

With trumpets and sound of cornet make
a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.
[Psalm 98 - v6]



March 2014

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 place to belong

Spirituality - Prayer – Community – Welcome

Traditional or contemporary worship

The letter this month is recalling services we have shared together over the last few weeks. We have had worship led by a range of preachers, and only once we have had the same hymn two weeks running, however it is a very popular hymn, and it was the one I was considering reflecting on in this letter.

Immortal invisible, (R&S 67,) is a hymn that has been sung at Trinity for many years, but I don't think we had sung it for a good few months, but I am sure someone will correct me on that. It got me thinking how much I enjoy singing hymns I have known since my childhood.

I am a proponent of introducing newly penned songs, hymns and music. I think this is how we keep fresh. Look out for Graham Kendrick (though some of his hymns are firmly in the established collection now,) but also look for Matt Redman. You might be surprised about the amount of their music that you know. 10,000 Reasons, Blessed be Your Name (Matt Redman) or I will sing of your love for ever by Delirious are all songs we have enjoyed in worship. As a slight aside I would like to thank the music group for the warmth I feel they are bringing to our worship, and how we seem to be getting used to worshipping with them.

Do we need to get off the fence "Traditional" or "Modern"? Many churches have made their decisions on this matter and hold firm to their choice. Trinity is taking a different direction with worship, to remain in part at least traditional in our style, while not refusing to acknowledge new and exciting songs as they come along. Or perhaps Trinity has got it right, to work very hard trying not to turn away from a style that many of us enjoy, but also to try hard to embrace more modern aspects in our worship? I guess in fact you could consider music being just one part of a wider discussion?

This policy does bring a risk, after all didn't someone say you can't please all the people all the time, and isn't that what Trinity is attempting to do? It could be if we did not make sure everything we are doing we are doing well, or if we were embracing change, only because it is new not because it is right. But I pray that we are worshipping in the way that is best for us and for our Lord even if it is a blend of some more traditional, and more contemporary tunes. We are, I hope, pleasing most of the people, more of the time.

If considering this letter is challenging you because you think are making too much noise now and should only have hymns from our childhoods, I would take you to Psalm 98. O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory. (NIV) or Sing to God a brand-new song. He's made a world of wonders! He rolled up his sleeves, He set things right! (The Message) and yes, I would suggest to include both versions is correct, and our Lord will not be disappointed if we sing with passion, and volume.

Yours in Christ,


Simon

Minister :

Church Secretary : Mrs Sue Saunders,

March Services

Morning Worship at 10:30am

March 2	10.30	Morning worship with Holy Communion, led by Rev John Mackerness
March 9	10.30	Morning worship led by Rev Mike Wallace
March 16	10.30	All age worship, led by Margaret Howard from Amersham Free Church Worship Team
March 23	10.30	Morning worship led by John Shaw from Wendover
	4.00	Praise Service
 March 30		Morning worship led by Rev Erna Stevenson
April 6	10.30	Morning worship with Holy Communion - led by Rev Kate Pryde

Rotas for March

Not included in this version

What's on in March



Monday 17 March - 10.30am Wait & see! (Hostess: Norma Garden)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 4th March Celebrating Shrove Tuesday .
 Tuesday 11th March Dinner in Bethany
 Tuesday 18th March London's River
 Tuesday 25th March Quiz
 Tuesday 1st April April Fools and other Jokes



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

When is it?

Diary Dates

Event	Day	Date	Time	Venue
MARCH				
Communion Service led by Revd. John Mackerness	Sunday	2nd	10:30	Sanctuary
Vision 20/20	Wednesday	5th	09:30	Sanctuary
Elders Meeting	Wednesday	5th	20:00	LSR
Women's World Day of Prayer Service	Friday	7th	10:30	St. Augustine's, Amersham Hill
Coffee Morning	Saturday	8th	10:30	LSR
Worship Planning meeting	Monday	10th	10:30	Lionel Jowett room
Church meeting & AGM	Tuesday	18th	19:30	Crendon Hall
Vision 20/20 Prayer meeting	Wednesday	19th	09:30	Sanctuary
Coffee Morning	Saturday	22nd	10:30	LSR
Praise Service	Sunday	23rd	16:00	Sanctuary
5th Brigade	Saturday	29th	09:30	LSR & buildings
APRIL				
Vision 20/20	Wednesday	2nd	09:30	Sanctuary
Communion Service led by Revd. Kate Pryde.	Sunday	6th	10:30	Sanctuary

March 2014						
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					

Next month -
26th April

Not included in this version

Where is it at?

Trinity Bookworms



We meet on Wednesday March 5th at 2p.m. Hostess Joan Smith.
We shall be discussing 'The Catcher in the Rye by J D Salinger.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday April 3rd. Details not yet available

Trinity church



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

Women's World Day of Prayer 2014



Friday 7th March

The theme for 2014 is "Streams in the desert", prepared by the Christian women of Egypt.

The services for the town centre are:

10.30am. - St Augustine's, Amersham Hill Speaker - Angela Taplin

7.30pm. - Oakridge Baptist Church - Speaker: Judith Smith

What exactly is it?

*A great night's
entertainment!*

At what
time?

7:30

CHURCH AGM

Tuesday 18 March 2014

7.30 pm

followed by the March Church Meeting

in Crendon Hall

EVERYBODY WELCOME!

Words of “wisdom”

Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not using it in a fruit salad!

Last week, I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I had ever seen. I have since been visited by her sister, and now wish to withdraw that statement. [Mark Twain]

Are you going?

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. [George Burns]

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you. [Winston Churchill]

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury. [Groucho Marx]

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe. [Jimmy Durante]

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year. [Victor Borge]

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. [Mark Twain]

As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder. [John Glenn]

When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife. [Prince Philip]

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere. [Billy Crystal]

Having more money doesn't make you happier. I have 50 million dollars but I'm just as happy as when I had 48 million. [Arnold Swarzenegger]

I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it. [W. C. Fields]

When the white missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes. When we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land. [Desmond Tutu]

Of course. It will be a hoot!

ODE TO A PILL

Little pill here in my hand
I wonder how you understand
Just what to do or where to go
To stop the ache that hurts me so.

Within your content lies relief,
You work alone in disbelief,
You sink in regions there below
As down my throat you quickly go!

But what I wonder, little pill,
Is how you know where I am ill
And how do you really know
Exactly where you have to go?

I have a headache, that is true,
My broken ribs need attention too!
So how can anything so small
End my aches in no time at all?

Do you work alone, or hire a crew
To do the good things that you do?
I'm counting on you mighty strong
To get to there, where you belong.

Don't let me down, please do not shirk
To do your undercover work
So down my throat, be on your way
And end my aches for another day.
Don't take a wrong turn, is my plea ...
I can't take, another till after three!



ZIMBABWE John Kasondela is 42 years old and head of the Syamwaka village in the north-west of Zimbabwe. John has a great deal of responsibility as village head as well as the responsibility that comes with providing for 2 wives and 11 children!

Christian Aid partner, Christian Care, began helping John's community in March 2011, providing the most vulnerable members of the community with 5 goats and 8 chickens as well as a community 'goat dip' to keep disease rates in the goats low. Goat dipping works by submerging goats in treated water every two weeks to kill and prevent ticks and pests that cause fatalities among goats. Looking after goats leads to good breeding and all round programme success. A year or two after being given goats by Christian Care, beneficiaries have bred enough goats to pass on the starter number to a new community, giving the programme the name 'Passing-on-the-Gift'.

John describes how his life has been considerably transformed by the work of Christian Care but how there are still challenges, the biggest being water and distance to the goat dip. John says "I live 20km from the goat dip, which is too far to bring goats regularly. I have to walk 2.5km from my home to the nearest water source, which is also hard for the goats."

John hasn't killed or eaten any of the goats yet, but will sell some when he has more. He would like to build a shed for the goats with his family and one day he would like to have 40 goats.

GUATEMALA, Central America. Johanna lives in a house made of palm leaves. She's 11 but, although children grow at all different rates, Johanna is particularly small for her age. Sometimes when people don't grow properly it can be a sign of malnutrition – where people do not get enough of the right foods to eat to remain fit and healthy. Johanna's family is poor. They live in the mountains where for several months a year there isn't much food. During this 'hunger season' Johanna and her family survive only on plain tortillas (flat bread) with no fillings or toppings.

Food for thought - Johanna's three-year-old cousin Chelda was very sick because her family were only eating tortillas and she wasn't getting enough protein in her diet to help her grow. Christian Aid supports an organisation in Guatemala called Bethania, which runs the children's clinic where Chelda went to get better. It's been set up especially for children in the area who don't get enough to eat. The clinic is a fantastic place because it has helped save lots of children's lives.

BANGLADESH covers 147,570 km² with a population of 160 million people. The majority of rivers that meet the sea in Bangladesh's delta region come through India. The build up of silt brought down into this delta region makes temporary islands by the rivers banks. Over 30% of the population live below the poverty line with much of this poverty related to the natural disasters that affect the country; cyclones, hurricanes, flooding and arsenic poisoning.

DSK, meaning 'Health Centre for the Distressed,' is a secular organisation formed in 1975. It works out of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, dealing mainly with women's health issues. Conditions have improved since the days when a doctor could not examine or even see a woman patient except through a curtain. The giving of free education to girls up to the age of 12 has really helped, as many can read about better nutrition, health care and ways to stop high mortality rates.

In one area they have been working to provide hand wash facilities and a clean water supply. Pit latrines and septic tanks have been built to give better sanitation. The whole of Dhaka only has one treatment plant so they organise Vacutag lorries into high density areas to remove human waste products but people have to pay for this service.

DSK are encouraging the re-excavating of ponds to collect rainwater. This will not be salinated and could provide drinking water if simple pond sand filters (sand and woodchip for the water to pass through) are used to purify the water and remove any arsenic found naturally in some areas.

But the best example of great progress is the empowerment of women. The story is told of a local woman who was given a key to a cyclone shelter so she and others could meet as a forum. When the woman was asked to sign her name she started crying. She explained that when she was young she was always referred to as the 'daughter of' then 'wife of' or 'mother of'. It made her very proud to be seen as a person in her own right.

As with all development projects, any improvement in a situation must lead to greater empowerment of the community. So that in the future they have confidence to negotiate with local councils and even governments.

Chiltern Area Committee Newsletter *[edited]* February 2014

1. News from the churches

Kingsway Slough

- The Kingsway congregation continues in good heart for the future. The average size of Sunday congregations remains above thirty, despite very poor weather keeping a number of more elderly members confined at home and several others visiting relatives in Asia. We plan to baptise three children and one adult, and then welcome several new members at Easter and Pentecost.
- We have a few issues with our building but with our quinquennial survey currently being undertaken we hope to be able to address these issues. We have brightened the back of the worship space by installing a new window thanks to an anonymous donation, and this has made the area brighter for everyone who uses the area.
- Plans are progressing to deal with the increasing number of children attending Sunday services. Two rooms vacated by one of our main tenants are now being converted for use by the children, both on Sundays and during the week, and we are looking into methods and personnel for developing more formal instruction over the large age range represented (1 to 16!). We are also considering how best to bring children into full membership of the church as they grow in understanding and maturity. A pleasant outing to the Child Beale Trust was organised in the summer and a children's party in January at which the highlights were building a castle from the cardboard boxes in which new children's furniture had been delivered and an exciting game of dragons.
- With Linda Hillier also having oversight of Richings Park, we are looking into ways of developing closer links between the two congregations, the first being a joint magazine of which the first issue has just appeared. This new responsibility means that Linda takes a few less services at Kingsway, but we have been well-served by a number of lay preachers.

John Wilding

Trinity Slough

- They've had a new family join them with 5 children and have restarted their Sunday school. They have a weekly mother and toddler group, well attended. They're continuing with the Thursday lunch which is popular and well-attended. Two of their current members came into membership through having attended the lunches.
- They're proposing to embark on an ambitious trial scheme with the churches in Slough for an overnight shelter for the homeless during February, involving an evening meal, overnight accommodation and breakfast. Trinity Slough will do one night a week, needing six volunteers preferably from their own church to staff it. It's being organised by SHOC (Slough Homeless Our Concern).
- They have an IT expert within their congregation and they have set up a very good website. They also have a noticeboard on order which will inform passers-by what is happening at the church.

John Hoar, Area Link

Wendover Free Church

The life of the church continues to be active. We have been encouraged by several people coming into membership and a sense of people coming to church with greater regularity. Home groups have taken up a sermon course on the Psalms and as well as the continuing Book Group there is also now a Poetry Please group.

Emma Critchley

[continued overleaf]

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Chesham

We are enjoying the better facilities at Chesham since we returned after our building work. There are still quite a few snagging items to be finished, but we hope these will soon be completed. Autumn was busy with a Harvest Festival weekend, when we twinned our 3 new toilets to provide facilities for toilets in Africa. At the beginning of November we hosted a *Cards for Good Causes Shop* and each Saturday offered refreshments while this was open. In December six Christmas Trees were decorated by church groups to show what they did, e.g. one with prayers to be taken away, prayer cards to add, music notes, stars angels and cups of tea. The trees looked great in the church over the Christmas period and are now making a 'hedge' at the back of our building. We also hosted a dramatic reading of The Christmas Carol to raise funds for Parkinsons UK. Our Christmas worship was busy with quite a few new people joining us.

- Our Urchins toddlers group was restarted and we now have regularly 25 plus under fours every Monday with their parents, grandparents or carers.
- A good piano and a Clavinova have been purchased using a generous bequest and gifts. Our organ has just been unwrapped and is back in use. We are ready now to plan a series of concerts.
- Saturday morning Open Church has continued in the New Year and we have welcomed three clients from the adult learning disabilities group to help with our Wednesday Coffee Shop each week.
- We enjoyed a traditional Burns Night in January.
- Several new people have started to attend services regularly and we hope to see further growth during the year.

Bridget Powell

2. Churches to share their minister

Beaconsfield and Holtspur will be sharing their minister the Revd Nigel Douglas with Burnham after Nigel's induction on Saturday 19th April. Please remember them all in your prayers at this time of change.

3. Lay people taking communion or baptism services

We have recently been asked about the URC's policy on lay people celebrating communion or conducting baptisms. The policy is reproduced below but please do ask if you have any questions or concerns:

Lay people - including Accredited Lay Preachers – must seek the prior permission of the Chiltern Area Committee before taking services of baptism and communion.

- *Whilst the URC stipulates that Lay Preachers must seek prior approval from the Area Committee, an exception has been made only in the case of lay Interim Moderators, as they may be given permission by the Area Committee to celebrate communion only in the church in which they are serving, and only for the duration of their Interim Moderatorship.*
- *Lay Preachers (whether or not they are accredited) must seek prior permission from Area Committee to celebrate the sacraments of baptism and communion. Neither weddings nor funerals are seen as sacraments within the URC and therefore permission does not need to be obtained for these services. Celebrating the sacraments is a privilege of ministers ordained to word and sacrament, hence the reason why permission is required from Area Committees.*
- *Permission to celebrate communion or conduct a baptism should be sought from the Area Committee once it is agreed by the Church.*
- *An exception might be where a lay preacher is asked to conduct such a service at relatively short notice and the Area Committee is not due to meet again until after that date, whereby the Convenor and Secretary may take Officer Action to approve this and later ratify it at the next Area meeting.*

4. New County Ecumenical Officer for Bucks

The Revd Barrie Cheetham has been appointed as County Ecumenical Development Officer for Bucks, starting 7th April. Barrie currently serves as a URC minister in Banbury and other areas.



Happy Birthday



Glyn E (4th)
Rebecca H (6th)
Joy S (16th)
Rose C (17th)

Andrew W (21th)
Pauline S (26th)
Samuel E (28th)
Marianne H (29th)

Lesley B (5th April)



Congratulations



and Best Wishes to
Marion & Michael M (25th)

on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

with love from us all at Trinity.

Oh well. I might pop along.

*Yeh - do. Bring
your mates.*

Don't miss next month's Recorder to find out what the "conversation" was all about!

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published a week later than normal - on 6th April
Closing date for all contributions is Sunday 30th March*

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

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

prayer page

Praise the Lord, Praise his Holy Name,

Praise him in silence, praise him with voice and song,

Praise him with laughter, praise him through tears,

Praise him in success, praise him in failure,

Praise him in strength, praise him in weakness,

Praise him when resting, praise him when working,

Praise him at all times, praise him in all places,

The Lord is always there.

Praise the Lord.

Lord of the crashing waves, of the torrential rain, of the flooded fields and the hurricane winds, we thank you for courage in the face of disaster, for unselfish and untiring help for those in trouble, and for comradeship and gathering together in fellowship. With the Psalmist we acknowledge that you are our "refuge and strength".

Amen.

Heavenly Father, we confess that there are times when life seems too hard for us, faith is overshadowed by doubt and there is no hope for the future. Take our despair and doubt and use them in your service so that hope and faith can blossom as the rose in the desert. We pray in the name of your son, Jesus, our Saviour, who was tempted in the desert, ministered to by angels and came out to start his earthly ministry in fulfilment of your word.

Amen.



Praying in Lent.

As part of the observance of Lent it may be helpful to watch the news on television prepared to offer prayers inspired by stories or reports. These could be short 'arrow' prayers or longer intercessory prayers or prayers of thanksgiving, whatever the news item suggests.