



March 2006

The Recorder

Inside - this month . . .

Pastoral letter	2	Commitment for Life	6
Services & Rotas	3	From Parochial to Global	7 - 11
What's on?	4	Prayer Page	14
Church family & Life	5		

*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

In emergency - pray! Most of us know that we adopt too much this last resort policy and feel rather guilty about it. We don't pray 'as we ought'. For all that, we do actually pray quite a lot, if in a disorganised way. Our thoughts often go in God's direction. I'm grateful to a minister who once spoke about prayer as 'throwing in our twopenn'th', and since I heard that I have felt that my efforts might be OK after all. Anyway God is kind – he is more ready to hear than I am to pray.

At Trinity we have two major matters immediately on hand. One is the search for a new minister to lead the church forward into the future; the other is the very exciting redevelopment of the premises to fit the needs of the future as the church reaches out into the community. In our Trinity daily prayer we are focusing on both, knowing that it is *God's* guidance that we need.

With the redevelopment in mind we are now calling a DAY OF PRAYER FOR GIVING on Saturday 25 March, from 10.00am to 2.00pm. It is not an occasion for super-pray-ers, if they could be found, but for you and me quietly to throw in our twopenn'th. This is how it will work. Our architect Kelvin Sampson will lead the first half hour, setting the scene for the day, then from 10.30 onwards we will keep a vigil of prayer in the church, mostly in silence but with occasional led prayer from the front, with people coming and going until 2.00. To ensure continuity we ask people if possible to sign up for for one or more 15 minute slots. The church will be warm, there will be coffee and tea available in the Lower Schoolroom, and there will be material available to help you pray.

Our hope is that everyone in our church community apart from those who are ill, housebound or away will come in for at least a small part of the time. Let us show solidarity in this way with each other and with God's plans for Trinity, offering the whole redevelopment to God. Our prayer is that he will be glorified through the project, that he will show us how we can ourselves give, and that he will provide financial resources far in excess of our expectations. When the project is right and when God's people sincerely pray, the necessary money arrives – I have experienced this many times.

So let's do it! Saturday 25 March, 10.00am–2.00pm.. See you then.

Andrew Busby

Minister : <i>There is no minister in post at present</i>
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Church Secretary: Mrs Margaret Lewis, Wood View, Greenlands Lane, Prestwood. HP16 9QU ☎ 01494 863827 e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

March Services

Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

5th March - Morning Worship with Communion - Rev Andrew Busby - Interim Moderator

12th March - Morning Worship - Revd Dave Picken of All Saints High Wycombe

19th March - All-age Worship - Mr Alan Yates



26th March - Morning Worship - (Mothering Sunday)
Mrs Maureen Lampard of All Saints High Wycombe

Rotas for March

Not included in this version

What's on in March



Monday 13th March - Ken & Alec Fisher - A talk about their sponsored canoe trip. (Lower Schoolroom, 8pm)

Monday 27th March - Norman Lockhart - A talk on Outside Broadcasting. (8pm. Hostess - Marie W)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 7th March

Video of the work of CWM

Tuesday 14th March

Women of the Old Testament -
Rachel & Leah

Tuesday 21st March

Beetle

Tuesday 28th March

Down Memory Lane - Our Mothers.
Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Scrabble

10th & 24th March

2pm - (usual venue)

Social afternoon with an attempt at mental exercise

CARIBBEAN EVENING SATURDAY APRIL 29th

If you remember the wonderful time we had on 30th April last year, then please make a note in your diary and join us for another fun-filled evening on April 29th. There will be food and entertainment and a great social evening. Rose C is arranging this event and will have tickets for sale nearer the time.

Watch this space!

Not included in this version

Greeters & Sidespersons

We would like to thank those members of the congregation who have volunteered to be Greeters and/or Sidespersons.

We have distributed the latest lists covering the February to June period to those who have volunteered. The lists are also printed in the Recorder each month and copies are on the glass screens above the hymn books. If anyone on the lists is unable to be present on their date would they please exchange dates with someone else listed thereby ensuring that the duties are covered.

Of course the more members who undertake these duties the less the frequency, so, if there is anyone whose name is not on the lists who would be happy to do these duties, please let us know.

Barbara and Willie M

Sound System

The sound team has been working to improve both the sound and vision used to help us all worship and it is now at the stage, where it seems to the sound team's eyes and ears to work quite well, we are going to over the next few months tidy up the front of the church with two custom built wooden cabinets, that will hide the projectors from view, but we are about where we want to be. So we have a question. Can you all hear and see during worship? We would like to know what you think, so please come and have a chat to Nina or Tim S, John S or myself at the end of worship one Sunday and let us know if you want us to turn it up or down.

As for the vision part, do you like hymns up on the screens? Are we using images to enhance worship, or does it distract you and you would prefer this less often, again please let us know what you think, and we will collate the comments and adjust accordingly.

Thank you

Simon E

From the Treasurer:

If you have already made a donation to the Property Development Fund or if you are considering doing so and you are a UK tax payer, can I please encourage you to gift aid your donation. Envelopes are always available at a variety of places in the church premises and Tony Hatton, Arthur Winning, Norma Garden and I can all point you in the right direction.

Can I also please encourage anyone who would like to make their regular giving by Standing Order Mandate to see me for a copy of the appropriate pro forma.

Many thanks

Ian B Church Treasurer

Commitment for Life

The United Reformed Church in Zimbabwe

The United Reformed Church has a deepening and important relationship with the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, Presbytery of Zimbabwe. In April 2004 we undertook a Solidarity Visit to the Presbytery. At the welcome meeting, we experienced the concrete meaning of solidarity. To those of us in the United Kingdom, solidarity is a concept. In Zimbabwe solidarity is a physical, relational, spiritual reality. If you are relatively isolated, it is important to experience you are not alone. If you have relative freedom of movement, it is difficult to realise that you need others. The General Secretary of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches said to us: "Nothing touches the heart like knowing we have friends in the world. And your coming." In February a delegation from the Presbytery came to Britain to further develop the relationship between our two churches.

On October 8th 2005 Eastern Synod decided to embark on a *Belonging to the World Church* Global Partners relationship with the Presbytery of Zimbabwe. The programme will enable lay and clergy from each of our churches to visit with each other, learn from each other, and to grow together in faith.

This is, perhaps, important more now than ever. When I last visited Harare in October I witnessed the devastating affects of the government's Operation Clean-Up programme which destroyed peoples' homes, gardens and businesses. People have been told to remove the rubble left behind from the destruction, but there is no way and nowhere to move it. Instead, they dig large holes and bury the remains of their homes. While some have left for the regions, many have not. Where once a small dwelling housed one family, it now is home to two or three families. In the evening furniture is removed from the house so people can find a space on the floor to sleep.

The government is now letting people reopen market stalls but for very high rental costs. The Presbytery has a programme whereby it will pay a year's rental for people most seriously affected by Operation Clean-Up. In this way they can reopen their market stalls. Families given grants will contribute 40% of the grant and subsequent income to a revolving fund so that more people can be helped. Families will be able to buy food, pay school fees for their children, manage rent and rates and purchase other necessities.

The Belonging to the World Church programme will continue working with churches and synods as we deepen our relationship with our friends in Zimbabwe.

Dale Rominger

We've yet to MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY, so where next?

WDM groups across the UK are holding a series of public meetings during February and March, to discuss the campaigning challenges and opportunities of 2006. From Edinburgh to Exeter activists, journalists, MPs and WDM campaigners will be giving their perspectives on the G8 and the WTO ministerial. For dates, locations and speakers

<http://www.wdm.org.uk/wherenext>.

UN envoy Egeland warns of 'worsening' situation in Zimbabwe- ENI-05-0968

Harare, 15 December (ENI)--The United Nations is warning about food shortages in Zimbabwe, echoing concerns by a top UN relief envoy who has visited the southern African nation where he was briefed by church leaders about a controversial slum clearing operation. An agent of Zimbabwe's Central Intelligence Organization scuffled with a UN official as the state security agent tried to force his way into a meeting earlier in December between UN envoy Jan Egeland and church leaders in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second city. Egeland, the UN emergency coordinator, was in the southern African country to assess effects of "Operation Murambatsvina" ("Drive out Trash" in the local Shona language) which displaced more than 700 000 people between May and July. He met with church leaders from various denominations, including Roman Catholic Archbishop Pius Ncube of Bulawayo, known as a fierce critic of President Robert Mugabe. With them he made field visits to several camps of people displaced by the operation which locals labelled "Zimbabwe's tsunami". Speaking on 8 December on his return to New York, Egeland described the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe as "extremely serious and worsening". "It's heartbreaking to meet with people who are fearing the future because of food insecurity, which is affecting the majority of the people. Prices are spiralling as food is becoming increasingly scarce," said Egeland.

Ecumenical News International, Daily News Service, 15 December 2005

Vacancy Update

The Vacancy Committee met with our Moderator, Roberta Rominger at the beginning of February to discuss what happens next now that the vacancy has been declared for our church. The Vacancy Committee have prepared a very attractive and comprehensive profile of the church, the membership and also the town of High Wycombe and Roberta has copies of this profile.

The thirteen Synod Moderators meet once a month and Trinity will now be added to the list of vacancies, which goes to every Stipendiary Minister with their pay cheque. Any Minister who is interested will be put in touch with our Moderator and she in turn will pass this information on to us through our Interim Moderator Andrew Busby. So you see things are progressing, and if we continue to pray for God's help, he will surely guide us to the man or woman who even now he is preparing for the task of becoming our new Minister.

Cards for Christian Aid

Our Interim Moderator, Andrew Busby, makes and sells cards for Christian Aid, and will be bringing some with him when he comes to lead our service on March 5th. Helen Ralph will be selling them for him during coffee time after church, so please do have a look, they are most attractive and there are cards for all occasions, including some new Easter ones.

Mugs Needed

(no - not volunteer scapegoats!)

We are getting rather short of mugs for the Coffee Bar and wondered if anyone had any spare ones at home that they no longer use and that they could give to the church ?

Thank you in hopeful anticipation!



Remember to put your clocks *forward* an hour when you go to bed on Saturday 25th March!



Women's World Day of Prayer . . .

. . . has this year been prepared by the women of South Africa. The services will take place on Friday 3rd March 2006 at the following churches:

10.30am - All Saints (HW) Rev. Janet Pettipher
1.30pm - St. Peters (Micklefield) Rev. Linda Richardson
7.30pm - Our Lady of Grace (Booker) Mrs Joan Van de Waal.

All are invited (men and women) and there will be a creche during the morning service. If you would like any more information please see Sue S or Olive S.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2006 Make Fairtrade Your Habit

From Christian Concern for One World.

Creatures of habit

We tend to be creatures of habit. We sit down each day to eat the same cereals -- perhaps topped with fruit -- same toast and marmalade and our usual drink of juice, tea or coffee. Every day stuff but the simple habits in our breakfast alone could help to build up a small sugar producing co-operative in Malawi, or allow a struggling banana producer to realise a price that covers his costs, or give tea pickers in Sri Lanka access to education and pensions. And as for the impact on cotton farmers of that favourite shirt, socks or jeans we've slipped on

Behind every food we eat or piece of clothing that we put on lies a story. If we get in the habit of asking for the story before buying this tea or that jumper -- and choosing our purchases based on the answers -- we could make our habitual choices work for others . . . and gradually transform the way trade takes place.

What is the Fairtrade story? Fairtrade creates a new way of trading that benefits small producers groups and has a built-in commitment to their development and welfare. Based on genuine partnership that build up relationships of trust, Fairtrade guarantees producers fair prices, ensures safe working practices and aims to be environmentally sustainable. Payment is given in advance, as required, where previously farmers had no access to credit.

Such principles -- far removed from the general standards of world markets -- make all the difference. "It is difficult to survive in the neo-liberal model" says Victor Perezgrovas, General Manager of Union Majomut coffee co-operative in Mexico "but Fairtrade has given us the capacity to work within the system. The minimum price has covered costs of production and allowed us a dignified life. It has helped us invest in other areas such as organic so that we get a higher income. It has given us the access to finance. As small farmers who are organised and thinking about the future, the social premium has enabled us to invest in our communities"

Fairtrade is more than just one practical way to tackle poverty in the world, it encourages Kingdom values to come into the market place. All WE have to do is get into some good habits in the way we buy our goods, and pass on the Fairtrade habit to others in our churches and communities. Let the creatures of good habits change the world.

The "Make Beaconsfield a Fair Trade Town" Group & Churches Together in Beaconsfield present:-

Question Time

To be chaired by **Bill Turnbull** - BBC newsreader
(and dancing celebrity!)

Also featuring **Dominic Grieve** - MP for Beaconsfield

Thursday 2nd March -
Borlase Hall, Warwick Road, Beaconsfield

Tea/coffee from 7pm for a 7.30 start.



The next meeting of EastMusic, the Eastern Synod branch of the URC Musicians' Guild will be on

Saturday March 18th 2006

at **Christ Church URC**, 164 New London Road, Chelmsford,
from 10.00 – 16.30

with a service of celebration at the end of the day led by Revd Elizabeth Caswell.

For more information see the notice board in the Lower Schoolroom

**DAY OF PRAYER FOR GIVING
for the Trinity redevelopment
Saturday 25 March
10am - 2pm**

- Introduction by the architect Kelvin Sampson •
- Closing prayers by Revd Andrew Busby •
- Quiet prayer vigil in the church •
- Come when you can □ Go when you must •
- Sign the list for a specific 15 minutes if you can •
- Tea and coffee available •

Amnesty International

Several people have asked me if we ever hear of the Prisoners of Conscience we send cards to at Christmas. This is an update on some of the earlier cases. Notice how many thank Amnesty for their help.

If you would like to join Amnesty International and perhaps write letters (models supplied) or find out more about the work of Medical Foundation, a sister organisation dealing with victims of torture arriving in this country, I would be happy to talk to you.

Audrey B

Not included in this version

Our website (www.trinity-urc.org.uk) has been around now for almost 7 years. During this time we have probably rewritten the whole site at least once, and it is now time to do it again. So if while you are writing your annual reports you would like to do a paragraph or two about your group meeting, club or worship please do - and include a photo if you can, as this is a public relations exercise.

So what's our website like, I've never looked?

It's a bit like our church - its welcoming, keen to encourage families and painted cream and blue. But unlike our church it is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. And it attracted well over 2000 visitors last year most of whom have never been in our building before. They could have a look around, and pick up a copy of this Recorder, (or one from as far back as 1914), meet a few of the groups and even drop us a line.



What's in it for us?

There is a new forum for members which we will allow anyone known to us to log in. You can create your own username and password on line, read documents posted by other users and chat about whatever you like. Also you can post photos taken at church events, so we can build up a photo album that we can share.

The address is www.trinity-urc.org.uk/members .

If you could help us improve the site while you are reflecting on your last year, we will have a place on the internet that will hopefully allow more visitors to our site to see that we are worth coming to visit in person. You can email your text and pictures to simon@trinity-urc.org.uk or simply pass on handwritten notes. If you want us to scan your photos and return them we shall of course be delighted to do this for you.

Simon E
Website Chappy

The Holy Alphabet

Although things are not perfect

Because of trial or pain

Continue in thanksgiving

Do not begin to blame

Even when the times are hard

Fierce winds are bound to blow

God is forever able

Hold on to what you know

Imagine life without His love

Joy would cease to be

Keep thanking Him for all the things

Love imparts to thee

Move out of "Camp Complaining"

No weapon that is known

On earth can yield the power

Praise can do alone

Quit looking at the future

Redeem the time at hand

Start every day with worship

To "thank" is a command

Until we see Him coming

Victorious in the sky

We'll run the race with gratitude

Xalting God most high

Yes, there'll be good times and yes
some will be bad, but...

Zion waits in glory ... where none
are ever sad!

This may have been in a previous Recorder, but I am not able to check. However, it is still amusing, and fits this little blank space perfectly!

The following answers were (allegedly !) given by students from Williamstown Presbyterian Church, South Carolina, in a test of their Bible knowledge.

1. Noah's wife was called Joan of Arc
2. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night
3. The seventh commandment is "thou shalt not admit adultery"
4. Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines
5. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption
6. The epistles were the wives of the apostles
7. A Christian should have only one wife; this is called monotony

AGM Remember the AGM on 28th March. If you need to prepare an **Annual Report**, get it to the Editor as soon as possible. If everyone waits until the last minute, they will not all be printed!!!

Balance Sheet Of Life

Our Birth is our **Opening Balance**
Our Death is our **Closing Balance**
Our Prejudiced Views are our **Liabilities**
Our Creative Ideas are our **Assets**
Heart is our **Current Asset**
Soul is our **Fixed Asset**
Brain is our **Fixed Deposit**
Thinking is our **Current Account**
Achievements are our **Capital**
Character & Morals, our **Stock in Trade**
Friends are our **General Reserves**
Values & Behaviour are our **Goodwill**
Patience is our **Interest Earned**
Love is our **Dividend**
Children are our **Bonus Issues**
Education is **Brands / Patents**
Knowledge is our **Investment**
Experience is our **Premium Account**

The Aim is to Tally the Balance Sheet Accurately.
The Goal is to get the Best Presented Accounts Award.

"I AM Too blessed to be stressed!"

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.
The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything. Love and peace be with you forever, Amen.

Thanks to Fred Obeng, a friend of the Editor, for these two contributions, and also the Holy Alphabet on page 12

100 not out!!

This is nothing to do with cricket! Believe it or not, this is the 100th edition of The Recorder which I have presented to you all. It is not a one-man effort, and thanks go to all who have in any way helped bring these 99 previous editions to your pews on time - contributors, photocopying team, and the "posting squad", who all, month by month, do their bit.

It is somewhat ironic that after writing the above paragraph, I have learned of the lack of toner for the photocopier, which results in this edition being delayed "at the printers". Let us hope that it is another one hundred editions before we experience another late arrival.

I have a small stock of snippets which I use to fill an odd space from time to time, but am always on the look-out for more. (Especially as I lost a lot of things I had stashed away on the computer when I experienced a bit of a disaster recently.) Short items may hardly seem worth the paper they are written on, but they can make all the difference between a half filled page and a magazine crammed with news, information and entertainment! Keep 'em coming!

Angus

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

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

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

prayer page

The Media



Heavenly Father, watch over us all – children and adults – who watch television programmes and films. Let what should not stay with us wash over us; let images of beauty and goodness remain; save us all from the trivialisation of excess and for mistaking sensation for feeling. Show us when to switch off, when to complain to the people in power, and when to applaud good programmes.

Fruits of the Spirit – Meekness

“Sorry”

Lord, grant me the spirit which, quite spontaneously, is ready to say “sorry”:

- sorry – I was wrong
- sorry – I didn’t mean that
- sorry – I simply forgot
- sorry – I ought to have thought of that instead of being instantly on the defensive.

Thoughtless words

O Lord, before they leave my mouth, stop the words which will hurt the hearts or the names of others; those words which are petty, ugly, dirty, shameful; words which I will long to recall but cannot; and let through only those which Jesus might have used, for his love’s sake. Amen.

(adapted from Asking God by Oliver Tomkins)



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We pray for our scientists and theologians – Creator God, we are aware of the petty and vicious arguments so often heard between people of science and people of faith as to whether you exist and what sort of God you are. Help us to be good witnesses, to live our lives *well* and *rightly*, so that religion, Christianity and you are not given a bad press by what we do or say. We pray that the voices of Christians who are also scientists may be heard as rational, thoughtful and credible in a world where religion has such a bad name.

Amen.

Discipleship

O god, give me complete freedom from dependence upon the things of which I am a steward, so that if they went it would make no real difference.

Give to all my relationships that appropriateness to the persons concerned, so that none of them may do other than draw me nearer to you.

Give me such abandonment to your will that I may be obedient to your authority, whoever may be used to convey it. For Christ’s sake. Amen.

(Oliver Tompkins)

Lent

As we approach the season of Lent, let us focus on the Way – the way of suffering, the way of self-sacrifice, the way of giving in love as Jesus did. Let us see the shadow of the Cross looming near. Let us see the promise and joy of Easter Sunday’s redemption in the distance and yearn to bring this more fully into our own lives and others’. Amen.

Worship – music in worship



God of all beauty and joy, we praise you for the rich diversity of holy hymns and songs, for soaring voices and heavenly harmony, and for all musicians who have enriched our common worship. Alleluia.