye. To many that feels exciting and right; to some it feels unsettling; to some unwise.

I would like to invite everyone who is part of Trinity to, in Joyce Rupp's terms, "pray this goodbye". What she means by that is facing the change, bringing honestly to God all the mix of emotions it creates, and asking Him to bring us together to a new 'Hello' on our pilgrim journey.

There are deeper and more serious goodbyes we face too. Goodbye to a person, a place, a relationship; goodbye to ease of walking, or hearing, or remembering; and eventually for all of us, goodbye to life on earth. In these goodbyes too we can trust that God has new hellos waiting for us as we travel homeward to Him.



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## June Services

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

June 3	Holy Communion: 'Life Today' week 3 / Earning a living
June 10	Morning Worship: 'Life Today' week 4 / Relationships
June 17	All age worship on Fathers' Day: 'Life Today' week 5 / Youth
June 17, 5.30 p.m.	Evening Communion
June 24	Morning Worship led by Revd Erna Stevenson

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### Rotas for June

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in June



June 11 Charity Presentation - Save the Children  
(Lower Schoolroom)  
June 25 Summer Meal

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 5th June Visit to the Environment Centre. Meet at the Centre at 2.30pm. Lifts will be arranged.  
Tuesday 12th June A Taste of Spring Harvest - Margaret Lewis  
Tuesday 19th June Biblical Picnics. Bring & Buy  
Tuesday 26th June "Faith Tea". Breaking up for the summer.



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom except where noted*

Scrabble

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

22nd and 29th June

at 2pm

## Diary Dates

2 June 3pm Wedding of Neil Blair & Pennapa Utta  
2 June 7pm Caribbean Evening  
5 June 8pm Elders' Meeting  
17 June Church Picnic in Hughenden Park following Morning Worship  
5.30pm Service of Holy Communion  
20-24 June Gwen away  
24 June Church Lunch  
28 & 29 June Churches Together Barbeques  
3 July 8pm Elders' Meeting  
6 & 7 July Faith Fair in Wycombe Town Hall  
7-10 July Gwen attends General Assembly  
11 July 8pm Church Meeting  
23-27 July Lighthouse Week  
2-21 August Gwen on holiday  
24-27 August Green Belt Festival  
26 August Songs of Praise Service

**Not included in this version**

**Amendments to Church Directory**

**Not included in this version**

**Anniversaries**

It's good to have our Special Days page which Jan L submits each month. In addition to this Eileen T has agreed to send greeting cards from Trinity URC to people celebrating special wedding anniversaries. She will also send a card to the family on the first anniversary of a bereavement extending our prayerful thoughts. If you know of anyone within our church family, or any who have a connexion with Trinity, who are celebrating a special birthday or anniversary please inform Jan and Eileen.

Thank you.

MM

# Commitment for Life

## Zimbabwe-Drought

VB Ndlovu, from Christian Care, spoke to me earlier this month about the work of Christian Aid's partners in Zimbabwe.

Drought is just one of the disasters facing Zimbabwe, explained VB. For six years, there simply has not been enough rain at the right time. He told me how important that made the work of Dabane Trust with their harvesting of water from the dry riverbeds. This water is imperative for poor people in the rural communities. He spoke about the other partners supported by Christian Aid who meet together as a consortium and work mainly in the rural areas, where the need is greatest. The work of Silveira House for justice and education is well known and respected throughout Zimbabwe.

## Jamaica - Gender Issues

Heavy tropical rain splashing on a hot pot-holed road; children running to find cover using books, coats, whatever they could find. This was the scene as we approached the Women's Resource Outreach Centre (WROC), one of our focus partners in Jamaica through Commitment for Life. We were planning to meet with the children from the after school club but the torrents of rain put a stop to that. Instead, we were able to speak to Stephanie Hutchinson, manager of WROC, about their current projects. Stephanie emphasised how issues concerning gender equality and health awareness form the basis of all their work.

Many Jamaicans see the male as the head of the household. He gets to say what is and what is not to be. Whilst the majority of graduates are women, men hold the senior positions in companies. Life can be very difficult because of the role women are expected to play. Programmes and activities by WROC are tailored to take into account the different roles of men and women and the restrictions placed on them.

WROC also works with young people, running a youth club for children 12 and under. Those over 13 can take part in art therapy. On Saturday mornings, older young people spend time together discussing matters that are important to them. This helps to break down society's tradition of not sharing personal thoughts and worries. WROC are hoping to work with the National Vocational Training Recruitment Centre to help this group with training and employment.

360 women and children attend a family medical clinic on Wednesday afternoon. A Men's Wellness clinic has just been formed, which they hope will expand. On Saturday mornings, there are remedial classes for women. Senior Citizens come from 9.00am and stay for a lunch one day during the week. We met two of the men from that club who had stayed after the lunch and were playing draughts on the veranda, in the pouring rain.

Christian Aid has funded an urban regeneration scheme to help women start their own business. Ten women had training in writing business plans as a group. WROC has encouraged them through difficult times. Of the ten, two have been very successful, and only three have stopped in the middle of the programme. This is mainly because of recent violence and deprivation that makes it very hard to build up successful businesses ranging from catering to selling cosmetics.

WROC, as Christian Aid's oldest partner on the island, continues to engage with its local community and meet the needs of the people of Lyndhurst Park where it is most needed.

© Commitment for Life

## Bangladesh -Global Warming

Abul Razzak lives on Char Bangla, one of thousands of islands in the Ganges River delta in Bangladesh, which are being washed away as the sea level rises.

Abul and his family consume few fossil fuels. They don't have electricity, they use candles for light and travel by road or foot or in a boat powered by oar. Yet the impact that climate change is already having on Abdul and his community is plain to see.

They have had to build their houses on a platform of mud to keep out the water, and live in fear of the rising tide. "Sometimes the tide is four to five feet high. Then I can't sleep because I have to stay standing up," Abdul says. "There's lots of suffering here. We are angry with the people who are doing this. We are angry with the people building these factories that will make us sink into the sea."

Flooding and erosion are part of daily life in Bangladesh, and are vital for the renewal of land. But severe floods that used to happen once every twenty years are now occurring every five to seven years, and with increasingly devastating effects. Floods in 2004 were amongst the severest in decades, and left 1,000 people dead and 30 million homeless. The increased flooding corresponds with what climate scientists predict will happen to Bangladesh as the world gets warmer. Rainfall could increase by 10 to 15 percent by 2030. Higher sea temperatures will make cyclones more frequent and intense; rising sea levels will both flood low-lying land and slow the speed at which rivers can drain water from the land. A 45cm sea level rise would threaten 11 percent of Bangladesh's land area, and force five and a half million people to migrate. Millions more people will be forced to live in flood-prone areas.

©Beverley Duckworth

Action, World Development Movement Magazine, Winter 2006-07. used with permission

# Can you help?

## BBQ 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> June

Churches Together in High Wycombe

*A BBQ for people in the town centre, hosted by the town centre Churches as an act of hospitality, friendship and outreach.*

*Last year was the first time to try this. It was a great success. Hundreds of people came to enjoy the free food, and chat with the Christians serving it. Some contacts were made that are still ongoing.*

**NEEDS: People to-**

- Serve food
- Hand out invitations on the day around the town centre
- Be a friendly person to chat to
- Be available for specific counselling if you have those skills
- Giving out free Christian literature
- Book sales.

*A great opportunity to join friends from Trinity [6 were involved last year], and from other churches, to show the people of Wycombe that we are interested in them enough to do something unexpected and unusual!*

CONTACT: JOHN S (also see next page)

## Wycombe Faiths Fair 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> July

*'Faith in Wycombe' is the theme of the 2007 Faiths Fair. It will take place in the Town Hall, 12.00-5.00 on Friday; 10.00-3.00 on Saturday.*

*We are invited to display something that shows:*

- what our faith means to us
- how we put it into action
- our work with children and young people
- how our faith is different from that portrayed in the media.

**NEEDS: Two kinds of people-**

1. Leaders of groups to give information they would like displayed.
2. A couple of people with design skills to put that all together into a clear and attractive display.

*The aim is to build bridges between communities & show how having faith in Wycombe is important.*

CONTACT: SARAH H/ GWEN COLLINS

## Lighthouse & Fresh Café 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July

*Christian Holiday Week and Evening Youth Programme run by the churches in Hazlemere and High Wycombe. Hundreds of children and young people are given the chance to discover that faith is fun, and works today!*

**NEEDS: People to-**

- Contribute materials for crafts
- Volunteer for some or all of the week, for any of a huge range of tasks, e.g. refreshments for parents, helper in activity groups, car park attendant etc. etc.
- Prayer Support

CONTACT: VALERIE L/MARIAN M

## Night Shelter

*A new venture, for people without a home in Wycombe, in the winter; similar to a successful project in Camden. Several churches are offering their premises. We can't do that, because of our redevelopment work. But our participation is welcomed and needed in other ways.*

**NEEDS: People to-**

- Serve food
- Cook food
- Clear up
- Meet & greet
- Put beds out etc.

Can you think of a catchy name for the project?

Shall we ask a speaker to Church Meeting to explain more about it?

*Volunteers will be trained and will work in teams. Probably 1 evening [or night or morning] a week for 13 weeks, Dec.-Mar. 2007/8. An Advocacy Worker will help Night Shelter users plan for the future.*

CONTACT: JOHN S

## Eden Chaplaincy

**NEEDS: Volunteers** to give about an hour a week to be visible and available to workers and shoppers in the Eden Centre.

*Opening next Spring, but now is the time to register your interest and find out about what is involved. Training will be provided. Experience elsewhere shows the value of this kind of presence.*

CONTACT: JOHN S



The following recommendation was brought to the May Church meeting:

**That we agree on the need to create a welcoming, warm, flexible and contemporary space for worship, which could also be used through the week for community purposes as an attractive multi-purpose space.**

**To that end we agree:**

- **to commission JBKS Architects to prepare the necessary drawings.**
- **to apply to the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee (LBAC) for permission to remove pulpit and pews, to level and re-cover the floor and to install a suitable heating system.**

After discussion, before the recommendation was brought to a vote, our Minister noted that this was likely to be a special moment in the life of Trinity.

The recommendation was decisively carried with 24 members voting for it, with 1 against and 1 abstention.

Over the next four to six weeks we will be preparing a formal proposal to present to the LBAC and their consultees (English Heritage and The Victorian Society). If successful, we could be looking at work commencing in the Worship space, early in 2008.

As a financial context for making a good decision the following data was presented to the May meeting:

#### **COSTINGS FOR PROPOSED REVIVE RE-DEVELOPMENT PLAN (£)**

New west entrance, new toilets (already agreed)	66,690
New heating system	45,000
Level floor in Sanctuary, new dais, replace pews with chairs	<u>76,708</u>
TOTAL	188,398

#### **GUARANTEED REVIVE FUNDS TO 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007 (£)**

Funds raised to date	50,122
Promises of Intent – Gifts	5,500
Promises of Intent – Interest Free Loans	7,500
Synod grant	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL	113,122

#### **POTENTIAL SOURCES OF INCOME (£)**

Church fund raising – May until December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2007	14,000
Synod loan	50,000
Synod grant for heating	10 – 15,000
Sale of the manse plot	?
Capital grant, on conversion of Sanctuary into a multi-purpose space	?

*[continued on page 9]*

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Further to the announcement on the previous page, John S wants more!!

He will be wanting the loan of Plastic garden furniture in the form of tables and chairs. He is happy to collect and return the items after the event. Also if any volunteers could please let him have their names and whether they have any of the required certificates or not.

He wants to stress that you do not need these certificates to volunteer as there are plenty of other jobs to do. We fed over a thousand folks last year and we hope to do more this year over the two days.



## **REPAYMENTS**

### **INTEREST FREE LOANS**

On request

### **CAPITAL AND INTEREST REPAYMENTS ON THE SYNOD LOAN**

<b><u>WE BORROW</u></b>	<b><u>£50,000</u></b>	<b><u>£25,000</u></b>	<b><u>£10,000</u></b>
2008	5k + 2,000 = 7,000	5 + 1,000 = 6,000	5 + 400 = 5,400
2009	5k + 1,800 = 6,800	5 + 800 = 5,800	<u>5 + 200 = 5,200</u>
2010	5k + 1,600 = 6,600	5 + 600 = 5,600	
2011	5k + 1,400 = 6,400	5 + 400 = 5,400	
2012	5k + 1,200 = 6,200	<u>5 + 200 = 5,200</u>	
2013	5k + 1,000 = 6,000		
2014	5k + 800 = 5,800		
2015	5k + 600 = 5,600		
2016	5k + 400 = 5,400		
2017	<u>5k + 200 = 5,200</u>		
REPAYMENT	£61,200	£28,000	£10,600

The Table shows the amount we would need to repay each year which is £5,000 per year plus interest, which is currently 4% but the Synod reserves the right to review the interest rate.

### **OUTLOOK**

In the worst case scenario, if we accept the Synod Loan in full we need to commit to raising incremental funds of £7,000 pa reducing to £5,200, at the end of the ten year loan period. Interest free loans will also be repayable on request.

On the plus side our income levels towards routine expenditure are being sustained and the incremental fund raising for Revive in 2007 looks like exceeding £20,000.

We should also take assurance from the fact that we paid off our last loan well ahead of schedule.



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*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 24th June.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 15th June*

Recorder Editor : e-mail : [editor@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:editor@trinity-urc.org.uk)

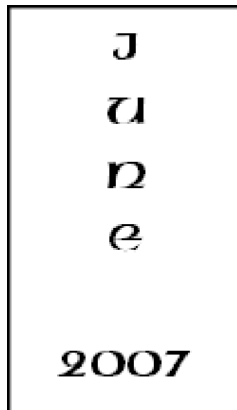
Church web site: <http://www.trinity-urc.org.uk>

# prayer page

**O Lord, we beseech you to deliver us from the fear of the unknown future,**  
from fear of failure, from fear of poverty, from fear of sickness and pain,  
from fear of age, and from fear of death.

Help us, O Father, by your grace to love and fear you only.  
Fill our hearts with cheerful courage and loving trust in you;  
through our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Akanu Ibaim, Nigeria – from The Lion Prayer Collection*



In lands of drought and hunger  
no more, dear Lord, we pray  
Will mothers ask the question  
Which child to feed today?

*James Carey (aged 10) – from The Lion Prayer Collection*

God, you are Father and Mother to all your children,  
and from you all family life in heaven and earth is named.  
Be with those who are struggling to be both father and mother to their children  
and daily to make good the contribution of the missing partner.  
Grant them the extra insight, courage and love which they need,  
and draw them into such fellowship with you  
that they may find in you the full parental grace they need,  
O God our Father, Christ our Mother, and Spirit the bond of love, one God for ever.  
Amen.

*from 'Asking God' by Oliver Tomkins*



I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will,  
rank me with whom you will.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you.  
Let me be full, let me be empty;  
let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and gladly yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mind and I am yours. So be it.  
And the Covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen.

*The Methodist Service Book*

## **Weekly prayers through June:**

Sunday	for 'That lot' and 'That other lot'
Monday	for Nightbirds
Tuesday	for Women's Meeting
Wednesday	for our minister, Gwen, and the elders
Thursday	for the Brownies and Guides
Friday	for Café Days
Saturday	for the coffee mornings