

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters." *Exodus 3:7*



March 2011

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,

A friend was telling me on the phone this morning about walks along London's canals and rivers that she and another friend of hers research, try out and then lead for their University of the Third Age group. They have walked Regents Canal, the north bank of the Thames from Tower Hill to Canary Warf, and even the route of the River Fleet. The latter took them from Kings Cross to Holborn, but they saw not a drop of water because the Fleet now flows totally underground. Useful as part of the system of sewers, but not exactly what one thinks of as a riverside stroll!

I wonder what is the most memorable or enjoyable walk that you have ever taken? It may be hard to select one from a lifetime's worth.

The walks that come to mind for me are those near the sea in Guernsey, where I grew up and where I still have many family connections. Walking the south coast cliffs as the waves break over the rocks below and the smell of gorse fills the air is a heart warming experience. Shortly before my father died we walked on these cliffs. He would not admit to needing to slow down, or catch his breath, so we kept stopping to admire the view instead. No hardship! Jersey could just be seen on the horizon. One or two fishing boats were making their way from St Peter Port round St Martin's point towards Pleinmont.

But my favourite of all are the walks through the country lanes of my home parish of the Vale leading to the bays of the north west corner – Grand Havre and L'Ancrese. They are so familiar, and have so many memories connected with them, that I can walk them in my imagination and almost feel that my lungs are filling with that wonderful sea air.

This train of thought causes me to thank God for three very great blessings. The blessing of place, the blessing of people and the blessing of personal recollections.

How very specific and particular these are for each of us.

A world away hundreds of thousands of people have been demonstrating peacefully in Egypt and have begun a process of political change in their country that is going to have major ramifications in the Middle East and probably more widely. If you have been following that story you will have noticed that many of the protestors and local commentators expressed feelings of pride in being Egyptian, in a way that they had not felt before. Throwing off the shackles of restraint and oppression has changed their experience of place. They feel that it has become blessing rather than burden to live in that ancient country.

God's desire is for every place to become a place of blessing. He gives us the freedom and the opportunity to shape the places that we live in and bring healing and hope.




Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins
e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk

Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole,
e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

March Services

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

March 6		Holy Communion, and 'Everybody Welcome – A welcoming God and His welcoming people'
	4.00pm	Prayer Circle
March 13		Second in our monthly CWM series: Caribbean Region
March 20		All age worship led by Barbara and David Sparks
 March 27		Theme: 'Everybody Welcome – Belonging to the Church Community'

Not included in this version

What's on in March



Monday 14 March - 'Meet the Translation Team' at the Manse
Hostess - Gwen C

Monday 28 March - Puddings' Evening (Bring a sample & recipe
of a favourite pudding for all to share) Hostess: Barbara M

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 1st Mar A look at Chile. (Preparation for the Women's
World Day of Prayer on Friday)

Tuesday 8th Mar Poetry & Pancakes

Tuesday 15th Mar Why a King James Bible? (brought forward from
last month)

Tuesday 22nd Mar Everybody Welcome. Rev Gwen Collins

Tuesday 29th Mar Heroes. Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Diary Dates

February 28 – 13 March Fairtrade Fortnight

March 4 Women's World Day of Prayer

6 Prayer Circle For Healing 4pm

7 – 9 Gwen away at a conference

12 Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12 noon

15 Church AGM followed by Church Meeting 7.30pm

21 –27 Climate Week

26 Coffee Morning 10.30 –12 noon

27 British Summer Time begins

28 Elders' Meeting 8pm

30 Worship Planning Group 2pm

31 URC Ad Campaign Evening 7.30pm

April 3 Mothering Sunday

9 Coffee Morning

17 Palm Sunday

21 Communion for Maundy Thursday 8pm (Wesley Church will be joining us)

22 Worship for Good Friday at Union Baptist Church 10.15am followed by
the Walk of Witness through the town centre

24 Easter Day

30 Fifth Brigade

March 2011						
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		

Not included in this version

Thames North Synod - Training for Learning and Serving

Taster Day Saturday 9th April 2011

10.30 am to 12.30 pm at Ipalo House 32/34 Great Peter Street, London,
SW1P 2DB

Tel: 020 7799 5000 option 3. E-mail: synodadmin@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

"Do you have a mind to:

- **ENJOY** stimulating sessions of study?
- **ENCOURAGE** growth in your church?
- **EMBARK** upon a new direction in discipleship?
- **EXPLORE** the Bible and Christian Thought as it applies today?
- **ENGAGE** with others on a similar journey?
- **EQUIP** for mission and service?
- **ENRICH** your spirituality?



Your mind will find a home in Training for Learning and Serving"

The session will be led by the Synod Training and Development Officer, the Revd Anne Sardeson. There will be an opportunity to meet with and ask questions of people who have participated and completed TLS courses.

Please come and find out for yourself what the TLS programme could offer you (courses last one or two years); how TLS works and what you in turn can do with TLS.

Don't miss this opportunity - so do come along and quench your thirst with a purpose - tea and coffee too will be served!

Please let Sandhya Pinn know if you Will be attending (contact details as above).

Not so much a programme - More an experience

Commitment for Life

ZIMBABWE

As Zimbabwe enters the New Year it appears that its referendum vote on the new constitution, originally scheduled for January, is unlikely to go ahead before June. The delay is widely attributed to delays in the constitution making process due to political in-fighting between the power-sharing parties, the MDC and Zanu-pf. The decision also follows a visit in December from South Africa's president, Jacob Zuma, who urged Zimbabwe's leadership to hold off on the referendum vote and elections until the constitution is ready and the necessary mechanisms for a free and fair election are in place. Christian Aid and its partners concur that Zimbabwe is not ready for elections at this time, and that there is a high probability that any vote would see a repeat of the violence that plagued the elections in March 2008. They also recognise that anything might happen, and following reports from new partner, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP), of politically motivated displacements in some areas, they have been carrying out scenario planning with all partners. This is to ensure that together they are prepared for any emergency situation, including civil unrest, increased food insecurity and economic hardships, localized famine, cholera and other disease outbreaks, as well as displacement. In CA's last report they detailed the work partners Habakkuk Trust and SCMZ were doing to aid an outcome of the constitution writing process genuinely determined by the will of the Zimbabwean people whom Commitment for Life supports. This work continues, as does related work with young people to limit the likelihood of a recurrence of politically motivated violence in 2011.

CA report to CforL Reference Group January 2011

Dear friends,

Ephesians 6:13 tells us that when we have prayed and done all we can, we must stand firm in our beliefs and stand up for justice. This passage tells us to stand firm in battle too. Today, that battle must include fighting injustice in the world's economic and social structures.

We know this will not be easy and at times we have low levels of energy and resources but that is when we need to remember we are in a battle that may require us to find new ways to put our faith into action. We know we serve a God who is passionate about injustice and stirs our hearts to join in this fight. So this year, as Commitment for Life faces challenges in income and using contributions in the most effective way, we must keep in our hearts the knowledge that transformation is possible.

As is customary at this time of year we look back at what has been achieved over the last year. If you were at Central Hall Westminster to hear Revd Jesse Jackson speak and then lobby your MP, then thank you. If you have held a Commitment for Life service to raise awareness, then thank you. If you have shared stories about our work and of Christian Aid partners, then thank you. If you have sent postcards from WDM, then thank you. And finally if you have contributed to this year's total, then thank you so much.

We know we face a tough year, as do all charities. Our regular income was down by 8% to £470,000. So please keep the work of the Christian Aid partners across the world in your hearts as they face an even tougher year.

To end on a positive note we were delighted to receive a substantial legacy from a long time supporter of Commitment for Life which was an answer to prayer. If you would like to remember Commitment for Life with a legacy, please do ask us for advice. Blessings

Linda and Gill

[Commitment for Life Office]

Cayman churches pool resources



1 Feb 2011

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands has joined two of its Cayman Island churches together as part of a wider plan to make better use of church resources.

George Town churches the Robert Young Memorial United Church and the Savannah United Church have been linked together to become the new Robert Young Savannah Charge at a special service.

The move, which is part of the strategy rolled out by the UCJCI in 2009 to focus on building missional congregations, means the number of congregations in the Cayman Islands capital of George Town has been reduced from three to two.

Lay Pastor of the new Charge John Macmillan said the joining together of the churches was an important step in freeing up resources to help churches fulfil their strategic role in the community.

"For some considerable time now, it has been the aspiration and planned goal of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands to reach the stage where no charge comprises more than two congregations, so that all of our congregations can have a sufficient level of ministerial and other resources," he said.

"This perhaps became more pressing over the last couple of years as the church has pursued the special process of renewal and transformation, under which each congregation is to become a focal point of growth and of a ministry of healing, hope and spiritual strengthening in its community.

"The leadership of the council met with the congregation and was reassured that the congregation had reached the decision freely and saw it as a positive move for them, as well as for the church as a whole in Cayman.

"They felt that in this way they could pursue their objective of ministering both in their immediate community and in particular for those persons who prefer to worship in the intimacy of a smaller congregation."

The churches were officially united at a special service of realignment at Savannah on 23 January.

Please be aware of the following scams which are currently circulating in South Bucks.

Council Tax Scams

Residents in the Iver & Stoke Poges area have reported receiving phone calls offering refunds on council tax and asking for bank details, date of birth and address. These people often sound plausible but remember NEVER to give out personal details by phone or email.

Computer Faults

This one's becoming more frequent. You receive a phone call by someone claiming to have detected various problems with your computer, and asking you to follow a few simple instructions at the keyboard. If you are called in this way Do not make any changes to your computer. These calls are not genuine. The actions they talk you through will give them control of your PC which they will then use for criminal purposes. If you are having computer problems, have them sorted out through a reliable dealer.

Charity Collections

Recently in Iver residents received a leaflet from "Third World Clothing Collection", with a company reg. no. 6894447, and an e-mail address - rutex@yahoo.co.uk - which is fictitious.

Whilst there are many bonafide charity collections it is better to take your unwanted goods to a charity shop rather than leave them on your doorstep as some disreputable people are aware of collection days and turn up in advance of genuine collectors.

URC Ad Campaign Open Meeting at Trinity

The Synod Training and Development Officer and Children's and Youth Development Officer invite us and others from nearby URC's to explore the challenges and opportunities of the URC Ad Campaign. They say:

"We'll be hosting four evenings (from 7.30 to 9.30 pm) across the Synod exploring the campaign and what churches can do to prepare for the public launch which will be taking place later this year on Sunday 20th November (put the date in your diaries now - 20/11/2011) These evenings will be an opportunity to ask more questions.

Second Campaign evening Thursday 31 March Trinity High Wycombe in the Sanctuary.

We'd love to see you at one of these events this year.

Anne

Anne Sardeson
Training and Development Officer

Simon

Simon Rudiger
Children's and Youth Development

p.s. from Gwen – Anne and Simon will be interested to hear how we have got on with 'Everybody Welcome' – part of the run up to the Ad Campaign. I'm not free that evening and will go one of these events elsewhere on another day, but it would be good if several from Trinity could attend on 31st March and speak about our experience. Kate might also like help serving tea etc.

Bucks Home Library Service

On page seven of the February *Recorder* is an appreciation of a book that I too read and found a rewarding experience. Not only would I recommend this as a good read but it gives a good opportunity to remind you of the Bucks Home Library Service. That is how I came to read Janet Soskice's *Sisters of Sinai*.

Getting to the public library became difficult as I got less mobile and transport became a problem. Now a volunteer comes to my house about every five weeks with a bag of books I have asked her to get, and she takes away the ones I have finished with. I give her a list of books I would like to read – books I have had recommended to me by friends, or through reading reviews of books, or old books I want to re-read. You can also borrow talking books and music.

This service costs me nothing. I surrendered my library ticket, pay no fines, and I can usually keep books and tapes for longer if required.

I made my first enquiries to the Chief Librarian at Hazlemere Library with a telephone call.

Olivia P



Remember to put your clocks *forward* an hour when you go to bed on Saturday 26th March!

A MISSION QUESTION & YOUR ANSWERS

When Paul, the first missionary to Europe, was in Athens he 'looked carefully' around him so as to find ways to speak about Jesus that would make sense to the Athenian people. We need that same missionary attitude today.

So, in church on Sunday 13 Feb., I asked everyone to answer a mission question. In that service we were finding out about our place in CWM Europe, and Junior Church had Zacchaeus for their WoRM theme for the month. The question drew these two themes together. It was:

How are lots of people in our country like Zacchaeus?

Here are your answers:

- *Greedy for money (especially banks!)*
- *And there are short people!*
- *And there are people giving money back e.g. giving to Biblelands.*
- *We are very money oriented with our capitalist society.*
- *Because they have lost sight of what is important in their spiritual life as compared to their secular life.*
- *Lots of tax collectors.*
- *Greediness.*
- *Large companies do make grants.*
- *Can't see for the crowd.*
- *Lots of us are short.*
- *Many are anxious to explore the Christian Faith.*
- *Seeking Jesus.*
- *Unable to see Jesus.*
- *Many people want to be called Christian but feel they are not wanting to give up their lifestyle.*
- *They're short!!*
- *They are seeking Jesus.*
- *They have exploited people and want to change their lives.*
- *They feel small and unloved.*
- *They are searching for some comfort (?)*
- *They are curious about 'celebrities'. Are they the answer? Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus – what was his original motive?*

Here are a few more answers from me (I've had longer to think about it!):

- *Rich in money, poor in relationships.*
- *Determined to see Jesus despite the crowd (for crowd, read 'church?').*
- *Already known to Jesus.*
- *In a hurry to welcome Jesus; happy to welcome him.*
- *Conscious that the moral majority look down on them and are critical.*
- *Totally transformed when Jesus comes in.*
- *Have a big impact on other people's lives economically, for good or ill.*
- *Loved by the Lord, who seeks and saves the lost.*

Keep looking carefully, and think about what you see with missionary eyes.





Update from **High Wycombe Youth for Christ** (February 2011)

Praises:

- Praise God for **Connect, the Christian Union at St. Bernard's**, at which there is a core group of young people attending. Over the recent weeks we have been discussing their views on the film 'The Miracle Maker' and looking at the creation story in Genesis. It was wonderful to see the young people confident in sharing their views and thoughts with their peers. It is a privilege to be a part of the group.
- The **prayer during The Zone Clubs**. After discussing how precious and loved we are by God, we had a time where we invited the children to pray and thank God. As we went around the circle, it was such a blessing to here many of the children talk to their heavenly Father and thank Him for His love. It reminded me of the verse '*From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise*' (Psalm 8:2a).
- Praise God for the support that has been offered to the **Helping Hands Project**. One of the staff at Beechview School said, '*thank you for brightening all our spirits with the lovely cakes your friends and colleagues have baked for us over the past few months.*' We have also been offered a variety of envelopes that we can offer to the schools too; the response has been amazing.
- Praise God for the **volunteers at WYFC**. They are a great blessing and a huge support to us and vital to enabling us to reach many children and young people.

Prayers:

- Please pray for strengthening and fruitful relationships at **Connect, St. Bernard's CU**. Although we already know a few of the young people, please pray that God will bless our relationships with them.
- Please pray for the **Primary Schools Work**. Pray that we would see God touch and move in the lives of the children and staff.
- Please pray for the **Lighthouse teaching and preparations** that we are doing. We have finalised the teaching outline, but now have the illustrations, games and activities to create and write! Please pray for inspiration, creativity and God's love to shine through.
- Pray for the **Helping Hands Project**; that as '*your light shine[s] before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*' Matthew 5:16 .
- Please pray for the **WYFC Team**; we are continuing to seek God for His future plans for us and we want to continue to follow Him. Please pray that we would hear His voice and be guided by Him in all our decisions.



I would like to thank everyone who provides the flowers each Sunday. I really appreciate their help and support.

However there are only a few of us so we could do with a few more volunteers to help spread the load. You don't need any expertise in flower arranging as all you need to do is provide some flowers, put them in a vase and distribute them at the end of the service.

If you need any more information please contact me.

Thanks
Ellen M

CHURCH AGM

TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2011

7.30pm

followed by the March Church Meeting

in the Sanctuary

EVERYBODY WELCOME!

Recycle it!

Don't forget - used inkjet cartridges can be recycled for the benefit of Christian Aid. I am happy to send them off (each envelope has to be registered to our account to ensure that the donation goes to the right place).

Get your dead cartridges to me and I will do the rest!

Angus

Things to think about . . .

A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that 'individuality' is the key to success.

Illegal aliens have always been a problem in the United States. Ask any Indian.

Life was a lot simpler when what we honoured was father and mother rather than all major credit cards.

I take my children everywhere, but they always find their way back home.

There are days when it takes all you've got just to keep up with the losers.

Every speaker has a mouth; An arrangement rather neat.

Sometimes it's filled with wisdom. Sometimes it's filled with feet.

Washington is a place where politicians don't know which way is up and taxes don't know which way is down.

Wycombe Abbey School link

Back in 2007 I was contacted by a family whose daughter had just come as a pupil to Wycombe Abbey School. She and her parents were keen that when she and her classmates were prepared for confirmation in year 10 URC belief and practice should be included in the course alongside the Anglican material. Discussions followed with the school's chaplain and it was agreed that I would supply a short paper for all the girls to have as part of their course, which is running this term. Recorder readers might be interested to read the paper (see below). It consists of selections from the URC website www.urc.org.uk.

The church this student belongs to has recently called a minister, so in the Easter holidays she will meet him for further preparation and will be received into church membership on 29th May.

The
United
Reformed
Church



Called to be God's people, transformed by the Gospel, making a difference in today's world. This is the United Reformed Church.

We believe that we are called to the Christian life by the Holy Spirit and that it is a joy and gift. 'Calling' is an important word in our tradition, because we believe that God is not an abstract idea or a distant force, but a living presence with whom we can enter into a close relationship. We believe that

God lovingly calls us, each one, into the community of the church; that there's something personal and very special about this.

But being a Christian is not only about this personal and individual relationship. It is also about being part of God's community in the Church and none of us can live well apart from the community of faith. We are like a vine which thrives on connection and which withers when cut. We all benefit from the corporate life of the Church, as we hear the Bible read and interpreted, as we receive God's gifts to us through the sacraments (of Baptism and the Lord's Supper) and as we share life together.

This means that being a Christian in the United Reformed Church will involve being part of a local church where these things can happen and where we can learn from other Christians and help one another grow in faith and understanding. Our Statement of the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church says nothing about the necessity for there to be bishops, priests or even ministers! The Church benefits greatly from being well led by our ministers (servants of the Church!), but their role is to enable the Church to be what it needs to be.

We believe that the local congregations to which we all belong are the whole Church in microcosm. When we are received into membership within a congregation we are received as members of the universal Church in one of its local expressions.

For the United Reformed Church, prayer for the unity of the church is very much at the heart of what it means for us to be the church. In a world which is finding it hard to know how to live with so much 'difference', a community so committed to building unity and peace has a

significant mission.

The 'reformed' part of our title refers to our particular roots in the period called the Reformation and especially our links with the communities who, like John Calvin's church in Geneva, came to call themselves Reformed. It's worth remembering that we come from those who never wanted to set up a separate 'Reformed' church, but who wanted to reform the whole (catholic) Church. You might say that the Reformers did not want to be anything but good catholic Christians. Of course we also believe that reformation is a continual process and that we do not reach a point of being 'reformed'.

Although one of the smaller mainstream denominations, the United Reformed Church plays a dynamic and challenging part in the British Christian community. It has brought together English Presbyterians, English, Welsh and Scottish Congregationalists, and members of the Churches of Christ, through unions in 1972, 1981 and 2000. Sixty-eight thousand people make up 1500 congregations, with nearly 700 ministers, paid and unpaid.

Worldwide, more than 70 million Christians are members of the Reformed family of churches. They uphold the historic Trinitarian creeds of the church universal and find the supreme authority for their lives in the Word of God in the Bible, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They order their lives through councils of the church, where ministers and lay people together seek the mind of Christ.



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Edward F (3 rd)	Andrew W (21 th)
Glyn E (4 th)	Pauline S (26 th)
Rebecca H (6 th)	Samuel E (28 th)
Robin G (9 th)	Marianne H (29 th)
Joy S (16 th)	James F (30 th)
Rose C (17 th)	

a Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.

Congratulations



and Best Wishes to
Steeve & Shevonne J (3rd)
Marion & Michael (25th)

on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary



Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 4th March. See last month's Recorder for further details

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

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

prayer page

The season of Lent

Grant us grace, Father, not to pass by suffering or joy without eyes to see. Give us understanding and sympathy, and guard us from selfishness, that we may enter into the joys and sufferings of others. Use us to gladden and strengthen those who are weak and suffering; that by our lives we may help others to believe and serve thee, and shed forth thy light which is the light of life.

HRL (Dick) Sheppard, 1880-1937.

O Lord and heavenly Father, who has given unto us your people the true bread that comes down from heaven, even your Son, Jesus Christ, grant that through this Lent our souls may so be fed by him that we may continually live in him and he in us; and that day by day we may be renewed in spirit by the power of his endless life, who gave himself for us and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Frederick B Macnutt, 1873-1949

Pray as you can, not as you can't.

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r
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h

2011

Whatever your work is, put your heart into it, as done for the Lord and not for human beings, knowing that the Lord will repay you by making you his heirs. It is Christ the Lord that you are serving.

Colossians 3.23-24 New Jerusalem Bible.

God is not a good habit
a useful Sunday exercise
one interest among others
a fascinating hobby.

God is life itself
He is Someone
not to be analysed
examined. proved
but to be met

And when that happens
Life unfolds
meanings matter
love is deeper.

Be still. Relax. Unwind.
Open those inner doors.

Howard Booth



Lord, protect us in the struggle against evil as we come before you seeking to be reconciled with you, ourselves, our neighbour and creation. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Prayer for Students

God of Light and Truth,
thank you for giving me
a mind that can know
and a heart that can love.
Help me to keep learning every day of my life,
for all knowledge leads to you.
Let me be aware of your presence
in all things and at all times.

Encourage me when work is difficult
and when I am tempted to give up;
encourage me when my brain seems slow
and the way forward is difficult.
Grant me the grace to put my mind to use
exploring the world you have created,
confident that in you there a wisdom
that is real.

Amen.

Charles Henderson