



March 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

'Are you ready to celebrate Easter?'

Revd. Michael Shrubsole

Minister of Trinity United Reformed Church

My son had to write an essay for RE in school last week. The title was something like: "Why is Easter the most important celebration for Christians?" Perhaps you might like to pause for a moment and ponder that question for yourself. If you call yourself a Christian; is Easter your most important celebration? How would you answer that same question?

And if you would say that Easter is your most important celebration in the year; will your actions in 2005 match your words? What are you planning to do to celebrate Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday? Will you be in church or at Christian events? This magazine contains details of the special opportunities for worship and celebration that have been arranged locally for you. Will you be there?

In 2005 Easter comes very early in the calendar year. We are already well into Lent as you read this. Lent is intended to be a season of 40 days of preparation for Easter. If Easter is our most important celebration, perhaps it should take us a long period of time to be ready to celebrate. I wonder in what ways you are using this time to get ready. Many people use the season of Lent to build up a sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday; they refuse all chocolate, or eggs, or cake throughout Lent and then plan to break their fast with a beautiful celebration of their favourite foods bought and prepared to be eaten with great joy on Easter Sunday. The breaking of the fast becomes part of the joy of celebrating the Easter message of the resurrection of Jesus on that first Easter Sunday.

As far as we know, the Christians in the first couple of centuries after Jesus did not celebrate in a significant way on the Sunday. For them, their Easter celebration was held on the same evening that the Jews would celebrate their Jewish festival of the Passover, on the Jewish calendar day of Nissan 14th. Christians would gather at the end of the day, as Jesus and his disciples did, and would obey Jesus' command to celebrate his Last Supper and 'do this in memory of me' as they broke and shared bread and drank wine and remembered together in solemnity the death of Jesus and his broken body and shed blood on the cross of crucifixion.

But they also remembered the other half of the story, the amazing news of the resurrection of Jesus on the Sunday morning. Very early on in the church tradition Sunday became known as 'The Lord's Day' in recognition of the significance of the events of that first Christian Sunday. And the most important 'Lord's Day' of the year would be the one immediately after the celebration of the Last Supper. When the Christian church became officially recognised as a state religion it became possible to publicly celebrate Christian festivals in the daytime (instead of evening celebrations, privately after work), so Easter Sunday became the major day for celebration instead of the evening of Nissan 14th. There is after all, much more to celebrate about the news of resurrection, new life and hope, compared to the more solemn celebration of forthcoming death and sacrifice. But for me, I find real value in a full celebration of the complete Easter story. From Maundy Thursday, through Good Friday to Easter Sunday the story lives again for me each year. Come and join me in celebration.

Mike

Minister :
Rev Michael Shrubsole,

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

Church Secretary:
Mrs Margaret Lewis,

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

March 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.

6th March - Morning Worship with Communion.

John 9:1-41; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; Psalm 23

13th March - Morning Worship.

John 11:1-45; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11; Psalm 130

20th March - All-age Worship, Palm Sunday.

Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9; Philippians 2:5-11; Psalm 31



27th March - Easter Sunday with Communion.

John 20:1-18; Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4; Psalm 118

Rotas for March

Not included in this version

What's on in March



Monday 14th March - An evening at The Swan
(7.15 for 7.30pm) Round the Horne Revisited

Monday 28th March - No meeting (Easter Monday)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 1st Mar	Looking at Poland (introduction to WWDP)
Tuesday 8th Mar	Eileen Edwards - R.O.P.E.
Tuesday 15th Mar	Rev Mike Shrubsole - Communion service.
Tuesday 22nd Mar	Daffodils - Lenten Lilies
Tuesday 29th Mar	No meeting



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

4th and 18th March

at 2pm

Scrabble

The dates are the same as they were in February - but can you do better than last month?!

Church Walk

As our Walker-in-Chief does not know where she will be over the Easter period, no church walk has been arranged this month.

[Maybe she needs a new map? - Ed]



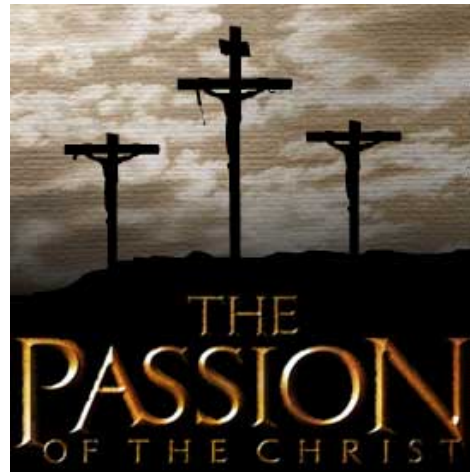
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Easter Services

Maunder Thursday, 8.00pm. - A shared service at Wesley Methodist Church.

Good Friday, 10.30am. - A shared service with Union Baptist Church hosted by us at Trinity United Reformed Church.

Good Friday Walk of Witness, 11.15-11.50am. - Assemble on the turning circle behind the Library for a short, silent and contemplative walk through the town centre in the company of many Christians from other churches. We stop and sing and pray on various points en-route as we publicly remember our Lord's last steps to the place of crucifixion.



Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday - Meet on Coates Lane by the playground at 06.00am. (Sunrise is at 06.47 BST). Don't forget to advance your clocks one hour the night before! A short walk up to Disraeli Monument; songs and prayers at dawn; a short country walk back to the cars; followed by boiled eggs for breakfast back at the church. A great way to celebrate a great day! Let Margaret Lewis know in advance if you will be wanting breakfast.

Help from the Government!

The 2004 Accounts include £ 7,403 of tax recovered from the Government. This sounds good but, in 2003, £597 more was recovered, on giving which was only £966 higher. This means that the proportion of Gift-Aided giving went down, slightly. Would any new giver, who (or whose spouse, if the source of the giving) pays tax (on earnings or savings) and who would like the Church to recover the tax paid on that giving, please complete a Gift Aid form, at the back of the Church, and give it to Norma or me. No future commitment is required and only we know the amounts.

Tony H

Gift Aid Secretary

Diary

TRINITY CHURCH DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

Elders Meeting - Tuesday 1st, 7.30pm. in the Schoolroom

TLS LITE - Wednesdays 9th and 16th at 2.00pm, at 21 Keep Hill Road

Trinity Theological Discussion Group

“John the Baptist - Who was he?”

All welcome to come and share in discussion and Biblical investigation.

Led by our Minister: Revd. Mike Shrubsole

Tuesday 8th, 8.00pm. in the Schoolroom

Church Coffee Mornings - Saturdays 12th and 26th

10.30-12.00 in the Schoolroom

Church Annual General Meeting

**YOUR ATTENDANCE IS VERY MUCH REQUESTED AT
THIS EVENT**

Tuesday 15th, 8.00pm in the Sanctuary

OTHER EVENTS

Organ Recital by Edward McCall

Sunday 13th March, 3.00pm

at Church of St Francis of Assisis, Terriers

Free entry, collection in aid of Hope Africa

Nurturing the Open Church - ‘Living without Ministers’

Led by Revd Elizabeth Caswell. Moderator of Eastern Synod

Saturday 19th March, 9.30am-12.30am

at Boxbourne URC

See poster on noticeboard for more information

Induction of Revd Bridget Powell

Chesham URC

Saturday 19th March, 3.00pm

All welcome

(There is even more on the Church Noticeboard in the Schoolroom. Do take the time to peruse its ever-changing contents on a regular basis.)



Remember the clocks go **forward** on Easter Day. If you forget, you will arrive at the church as everyone else is leaving!

Some people provide help and support to a family member or friend for a few months, perhaps following an accident or serious illness, others for a lifetime. No matter what the circumstance, we support Carers of all ages and from all sections of the community. Our Carers are all unpaid and take on their Caring role out of love, duty, or both. Many of our Carers simply look after their husband or wife and would not recognise themselves described as a 'carer'. The 'simply' is an expression of their love and duty.



In the 2001 Census, over 43,821 Buckinghamshire Carers recorded that they gave their time and support, frequently juggling a job with their unpaid caring responsibilities at home. At least 6,290 of those give over 50 hours a week. Carers play a vital part in the social structure of our society and must be recognised for their invaluable contribution. Carers are very special people.

The Carers Centre

The Carers Bucks staff are all highly experienced and can help you through advice and information, advocacy and practical support. We provide the opportunity to meet with other carers and offer a listening ear. We can also access grant payments. We provide emotional support to all ages and groups in society, including Young Carers (aged 5 to 18), the Black and Minority Ethnic community, those looking after someone with mental illness including depression. Our training courses cover topics as varied as first aid and manual handling to budget planning and managing stress. Many of our Carers are referred through their GP surgery but, to date, have only 3,000 have registered with us.

Our concern is that many Carers carry on with their task unaware of the support that is available until a crisis strikes. Together we can help plan for the unexpected and help Carers to enjoy a quality of life that they deserve.

If you would like to know more, please contact us by telephone of 01296 392711 or 01494 463536, by e-mail to mail@carersbucks.org, or by post to Carers Bucks, Ardenham Court, Oxford Road, Aylesbury HP19 8HT.



Women's World Day of Prayer

FRIDAY 4th March

“Let our Light Shine” - service prepared by the Christian Women of Poland

Services as follows:

10:30 am Wesley Methodist. Speaker - Rev Moira Peters (Creche available)
1.30 pm St Andrews, Hatters Lane. Speaker - Rev Elaine Carr
7.30 pm St James, Downley. Speaker - Rev Susie Simpson

ALL are welcome to attend any of the services - that includes men and children.

Monday 28th February - choir practice at Wesley at 10.30 am for any ladies wishing to sing in the choir at the Friday morning service.

Elders Nominations

Another reminder to think and pray about who you believe would be right to serve the church as Elders for the coming three years. Please use the slip provided, (or a hand written alternative) and ensure your nomination is with the Church Secretary on or before Sunday 6th March so that a complete list of nominations may be announced on Sundays 6th and 13th.

If you are invited to stand as an Elder don't dismiss it straight away, please talk to our Minister about the duties and qualities required. Mike has papers about the post of Elder to distribute to interested persons. Please ask. (M.S.)

Elders Election - A.G.M. 2005 Nomination Form
NAME NOMINATED:
NOMINATED BY:
SECONDED BY:
If elected I am prepared to serve the Church as an Elder.
NOMINEES SIGNATURE:
<i>Return to Church Secretary by Sunday 6th March at the latest.</i>

"**Salvation**" is popular amongst British people. Have you ever wondered why?

The English like it, because they can talk about it.

The Welsh like it, because they can sing about it.

The Irish like it, because they can fight about it.

The Scots like it, because it's free!

Justice - When you get what you deserve

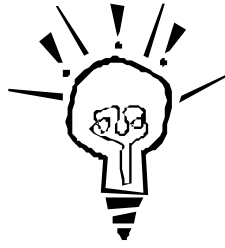
Mercy - When you don't get what you deserve

Grace - When you get what you don't deserve

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray:

Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."



CAN "SIMON & CO" RETAIN THE QUIZ TITLE?

or

will The Jolly Jokers, Motley Crew 1, Tartan Army, Winnings, Motley Crew 2 take the prize,

or

are there any newcomers willing to try.



Come and join us for another fun night on Saturday 19 March for a quiz and French theme evening.

Tickets are £15 which includes quiz, meal and wine.
Evening starts at 7.30pm for 8pm start.

Team transfers will be allowed, so you don't have to be in the same teams as before.



A conscience pricker?

It was a cold winter's day that Sunday. The parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. I noticed as I got out of my car that fellow church members were whispering among themselves as they walked to the church.

As I got closer I saw a man leaned up against the wall outside the church. He was almost laying down as if he was asleep. He had on a long trench coat that was almost in shreds and a hat topped his head, pulled down so you could not see his face. He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small for his feet with holes all over them, his toes stuck out.

I assumed this man was homeless, and asleep, so I walked on by through the doors of the church. We all gathered for fellowship for a few minutes, and someone brought up the man laying outside. People snickered and gossiped but no one bothered to ask him to come in, including me.

A few moments later church began. We all waited for the Preacher to take his place and to give us the Word, when the doors to the church opened.

In came the homeless man walking down the aisle with his head down. People gasped and whispered and made faces. He made his way down the aisle and up onto the pulpit he took off his hat and coat. My heart sank. There stood our preacher. He was the "homeless man." No one said a word. The preacher took his Bible and laid it on the stand.

"Folks, I don't think I have to tell you what I am preaching about today." Then he started singing the words to this song:

"If I can help somebody as I pass along.
If I can cheer somebody with word or song.
If I can show somebody that he's travelling wrong.
Then my living shall not be in vain."

A Prayer from Commitment for Life

Easter - 27th March

Risen Christ . . .

As you stay with us
Open our eyes to see the needs of your world,
Open our ears to hear the cries of the poor, of the suffering, the marginalised
Give us the courage and the tenacity to take our spoken prayers into serious action.
Move us from our security
To take risks just like Jesus
And as you want us to do now
To walk with humankind
Knowing that you, Spirit of God, will support us.
As we meet you please re-assure
Re-new and re-commit us to a life of service
With no strings attached
Where we will stand for justice and peace
Risen Christ, on this Easter Day may things change because of us.
Amen

Geoffrey Duncan, from 'Let Justice roll down published by Canterbury Press 2003

. . . and more from the same source

March

Fair-trade Fortnight 1-13th

Our choice could tip the balance in favour of the poor.

"The sugar jar is empty. Can I really make a difference by choosing this bag or that from the supermarket shelf? Lord, guide my hands."

Our choice could tip the balance in favour of the poor.

"I am used to the taste of my brand of coffee - though it is not fairly-traded. Am I really doing wrong, or just not doing all I could for you? Prick my conscience. Lord."

Our choice could tip the balance in favour of the poor.

"I have seen a TV programme about a banana plantation and work conditions for the people there.

I could never buy non-FT again. Keep me to it. Lord."

Our choice could, tip the balance in favour of the poor.

"I keep trying new varieties of tea — a range of Fairtrade teas - each one so refreshingly different.

I feel good about buying Fairtrade, especially when I read the story on the pack."

Our choice could tip the balance in favour of the poor.

"My church nearly became a Fairtrade church but I said we ought to have a choice. Keeping our members happy is important, isn't it?"

Dear Lord, you have paid the full price and your whole life was about sharing and loving and putting yourself out for those who were vulnerable. Help me in my security to recognise the difference that I can make in simply putting you first on my shopping list and seeing what happens. Amen

Jesus, I look at my Trade Justice badge and see you hung there on the Scales of Injustice -suffering with your people being crucified on a cross of words and policies: 'Liberalisation' 'GATS' 'SAPs' 'Import Subsidies' 'Export Subsidies' 'Free-Trade Zones' 'Opening Up' 'Conditionality' 'Globalized Aid' 'Water Delivery'. Jesus, may they know that you are with them and that people all over the world are working to dismantle that cross and erect in its place Scales of Trade Justice. Amen

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 27th March
Closing date for contributions is Friday 18th March.*

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

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

prayer page
(celtic prayers for the night and day)

From 'The Celtic Resource Book' by Martin Wallace

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2005

Dark is the night,
high is the mountain.
Cold is the stream,
high is the fountain.

Warm is the sun,
cool is the sea.
Strong are the waves
strength you give me.

Joanne Stephens

May the Light of lights come
To my dark heart from Thy place
May the Spirit's wisdom come
To my heart's tablet from my Saviour.

Be the peace of the Spirit mine this night,
Be the peace of the Son mine this night,
Be the peace of the Father mine this night,
The peace of all peace be mine this night,
Each morning and evening of my life.

Carmina Gadelica

Be thou a bright flame before me,
be thou a guiding star above me,
be thou a smooth path below me,
be thou a kindly shepherd behind me
today, tonight and forever.

St Columba

I lie down this night with God,
And God will lie down with me;
I lie down this night with Christ,
And Christ will lie down with me;
I lie down this night with Spirit,
And the Spirit will lie down with me;
God and Christ and Spirit
Be lying down with me.

Carmina Gadelica

There on the misted hills
I see a purple haze
My heart fills with joy intense
Father accept my praise.

There in the darkening skies
I see the brilliant stars
Christ of a thousand sighs
Your love my heart restores.

Here in the blush of dawn
I see God's Spirit rise
Salvation thus was born
And never ever dies.

Ramon Beeching

