

When they had sung the hymn, they
went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26: 30



March 2010

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,

Do you enjoy singing hymns? I was in the company of four Christians from other churches recently, two of whom have good voices and sing in their church choir, and two of whom confess to having poor singing voices but nevertheless sing with gusto in church because they love to worship God that way. One of them expressed her feelings thus, "He has told me to praise Him in song. And if He gave me a bad voice that's His fault. I have to sing anyway!" We may not put it quite like that, but I think that many of us find singing hymns a wonderful way to worship, whether or not we are good singers.

We have access to a treasure store in our hymns. Some have become so much part of our tradition that we can hardly imagine marking key festivals without them. This is never truer than through Holy Week and Easter. Take Isaac Watts' deeply devotional hymn, 'When I survey the wondrous Cross', or Charles Wesley's resounding 'Christ the Lord is risen today, alleluia!' for example.

I love these old hymns. I grew up with them and they helped to form my spirituality. No doubt many of you could say the same. When our children were small we developed a bedtime routine of singing them to sleep. Bernie sang his way through Congregational Praise, and I sang my way through the Methodist hymn book! Maybe not every single hymn, but you get the picture. It was a way of exposing our children to a resource that we both valued, but which they had no access to living in a different country and culture. We did sing hymns in Papua New Guinea – but only a very limited range of them and lots of choruses.

Two of my favourite Easter hymns now, though, are twentieth century ones that were not in those hymnbooks. Rejoice and Sing has them. Numbers 243 and 249. What I appreciate about these is the way they relate directly to human need and human experience in language that is poetic and yet directly applicable to our own situations.

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our heart that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springs up green.*

and

*Wherever people seek him the story is the same;
he meets us by the roadside, he calls us by our name.
His 'Peace be with you' calms us,
his 'Go and tell' inspires;
'For I am with you always'
puts paid to all our fears.*

*Chase, chase your gloom and grief away
and welcome hope instead,
for Jesus Christ is ris'n today
and death itself is dead.*

Christ's touch can and does renew life within us. It can happen anytime and anywhere. We don't have to wait for Easter to welcome hope into our lives.

He has blazed the trail through death into life. All we have to do is follow.



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk
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Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole, e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk
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March Services

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

March 7	10.30	Holy Communion
	4.00	Prayer Circle
March 14		Service led by Catherine McFie, TLS student
March 21		All age worship
HOLY WEEK		
March 28	Palm Sunday	Morning worship with infant blessing and baptism
March 30	12.00 – 2.30	Sanctuary open for prayer, with prayer stations
March 31	5.30 – 8.00	Sanctuary open for prayer, with prayer stations
April 1	Maundy Thursday 8.00 pm	Holy Communion at Wesley Methodist Church.
April 2	Good Friday	10.15 am Worship with Union Baptist congregation at Trinity. 11.15 am Walk of Witness with Christians from across the town. Gather behind old library at 11.00.
April 3	10.00 – 2.00	Sanctuary open for prayer, with prayer stations
April 4	Easter Day	Sunrise service at Disraeli Monument
	10.30	Celebration of Christ's Resurrection, Holy Communion.

Rotas for March

What's on in March



Monday 6 March - The Tundra
Hostess - Pat Wallace

Monday 22 March - St Patrick
Hostess - José Barber

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 2nd Mar	A look at the republic of Cameroon
Tuesday 9th Mar	Quiz
Tuesday 16th Mar	The Moon and the Bible
Tuesday 23rd Mar	DVD. Bring & Buy
Tuesday 30th Mar	Communion Service led by Rev Dr Gwen Collins
Tuesday 6th April	No meeting



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Diary Dates

- March**
- 5 Women's World Day of Prayer
 - 7 Share Your Skills Stall
 - 11 New Mothers & Babies group (Downs Syndrome) starts
 - 13 Coffee Morning
 - 14 Mothering Sunday
 - 16 Church AGM & Meeting 7.30pm
 - 20 Orpheus Male Voice Choir Concert
 - 27 Coffee Morning with Easter Egg Raffle
 - 28 British Summer Time begins
 - 30 Elders' Meeting
- April**
- 1 Maundy Thursday Service at Wesley Methodist Church 8pm
 - 2 Good Friday Service at Trinity 10.15am followed by Walk of Witness
 - 4 Easter Day Morning Worship with Holy Communion
 - 5 - 11 Gwen on holiday
 - 10 Coffee Morning
 - 11 Morning Worship led by Revd Jack Ramsbottom
 - 18 Service for those who have been bereaved 4.30pm
 - 27 Elders' Meeting 8pm
 - 28 Leprosy Mission supporters' meeting
- May**
- 2 Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Bernie Collins
 - 22 Chiltern Camerata Concert
 - 29 Fifth Brigade

March 2010						
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	31			

Women's World Day of Prayer

5th March 2010

10.30am Service at Trinity; Speaker Barbara Sparks.

1.30pm Service at St Michael's Hughenden: Speaker Anita Rush.

The service this year has been prepared by the Women of Cameroon and a creche will be available for the morning service at Trinity.

For further details please see Sue S or Olive S



That Lot and *The Other Lot* received a hot chocolate machine at our Christmas party. It was anonymously sent and we would like to say a massive thank you to the church and whoever was involved in sending it. It is very much appreciated and the hot chocolate is lovely.

Love From *That Lot* and *The Other Lot* xxx

REMEMBERING & GIVING THANKS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Sunday 18th April at 4.30 p.m.

During the service, names of those who have died will be read. If you would like your loved one's name to be included please let me know .

There will be baskets of Spring flowers in the church. If you would like to bring a small bunch or pot of flowers to put in the baskets before the service, please do so.

Invitation cards will be available on the leaflets shelf in the Lower Schoolroom for the 4 weeks prior to the service. Please take one if you would like to invite friends or neighbours.

Commitment for Life

ZIMBABWE

2009 was a horrendous year for Zimbabwe. After the first election, which was fairly peaceful, the situation spiralled out of control.

'The undercurrent of anarchy that exists in Zimbabwe came to the fore,' explains country manager William Anderson. 'Paid militia had control, particularly in the rural areas but also coming into Harare as well. Many of our partner staff were arrested; some had to leave the country following arrests because they were in fear of their life. Understandably, it has been a very difficult year coming out of that.'

William continues: 'Things are more peaceful now, following this inclusive government, but still the potential is there for the violence to return. Literally at the click of a finger, Mugabe can ensure that violence can return to Zimbabwe, and this is what we're all worried about; this is why there is still great concern about Zimbabwe at the moment.'

Christian Aid is not making predictions on when the next elections will take place (the current 'unity' government is meant only as a temporary solution). However the election can take place any time up to 2013 and we do not anticipate it will happen any time soon.

Food insecurity

We are now entering the worst months of Zimbabwe's annual hunger season (Jan-March) when the poorest families begin running out of food to the extent that they depend on food aid to survive. Last year the numbers reliant on food aid peaked at around seven million – approximately half of the population.

In spite of a more peaceful atmosphere and the inclusive government, William says 'the food security situation is not able to improve, because the thing people need most at the moment is seed and seed is not available – you are not able to buy them freely on the market, particularly in the rural areas. So the prospects for their harvests come March are very grim. That's one particularly good thing about Christian Aid's support at the moment – we've been able to provide these essential items.'

BANGLADESH

In October, Christian Aid's partner, the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB), marked a significant milestone in its work to empower the extreme rural poor and, in particular, women. It is now two years since the launch of its largest development initiative the Comprehensive Poverty Reduction Programme (CPRP). The anniversary was an opportunity for reflection on progress achieved and to identify the major hurdles that remain and the challenges that lie ahead. An external team led a mid-term review of the CPRP, their research included discussions with forum members. Their findings are summarised in this update.

CPRP achievements

The CPRP helps to organise people into groups or forums and, through training and mentoring, to equip them with skills to give them confidence to become a sustainable social force in their communities.

There are 62,924 people organised into 1,193 forums in 15 districts. The forums have motivated members to increase their livelihood options either by improving what they do already or by trying new ways of earning a living. Each forum member makes a regular contribution, 10 to 20 pence per week, to a savings fund from which they are able to take out loans to invest in their homes and livelihoods. The review identified an on-going and very gradual shift in the way that people earn a living, from natural resource-based activities such as agriculture and fishing towards service activities such as retailing, van driving and tailoring. Other achievements have included:

Many households now possess latrines and tube wells; an increase in ownership of poultry and livestock; Saplings of fruit trees and medicinal plants supplied by CCDB have resulted in more trees growing around villages;

Some forum members now possess new agricultural equipment such as irrigation pumps and threshing machines; and other forum members have invested in capital assets such as shops, vehicles and sewing machines. As well as improving livelihoods, the forums have played an instrumental role in transforming children's lives through education and improved nutrition.

Challenges

Many forum members remain concerned about their vulnerability to changes that can threaten their livelihoods and families. In particular, they highlighted concerns about natural disasters, access to clean water, chronic diseases and poultry disease, as well as seasonal fluctuations in wage rates and the depletion of natural resources.

Increasingly, climate change is threatening livelihoods, and its affects are manifested in prolonged droughts and irregular and prolonged rainfall and flooding.

EVERYONE'S INVITED TO THE AGM!

Everyone, not just church members, with any interest in Trinity URC is invited to attend the Church AGM on **Tuesday 16 March at 7.30pm** to be held 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? We value each member of our church family. Everyone has something to offer and everyone is needed!

Nominations for the eldership should be with Marian Mole or Gwen by 10.20am on Sunday 7 March. If you'd like to know more about becoming an elder please speak to Gwen.



Remember to put your clocks *forward* an hour when you go to bed on Saturday 27th March!



ROOM NAME CHANGE

A few months ago I asked if anyone had suggestions of names for the various rooms we have on our premises and I received two responses. Following these and discussion with Gwen it has been suggested that the only change of name will be to the Lower Schoolroom which in future will be known as the 'Coffee Bar'. I hope everyone is agreeable to this.

Marian M

Central Aid Society, 1-3 Cornmarket, High Wycombe
High Wycombe's oldest charity, established 1906

I recently received the newsletter from the secretary of Central Aid and you will know that Trinity makes an annual donation to help them in the valuable work they do for the less fortunate amongst us.

The newsletter gave a lot of information about the work of this charity and you may be interested to have some up-to-date news.

The Secretary said Central Aid is negotiating with Wycombe District Council for the continued lease of the Furniture Warehouse but the rent and charges are increasing.

Donations from many sources continue to help the general funds – some are asked for and some come out of the blue.

Generous donations at Harvest Festival time were much appreciated. The Secretary acknowledged the valuable help of Night Shelter. The Chair, Mrs Rosemary Vere, also wrote about the difficult financial situation and said not only had donations decreased but investment interest was now down to a trickle. Significant donations, however, mean that Central Aid has up till now been able to avoid drastic actions that had been envisaged like moving the office from the centre of the town in Cornmarket or moving or closing the Furniture Warehouse, or even closing the over-50s Pop-In to save rent.

Margaret Bowyer, Assistant Secretary, reported that there are still people of no fixed abode sleeping rough on the Rye. Sometimes Central Aid has been able to give food to families who have difficulties due to the delay of obtaining benefits. The Furniture Warehouse has granted a lot of furniture to newly housed people of limited means. She ended her report by saying, "many people have such bad luck in their lives and we try to help them all."

Central Aid is indebted greatly to the volunteers who help in the work of the Society. The Pop-In at the Reggie Goves Centre continues to flourish – changes to the menus at mealtimes have proved popular. Bingo sessions continue to provide pleasure to many and the Keep Fit sessions have faithful followers. The outings are well attended and the holiday was well attended.

Fundraising was very helpful:-

Market stall	£584
Collection at Tesco	£192
Collection in the High Street	£223
Independent fundraisers	£754

Donation of £20 for car washing by a Wycombe Abbey pupil.

Olivia P

Things to think about . . .

Is Atheism a non-prophet organization?

When cannibals eat a missionary, do they get a taste of religion?

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

Dear Friends

I am sending a formal invitation about a lecture which is being organised by the Friends of Bible*Lands* in conjunction with Christ Church Oxford.

It will take place on Tuesday, April 13th 2010 from 7.45 p.m. to 9.15 p.m. in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. Our speaker is to be:-

Elias Chacour, Archbishop of Galilee

in the Melkite Greek Catholic church. He will be known to many for his books *Blood Brothers* and *We Belong to the Land* and the title of his lecture is

Educating for Peace in Israel and Palestine.

It is an important occasion. I hope that you will be able to attend and that you will encourage others to come as well. Entrance will be free, but by ticket only. Please contact Heather on 01494 897933 for your tickets.

Hugh Boulter, Chair of the Friends of Bible*Lands*

**The Wycombe Orpheus
Male Voice Choir
Saturday 20 March at 8 pm**

**Tickets: Adults £10
 Children/concessions £7.50**

at

Trinity United Reformed Church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



(Image - 'Stations of the Cross XII: Jesus Dies on the Cross'
by Chris Gollon)

Come to the churchyard of All Saints Church,
High Wycombe anytime during Lent
(between 17th February and 4th April)

There will be guided tours of the
Stations of the Cross on Tuesdays
starting at 11.30am and Fridays starting at 1.45pm

Each tour will last approximately 45 minutes



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Edward F (3 rd)	Glyn E (4 th)
Rebecca H (6 th)	Robin G (9 th)
Joy S (16 th)	Rose C (17 th)
Marianne H (29 th)	James F (30 th)

A Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.

Birthday Congratulations

to

Samuel E (28th)

on celebrating his 1st Birthday

&

Andrew W (21th)

on celebrating his 70th Birthday



Congratulations

and Best Wishes to

Steeve & Shevonne (3rd)

Marion & Michael (25th)

on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary



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

prayer page

Loving God,
 Your heart is full of compassion and mercy.
 Forgive us for our hardness of heart,
 our lack of love,
 our lack of charity,
 our slowness to respond to your prompting.
 Open up our hearts and minds to pour out
 your goodness to those around us.
 In Jesus' name.
 Amen.

Anon

God, grant me faithfulness in small choices, so that I am ready to be faithful in big ones;

grant me by the daily exercise of moral muscles to be ready, if needed, for heroic action;

grant that as the body decays, so may the soul be renewed to bear the weight of eternal glory, through Christ my Saviour.

Amen.

© Oliver Tompkins 'Asking God'

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2010

The cross is the way of the lost
 the cross is the staff of the lame
 the cross is the guide of the blind
 the cross is the strength of the weak
 the cross is the hope of the hopeless
 the cross is the freedom of the slaves
 the cross is the water of the seeds
 the cross is the consolation of the bonded labourers
 the cross is the source of those who seek water
 the cross is the cloth of the naked.

From 'Bread of Tomorrow' © Christian Aid



O Lord Jesus stretch forth your wounded hands in blessing over your people, to heal and to restore, and to draw them to yourself and to one another in love. Amen.

From 'Bread of Tomorrow' © Christian Aid

You are home to the exile
 touch to the frozen
 daylight to the prisoner
 authority to the silent
 anger to the helpless
 laughter to the weary
 direction to the joyful
 come, our God, come

© Janet Morley, 'All Desires Known'

Sunday	<i>Give thanks for all God's blessings to us, individually and as a church fellowship</i>
Monday	Pray for the work of the Fairtrade Foundation
Tuesday	Pray for our Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers and their leaders
Wednesday	For the URC's Commitment for Life projects in Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, the Palestinian Territories and Jamaica
Thursday	Pray for the new group meeting at Trinity – mums and babies with Downs Syndrome, that they may feel at home here
Friday	Pray for families struggling with their finances
Saturday	Pray for Drama for Life, and Chantraine School of Dance, two of our hirers