

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

[1 Thessalonians 5:11]



*June 2014*

# *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 place to belong**

**Spirituality - Prayer – Community – Welcome**

Dear friends,

Being asked to prepare a pastoral letter makes you think. In fact you tend to do more thinking than writing! My mind coursed through a whole range of topics including 'why am I writing this in the first place?' One reason is due to Gwen leaving. And that got me thinking... It's been about six months since she left us, and we haven't fallen apart yet! One of the ways we were blessed by Gwen's ministry was the way in which she worked with and through us all. This has left us much more fit to survive in her absence than if she had 'done everything' herself. Blessings, Gwen ... and thanks to the many capable and conscientious people who hold our church together today.

One of the other thoughts that the change to an interregnum triggered was just how much change we have had in our church. In addition to Gwen leaving we have a new Church Secretary, new people, we've lost some dear friends, we've agreed a revised constitution, we have a new Area Convenor... and I'm sure you can add a few more things. And we have a lot of exciting change to look forward to: a new minister (soon I hope), working more closely with Cores End, the ending of our partnership with Crown House School, developing our strategy for a Church Related Community Worker etc. If there is anything that fills me with hope for the future of our church (other than the Lord himself) it is our ability to embrace change. If you take an even longer time frame (i.e. before Gwen joined) the scale of change has been even more dramatic. The only thing that doesn't change is the need for change itself! As our membership changes so our church changes, and it is good to know we have the capacity and capability to handle that change – this puts us into the 'survive and thrive' part of the change spectrum as opposed to the 'whine and decline' part.

As I write this letter we are about two weeks from Pentecost; and what a whirlwind period of change that was for the disciples of Jesus. Whilst I do, like the rest of you, embrace change I would find the prospect of that level of change truly frightening, if not also a bit exciting – like hurtling down Marlow hill on a bike without brakes! There have been a few times in my life where I was faced with more change that I wanted or asked for. When taking my concerns to God in prayer I have been given some great (and varied) answers. On one occasion I remember a palpable feeling of calmness and serenity came over me (not at all like me!) and I relaxed because I knew I would be OK – and I was. On another occasion a friend became God's vehicle to help me – and she did.

So, my message for us in this time of transition and change is to continue to embrace it, to seek God's will and to pray for help to get through the times when we are overwhelmed or afraid.

As we travel this road together I pray that you will 'vaya con Dios'.

*Alan*

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## June Services

### Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am unless otherwise stated

June 1	10.30am 4.00pm	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Alan Kirkcaldy Service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness led by Trinity's Prayer Circle for Healing
June 8	11.00 am	LOVE WYCOMBE outside the Parish Church – gather at 10.30am (NO SERVICE AT TRINITY)
June 15	10.30am	All Age Worship led by Revd Peter Willetts
June 22	10.30am 4.00pm	Morning Worship led by Alan Yates Holy Communion Service led by Revd Alan Kirkcaldy
June 29	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Alan Cookson

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### Rotas for June

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in June



The only meeting this month will be to finalise plans for the Cream Tea event. See detailed advert on page 6

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 3rd June	Roses
Tuesday 10th June	Pentecost
Tuesday 17th June	Favourite Hymns
Tuesday 24th June	Preparation for Celebration of Summer
WEDNESDAY 25th June	Celebration of Summer (in the Sanctuary) - see page 6



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

## Diary Dates

Service for Health and Healing	Sunday	1st	4.00pm	Sanctuary
Vision 2020 prayer meeting	Wednesday	4th	9.30-10 am	Sanctuary
Elders' meeting	Wednesday	4th	8.00pm	Lower School Room
LOVE WYCOMBE – no service at Trinity	Sunday	8th	11.00am	All Saints' Parish Church
Housegroup	Wednesday	11th	8.00pm	134 B H Ave
Coffee morning	Saturday	14th	10.30am	Lower School Room
Church Picnic (Fathers' Day)	Sunday	15th	12.30pm	The Rye
Vision 2020 prayer meeting	Wednesday	18th	9.30-10 am	Sanctuary
Christian Aid Family Games Afternoon fundraiser	Saturday	21st	5.00pm	Sanctuary and Lower School Room
Afternoon communion – Revd Alan Kirkcaldy	Sunday	22nd	4.00pm	Sanctuary
Coffee morning	Saturday	28th	10.30am	Lower School Room

June 2014						
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					

### Not included in this version

Dear Trinity Friends,

I am thanking you all, again, for the support I have received from my friends at Trinity. Robert's sudden passing is so very hard to endure but I have found your support through visits, phone calls and cards a great comfort and I thank you for them all.

Robert's Church Service held at Trinity on 21st May was a mixture of sadness and gladness but overall it was a service of THANKSGIVING for his life. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it such an uplifting celebration.

With love from *Norma* and family.

Dear all,

Greetings – still from Hamble!

Thank you for the many messages we received after our first 'news' in early April. Your interest and prayers are a real encouragement. We feel well supported as part of a network of friends, family, and churches.

The good news is that we have our visas for Papua New Guinea J. We picked them up from the PNG High Commission in London yesterday. It was a happy moment! The sun was shining. London was full of tourists. And we had a tasty sandwich in St James' Park to celebrate.

However there has been an unexpected complication. I (Gwen) went to see the doctor on a routine matter on Monday and also asked her to look at a spot on my hand which has come up very recently. She said that I must see a dermatologist before going. It may be actinic keratosis. Bernie has had recurrent episodes of this for over 20 years, but I've never had one. The doctor expects me to be seen within 2 weeks, and it is likely that any treatment needed can be dealt with there and then. So best case scenario is that we should still be able to travel soon. We shall see how things develop.

We have had encouraging messages from Papua New Guinea assuring us of their prayers, and saying that our health is important and everything can be sorted out there once we finally arrive.

On 6<sup>th</sup> April we were commissioned (i.e. formally and prayerfully 'sent') by the United Reformed Church, as planned. Spiritually, and in terms of inter-church relationships, this is very important. We appreciated both the service itself and the fact that official representatives of the wider URC and CWM Europe took part. It was good, on the family front, to have Meg, Tom, Helen and Joshua with us too.

We are continuing to enjoy our new home and community, and we are still finding plenty to do as we prepare for this exciting and slightly daunting new venture.

The visas, like our work permits, are for 2 years and are 'multiple entry'. We are still hoping that we may be able to visit Jo, Peter, Amy and Matthew in these final months of their two years in Australia – but with our arrangements still being uncertain nothing can be decided.

In friendship,

*Gwen and Bernie*

TRINITY NIGHTBIRDS

invite you all to a

# CREAM TEA

on

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July

2.30pm to 4.30pm

at 21 Fremantle Road, HW

Tickets £5 available from Nightbirds

All profits will go towards the Quinquennial Fund

## A Celebration of Summer

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June - 2.30pm

in the Sanctuary

Speaker: Angela Taplin

Organist: Andrew Winton

Come and meet friends from other churches over tea

### Trinity Bookworms

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm

Venue to be determined

We shall be discussing "A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian  
by Marina Lewycka



## FUN GAMES EVENING JUNE 21<sup>st</sup>

Have you got this date down in your diary ? I hope so, because we'd love to see you there to join in the fun and games. Tickets are £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children so please come and bring your family and friends.

The fun begins at 5.00pm with individual games of bagatelle, skittles, marbles, hoopla etc. 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 a variation on short mat bowls and indoor cricket - test match players especially welcome !!

So, hone your competitive and team work skills and see you there.

## SMARTIE TUBES

This year we are again collecting money for Christian Aid in Smartie tubes as the idea proved very successful last year. Full tubes will be available in the Lower Schoolroom on Sunday mornings after worship, please take one and enjoy the sweets, but then we would ask you to return it containing silver coins. You can either return it on June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Games Evening or the following day Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Margaret Lewis

## HAS TRINITY GOT TALENT - YOU BET !



I think that was proved on Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> when an audience of approximately 70 people enjoyed an evening's variety entertainment at Trinity. There was much laughter, audience participation! sing-a-longs and fun. The small cast of 11 people worked hard to keep the continuity going with quick costume changes and Norman setting and clearing the props between items.

Mary, a friend from Prestwood, was at the piano and Simon was kept busy at the sound & projection desk and controlling the lights. For the interval Valerie had prepared a delicious buffet supper and was helped by Aurelia to make sure everyone was served and Erin & Rebecca were kept busy making sure the tea and coffee pots were filled entailing much swift movement between the back of the Sanctuary and the urn in the Lower Schoolroom. Valerie was also involved with the costumes and together with Norman made and gathered props, while the cast were rehearsing, sometimes as many as 3 evenings a week.

So to the wonderful 'volunteer' cast of Janet N, Janet R, Joy, Sue, Angus, Andrew, Glyn, Martin, Peter & Steve and the 'support team' I say thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are all stars.

God bless you,

Margaret

*[Thanks must also be given to the Producer/Director/Casting Director and General Factotum - Margaret herself. - Ed]*



## ZIMBABWE

Lots of little stalls selling a few vegetables or other bits and pieces, bright colours, lively worship, currency so used that it is very dirty and almost falling apart, hot sun, dirt roads with lots of potholes, a feeling of vibrancy despite the economic struggles, warm hospitality, renewed friendships, a relaxing disregard of the clock, overcrowded and frequently stopping “combis” providing the public transport, struggles with water and electricity, tasty food sometimes cooked on open fires – these, as always, were part of my Zimbabwean experience. December 2013 saw my fourth trip to Zimbabwe as part of the link between the Presbytery of Zimbabwe within the Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa and the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church. It was good to be back. Arriving at Budiriro on the Sunday I was immediately reminded of some of the challenges of Zimbabwean life. Rubbish so easily accumulates with the inevitable accompanying hazards to health. The bore hole with its constant queue of people waiting for water was a reminder of the challenges in finding safe water. One person told me of four potential sources of water – the city supply through the taps, a well sunk in their yard, the bore hole provided a few years ago by UNICEF in response to a cholera outbreak, and bottled water from the shops – but only the last two are safe to drink.

Mbare, which I visited on the Tuesday, is a key place in the life of Harare. Its large market is a focus for much of the informal economy that sustains local life. Masses of stalls give the impression of a thriving retail sector – though I was told that one of the big problems in Zimbabwe at the moment is that it is so difficult to find work and to make money. Businesses are closing at a significant rate and, though they are partly replaced by new ventures, these are frequently short-lived. Of course, life in Zimbabwe is very different from that of the UK, and it is not easy to paint the picture in words, but the enthusiastic, confident faith, more readily seen in Zimbabwe, is something we would do well to better reflect in the UK. Extracts from Paul Whittle (Moderator, Eastern Synod) – December 2013

## CENTRAL AMERICA - Guatemala

**Trade union groups in the UK** are supporting a project which started in April 2013 for Guatemalan banana workers. The majority of banana plantation and packhouse workers in the Izabal province of North East Guatemala are members of SITRABI, COSISBA or smaller affiliated sister unions. These 5500 or so workers enjoy collective bargaining with their employers.

Those working for Del Monte in particular enjoy decent wages, terms and conditions after 40 years of gradual improvements achieved through the negotiation of 3 year-long CBAs. Although workers in the other companies earn well above the minimum wage, they have not been able to secure the same level of benefits as their union brothers and sisters employed by the other companies. Nearly 1000 workers in the Izabal banana industry are still unorganised. The union workers of the ‘North’ run the very real risk of losing their jobs and livelihoods in a region with no other major employers. The costs of producing a box of bananas in Izabal is almost double the cost of producing the same box in the provinces along the Pacific coastal plain in the South. Attempts to organise trade unions in this region have been violently repressed. Guatemala now exports nearly four times as much from the completely unorganised plantations of the South as it does from Izabal. The rapid expansion has taken place on highly productive volcanic soils, using a very badly paid and exploited workforce and in a part of the country where government services are often absent and organised crime operates with total impunity.

The challenge for SITRABI and the sister unions is to ensure that the 20-25,000 workers in the Pacific South workers have access to education and training that enables them to organise without fear. This can only happen if there is serious and concerted international trade union solidarity is shown.



## National Churches Refugee Network “Position Statement”

***‘Position Statement’ passed unanimously at the Churches’ Refugee Network conference, meeting at Sheffield on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014***

This conference of the Churches’ Refugee Network of Britain and Ireland affirms the dignity and worth of all human beings as a fundamental principle of every civilised society. From this flows the right of every person to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution, not only under Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Refugee Convention, to which the UK is a signatory, but as a right recognised in civilisations from ancient times.

We also affirm what immigrants and refugees from many lands and of different faiths have, for centuries, contributed to the culture and achievement of the UK. Immigration vitally enriches our national life, just as those going out from these islands have often contributed to the well-being of countries where they have worked or settled. Refugees and those who seek asylum are a special category of immigrant, but politicians’ discourse and media-led perceptions often obscure this, doing them further injustice.

We accept the need for reasonable border control and the Government’s responsibility for the well-being of all its citizens. Yet this conference believes that many provisions of the current Immigration Bill will not simply reinforce national borders but create damaging boundaries and divisions within national life, separating those who have civic entitlements from those who have not. This breeds an unhealthy culture of mistrust and suspicion, undermining social cohesion and inevitably leads to increased social costs.

The conference affirms the biblical Christian and Jewish traditions of the importance of welcoming strangers and of offering special protection and provision towards aliens, even those ‘unlawfully’ present.

In particular, the conference registers its concerns about the following:

### **Detention**

1. The levels and lengths of detention, both for adults and minors, are already unacceptable (and unnecessarily costly) and the Bill’s proposals threaten to make them more so. Indefinite detention should end. Those who have served their sentence should not continue to be detained.

### **Destitution and the need to permit paid work**

2. A civilised society should allow no-one to become destitute. The refusal to allow those who have been waiting many months for a decision on their asylum status to obtain work to support themselves or their families is demeaning. It makes eventual integration more difficult, and will lead to health problems and to unnecessary NHS costs, whilst access to benefits is minimal and insufficient.

### **Restrictions on Legal Aid**

3. Although asylum is expressly exempted from the restrictions now placed on legal aid, there has been a drastic decline in the number of good immigration lawyers, caused directly by Government changes to fees and contracting, with a consequent disincentive for new entrants to the legal profession to specialise in immigration law. This places asylum seekers at a great disadvantage in terms of access to professional legal advice. It also slows down the Courts, where judges increasingly have to exercise representatives’ functions such as cross examination, clarification and summarizing. We are seeing serious delays of hearing schedules extended not by weeks but by months. Slow justice eventually becomes injustice.

*[continued on page 10]*

*[continued from page 9]*

### **Outsourcing to private firms**

4. The involvement of private firms in removals and deportation has led to injuries and occasional death due to improper restraints; the separation between the Home Office and such firms leads to a lack of accountability and an evasion of responsibility. Whilst it may marginally save costs, it is bad governance of a public function. Recent examples do not even justify a reduced cost argument; e.g. the tagging scandal.

### **On the Immigration Bill**

5. The welfare and safety of thousands of children who have been born or grown up here, and have no home elsewhere to which they can be returned, but whose parent(s) have been deported, will be severely prejudiced, as will their legal claims. Likewise those young people who came as unaccompanied minors but who are now between 19 and 24, and in whose attempted deportation the UK Government often flouts the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
6. Alongside the new restrictions on legal aid and those proposed on judicial reviews, the range of grounds for appeal, and the opportunities for bail and to appeal, are dramatically reduced. Despite numerous attempts to improve administration, the decision-making process within the Home Office still leads to a high rate of successful appeals: Substituting an internal review system for an independent appeal mechanism is unlikely to produce adequate justice. Poor decision-making will be harder to challenge and correct.
7. Placing onerous obligations on landlords and staff in banks, clinics, surgeries and DVLA to scrutinise and police complex immigration documents will prejudice many people who are lawfully here as well as those 'unlawfully' here who have fled persecution or violence but may wait years for decisions on their asylum status and who under Human Rights legislation are entitled to legal protection.
8. While we would give no support to sham marriages, mistrust about all mixed relationships will be created and many genuinely seeking marriage will be caused stress and pain at a time which should be happy and filled with promise. The right to a private and family life and relationships is as important to those 'unlawfully' here as to those who have full right to residence.

### **Family Migration**

9. (a) The income level of £18,600 set for bringing foreign-born spouses and/or children of British citizen to the UK is too high for some 48% of British people, including those British citizens who have married while working abroad. It does not reflect lower average incomes in parts of Britain outside London and the South-east, nor does it take into account significant differences in median incomes of British ethnic citizens, especially women. While this does not include families established by asylum seekers before their own arrival in the UK, it does impact on those refused asylum who are granted Indefinite Leave to Remain, and limits the right of those with status subsequently to marry someone from their home country.  
(b) The rules relating to Adult Dependent Relatives are harsh to the point of cruelty and should be eased.

**Gathered for this conference, we commit ourselves to work for better welcome, care and justice for all who seek to find in the United Kingdom sanctuary from persecution and violence.**



# Happy Birthday



to

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

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

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

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

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

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

with love from all at Trinity.

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# Congratulations



and Best Wishes to

Ellen & George M (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 29th June.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 20th June*

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

## prayer page

### Pentecost

J  
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2014

Holy Spirit,  
Moving on the face of the waters,  
Descending as a dove,  
Sweeping through the house as a mighty wind,  
Sitting as tongues of fire on the disciples' heads,  
On this the birthday of the church we do not say 'Many Happy Returns',  
For you are always with us,  
Moving through the world's joy and pain,  
Linking eternity to time on your swift wings,  
Blowing away the stuffiness of tradition,  
Refining the gold of belief,  
Instead we pray 'Stay with us',  
Give us fiery tongues to tell the Good News,  
Disperse our prejudices,  
However far apart we seem,  
Blow us together,  
So, Happy Birthday, Church,  
Open your doors to dove, flame  
and mighty wind,  
And live.



.....

Save us all, Lord from smugness as we look at the headlines where disasters seem the result of human error,  
human carelessness,  
human neglect,  
human desire for wealth and fame,  
and grant that we may never figure in such headlines.  
But because we are human, we can  
make mistakes,  
be careless and neglectful,  
long for wealth and fame,  
and somewhere a life may be ruined or in danger because of our action or inaction. Forgive us, Lord, and in your great mercy help us to repent and be the people you want us to be.

Amen

.....

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Blessed and mysterious Trinity,  
One God, three persons: .  
God, the Father, Creator, Protector, Judge and Deliverer,  
Beyond Time and Space,  
The Foundation of all things;  
God ,the Son, who walked this earth, preaching, healing, defending the poor and outcast  
Dying on the cross and rising again;  
God, the Holy Spirit, blowing into our world from eternity, bringing cleansing and renewal,  
Comfort and counsel,  
We worship and adore you, lost in wonder and thankfulness.

Amen