

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

[1 Thessalonians 5:11]



*June 2013*

# *The Recorder*

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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,

Have you seen our Trinity DVD yet? The world premier viewing happened at our May Church Meeting! Just 4 minutes or so long, it nevertheless communicates the strength, energy and needs of our community groups here at Trinity. I would like to thank everyone who agreed to be filmed, and also give a huge thank you to Martin for all his work in filming, recording, editing and producing the DVD. If you've not yet seen it and would like to, let me know.

Our application to be accredited as a 'church-in-community' has been submitted. The URC's Church Related Community Work committee will be considering it before the publication of this magazine, but after the editorial deadline - so news of the outcome will be shared in other ways. The application form invited creative responses. This comment got Valerie and Kate thinking, and up came the idea of producing a DVD to support the 25 page paper application!

If we do gain accreditation this would open the door for us to call a Community Minister (Church Related Community Worker) to work with our church and community groups. We have identified that we need such a person to sustain and develop our current community partnerships with ecumenical, statutory and charity partners, and to strengthen the mutual links between faith and community work. One example of this mutuality which is happening this month is a gospel concert on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two of our community partners, Movers and Shakers Caribbean style and Church of God of Worldwide Mission International, are organising this concert to raise funds for our building maintenance work on brick pointing etc following our quinquennial survey. Isn't that generous of them?

To quote a little of what we have written in the application, we would hope that an outcome of the CRCW ministry would be an increase in worshippers at Trinity – not in terms of "numbers on seats" but in terms of mission, evangelism and discipleship and living out the Great Commission. As we seek to reach out to our local community with the love of Jesus, sharing him in what we say and do, we hope that people regularly coming into the building for their groups' activities during the week will also want to come to meet Jesus, and to have a real sense of value in themselves and to find Trinity as "a place to belong".

In last month's Recorder I wrote about our first Vision 2020 mission priority, Spirituality and Prayer. The topic this month is our second one: Community Partnerships. The URC's Vision 2020 framework explains this mission priority in these words:

**"We will be a church that is more active in the life of local neighbourhoods."**

"Many churches already have strong and long-standing links with their local communities – but others have become gathered congregations with little connection to the places where they meet to worship. An incarnational understanding of mission calls us to shape – and to be shaped – by the communities in which we worship and serve. We want to encourage local churches to get involved in their local neighbourhoods in new ways, being creative and taking risks in forming active partnerships with other local agencies, working with people of other faiths in the area to seek the benefit of those that live or work in the area."

It goes on to suggest some indicators, that is, things that we might expect to happen if we were 'hitting the target' on our Community Partnerships goal, such as:

Playing an active role to run or support a local community project.

Having a 'buildings policy' that encourages local groups who share our values and concerns.

Support given to members working or volunteering in local community-based organisations.

Let me end where I started - with thanks. Thanks to all of you who make life at Trinity so interesting and joyous and diverse,



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins e-mail: <a href="mailto:gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk">gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk</a>
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Church Secretary : Mrs Sue Saunders, e-mail: <a href="mailto:secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk">secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk</a>
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## June Services

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

THEME: Lessons from Galatians - clues to God's new creation in our own context.

- June 2            Holy Communion
- June 9            Morning worship led by Catherine McFie, student at Westminster  
College (and known to us from when she did her TLS placement here)
- June 16           Christian Aid Service and all age worship, Fathers' Day  
4.00pm Holy Communion
- June 23           Morning worship with infant baptism  
3.30pm Songs of Praise on the Rye (in church if wet)
- June 30           Morning worship

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### Rotas for June

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in June



Nothing happening this month.

July

Summer Meal.

Venue and final details will be published next month.

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 4th June

Peter and Cornelius [Acts 9:43 - 10:27]

Tuesday 11th June

Planning Session. Favourite Hymns

Tuesday 18th June

Planning Session. Favourite Hymns

MONDAY 24th June

Celebration of Summer (in the Sanctuary)



*Meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom unless otherwise stated*

## Diary Dates

Housegroup	Tuesday	4th	8.00pm	134 Brands Hill Ave
Vision 20/20 Prayer Meeting	Wednesday	5th	9.30am	Sanctuary
Trinity Book Worms	Wednesday	5th	2.00pm	11 St. Bernards Ct
Coffee Morning	Saturday	8th	10.30am	LSR
Traidcraft Stall	Sunday	9th	After the service	LSR
Christian Aid Social Event	Saturday	15th	5.00pm	Trinity
Christian Aid Service	Sunday	16th	10.30am	Sanctuary
Evening Communion	Sunday	16th	4.00pm	Sanctuary
Worship Planning Meeting	Monday	17th	9.30am	Kate Smith Room
Housegroup	Tuesday	18th	8.00pm	134 Brands Hill Ave
Vision 20/20 Prayer Meeting	Wednesday	19th	9.30pm	Sanctuary
Morning Worship with Infant Baptism	Sunday	23rd	10.30am	Sanctuary
Church Picnic	Sunday	23rd	1.00pm	The Rye
Songs of Praise	Sunday	23rd	3.30pm	The Rye
Women's Meeting Summer Celebration	Monday	24th	2.30pm	Sanctuary
Elders Meeting	Tuesday	25th	8.00pm	LSR
Fifth Brigade	Saturday	29th	9.30am	Trinity

*There is so much going on this month that the calendar has been pushed to the next page!*

**Not included in this version**

**HARVEST FESTIVAL/BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY**

This year our Harvest Festival and Back to Church Sunday will be on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2013. 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.

*Joan Smith*

**Trinity Bookworms**

Wednesday 5th June                      Hostess - Joan Smith,  
We shall be discussing "Runaway" by Alice Munro



June 2013						
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## Communities of hope are always breaking open

Genuine intimacy is a precious and gracious gift. It is rare enough in our depersonalised society for us not to take it for granted. And yet, though it is a gift of community, it is not to be equated with community. Intimacy is formed in a context with defined boundaries, within which it is safe to be vulnerable, open, and let the masks slip. The intimacy which Jesus enjoyed with his disciples was a natural part of close relations with a group of people over a period of time.

The disciples loved their intimacy with Jesus. They wanted to hold on to it. They grieved for its loss after his death. But they did not understand what he had shown them at their last meal together. Intimacy is always exclusive. The boundaries that make it possible, that include us in, always keep others out. This is a perennial problem in churches. We live in continual tension between those who are on the inside and those who are on the outside, not just of the church itself, but of the various smaller groupings that co-exist within the church.

And sometimes we confuse intimacy with being a community of hope. We cannot deny the need and the giftedness of intimacy. It is part of being human. It affirms us, values us. And yet the calling of communities of hope is to accept that affirmation and value - that gift - and take it out into the world. Not to think that we can do without boundaries, but to be ready to break open our common life and share it. It is a constant forming and reforming, and we often experience it as a kind of death. But it is death that brings new life, it is bread broken to be shared. Communities of hope are always breaking open.

Kathy G

[In 'This is the Day: readings and meditations from the Iona Community';  
from 'For God's sake ... unity', ed Maxwell Craig, Wild Goose Publications, 1998.  
Copying permitted for non-commercial purposes.]

### EMERGENCY EVACUATION AT TRINITY

New signs are being put up around the building to inform people of the new emergency muster point in the case of the fire alarm sounding, or if people need to be evacuated from the building.

Our assembly point is in the garden/car park of Barratt Place flats opposite the Railway Place slip road, slightly up the road from our main side entrance. If you need to make your way there please do so carefully and **DO NOT WALK UNDERNEATH THE CAR PARK BARRIER**. There are some seats in the garden for those who need to use them. The sign saying "Trinity Church – fire assembly point" should be very clear.

Hirers and users of the building will be informed of this new assembly point.

We are very grateful to the Guinness Trust, which owns Barratt Place, for granting us permission to use their car park/garden for this purpose.

Kate



### **CHRISTIAN AID FUN EVENING**

On Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our fun and games event to raise funds for Christian Aid.

We'll start at 5.00pm with a series of competitions like bagatelle, skittles, marbles and hoopla to test your individual skills and then a break at 6.30pm for a light meal and the second half of the evening will consist of a couple of team games - probably short mat bowls and a variation on a cricket match played without grass, wickets or bats !!! Tickets will be £5 for adults and £2.50 for children so please come along with your family and friends and join in the fun and hilarity and there will even be a small prize for the individual

*Margaret Lewis* ints.

## **A Celebration of Summer**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June - 2.30pm**

in the Sanctuary

**Speaker: Rev Dr Gwen Collins**

Organist: Andrew Winton

**Everybody invited to meet friends from other churches**

This is a special 'stories for change' as it seemed important to get out information about what is happening in June with the G8, Hunger Summit and much more. Stories from Commitment for Life partner countries will appear again next month.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June, the world's most powerful leaders will meet in the UK at the G8 summit. We need them to tackle global hunger. We must make IF happen. Here are some ways you can take action before and during the event.

### **The Big IFast: Enough Food for Everyone IF we get hungry for change.**

#### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

How much do you want to end hunger? Worldwide 1 in 8 people can't get enough food. Ever wondered what that feels like? As part of our action around the G8, we're going to make hunger personal, just for one day, by choosing to go without food so the leaders of the world see how hungry we are for change!

Fasting is a way of putting our body on the line. This is about more than just signatures on a petition – this is about giving up something we rely on, because we're so desperate for political action to end this scandal. Fasting is of course also about food – it reminds us that we actually have a choice about whether to eat or not, unlike the one billion people around the world who go to bed hungry every night.

So join us in our fast on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June. There are many ways to participate (you don't need to give up everything for the whole day) – the important thing is that we make our statement about IF, together. Why not get your friends involved as well? As a group you can reflect on the injustice of hunger while you fast, and then break your fast in a shared meal together! There will be more information on how to register and events local to you at <http://enoughfoodif.org/ifast>

#### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

On Saturday 8 June, David Cameron hosts a Hunger Summit in London, this is the start of 10 days of summits that will culminate at the G8 meeting in Enniskillen in Northern Ireland on 17 and 18 June. Together we need to make sure David Cameron goes to Northern Ireland with our demands ringing in his ears.

Also, on that day, thousands of people will be travelling from across the UK to demonstrate against hunger in London's Hyde Park. There will be a host of inspiring speakers and artists from across the globe. As well as this, you will be part of creating an iconic symbol of support for tackling hunger. This will be made out of spinning flowers, a powerful reminder of the 2 million children who die because of hunger every day. We need you to help complete this symbol by adding your spinning flower on the day.

#### **Ecumenical Service at Westminster Central Hall**

This service will take place during the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> June from 11.30 till 12.30 at Westminster Central Hall and will be a chance to bring everything before God before walking together to Hyde Park. Speakers will be announced as they are confirmed.

#### **. . . and finally . . . :**

Last month 80 religious leaders, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, signed a letter warning the G8 not to use the financial crisis as an excuse to delay fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Christian Aid's senior adviser on poverty and inequality, Helen Dennis, said there was nothing to replace the MDGs once they expire.

"Without a new plan in place, political leaders could relegate tackling poverty to a 'nice to have' rather than a 'must do'," she said. "It is vital that David Cameron and the G8 make this a priority at their meeting in June."



## Wycombe Homeless Connection – our local charity to help homeless individuals

I had been asked to talk at the May church meeting about what Wycombe Homeless Connection does now and what it intends to do in the future. It was suggested that I reproduce this information in *The Recorder* for those unable to be at church meeting, so here it is!

- Provide advice and assistance for homeless individuals referred to us by the Council or Probation Services (those who do not qualify for Council help)
- Seek to help them rebuild their lives
- Provide emergency Night Shelter accommodation from January to March.
- Provide help with finding accommodation year round
- Assist with benefit claims
- Provide social events/drop-ins several times a week, aimed at rebuilding self esteem and reducing dependency
- Provide emergency food (ideally in conjunction with One Can though not always)
- Provide other emergency household items when necessary
- Help people keep accommodation (looking at developing tenancy support in future)
- Help people develop skills to live independently and take more part in the community
- We also undertake limited lobbying for improved council services.
- We are exploring how to increase the housing supply (single-person accommodation in Wycombe is very limited), and have been in discussions with organisations such as Green Pastures and Chapter One about this.

### Challenges

1. Getting enough funding!
2. The drop-ins are effectively open to all, irrespective of homelessness situation, which does present some challenges in terms of how we focus our work and redirect non-homeless enquiries to appropriate organisations.
3. Keeping the churches on board and involved with year-round work as well as Night Shelter.
4. Retaining existing volunteers and recruiting new ones for a variety of tasks such as helping at the drop-ins and evening sessions, Night Shelter, assisting staff, helping with fundraising, marketing and events, helping in the office and various other tasks.

If you would like to find out more about how you can help in any way, please feel free to chat to me. Thank you!





# Back by popular demand

## The 2nd Rossendale Scout Group Band

in concert at

Trinity United Reformed Church

Saturday July 6th at 7:30 pm



Proceeds to Wycombe Homeless Connection

Tickets £12 — Concessions £9

Available from Wycombe Homeless Connection office, Oakley Hall,  
8 Castle Street. 01494 447699

Or email [david.sparks@talk21.com](mailto:david.sparks@talk21.com)

*(Also available from Kate Y)*



# Happy Birthday

to

John H (7<sup>th</sup>)

John S (8<sup>th</sup>)

June Ellen M (12<sup>th</sup>)

Tim S (14<sup>th</sup>)

Daniel H (16<sup>th</sup>)

Alan Y (24<sup>th</sup>)

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# Congratulations



and Best Wishes to

Neil & Pennapa Blair (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Ellen & George Murray (3<sup>rd</sup>)

on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary  
With love from us all at Trinity.

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*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 30th June.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 21st June*

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

## prayer page

O, Give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever. [Psalm 107 verse 1]

Creator God, thank you for our planet earth; help us to care for it in this time of climate change; thank you for sustaining it through the ages. Amen

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Father God, thank you for all the good things you provide: air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat, enough for everyone if shared fairly. Amen

Loving God, thank you for summer days, light evenings, holidays at home or away, hills and woods, rivers and boats, sand and sea and all that adds enjoyment to life. Amen

Thank you God for little things,  
Spiders' webs, butterfly wings,  
Blades of grass, snail shells,  
Rose petals, bluebells,  
Trembling dewdrops, bits of grit,  
Buttercups, cuckoo spit,  
Buzzing bees, hover flies,  
Finger nails, shining eyes,  
Wisps of hair, toes that wriggle,  
Smiling lips, a sudden giggle,  
Tadpoles, fluffy chicks,  
Quiet breaths, a clock that ticks,  
Beech mast, apple pips,  
Light switches, microchips,  
Tea bags, grains of rice,  
Coffee beans, sugar mice,

I know, dear friends there's many more  
Tiny things to be thankful for,  
If your favourite isn't here  
Add it on, and with good cheer  
Praise and thank the Lord again  
With a loud and glad "**Amen**"



In his first letter to the Thessalonians , chapter 5 verses 17-18 St. Paul says:

Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.