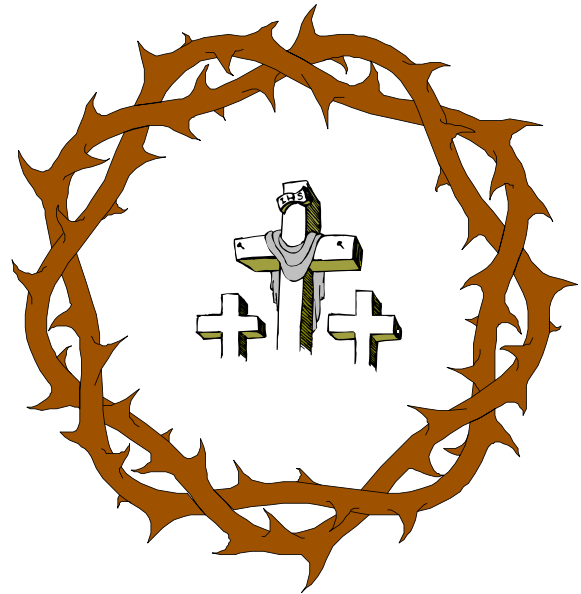


The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he had been raised, as he said."  
*Matthew 28:5-6*



*March 2008*

# *The Recorder*

## **Inside - this month . . .**

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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,

Kindness may not be the first word that springs to mind when you think about Easter, and what it means. Easter is a holy season of stark contrasts:- celebratory welcome; overturning money-changers' tables; a solemn last meal with friends; betrayal; injustice; death; utter amazement and joy. But kindness? It seems too soft a word for the enormity of the drama played out by the Lord amongst his friends and enemies.

Nevertheless kindness is the word that has come to me as I have been preparing to write this letter. So I have been reminding myself what the New Testament says about the kindness of God. Out came my well thumbed concordance that lists all the words used in the Bible with the references to show where they occur.

And I find that kindness is at the very heart of the Easter event.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ ... so that in the age to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:4-7).

"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:4-5).

And of course Jesus, long before the shadow of the cross fell on his path, told his disciples to love their enemies because in so doing they would be "children of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked." (Luke 6:35)

Kindness is something I can grasp. Something I can get hold of. Maybe kindness is on my mind because I have been touched by the kindness of those around me this week as I have been coping with a fluey cold and a husband away. Thank God for kind people.

I am currently reading a book by the German theologian Jurgen Moltmann called "The Crucified God." It is 350 pages of closely argued theology explaining the centrality of the cross. Moltmann came to Christian faith whilst a prisoner of war in Scotland and England. Returning to Germany, and surrounded by shattered and broken people, he recognised reality in Jesus' cry from the cross, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" He went on to become one of the most notable theologians of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Kindness, Easter kindness, has an enormous weight of love and sacrifice behind it. It faces and confronts abandonment, pain, hopelessness and grief. Only by plunging the depths can God in Christ - kind God - truly bring us freedom.

Kindness is a strong virtue.



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins

e-mail: [gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk)

Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole,

e-mail: [secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk)

The Ministers day off is Thursday each week.  
Please refrain from contacting her on that day unless it cannot be avoided.

## March Services

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

holy week	Mar 2nd	Mothering Sunday, Holy Communion, & receiving a new member
	Mar 7th	Women's World Day of Prayer [3 services through the day]
	Mar 9th	That Lot and The Other Lot lead worship on Fair Trade theme
	Mar 16th	Palm Sunday
	Mar 20th	Maundy Thursday - 8pm at Wesley Methodist Church
	Mar 21st	Good Friday - 10.15am (at Trinity) with Union Baptist 11.15 Walk of Witness as Churches Together
	Mar 22nd	Easter Workshops 10.00 -1.00, preparing Easter Day worship ( <i>see page 5</i> )
	Mar 23rd	<i>Easter Day - Sunrise service at Disraeli Monument</i> 10.30 All age worship, including Holy Communion
	☉ Mar 30th	Morning Worship led by Revd Asif Jamshaid
	Apr 6th	Holy Communion: start of 5 week series on Ezra 'Building for the future'

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### Rotas for March

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in March



Monday 10th March - Easter Plates (Hostess - Barbara Mac)

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 4th Mar	Beryl Peatey and her choir
Tuesday 11th Mar	Quiz
Tuesday 18th Mar	Communion Service led by Rev'd Dr Gwen Collins
Tuesday 25th Mar	No meeting. (Day after Easter Monday)



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*



After a bonus February, take it easy.

Only two gatherings this month

**14th & 28th March**

to spend an afternoon with fellow fanatics

at 2pm

## Diary Dates

<b>1 March</b>	<b>8.30am – 10.30am Bible First</b>
2 March	Mothering Sunday
3 March	Wycombe Winter Night Shelter
4 March	8pm Elders' Meeting
7 March	Women's World Day of Prayer
8 March	Coffee Morning
8 March	Fair Trade Fashion Show
10 March	Wycombe Winter Night Shelter
16 March	Palm Sunday
17 March	Wycombe Winter Night Shelter
<b>18 March</b>	<b>7.30pm Church AGM &amp; Church Meeting</b>
20 March	Evening Communion Service at Wesley Methodist Church
21 March	Good Friday Morning Service at Trinity followed by March of Witness
22 March	10am – 1pm Easter Workshop
22 March	Coffee Morning
23 March	Easter Day
24 March	Wycombe Winter Night Shelter
26 March	8pm Revive Committee Meeting
31 March	Wycombe Winter Night Shelter closes at Trinity
14 April	Christian Aid Evening

March						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30	31					

**Not included in this version**

## **Easter Saturday Workshops**

March 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.00 – 1.00

Come along and join in a workshop [or two].

**What we make or prepare will be used in Easter Sunday Worship  
Celebrating Christ's Resurrection**

Workshops will include:

- **Easter in pictures** [digital photography]
- **Music and song**
- **Textiles, art and craft** [creating a focus for worship on dais]
- **Drama**
- **Easter Blessings** [reading some, and writing our own]

Sign up sheets will be in the Lower Schoolroom.

Some workshops will be for 90 mins., some for all morning.

We hope that all workshops will include young and old.

If you have an idea for a workshop not included yet, let Gwen know.

In addition to workshops two events will be running through the whole morning:

- Reading aloud the Gospel of John
- Coffee Morning

So you can take spiritual and physical refreshment whenever you like.

# Commitment for Life

## PARTNER NEWS

### Zimbabwe – more of the same for 2008

'The situation in the country has got steadily worse but without perceptible violence as has happened in Kenya. What we have is a crumbling of civil society. You cannot get at your own money in the banks because there are not enough notes to go round. When you go to draw money you are limited to a hundred million Z\$ which is less than twenty pounds if my maths is correct. Then there is no water, power is on at night but not during the day for the most part. We ran out of coal the other day and our staff were invited to literally glean from the floor of the warehouse and came up with a ton for which they were then charged 60 million.

Supermarkets have few goods: five sixths of the shelves are empty because prices are controlled at a level that makes it not worthwhile for the producer to produce although they still do and sell at crossroads where deft drivers can buy anything from eggs to toilet paper. Meanwhile all preparations are underway for the election and there is great activity to negotiate that they be fair but all the information filtering through suggests that the result is already decided. The politics of the present situation shifts like the wind and papers come up with theories that seem to endlessly change. It is a good remedy to stand on the shore at Capetown and see the tide coming in and going out. That is the only thing that is certain. There will be hunger as, though we have had good rains, the soil is used to fertiliser and when it doesn't get it, it refuses to produce.'

A Zimbabwean friend recently returned from a short holiday was deeply saddened by the situation and felt guilty at sharing her hosts' meals depriving them of scarce food although they live in a better part of town. She shudders to think what it must be like in Tafara, a high density suburb where many of the staff at Silveira House live, including the artists. It's even worse in rural areas. However our artist friends tell me that thanks to our efforts, they and their extended families enjoyed a better Christmas than usual and even managed to buy their children a few modest gifts although the parents went without. Many enjoyed chicken, the first meat they had tasted for ages but life is still tough, unbelievably tough.

*Extract from newsletter by Johnston Simpson*

### Fairtrade Communion Wine

An exciting new Fairtrade product is being launched this month. Erhmann's, in partnership with the Fairtrade Foundation and Whitebridge Wines is launching the first Fairtrade communion wine in the UK. 'Poterion', a Communion Wine made from Fairtrade Certified Wine grapes, and produced by Vinos Los Robles from Chile, will be available from Whitebridge Wines from the 4th February in time for Fairtrade Fortnight (25 Feb -9 March).

### WDM - Water

Water is essential to life but water is also a cause of conflict. When countries and corporations abuse water resources, tensions are raised as neighbouring countries can lose out. With climate change comes a growing risk of international water conflict but future water wars can be averted by governments and corporations respecting the rights and needs of others. Right now there is no globally recognised framework to enable countries to work together to look after shared rivers and lakes. The UN Convention on Watercourses could change that. We urgently need the UK government to ratify it. Please ask your MP to sign the recently tabled Early Day Motion 750 or send them an email from our website. [www.wdm.org.uk/stopwaterwars](http://www.wdm.org.uk/stopwaterwars)

## **NEWS RELEASE**



21<sup>st</sup> January 2008

### **PASSION TV SERIES SET FOR HUGE NATIONAL IMPACT**

The Chair of the Churches' Media Council has written to a hundred national church leaders urging them to prepare for the broadcast of BBC1's series *The Passion*. In his letter Rev Dr Joel Edwards says "*from time to time opportunities arise nationally that provide significant moments for the Christian faith to engage with our culture. One such opportunity will be the forthcoming BBC series The Passion.*" He expects the series to make "*a huge national impact*" over the Easter season.

The series, which starts on Palm Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March, will be scheduled in peak time on BBC1. It is likely to attract audiences in excess of 10 million. It tells the story of the last week of Jesus' life, his trial and crucifixion. The last episode, to be broadcast on Easter Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, dramatises his post-resurrection appearances. It has been made by award-winning drama producer Nigel Stafford-Clark, who was responsible for *Bleak House* and *Warriors*. The cast includes *Cold Feet* star James Nesbitt as Pilate and *EastEnders* actor Paul Nicholls as Judas Iscariot. The part of Jesus is played by the relatively unknown Joseph Mawle, who at 33 is the same age as Jesus during the events of the Passion.

A multi-denominational group convened by the Churches' Media Council today launched a website to provide resources and information about the series. It can be found at [www.churchesmediacouncil.org.uk/passion](http://www.churchesmediacouncil.org.uk/passion). The group is encouraging the Christian community to seize this "golden opportunity to contribute to a contemporary public discussion about Jesus." Guidelines on the site encourage the Christian community to welcome the retelling of the stories for a new generation, but to treat it as drama first rather than theology.

Andrew Graystone, Director of the Churches' Media Council, was profoundly moved by early versions of the series. "*This is an extremely vivid piece of drama. You feel you are right there, in amongst the Passover crowds, alongside the disciples as Jesus comes out with these simple but earth-shattering messages. And then of course, he's taken away and makes the ultimate sacrifice, and like the disciples, you're left to decide what you are going to do about it.*"

A hundred Christian leaders will be invited to a preview screening of the series in February. Meanwhile a panel of speakers has been formed to contribute to national press, radio and TV discussions. The Passion website also has ideas to help local churches prepare for the series.

The website [www.rejesus.co.uk](http://www.rejesus.co.uk) will act as a one-stop-shop for anyone who sees the series and wants to explore Christian faith.

Andrew Graystone urged Christians to "*cancel all leave*" and prepare a welcome for the series, describing it as "*a once-in-a-generation opportunity*" to engage the whole nation in a public conversation about the Christian message. "*This Easter the whole country will be talking about Jesus. Not about church politics or the finer points of theology, but about Jesus.*"

## CONTEMPLATIVE FIRE

Contemplative Fire is the name of a group of Christians who meet for worship once a month on a Sunday evening. Their worship is quiet and reflective, and in some ways experimental. I went along for the February service at the invitation of a friend and found it relaxing and enjoyable. On that occasion there were many candles burning in the church and we moved together around the building and at each of four places stopped to hear readings and share periods of silence. We carried stones that we added to cairns.

Contemplative fire originated as an experimental worship form within the Anglican Oxford diocese. They meet on the third Sunday of the month at 6.30 p.m. in St Mary and St George. The next service will be on Palm Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome. Please go if you are interested. Or let me know if you would prefer to come with me when I next go. Gwen

### **Tax Cut is NOT good news**

Are you aware that the Basic Rate of tax is going down in April?

Are you rejoicing in this fact?

Do you realise that this will mean a REDUCTION in the amount of any Gift Aid claim the church can make on your giving?

In round figures, the church will now get 10% less in Gift Aid refunds than previously - whilst your monthly/annual tax bill will also reduce, (and therefore leave you with a small increase in 'the money in your hand').

The accounts for last year, to be published in the next few days, will show that we received over £10,000 back from the Government in Gift Aid Tax. Without doing anything at all, this will be reduced by approximately £1,000 per annum. It may be appropriate to consider an increase in the actual giving to reflect this change - and actually achieve the "status quo" - neither the giver nor the church suffering any net difference to the amounts received.

If this is not clear, and you would like talk it over, please see Tony H or Ian B.

**Don't forget the**  
***Fairtrade Fashion Show***  
**on 8th March**  
**at 7pm**



## **EVERYONE'S INVITED!**

*Everyone with any interest in Trinity URC is invited to attend the Church AGM at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18 March in the church sanctuary. Come and hear all about last year and our hopes for the coming one. Who will be doing what? Where do you fit in? Everyone has something to offer and everyone is needed!*

*Nominations for the eldership should be with Marian Mole or Gwen no later than 10.20am on Sunday 9 March.*

### **Junior Church Gift Service**

All in Junior Church would like to thank everyone who contributed to our chosen charities at our gift service in December. We collected £310.50 through your donations for Send a Cow. On our first week back in Junior Church we counted all the money and then had the great pleasure of deciding how to spend it. The children have chosen:

- 1 local cow
- 2 rabbits
- 10 chickens
- 1 donkey
- 1 sheep
- 12 fruit saplings
- 1 support worker for one week.

We watched a DVD about the work of Send a Cow before making our choices. We learned about a woman in Uganda called Sarah who has 6 children who were frequently ill because of their bad diet and who could not afford to go to school. Send a Cow taught Sarah how to turn her land over to growing food and gave her a cow. She was helped in this by a support worker and by going on a training course. Now her land is full of food to feed her children with surplus which she can sell. Sarah can afford to send her children to school and because of their better diet the whole family is much healthier. Sarah has taken the skills she has learnt and uses them to help others in her community to farm their land like her. It's amazing how helping one person can spread much further to their family and beyond to the whole community. If you are interested to learn more Julia Sparks has a copy of the DVD you can borrow.

Thank you for your generosity

Trinity Junior Church

### **Job opportunity**

Chaplaincy for Wycombe, the pastoral support ministry for staff and shoppers in High Wycombe town centre is seeking to grow its team of chaplains. Candidates must be over 18, have good listening skills, be able to offer at least one hour per week and sense God at work in the workplace. Full training and supervision provided.

If you feel this is for you, please speak first to your Church Leader then contact the Coordinator Rev'd Nicky Skipworth, on 07725 106529.



# Dine at Mine

## How well do you know your community?

Many of us would like to have more opportunities to meet our neighbours, to get to know people of different backgrounds, ages, creeds and colours who live and work in the same town as us. Well, you can do just this on,

**Friday 18th April, 7.30pm**

A number of small dinner parties across Wycombe will provide a relaxed setting for us to share food and time with people who we may not otherwise get to know in the course of our day-to-day lives.

In this informal way, we hope that understanding and friendships can be built across our community, contributing to all our efforts to achieve harmony and mutual respect in our town.

**If you would like to take part, or find out more please contact:**

Rebecca Hickman at [becks\\_hickman@hotmail.com](mailto:becks_hickman@hotmail.com) or 07748 905101  
Abid Hussain at [abidhussain\\_500@hotmail.com](mailto:abidhussain_500@hotmail.com) or 07887 583199

# Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish



Edward F (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Rebecca H (6<sup>th</sup>)

James F (30<sup>th</sup>)

Glyn E

A Very Happy Birthday  
with love from all at Trinity.

# Congratulations

... and thanks to the Recorder Printing Team -  
Margaret L and Win G  
who have just completed their first 10 years at the job!



Remember to put your clocks *forward* an hour when you  
go to bed on Saturday 29th March!

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*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on **6th April.**  
Closing date for contributions is **Saturday 29th March***

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

## Lent, Passiontide and Eastertide

We pray for men and women who have lost faith and given up hope;  
For governments who crush people's spirits,  
And for governments slow to act  
In the cause of justice, freedom and development.

*From Bread for Tomorrow, © Christian Aid*



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2008

Christ in my mind - **That I may see what is true;**  
Christ in my mouth - **That I may speak with power;**  
Christ in my heart - **That I may learn to be touched;**  
Christ in my hands - **That I may work with tenderness;**  
Christ in my soul - **That I may know my desire;**  
Christ in my arms - **That I may embrace without fear;**  
Christ in my face - **That I may shine with God.**

© Janet Morley, *All Desires Known*

To you, O Lord  
on bended knees  
our heads we bow in prayer:  
that you may hear  
our cry for blood-drenched lands  
and their exhausted people,  
who have seen too much death,  
and have been afraid too long  
to understand your love,  
comprehend your presence,  
acknowledge your goodness  
and concern for them, a battered people;  
yearning for freedom  
as they bear your cross.

**Amen**

© Lesley G Anderson, Panama/UK 1989

Goodness is stronger than evil;  
Love is stronger than hate;  
Light is stronger than darkness;  
Life is stronger than death;  
Victory is ours through Him who loved us.

*Desmond Tutu, South Africa, based on John 1.5*

Sunday  
Monday  
Tuesday

Wednesday  
Friday  
Saturday

For this last month of the Wycombe Night Shelter project  
For Gwen and the chaplaincy team at Bucks Uni  
For those called to be evangelists, to tell out the good news of Jesus  
Christ  
For Churches Together in Wycombe  
For musicians, whose gifts and skill touch our hearts and spirits  
For those we know who are suffering in body, mind or spirit