



May 2004

# The Recorder

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*An edited version of this magazine is now available on the Church Web-site.  
(Personal details are NOT included.)*

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

**Trinity - A Family Church**

**Worshipping together - Caring for one another - Sharing with others**

## 'Turning Strangers into Angels'

Revd. Michael Shrubsole

Minister of Trinity United Reformed Church

"Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:1-2)

What the writer to the Hebrews had in mind was the story of Abraham offering hospitality to God's angelic messengers, as recorded in Genesis chapter 18. But it doesn't have to be a miraculous story like this for you to 'entertain angels'. As you probably know, the basic meaning of the word 'angel' is 'messenger' and any person could be God's messenger. But you have to let people get close to you, you have to make the space and time in your life, before others can have any opportunity to share with you what message they might have. It is only by being hospitable, by practicing the simple art of entertaining others that we make the time to talk and listen, to really share with others on a deep enough level for meaningful conversations to take place.

You might think Sunday morning is a good church time for sharing, for some it might be, but for many people the short time they spend socialising in church only makes possible the briefest conversations about superficial things, perhaps the exchange of essential information to keep the business of the church ticking over. I think it is a really helpful idea to have coffee served after every service. It increases the relaxing and friendly nature of our time together. And sometimes we use that time well. I am very grateful to the unsung servants who offer their time preparing, serving and clearing away the coffee and tea. But it isn't enough.

I'm usually one of the very last people to leave the building each Sunday, yet I am aware how few of the congregation I will actually manage to say anything at all to during the time after the service. And I'm trying hard to circulate! Some Sundays I even have a list of people I want to meet and talk to, and even with this sense of purpose and direction I often only manage to speak to about half of the people on the list before everyone has gone home, and I'm left clutching a pile of papers that will then need mailing out, or dealing with over the phone, or hand delivering.

I'm not complaining, just pointing out that even though coffee after church is very valuable, it has its limitations. Group socialising is not the same as practicing hospitality. Quick chats are not a good way of getting to know people better. Large parties and social gatherings are not the place for deep and meaningful conversations. If you want to turn strangers into angels, if you want to really talk, then you need to practice hospitality. And this doesn't have to be sophisticated or expensive. The fewer people involved, the more time there is for each other. The simpler the food, the more time there is to really talk and listen. Just a coffee with a friend can create a quality sharing time. To be hospitable is to open yourself up to the prospect that another person might have a meaningful influence on your life, if only you let them in. And remember, the host is the one that has to listen; if you have something to say, if you have an agenda of your own, then you're organising a meeting and not practicing hospitality. Don't forget the difference.

Go on; make space for an angel in your life.

Mike

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Rev Michael Shrubsole,

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Mrs Margaret Lewis,

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

## May Services

### Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> May** - Morning Worship with Communion. John 10:22-30, Acts 9:36-43, Revelation 7:9-17

**9<sup>th</sup> May** - Morning Worship. Led by Mrs Shirley Knibbs. John 13:31-35, Acts 11:1-18, Revelation 21:1-6

**16<sup>th</sup> May** - All-age Worship Christian Aid Week Service. John 5:1-9, John 14:23-29, Acts 16:9-15, Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

**23<sup>rd</sup> May** - Morning Worship. John 17:20-26, Acts 16:16-34, Revelation 22:12-21

**30<sup>th</sup> May** - Pentecost Sunday. Morning Worship. John 14:8-17, Acts 2:1-21, Romans 8:14-17

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### Rotas for May

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in May



Monday 10th May - Trinity History Continued - Edna Walker  
(8pm. Hostess - Lesley Bogart)

Monday 24th May - Calligraphy Lesson - Louise Shrubsole  
(8pm. - in the Lower Schoolroom)

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 4th May Speaker : Jo Hazelton - Fresh Noise  
Tuesday 11th May Christian Aid - Bring & Buy  
Tuesday 18th May Speaker :- Andrew Winton - China  
Tuesday 25th May Hymns and Readings for Pentecost



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*

## 14th and 28th January

at 2pm -

Scrabble

During the month of the surfeit of Bank Holidays, don't let  
your little grey cells go to sleep.  
Keep them active at the Scrabble sessions

## Church Walk

### Spring Bank Holiday - Monday 31st May



Anyone who would like an easy stroll of about 2½ miles should  
meet at the top of West Wycombe Hill at 10.30am. No long steep  
hills, but not suitable for push-chairs. More details from Olive S.

**Not included in this version**

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## **Prayers for Christian Aid Week**

### **A prayer from the Dominican Republic**

The sun offers its gift of warmth,  
the sea offers its gift of water,  
the mountains give their coolness and their beauty,  
the breeze refreshes creation.  
And we too bring our gifts so that all may have life.  
Lord, use them to fill the world with peace and justice,  
so that every home can have its daily bread.  
*Amen.*

### **A collector's prayer**

Lord of life,  
underneath me are two feet –  
    please may they do this task willingly;  
in front of me are rows of doors –  
    please may they open to me cheerfully;  
in my hand are dozens of envelopes –  
    please may they be filled generously;  
in my heart are millions of needy people –  
    may all I do this week make this  
    a world in which they can thrive.  
*Amen.*

## Diary

### **Elders Meeting - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm. in the Schoolroom**

*Our Minister is away at Spring School from 8-13<sup>th</sup> May.*

### **Coffee Morning - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30-12.00am. in the Schoolroom**

### **Finance Committee Meeting -Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, in the Schoolroom**

### **Prayer Circle for Healing - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30pm. in the Sanctuary**

All welcome to attend this church prayer meeting, which has a particular focus on the pastoral needs of members of our congregation. We meet to share a prayerful concern for the needs of each other. We have not met since the autumn and tonight is a bit of a re-launch. Do come and share with the Minister, Elders and others with a pastoral concern as we support each other through our prayers.

### **Church Meeting - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 8.00pm. in the Schoolroom.**

### **Property Management Committee Meeting - Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 8.00pm. in the Schoolroom.**

## **OTHER EVENTS IN MAY**

### **Christian Resources Exhibition**

**11-14<sup>th</sup> May** - Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey

See the noticeboards for further information. A full day out of exhibitors, lectures, demonstrations and entertainment. Far too much to do in one day. If you need any kind of Christian resources to support you in any area of church activity you really will find it here! The best exhibition of its kind in the country.

## **OTHER CHURCH DATES FURTHER AHEAD**

**\*\*\* Get these dates in your diary now! \*\*\***

**Church Gift Day** – Trinity Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June. This year we are asking for donations to go towards the special projects that are part of our plans to make improvements to our buildings.

**Church Picnic** – Father's Day, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Meeting as usual after morning worship on Hughenden Park. Fun and games for the young and energetic. A chance to relax and chat for the more mature among us.

**Commitment for Life Day** – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 10.30am. Our annual appeal to consider the Commitment for Life 1% of income challenge to support the work of our chosen partners – Silvera House in Zimbabwe.

### **Chiltern District of the URC – District Day – Walking in Faith**

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 3.00 – 7.00pm. Meet with Christians from all our Chiltern churches. Something for all ages and abilities. Labyrinths, Guided Meditative Walks, Shared Tea, Worship. More information available soon.

**Harvest Thanksgiving** – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Morning All-age Worship at 10.30am. To be followed by a church lunch? Your views on this would be appreciated. Let our minister or church secretary know what you think about having a harvest lunch. Attendance has not been high in the last couple of years. Is it time to stop, or to revamp the idea? Are there offers of new ideas and new volunteers to revitalise this social occasion? Is it primarily for the old folk, or for families, or can an event work for both? Or would everyone rather go home after worship? Should we invite a guest speaker? Could we connect more closely with a charitable cause? Also to consider- who needs our harvest gifts for 2004? What do you think?

## *A day in another world*

Experience the excitement, the vision and the reality of Bible translation.  
All in just six hours!

## Share the experience

You've heard of Wycliffe. You know they do something involving Bible translation. You may already know quite a bit more. Perhaps you already support a linguist or a computer specialist, or a teacher, or an administrator, or anyone in the many different parts of the team. But how does it all fit together? You don't have to travel to Africa or Asia to find out! We'd like to invite you to spend a day with us at **The Wycliffe Centre, Horsleys Green on Saturday 15 May 2004**, and get into their world. The Wycliffe Experience takes you there and shows you how it's done.

### **What will it involve?**

You don't need a passport or vaccinations. Just come, on your own or with a group. We'll introduce you to some of the people who are serving God in a variety of ways and in a variety of places, helping bring the Bible to people in their own mother tongue.

We'll give you a glimpse of what it's like to live in some of the countries where we're working: how to buy your daily food in the market, for example.

We'll give you an idea of what's involved in creating a written language from scratch, translating, and teaching people to read for the first time so they can use their Bibles.

And we'll share with you our vision for completing the task God has given us. You can find out ways in which *you* can help - it might surprise you!

**When is it, and how do I get on board?** The day runs from 10.30am to 4.30pm. There is no charge (lunch is included), but we do need firm reservations as places are limited.

Contact Ann Austin on 01494 793099, email her at [ann\\_austin@wycliffe.org](mailto:ann_austin@wycliffe.org), or speak to Mike Shrubsole for further information.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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01 April 2004

Dear Church Leader

Re: BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY CELEBRATION

We are writing to all the local churches to let you know that we are organising an Evening Service of Celebration Worship in the marquee at WEC, Bulstrode, Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross (off the A40 between Gerrards Cross and Beaconsfield) on Sunday, May 2nd at 6.00pm.

Joel Edwards will be speaking on the theme of "THE CHURCH AND THE NATION". Joel, born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1951, arrived in Britain in 1960. After a theology degree at London Bible College, he spent a decade as a Probation Officer, and in 1988, became General Secretary of the African Caribbean Evangelical Alliance, whose role is to bring black churches together. Four years later he became UK Director of the EA, and, finally, General Director in 1997. He has written two books and frequently broadcasts on the radio. Joel and his wife have two children. He remains an ordained Minister of the New Testament Church of God - one of the UK's largest Black denominations.

We would be delighted to welcome you and the members of your congregation to this joint-churches celebration event.

May God continue to bless you and your fellowship as you work together to reach out into the local community.

Kind regards,

**Alison Haddock - Administrator, Gold Hill Baptist Church, Chalfont St Peter.**

### ***Living life to the full***

Christian Aid Week begins on 9 May, and the money raised this year will be used to improve people's lives in more than 50 countries worldwide. One of the places that Christian Aid has recently begun working in is the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan. Here, as in many other poor countries, money raised in Christian Aid Week is being used to help people live life to the full.

Khurshed Khuinov is 17 and lives in Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe. He shares one room in a city hostel with his mother and five brothers and sisters. Life in the hostels is bleak and dangerous, so the organisation Zumrad, which is supported by Christian Aid, runs youth clubs to improve the lives of vulnerable children and give them emotional support. They enjoy climbing and camping expeditions, as well as workshops in which they make their own rucksacks and tents.

Zumrad is one of ten partner organisations in Tajikistan supported by Christian Aid. Tajikistan is one of the poorest countries in the world outside Africa, and Christian Aid began to work there quite recently. Situated in central Asia, north of Afghanistan, it was part of the Soviet Union until independence in 1991.

Subsequently the economy has collapsed, and there has been a bitter civil war. One in three workers is jobless, and vulnerable people such as children and the elderly have little or no support. Children are particularly at risk if they are orphaned. Fifty thousand were orphaned during the war, and many more have parents who have been forced to leave home and seek work in Russia. Huge state orphanages provide schooling and shelter, but they are overcrowded and poorly resourced. Children living in these conditions are stigmatised, often do not have enough to eat, and are starved of affection. In Khurshed's case, his family's situation was made harder because of his poor health. Until he was 12, he had to walk on crutches. 'After two operations the doctor succeeded in fixing my bones,' he explains. 'My family wanted to buy a house, but they used the money for the operations. Life became very difficult for us. So now we live in a hostel.'

For ten years, Zumrad has given children such as these a richer education and deeper relationships than are possible in an orphanage or hostel. They offer camping expeditions in the mountains, with teenage children learning a range of climbing and environmental skills.

'I thought I would never be able to walk as normal, but I have been hiking with Zumrad for four years,' says Khurshed. 'At first it was really hard. But it is so important for me. When I come on hiking trips, I feel at home. I'm not afraid of the difficulties now. I'm going to be an artist. So I am not just looking around; I am studying the countryside and keeping it in my head.'

By attending local clubs several times a week, the young people also learn the sewing skills they need to make their own rucksacks, tents and clothing. Courses in computing and English mean that they can improve their potential. But perhaps most important of all is that Zumrad provides a safe place where children find genuine care and can develop higher hopes for the future.

A £25 gift to Christian Aid buys the materials for ten young people to make their own rucksacks for a camping expedition.

By supporting Christian Aid Week, you are among millions of people who think poverty is a scandal we do not have to accept. Your actions, commitment and contributions will bring about a better life for people in poor communities all over the world.

### ***Gifts that change lives***

Donations made in Christian Aid Week, 9-15 May 2004, will transform lives around the world:

£5 buys rice for a family in Sierra Leone to plant, providing food, income, and seeds for the next season

£10 pays for taps and troughs to provide two villages in Bolivia with a safe and reliable water supply

£15 trains a Guatemalan woman in business techniques, and gives her the opportunity to learn how to make a sustainable living

£17 provides a month's food rations for four Burmese refugees. Completing the Gift Aid declaration would provide them each with a blanket too.

By supporting Christian Aid Week, you are among millions of people who think poverty is a scandal we do not have to accept. Your actions, commitment and contributions will bring about a better life for people in poor communities all over the world.



### ***What's wrong with world trade?***

'International trade between my country and the West is like an antelope and a giraffe competing for food which is at the top of a tree. You can make the ground level but the contest will still not be fair,' says Dr Robert Aboagye-Mensah, General Secretary of the Christian Council of Ghana, a Christian Aid partner.

In Christian Aid Week, 9-15 May, people around the country will be joining together to highlight the fundamental imbalances of world trade.

Christian Aid is working with other organisations to campaign for trade justice – not free trade – with the rules weighted in favour of poor people. It is calling on world leaders to stop forcing poor countries to open their markets. Poor countries must be allowed to protect and support their vulnerable farmers and developing industries. Then trade can become a positive force which will help them out of poverty.

Christian Aid's campaigning is rooted in the Christian faith. It is clear that throughout the Bible, how the poor are treated is critically important. 'Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, therefore I command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land".' (Deuteronomy 15:11)

Christian Aid believes that the Biblical principle of giving special help to the poorest people should be applied to the current global trading system. Instead of expecting traders in the poorest countries to compete on equal terms with those of the richest, trade rules need to give explicit help to the poor.

#### How you can get involved

If the rules of international trade are to be rewritten so that they are weighted in favour of the world's poorest people, more and more people need to join the Trade Justice Campaign.

- Sign and send the prayer and action card. For Christian Aid Week, special cards have been produced which can be sent to the government to call for justice in world trade. When the government receives postcards in huge numbers it both challenges it to do what is right, and strengthens its position when it negotiates internationally. Cards should be available at your church in Christian Aid Week. If not, call 01252 669639 to order some.

- Wear the trade justice badge.

This is a simple but effective way to help spread the campaign message. The badge, pictured above, is based on a set of scales, and highlights the imbalance of world trade today. The figure at the centre represents hope and the power of ordinary people to tip the balance in favour of the world's poor. Badges cost £2 each, plus postage and packing. Phone your order to 01252 669628.

- Become a Christian Aid campaigner. Do you want to be kept in touch with the campaign? Could you take a simple but effective campaign action – usually sending off a postcard – five times a year? If so, then sign up to become a Christian Aid campaigner by calling 08700 787788.

#### Top five facts about world trade

1. International trade is worth US\$10 million a minute.
2. Poor countries account for only 0.4 per cent of world trade. Since 1980 their share has halved.
3. The United Nations estimates that unfair trade rules deny poor countries US\$700 billion every year. Less than 0.01 per cent of this could save the sight of 30 million people.
4. The three richest people in the world control more wealth than all 600 million in the world's poorest countries.
5. Global trade is regulated through policies and priorities set by international institutions, including rules made at the World Trade Organisation and conditions attached to loans provided by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. These bodies are controlled by governments.

***What would you do with a million pounds?***

In Christian Aid Week last year, over £1 million extra was raised for the world's poorest people, simply because of one little form! How? Gift Aid.

Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows Christian Aid to claim back the tax paid on any donation made by a UK taxpayer, adding almost 30 per cent to the gift's value. All the donor needs to do is complete the simple declaration on the Christian Aid Week envelope. In 2003, Gift Aid declarations made in Christian Aid Week were worth more than £1 million.

A million pounds is enough to build 60 health centres in Cambodia, or provide clean water to 100,000 children in Ethiopia, or run Christian Aid's entire education, advocacy and campaign work for two months. But many eligible donations to Christian Aid are given without Gift Aid declarations, meaning that its programmes are missing out on this potential 'free' extra income.

So if you give to Christian Aid and are a taxpayer, please do fill in the Gift Aid form. And if you collect for Christian Aid, please encourage those who are donating to complete the declaration. It only takes a few seconds, but just think what could be achieved with another million!

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

**PLEASE ! PLEASE ! PLEASE !** Can you help ? Christian Aid Week this year is from the 9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> May and I will be looking for people to collect from the various roads that we have been allocated. I know that we all lead busy lives, but if you could spare even one morning, afternoon or evening I would be most grateful. I will have a sign up list in church on the next two Sundays or have a word with me after the service. I finish with a quote from Christian Aid.

"Around the world, people and groups have given their time and money to support development initiatives through Christian Aid and its overseas partners. For each person this might have meant a small action, but the overall effect is tremendous. Giving, acting and praying for the world's poorest people really makes a difference, and will continue to do so".

Thank you.

*Margaret L*

**'Sing a New Song'**

A singing workshop for all  
with

**Alison Adam** (of 'Worship Works' and the 'Iona Community')

**Saturday 15th May** - 2.30 to 8.45pm (includes "Big Sing" at 7pm)  
at St James' Church, Plomer Hill, Downley

More information from Michele Hodkinson -  
01494 4536617 or [michele@harlingtonhospice.org](mailto:michele@harlingtonhospice.org)

# An Overview of Bible Readings from the Revised Common Lectionary for the month of May

## Introduction to the Bible passages

### The Acts of the Apostles

Remembering that Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles constitute a literary whole, a kind of diptych, should help us to reflect on and preach about Acts over the coming weeks. The Gospel was the account of the life of Christ and the meaning of that life. The Acts of the Apostles is an account of the life of his Church, from the beginning (the Pentecost story can be read as a kind of infancy narrative of the Church) and developing through the joys and sorrows of the community, as it grows in wisdom and understanding. This is the way the Body of Christ is now present in the world, in the Spirit-filled body of believers - the members of which are incorporated into his body by faith and baptism.

It is not a smooth run, by any means. The Church encounters difficulties, opposition and persecution, internal dissension and the weakness and sinfulness of its members. It also celebrates moments of greatness, when it conforms most closely to the mind of Christ. There are moments of discovery, where radically new things can happen: the freedom of believers from dietary laws, for example, the sudden entry of Christian faith into Europe, and into the world of women, the subversion of relationships based on domination and submission, implied by Paul.

There is a lot to be learned here for the life of the modern Christian community, though we should be careful about suggesting a too literal imitation of the first-century Church by the twenty-first century church. One thing to remember is the context of the Acts of the Apostles. Luke - the supposed author - is struggling to make sense of the fact that Jews have in large numbers rejected Christian faith. Meanwhile, an increasing number of Gentile converts have found themselves cut off from the Jewish people whom they see as the original people of the promise of God. As Moddox [*The Purpose of Luke-Acts*] succinctly puts it: 'How could non-Jews find value in something which had its roots in Judaism, but which most Jews repudiated?' Luke, in his Gospel and in Acts, is at pains to show how Christ is the authentic fulfilment of the promise made to Israel, and that the Church is how Christ continues to act in the world.

### John's Gospel

The overall thrust of the readings from John's Gospel over the coming weeks is the exploration of what we might call 'indwelling'. Jesus dwells in the Father, and the Father in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. The Father goes on working and so do I'; The Father and I are one.'

This inevitably leads to the kind of preaching that Pentecost and Trinity Sunday require: the mystery of the strange thing we say about God: he is one and three. It may be that an experiential approach to this mystery is the best one to adopt. How have God's people experienced God in history, and in the present, as trinitarian? That God is one is the very basis of our faith. This one God, the Creator, the unimaginable and unspeakable mystery that lies behind all being, should leave us dumbstruck. God is beyond all our searching, all our explanations, all our analyses, beyond time and place and race and nationality.

But this same God has become known to us in the person of Jesus Christ. The incarnation makes possible the bizarre claim that if you want to touch and be touched by this unknown God, look at this man, Jesus of Nazareth. In this person, God shares our flesh, our burdens, our bewilderment and weakness. And God shares our death. God may be transcendent, utterly 'other', but God has also shared our life, so that we might share his.

Finally, the unity between the Father and the Son is the love that holds them together. The same Spirit empowers us with love, draws us into unity with each other, and into the very unity of God, the Trinity. God energises us to act, to heal, to forgive, to struggle, to bless, to play, to do justice, to serve - and all this simply is the history of our life in the Trinity, our life as sons and daughters of God.

Throughout the coming weeks this trinitarian pattern emerges in different contexts, climaxing perhaps on Trinity Sunday in its explicitness. But the mystery of the Trinity is not a mathematical puzzle. It is a mastery about our own lives and our sharing in the divine.

## Come and join us!

Trinity has volunteered to help with a Sunday service at the hospital on 30<sup>th</sup> May 04. I am co-ordinating this, so I am looking for volunteers to help. We need to meet by 9.15am at the hospital chapel where we will receive instructions and names of those wishing to attend. Volunteers should be physically fit and under 16's need to be accompanied by an adult as most patients will be in wheelchairs. After the service patients will need to be returned to the wards and we shall be free to leave by 10.45am. If you would like to help/ volunteer please contact me, Sue Saunders 01494 526782. Thank you.

## Who do these quotations remind you of??

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE. - *"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning.."*
2. My mother taught me RELIGION. - *"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."*
3. My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL. - *"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"*
4. My mother taught me LOGIC. - *"Because I said so, that's why."*
5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC. - *"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."*
6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT. - *"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."*
7. My mother taught me IRONY. - *"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."*
8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS. - *"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."*
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM. - *"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"*
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA. - *"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."*
11. My mother taught me about WEATHER. - *"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."*
12. My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY. - *"If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"*
13. My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE. - *"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."*
14. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION. - *"Stop acting like your father!"*
15. My mother taught me about ENVY. - *"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."*
16. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION. - *"Just wait until we get home."*
17. My mother taught me about RECEIVING. - *"You are going to get it when you get home!"*
18. My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE. - *"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, They are going to freeze that way."*
19. My mother taught me ESP. - *"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"*
20. My mother taught me HUMOUR. - *"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."*
21. My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT. - *"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."*
22. My mother taught me GENETICS. - *"You're just like your father."*
23. My mother taught me about my ROOTS. - *"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"*
24. My mother taught me WISDOM. - *"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."*
25. My mother taught me about JUSTICE. - *"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"*

How many of these did your mother teach you????

# Our history

We have recently come across a series of articles written in 1924, for the Church Magazine of the Congregational Church in High Wycombe (which has through the years become Trinity URC).

The first chapter is reproduced below. Further instalments will follow over the coming months, but if any readers would a copy of the complete history, it is available NOW as a "Trinity URC publication" (!) at a cost of £2.50.

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## Chapter I

### 261 Years Ago

#### The Story of Congregationalism in Wycombe

**O**N the first Sunday in December 1923, the 261st Anniversary of Congregationalism in Wycombe was celebrated at Trinity Church.

Two hundred and sixty-one years. More than two centuries and a half! It is indeed but a small span in comparison with the aeons of the earth's existence; but in the history of civilization it was a period fraught with the greatest significance.

In these times of civil and religious liberty it is difficult to realise the conditions of society in 1662. The Civil War, which divided relatives from relatives, and friends from friends, had left behind it a legacy of bitter animosities. The Puritans had successfully resisted tyranny, but in their time of power had themselves been guilty of intolerance. Now another turn of the wheel had come. The Monarchy had been restored, and the Royalists were prepared to assert their position without mercy for opponents. A brief contest between the Episcopalians and such of the Presbyterian fraternity as had retained their seats in the Parliamentary Election of 1661 resulted in the complete triumph of the former party. At the opening of the Parliament they had ordered every member to receive the communion, and the League and Covenant of the Puritans to be publicly burnt by the common hang-man. They then proceeded to other penal measures, prominent among them the Act of Uniformity which brought so many Dissenting Churches into being, among them the Wycombe Congregational body.

J. R. Green in his "Short History of the English People" terms the Act "a deadly blow at the Puritans. ... Not only was the use of the Prayer-book, and the Prayer-book only, enforced in all public worship, but an unfeigned consent and assent was demanded from every member of the Church to all which was contained in it; while, for the first time since the Reformation, all orders save those conferred by the hands of Bishops were legally disallowed.

*[more next month]*

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*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 30th May  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 21st May.*

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# Prayer Page

(Prepared by the Nightbirds)

**3rd - 9th May** Almighty God, we pray for PEACE throughout the world. There are many troubled places and we ask for the healing of their lands. We pray for the work of all peacemakers and all who work for justice. Guide our world leaders so that they prayerfully seek your guidance in all matters of importance towards a peaceful world.

**10th - 16th May** During this week we pray for Christian Aid Week and all house to house collectors. Strengthen them as they take on this task and we pray that all monies collected will be wisely distributed in the honour of your name. We ask for your blessing on all Christian Aid activities and services taking place this week.



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**17th - 23rd May** We give thanks for our families and friends and for the comforts we all enjoy in our homes. At this time of year we thank you for the beauty of the countryside and the warmth of the days. We pray for the elderly and for all suffering pain and ill health. Remember the lonely and all who feel neglected or unwanted in any way. Lord, help us to open our hearts to your power that we may encourage one another forward in the path of Jesus.

**24th - 30th May** As Pentecost approaches, we pray for a renewal of the Holy Spirit entering our lives. God showed us the strength of his Spirit and all that our faith can achieve if we but allow the Spirit to guide us. We are weak, Lord, and we ask that you come into our hearts and clear our minds and enable the Holy Spirit to reshape us.



*Amen*