



May 2003

# The Recorder

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Details of the various Postholders are attached as an appendix at the back of the Recorder

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

## ‘Living in Hope’

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**Rev. Michael Shrubsole**

**Minister of Trinity United Reformed Church**

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I've just finished writing my Easter Sunday sermon – words of hope about resurrection and eternity. I hope I have written good words for resurrection day, and it is entirely appropriate that the sermon for this particular Sunday in the year should be based upon the events of that first Easter two thousand years ago. I am aware that this resurrection hope has coloured the whole of my life. In a deep-down way it affects the way I think and talk about the meaning of life, it shapes what I say at funerals, it underpins my whole outlook on life.

Yet actually on a day-to-day basis I hardly ever think about resurrection at all. It would be a sad and deeply troubled person whose only hope was a resurrection hope. For most of us we have hope in many more things, most of them much more immediate and near at hand than a mysterious hope in eternal life. As our children and grandchildren grow we have hope for their future. Every year when we plant bulbs on damp autumn days or sow seeds in the cool of springtime, we do so in the hope of warmer, sunnier weather and future growth. We set out on long journeys hoping to arrive safely. We move to new jobs, new houses, and new communities hoping for a better life. We invest time, money, energy and emotion into so many things, and all done in hope. Are we failing to be Easter people, children of the resurrection, when we behave in this way? I don't think so.

Jesus told his disciples often enough that he had come to die and rise again (see Mark 8:31-32). But that did not seem to shape his active ministry. In the three years of his ministry of preaching, teaching, miracles and healing, Jesus' everyday concern with the crowds of ordinary people that he met was quite different to the secret concern he shared with his disciples. To the general public he came offering a different, more practical hope. "The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news." (Mark 1:15)

I hope resurrection hope underpins your outlook on life. But do you also have a daily hope in the signs and evidence of the kingdom of God that is so near to you, if only you open your eyes to see, and your hands to reach out and touch? Easter celebrations may strengthen your eternal hope. But what are you also doing to strengthen your hope for the coming day? Now that Easter Sunday is past I urge you not to neglect the kind of Christian fellowship and nurture that will encourage your hope on a daily basis. Because of this I recommend the Church Weekend – 13<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> June 2003 to you.

With this Recorder comes a leaflet inviting you to our Church Weekend for 2003. 'TRINITY 2003 - THE PLACE TO BE'. I hope you will give serious consideration to attending. Those who came on our last weekend away in 2001 all confirmed that they had a very a good time. The feed-back was very positive. Our church weekend this year promises in many ways to be even better than two years ago. This weekend will suit all members of the church family, young and old. Prices are very affordable and we have a confidential bursary scheme so that no one need stay away for financial reasons. Talk to me or any of the planning team if you want to know more.

*Mike*

Minister : Rev Michael Shrubsole,
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e-mail : <a href="mailto:minister@trinity-urc.org.uk">minister@trinity-urc.org.uk</a>
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Church Secretary: Mrs Margaret Lewis,
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e-mail: <a href="mailto:secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk">secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk</a>
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## May Services

### Morning Worship (10.30 am)

Children of all ages meet for part of morning worship using the SALT material from Scripture Union. Adult worship usually follows the texts of the Revised Common Lectionary.

4<sup>th</sup> May - Morning Worship with Communion: Luke 24:36-48, Acts 3:12-19, 1 Peter 3:18-22

11<sup>th</sup> May - Morning Worship: Visiting Preacher: Revd Roberta Rominger our Synod Moderator.  
John 10:11-18, Acts 4:5-12, 1 John 3:16-24

18<sup>th</sup> May - All-age Morning Worship: Led by our young people. John 15:1-8, Acts 8:26-40,  
1 John 4:7-21

25<sup>th</sup> May - Morning Worship: John 15:9-17, Acts 10:44-48, 1 John 5:1-6

### Evening Worship (6.30pm)

As an experiment we are exploring the use of different communion liturgies over the next few months. Orders of Service are being used from a variety of sources. Some are old and some are new. What will different words and practices bring to our experience of sharing together in communion? Come and find out.

18<sup>th</sup> May - Communion : This month we look again at the latest Church of England communion module from Common Worship

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## Rotas for May

Not included in this version

# What's on in May



Monday 12th May - Speaker - Edna Walker - "Trinity's History"  
(Hostess - Daphne Murnane)

Monday 26th May - *Spring holiday - no meeting*

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 6th May

Video: - St Paul's Cathedral

Tuesday 13th May

Christian Aid - Bring & Buy

Tuesday 20th May

Rev Alan Kirkcaldy

Tuesday 27th May

Cathy Rose - Red Kites in the Chilterns Officer



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*

scrabble

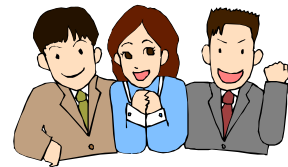
Abandon your gardening for an afternoon.  
Relax your body - exercise your brain!

9th and 23rd May

*at 2pm*

## Young People's Group

11<sup>th</sup> May Chocolate Evening (Sunnybank)



## CHURCH WALK

Saturday 1st May...



I am leading an easy-paced walk for Wycombe District Ramblers starting at 10.30am from the Piddington lay-by by the Dashwood Arms public House (grid ref 808942). Anyone from the church is invited to join us with their friends. The walk is approximately 3½ miles.

Not included in this version

**Chiltern/St Albans District Day**

**DARE YOU GO  
BEYOND THE THRESHOLD?**

***Threshold:** the place or point of entering; the limit of consciousness; the point at which a stimulus begins to bring a response; the minimum intensity or pressure of sound wave which the normal hearer can just detect; the sill of a building's doorway; the outset. (Webster's Dictionary.)*

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May  
11.00 – 4.30**

at Adeyfield Free Church, Leverstock Road, Hemel Hempstead.

**Morning Session:**

'*The Myth of the Empty Church*' a talk by Rex Walford, immediate past Chairman of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators, past President of the Geographical Association, Fellow of Wolfson College, Member of Board of Anglia Television.

**Afternoon Session:**

Including a celebrity panel question time to include: our Moderator, Revd Roberta Rominger, a local MP, a senior Church of England spokesman, possibly plus other celebrity guests. Leaflets are available at the back of the church.

Register your interest direct with President of District, Mr David Eldridge on 01494 431432, or sign the attendance list on the church noticeboard. (M.S.)

**Church Weekend – 13-15 June 2003 – St. Katharine's, Parmoor.**

Details and booking forms are now available. See the leaflet with this edition of the Recorder. Spare leaflets are available at the back of the church, or see Mike Shrubsole or Daphne Murnane for further details.

Your bookings should be sent in immediately, don't delay. We need to act soon to confirm the room allocations, and set up the resources we will need to prepare your stimulating programme for our weekend together. First come – first served. (M.S.)

Zimbabwe

March 2003

**Food crisis update**

A recent report from the UN's Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) indicates that the food crisis is deepening at a time when half the population is already reliant on food aid. Poor rains especially in the Midlands and Masvingo provinces leave 100 per cent crop failure as a real possibility.

Just recently Christian Aid has approved another grant from the emergency appeal to the Dabane Trust to provide food aid for 80,000 households in Matabeleland - where poor soils and low rain have affected crop farming. Each family will be given 25kg of maize meal to ensure that seeds that have been recently received will be planted and not eaten.

Silveira House, whose sustainable agriculture programme is based in Marondera South, is not in the worst affected area, and in spite of the difficulties the farmers they train continue to be able to cultivate their land. The Silveira House compound in Harare is just starting to re-open programmes that had recently been forced to close due to shortages of supplies.

**Unravelling the wonders of the natural world - Silveira House Sustainable Agriculture**

Janet Mkombwe is happiest when moving round the rural areas on her motorbike. The farmers with whom she works know her well, and respect her wide knowledge of soils, plants, insects and human needs. Janet's bubbly personality endears her to all she comes in to contact with, They trust that she has their best interests at heart.

Sustainable agriculture is about getting back to the fundamentals of the relationship of soil, plants and humans and putting into practice many techniques which are not new but are not widely practised or have been forgotten. Janet's job is to teach small-scale farmers that traditional methods are actually the most productive. Trying to pull apart the different strands of sustainable agriculture is not easy. One technique or plant can have more than one purpose - plants to keep rats away from the compost heap, plants for their herbal properties, plants for income, plants for nutrition.

Often a starting point for farmers is water-harvesting, collecting rainwater with small dams, ponds (in which fish can be kept), using 'grey' water from the kitchen to water plants, digging fertility trenches and circular beds so that every drop of water lasts as long as possible for use on the crops.

Companion planting, another technique, is all about planting strategically so that one plant benefits from its neighbour - or at least does not compete for precious nutrients with its neighbour. Plants are not grown in straight rows, but 'intercropped'. So a cabbage is planted next to a leek so that the onion repels pests. Legumes are important to fix nitrates, lemon grass repels insects and is good as a herbal remedy for colds, its roots hold the soil so prevent erosion and the stalks can be used in mulching or for animal fodder. Milkweed attracts aphids away from crops. Pest control is important and nature offers dozens of different ways.

The added ingredient is enterprise. Janet freely admits that her ideas are not the final word on what works best. She encourages her farmers to have a go at experimenting with ideas. Sherry Murandu has had a go at making different types of jam to sell and making her own cola. The cola has not been easy to sell as people are used to the 'real' thing in cans.

Janet also has to maintain the demonstration garden at Silveira House where many of her ideas, and those of Edson Mashudu before her, are put into practice. When farmers come on courses they get to see that these traditional techniques do work. Seeing is believing. Her belief in a better way of farming is spreading hope.

*How well did you do in last months "Books of the Bible" quiz? There were 16 to find in the three paragraphs below, as shown.*

I once made the remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu: kept some people looking so hard for facts and for others, it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers: to others, it was a real job.

We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better.

See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible for you to seek out.

## **Christian Resources Exhibition**

**13-16 May 2003**

**Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey**

Tickets £4 in advance, £6 on the door. Concessions available.

Over 320 exhibitors

96 Seminars

Worship, entertainment, music

Thursday is Youthwork Resourcing Day with specially themed seminars and activities.

For more information go to: [www.creonline.co.uk](http://www.creonline.co.uk)

## **Just Share Day**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

**May Day 2003 in the City of London**

As globalisation intensifies, the divisions between rich and poor countries continue to grow. The churches are responding. Please join us at our events for global economic justice.

control capital cancel the debt invest ethically transform the WTO protect the earth

**1.00pm.** Lunchtime service at St Mary le Bow, Cheapside with Rt Rev Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, Garth Hewitt and choir.

**2.45-4.00pm** Rally at St Botolph's, Bishopsgate with Harriet Lamb, Director of Fairtrade Foundation, Rev Dr Leslie Giffiths, Kwesi Owusu, Director of Southern Links, Garth Hewitt

Website: [www.justshare.org.uk](http://www.justshare.org.uk)

Tel: 020 7916 8632

Email: [justshare1@hotmail.com](mailto:justshare1@hotmail.com)

Dear friends

**2002 and 2002 year end accounts**

I am pleased to report that the 2002 year end accounts were adopted at the March AGM. If anyone has not received a copy and would like one please let me know.

The following recommendations were agreed at the AGM:

- Closure of the Heating and E J Ward Legacy Funds, which are now exhausted of cash
- Transfer of £1439.79 from the Minister's Car Fund to the Manse Fund
- Future fund management from the following, 2002 year end basis:-

	£
Benevolent and Education fund	239.83
Junior church special project	296.41
Minister's Discretionary fund	1416.55
Castle Flower fund	198.55
Minister's car fund	436.76
Manse fund	1000.00
Sound system fund	600.00
Restoration fund	0

At the end of my first year as Treasurer there is much good news to report.

We have placed the finances of the church on an even keel for the next eighteen months to two years through generous increases in giving, a review of Crown House rental of our premises and holding our M&M payments in 2003 at 2002 levels.

Additionally, we secured a grant from Synod, which covered over half our exceptional expenditure on buildings renovation / maintenance.

This has been a real team effort involving everyone on the Finance Committee to whom I owe a debt of gratitude for all their support in 2002.

We now need to turn **reaction** into **pro-action** and use the breathing space created for the next couple of years to deliver our vision, deliver suitable buildings to expedite that vision and strengthen our numbers. Quite a task . . . but our resolve this year shows that anything is possible, with God's help.

**I an Buchanan**

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*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 25th May.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 16th May.*

Recorder Editor :

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

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



## Dates for your diary - this month:-

### Line Dancing

Have you got Friday the **2<sup>nd</sup> May** earmarked in your diary ? I hope so because we have 2 charming ladies coming to show us some easy line dances. It will be a fun evening, starting at 7.30 pm in Crendon Hall and will only cost £1 per head ( the rest of your body gets in free! ) Do come along and enjoy this evening, if you possibly can, and bring your friends with you so that we have a good crowd and the shy ones can hide in the centre. Hope to see you there.

### Church Coffee Morning

Our monthly coffee morning for May will be held on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>** but starting at the usual time of 10.30 am and finishing at 12 noon. We have changed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> as this is District Day at Hemel Hempstead.

### Elders Meeting

Tuesday **6<sup>th</sup> May**, 7.30pm in the Schoolroom.

### Christian Aid Collections

Is anyone free during the week of **11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May** to take me up on my offer of help with their slimming or exercise programme (as advertised in last month's Recorder). If so I would be pleased to hear from you and what road you would like to collect from. (ML)

### Church Meeting

Tuesday **13<sup>th</sup> May**, 8.00pm. in the Schoolroom. *N.B. Note that due to Minister's training attendance at Spring School, this is not a 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday.*

*. . . and further ahead*

### Church Spring Clean and Odd Jobs Morning.

**7<sup>th</sup> June** (9.30 – 12.30 pm). Come with your old clothes, cleaning materials and tool kits to give a morning of care to our building. To volunteer or get more information please talk to Mike or any of the members of Property Management Committee.

### Church Gift Day

**8<sup>th</sup> June** On Pentecost Sunday you will be invited to bring a special gift to support the work of the church in aid of one of our special projects for 2003. Letters providing more information will be available soon.

### Beauty Session

Saturday **21<sup>st</sup> June** from 2pm – 6 pm in Crendon Hall, Rose C is organising a beauty afternoon, so put this date in your diary ladies and come along and be pampered, more details next month.

**13<sup>th</sup> July - Commitment for Life Sunday.** New and old supporters of Commitment for Life are asked to review again their response to the challenge to give 1% of their income to the Commitment for Life cause. Our special project is the Silvera House agriculture and development project in a rural part of Zimbabwe. This is a hurting part of the world which much needs our support at this time.

### Church Picnic

**13<sup>th</sup> July** We meet after morning worship at Coates Lane Recreation Ground. Very much our established format. Fun and games for the active ones, quiet relaxation for the less active. All very welcome to attend.

## Lay Development Fund

Do you have a need to learn to help you in the service of the church and community? Would you like financial assistance with your training? Could you use a maximum grant of £250 per year to help you train?

Contact our Minister, Mike Shrubsole, or our Synod Training Officer, Fiona Thomas, (Tel: 020 8556 0207, Email: ftplanter@aol.com) for more details of the Lay Development Fund. This fund is open to all church applicants. If you need help, this might be where you can get it. (M.S.)

## Wycombe Prayer – May Meeting

### Calling all Intercessors

Prayers for those who wish to intercede for local issues concerning church and community. All welcome.

Venue this month: Elim Church, Lane End.  
6.00-9.00a.m. Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

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## Prayer Circle for Healing Meeting

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 6.30pm. in the Sanctuary**

Regular and any new members of the Prayer Circle are invited. (M.S.)

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## ‘Tempting Fete’

The irresistible new revue show.  
Riding Lights Roughshod Theatre  
Company

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 8.00pm.  
Mill Lane School Community Hall,  
Mill Lane, Chinnor.

Admission £5, concessions £3  
Box Office: 01844 274827

So many tempting treats on offer – so please feel free to help yourself ...but which sideshow will attract you the most? Tempting Fete is a deliciously funny, heart stopping, thought provoking and moving collection of sketches based on Bible stories, more recent history and straight from the imagination of the writing team.

Full tour details: [www.ridinglights.org](http://www.ridinglights.org)

## Prom Praise Picnic

with the All Souls Orchestra - led by  
Noel Tredinnick

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2003  
from 3.30pm. onwards.

Bulstode, Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross  
Headquarters of WEC International

View the buildings and grounds of this historic house, visit the exhibitions, bring a picnic, rugs and chairs.

**6.00 -7.00pm Prom Praise Part One**  
**7.20 – 8.15pm Prom Praise Part Two**

Tickets £10 or £12 per person.

From: Gold Hill Baptist Church,  
Gold Hill Common,  
Chalfont St Peter, Bucks, SL9 9DG

Telephone enquiries: 01753 887173

## **Synod Quiet Day**

### **'A Journey Through the Psalms'**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June  
at the Boys' Brigade Conference Centre  
Feldon Lodge, Hemel Hempstead.  
10.15 – 4.00

**FREE**

Led by Mary Sketch, lay Roman Catholic, Quiet Garden Movement, trained Spiritual Director, lecturer in Prayer on the Chiltern Training Programme.  
Bring a packed lunch.  
Day opens with coffee and ends with communion.  
See posters on display in the church for a little more information.  
Bookings to: Bob Allen, Thames North Synod, Ipalo House, 32/34 Peter Street, London, SW1P 2DB. Tel: 020 7799 5000. Email: bob.allen@urc10.org

## **Synod Resources Day**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June**  
**The City Temple, Holburn Viaduct**  
**10am – 4pm**

A one day event open to all Ministers, Elders and any other church leaders and officers. Come and meet the Synod office-holders and staff. Have brief consultations about church business. Synod and national resources available on display. Special interests section and lectures on the theme of Worship and Liturgy resources and ideas. (M.S.)

## **Church Bible Study/Home Groups**

### **Open All Hours**

Groups will restart:

Mondays: 28<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00-12noon at 21 Westover Road  
Wednesdays: 8<sup>th</sup> May, 8.00-10.00pm at the Manse.

The new, major Synod resource, the 'Open All Hours' pack has now arrived and the groups will begin to look over the next few weeks at some of the material, ideas and activities in the book. Are we an 'open' church, and in what ways can we become more open? (And this has hardly anything to do with doors on buildings!) If you would like to study the 'Open All Hours' pack you are welcome to attend either of these groups. You are encouraged to contact Mike for further information if you would like to express a new 'first time' interest in coming along. (M.S.)

# Prayer Page

(Prepared by the nightbirds)

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a  
y

2003

Dear God, we give thanks for all your goodness to us. We thank you at this time for the beauty of our countryside, the long sunny days and the new life we see around us.

During Christian Aid Week we pray for all "House to House" collectors as they offer themselves for service. They go forward in faith trusting their contribution will make a difference to our brothers and sisters in need. We pray for all activities held during this week throughout the country.

We pray for our Armed Forces.

We pray for American and Australian Forces.

We pray for all people of Iraq.

We pray for all war casualties and their families.

We pray for all World Leaders and trust they are guided wisely.



Hear our prayer, Lord, for ourselves, our families and our friends. Help and guide us as we strive to fulfil our Trinity Vision. We pray for all members who are ill, housebound, lonely or worried, and trust they know your blessing and undying love.