



*May 2005*

# *The Recorder*

## **Inside - this month . . .**

Pastoral letter	2	Commitment for Life	7 - 9
Services & Rotas	3	FURY	10
What's on?	4 - 5,	Prayer Pages	11 - 12

*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**

## ‘Dare to Dream’

---

Revd. Michael Shrubsole

Minister of Trinity United Reformed Church

---

As you know by now, I'm on the move. Trinity Church will soon be entering an interregnum. An Interim Moderator will be appointed for the church as soon as I leave, but realistically, the time it will take for a new person to be appointed and be inducted as the new Minister of the church is likely to be between 12-24 months. "Why does it take so long?" people always ask. I can give three answers, practical, negative and positive. The practical answer is that nationally at any one moment in time approximately 10% of our churches are vacant; this means we can plan to have 10% more churches scoped to have Ministers than there are actually stipendiary Ministers available. The vacancy rate creates the freedom of opportunity for movement of Ministers to take place. The negative answer is that we are historically a union of Congregationalists and Presbyterians; we attempt to combine the Congregational freedom of choice by the local church with the Presbyterian central organisation of placement; this is intended to give us the best of both worlds - local choice plus pastoral oversight, but experience seems to show that it makes the combined process very longwinded! However the positive answer is that a long process enables the church members to work together and talk together to be sure that they have heard one another and have worked through any difficulties and are clear about where they are going as a church and what kind of a person as future Minister will have the right qualities to help work with the members as they seek the united future of the church together.

So, the best thing that can be said about a vacancy is that it encourages the church members to dream, and to talk about their dreams. I cannot possibly fully know in what ways I might have been misdirecting you as a church, or holding you back, or pushing you into directions where you would rather not go. After I leave, it is a chance for you to get any such problems out into the open; to reflect together, with a blank sheet of paper before you, about all your true hopes and dreams for the future of the church. I hope that while I have been with you I have tried to help you to do this at all times, but after I leave a thorough review becomes even more important. Some churches find this review is a hard thing to do. In rare circumstances it can take two or three years for a divided church to agree to upon a united Pastorate Profile which describes their true hopes and dreams. Now I don't think this is going to be the case for Trinity Church, but these difficult situations do show the value of interregnums even for purposeful and united churches.

I subscribe to 'Christianity' magazine and in the May issue Steve Chalke says this about Jesus: "The extraordinary thing about Jesus is that he never pushed, forced, bludgeoned, beat, coerced, cajoled, manhandled or manipulated people. He never bullied them into submission; instead he inspired them." John Donne, the 17<sup>th</sup> century Anglican poet and preacher put it like this: "Christ beats his drum, but he does not press men; Christ is served by volunteers." And to bring it up to date, a theologian of today, Walter Bruggemann said this: "People are not changed by moral exhortation but by transformed imagination." And so as a departing Minister, I think my job is to beat the drum, and to encourage your use of imagination to see how things could be different, and to therefore be inspired to work for that different way of living that is the church.

Mike

Minister :

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

Church Secretary:

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 'Light Years' material from Scripture Union. Adult worship usually follows the texts of the Revised Common Lectionary.

1<sup>st</sup> May - Morning Worship - Civic Service on Rogation Sunday

John 14:15-21; Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; Psalm 66

8<sup>th</sup> May - Morning Worship with Communion

John 17:1-11; Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14,5:6-11; Psalm 68

15<sup>th</sup> May - All-age Worship on Pentecost Sunday and the start of Christian Aid Week

John 20:19-23; Acts 2:1-21; 1 Corinthians 12:3-13; Psalm 104

22<sup>nd</sup> May - Morning Worship on Trinity Sunday and Church Gift Day

Matthew 28:16-20; Genesis 1:1-2:4; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Psalm 8

29<sup>th</sup> May - Morning Worship led by Revd. Bob Maitland

---

Rotas for May

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in May



Monday 9th May - Speaker: Edna W "Spme Trinity History"  
(8pm. Hostess - Ellen M)

Monday 25th Apr - Speaker: Mike Se  
(8pm. Hostess - Louise S)

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 3rd May "The Merry Month of May"  
Tuesday 10th May Mr Ken P  
Tuesday 17th May Christian Aid. Bring & Buy.  
Tuesday 24th May Jim & Jean Stanbury - Poems & readings  
Tuesday 31st May Competition Time!



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*

## 6th and 20th May

at 2pm

Scrabble

Take time out from your busy schedule. Relax with a bit of gentle brain exercise - and a short time of socialising.

## Church Walk

As announced last month . . .

The next Walk will be on **Monday May 2nd** (the MayDay Holiday). Meet at 10:30am in the Manor Car Park (NOT by the Church) at Hughenden (grid ref - 862955) for a stroll of about 3 miles round the woods. (More details from Olive S)

**Not included in this version**

**Diary**

**Elders Meeting - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 7.30pm in the Schoolroom.**

**Church Coffee Mornings - Saturdays 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 10.30am - noon in the Schoolroom**

**Church Meeting - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 8.00pm. in the Schoolroom. All Church Members are encouraged to attend.**

**Trinity Theological Discussion Group**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May - "Eschatology - Talking about the End of the World"**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July - "What does the Future hold for Christianity?"**

All welcome to come and share in discussion and Biblical investigation.

Led by our Minister: Revd. Mike S.

Tuesdays at 8.00pm. in the Schoolroom

**OTHER EVENTS**

**Christian Resources Exhibition**

**Esher, Surrey**

**10-13<sup>th</sup> May**

A great day out! Hundreds of exhibitors, lectures, displays, demonstrations etc. All that is best in church activities, materials and resources gathered together in one place. If you want help for any activity in church life you will find expert and professional guidance here. See poster on church noticeboard for more information.

**CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTIONS**

Although the number of people who are able to help is getting less, we nevertheless thought we would give it one more try this year. Christian Aid week is from 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May and the Guides will kindly be distributing the envelopes beforehand. There is a choice of roads that we have been asked to cover, so if you could possibly spare a little time to help please see me. Even a couple of hours would me most gratefully accepted.

Thank you

**Margaret L**

**£ £ £'s**

The 2004 year end accounts were approved at the AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Top line financial data was, as follows:

	2004 Actual	2004 Budget	Last Year
Income	£62,671.59	£53,650.00	£58,950.09
Expenditure	£58,301.92	£58,220.00	£53,600.89
Surplus/Deficit	£ 4,369.67	-£ 4,660.00	£ 5,349.20

After repayment of £3000 to Synod on our loan the net surplus was £1,369.67.

Special reserve funds stood at £14,810.04 and the General Reserve at £5,350.46, as at 31/12/04. Outstanding loans to the Synod and church members stood at £11,000 and £3,000 respectively.

I commented on how small regular events could add up to quite significant sums over a year (e.g. coffee morning proceeds towards the restoration fund of £342.85 in 2004) and how a big new event like the Quiz & Curry evening can boost church funds (£642 raised in 2004).

Thanks are due to everyone for a good financial result in 2004 and especially to Tony Hatton, Rose Cornwall and Norma Garden.

**Ian B**  
*Church Treasurer*

-----  
**Gentle Exercise !!**

Do you need to get in shape before the start of the holiday season? You do? - then here is the answer for you.

A group of us meet on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and any 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month and now, also each Wednesday. We meet in Crendon Hall at 7.30 pm and each session lasts about 30 minutes. We exercise to music, at our own pace and have fun along the way as well. A towel or small rug is useful to lie on for the floor exercises. So, why not come and join us and you'll soon feel the benefit! For more information have a word with Rose Cornwall or Norma Garden.

-----  
**Hospital Service**

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May it is our turn once again to help with the Hospital Chaplaincy Service. I am looking for adults able to push wheelchairs to collect and return patients to and from their wards to the service. If you could help, please contact me in church.

**Sue S**

## April Update

from Commitment for Life for the United Reformed Church

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY has now more than 350 members in the UK and more are still joining. The scope and potential impact of this mobilisation is immense. **MakePovertyHistory** is part of a much wider **Global Call to Action Against Poverty** campaigning on the same key demands for trade justice, not free trade and using the white band as a symbol.

There are now 59 national platforms of the **Global Call to Action Against Poverty**, including Armenia, Estonia, Somalia, Yemen, and Malta, and more are joining each month. Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland have their own "Make Poverty History" campaigns.

There are actions planned in more than 80 countries for the Global Week of Action for Trade Justice in April, eg. millions are expected to take part in mass rallies in India in every state capital. In the G8 nations, various events are planned in the lead-up to the July Summit. Visit [www.april2005.org](http://www.april2005.org) or [www.whiteband.org](http://www.whiteband.org).

The MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY EDM now has a remarkable 445 signatures - far more than any other EDM has achieved in this session (though 58 short of being the highest supported EDM). If your MP has not signed, urge HIM/HER THIS WEEK before the Easter recess and the general election. See ([http://www.bond.org.uk/pubs/2005/edm\\_letter.doc](http://www.bond.org.uk/pubs/2005/edm_letter.doc) - a list of those MPs who have already signed the EDM (<http://edm.ais.co.uk/weblink/html/motion.html/ref=9>).

*31<sup>st</sup> March 7.59pm watch the TV for the click film – celebrities click for MakePovertyHistory*

**The United Reformed Church is a member. We need to make every effort to encourage every church to pray and to take part in the movement for justice for the world's poor.**

Please go out and involve your congregation, friends, family and colleagues.

Resources from the URC:

- \* a MakePovertyHistory poster (copy available for every church)
- \* "Dancing with slaves" prayers for trade justice edited by Geoff Duncan /Martin Hazell £2.95.
- \* "Praying for a Change" prayers for each month and trade justice stories [www.cforl.org.uk](http://www.cforl.org.uk)
- White bands - both silicone and cotton ones available from Commitment for Life.£1 ea.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July Edinburgh Rally - fliers/poster for the rally

Also available white cards (see below), powerpoint presentation, help to locate a white banner, to find the video, and much more for your church. We can point you to resources from Christian Aid, Tearfund and others in the mobilisation.

**Helen Warmington is the new MPH Campaign Officer. Contact [HelenMPH@aol.com](mailto:HelenMPH@aol.com)**

If you know of trade justice stories, personal testimonies, email them to [info@cforl.org.uk](mailto:info@cforl.org.uk) so they can be part of the new email network to share experience from many countries on the unfairness of current trade practices, liberalisation and so on.

### Plan of Action for the next months:

**April - Global Week of Action for Trade Justice 10-16<sup>th</sup> April** – please take part in this the biggest mobilisation yet on trade, with events on every continent. Visit [www.april2005.org](http://www.april2005.org)

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April Every church is especially to asked to use the service to focus on trade justice, in solidarity with people across the world struggling to end poverty and injustice. Ask for a copy of the order of service prepared by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance.

Every church is also encouraged to raise awareness of the issues and get people signing post-cards.

**"Actions not words"** has to be the constant message over the next four months. The **Africa Commission report** says a number of encouraging things – but the report itself changes nothing. It does give us a powerful tool for pressing home our campaigning in the lead-up to the G8 meeting. We commend to you <http://www.pressureworks.org.uk/dosomething/act/AfricaTB.html>, letter to Tony Blair to get him to turn his words into action. There are plenty of cards in circulation – White cards, Vote for Trade Justice, Debt cards, 'dirty Water, dirty aid' (WDM) cards. All of this is part of the pressure being applied on the Government :available from CforL email [info@cforl.org.uk](mailto:info@cforl.org.uk)

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Day of fast** – in solidarity with the hungry round the world. Visit <http://www.christian-aid.org/worship/502gwa/reflect.htm> for prayers and other ideas for the fast. During the week organise your own event – card signing, unfair games, speakers, concerts etc.

**15<sup>th</sup> April 'Wake up to Trade Justice' Vigil in Whitehall and Westminster** 10pm – 8am Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>. Westminster Abbey open from 9pm. Candlelit vigil outside Downing Street will be the biggest this country has ever seen. So come and be part of making history that night. For details see separate file.

**Sunday April 24 World Poverty Day** – speak up from the pulpit, while on the hustings all political parties are called on to give speeches and attend events on development. Please use whatever links you have locally or nationally to ensure as much media coverage as possible through letters to newspapers, interviews etc. For information contact the MPH media team via Romina Vegro [rvegro@bond.org](mailto:rvegro@bond.org)

**May : Christian Aid Week 15<sup>th</sup> –21<sup>st</sup> May – focus on Mozambique.** Contact CA for the Order of Service and other resources.

**16 May - World Debt Day 2005** falls exactly seven years after 70,000 campaigners gathered at the G8 summit in Birmingham with a demand for debt cancellation, and seven days before the G8 returns to the UK for the first time since then. Please send letters to the Prime Minister on 16 May, demanding that he take responsibility, as chair of the G8, for putting an end to the debt crisis. Events and meetings happening around the country. Visit <http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/wdd> or contact Caroline Pearce, [caroline@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](mailto:caroline@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk).

**1<sup>st</sup> July White Band Day I;** The white band is the visual symbol of MakePovertyHistory. Encourage everyone to wear a band, but also wrap your church in a white band (many buildings will be doing that). See [www.whiteband.org](http://www.whiteband.org).

White Band Day II - 10th September (just before the MDG Summit);

White Band Day III - 10th December Human Rights Day, just before the WTO meeting in HK. Organise a banner for your church – make your own, or get banner from Express Banners Ltd (12ft x 1.5ft banner costs £38.90 – other sizes available) [expressbannersltd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:expressbannersltd@yahoo.co.uk) Tel 01204 698787

**G8 Rally in Edinburgh 2<sup>nd</sup> July** 11am – 7pm The Meadows – **central event of the year.** Encourage people from your church to attend. Information pack available shortly – Bulletin on the



information you need to know, what to bring, how to register your group so that the organisers can have some idea of numbers etc – due out shortly. Contact Helenmph@aol.com.

**Other things you can do:**

**Email your MP or Email Tony Blair.** Over 22, 000 people have taken the latest online action, 'Email Your MP' ([www.makepovertyhistory.org/emailyourmp.html](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/emailyourmp.html)). Over 40, 000 people have already taken our ongoing action, 'Email Tony Blair', ([www.makepovertyhistory.org/mph/userprofile/emailtony.jsp](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/mph/userprofile/emailtony.jsp)). Over 60, 000 people have signed up to the MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY website mailing list and are ready to take further action.

\* Check out the MPH calendar of events to see what activities you can get involved in and to plan ahead: <http://www.bond.org.uk/advocacy/2005/calendar.htm>

\* Link your church website to [www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org)

\* Encourage action by the young in the church, and listen to them. What have they picked up from their friends, from the websites?

**Parliamentary work:**

Over the past month the MakePovertyHistory Policy group have met again with the Prime Minister and politicians from the three main parties so they know what MakePovertyHistory is demanding and the scope and scale of the campaign.

During the election campaign please distribute information to your supporters and ask them to raise questions on debt, aid and trade with Prospective Parliamentary candidates. The main ask of all candidates is a pledge to "demonstrate your backing for MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY's demands for more and better aid, dropping debt and trade justice by wearing the white band and act to bring about these changes if you are elected". See MPH manifesto and policy lines for further elaboration.

If you want more news on the Scottish Coalition, Northern Irish Coalition, Welsh Coalition or Children and Schools Working Group, the Churches network or any of the other working groups of the mobilisation please look at [www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org) or contact us for more information.

**MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY Resources**

Public Website for individuals: [www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org)

Website for member organisations: [www.bond.org.uk/advocacy/2005](http://www.bond.org.uk/advocacy/2005)

Launch Report: [http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/docs/make\\_history.pdf](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/docs/make_history.pdf)

Manifesto: <http://www.bond.org.uk/pubs/2005/manifesto.doc>

Policy Demands: [http://www.bond.org.uk/pubs/2005/policy\\_lines.pdf](http://www.bond.org.uk/pubs/2005/policy_lines.pdf)

Parliamentary Briefing: [http://www.bond.org.uk/pubs/2005/parliamentary\\_brief.pdf](http://www.bond.org.uk/pubs/2005/parliamentary_brief.pdf)

Mass Action Strategy: [http://www.bond.org.uk/pubs/2005/mass\\_action\\_strategy.pdf](http://www.bond.org.uk/pubs/2005/mass_action_strategy.pdf)

Originating from Romina Vegro, BOND [rvegro@bond.org.uk](mailto:rvegro@bond.org.uk)

Adapted by: Commitment for Life contact: Anne Martin [anmartin@onetel.com](mailto:anmartin@onetel.com)

-----

## **FURY Assembly 2005 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> January**

My name is Louise D and I'm a member of the URC in Ickenham, in West London district. A recent change in FURY rules meant that I could attend FURY assembly on behalf of your district, so that I could share with you some of the discussions of the weekend.

FURY assembly was a time of fellowship for representatives of the youth of the URC. It was a time for us to discuss issues important to us and think of ways we could take action, both as a national group, and as individuals in our local churches.

The first of these issues addressed the topic of bullying. We are aware that being a young Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is not an easy time. We are taught to forgive and love others, but not how to assert ourselves as Christians. FURY is going to investigate some kind of assertiveness training for young people and explore the possibility of an interfaith network to enable young people of faith to support each other.

We believe that the church is for all ages and we encourage churches to see the children's charter as a charter for all ages. At FURY assembly we set ourselves the challenge of organising more events to bring the whole church together, with the aim of learning and socialising together.

We discussed our feelings about the situation in Israel, and promised to send letters, sign petitions and pray to encourage further negotiations in the hope of a peaceful and just solution.

We were privileged to hear from the Revd Graham Cook about Catch the Vision. After he had informed us of the issues the URC is currently facing we had the opportunity to discuss these and consider the way forward for the URC. We recognised that the shortages of ministers meant that as people of the URC we must think about and discover our own gifts. To keep our churches alive and to continue doing the work of our Lord in our communities, especially during times of vacancy, we must discover what God is calling us to do. We must work with other churches and share resources. At FURY assembly we agreed that as young people we need to discover our gifts and what we can bring to our churches. FURY council is going to develop resources to inform us about the many possible ministries that God may be calling us to be a part of, and encourage each synod to hold events to help us get a clearer idea about God's purposes for us.

Finally, we discussed two very important issues: racial justice and trade justice. We agreed to do our best to support equality in our local areas and stand against racial prejudice. We also agreed to do our best to promote and support the 'make poverty history' campaign in our local areas, particularly raising awareness by wearing the white bands.

FURY assembly was a fantastic weekend, and amongst discussing these very important issues it was an opportunity to worship with young Christians from all over the country. I hope this short report has given you some insight into the thoughts of the youth of the URC and the part we intend to play as a part of the URC and as a part of the whole Christian church of the world.

This month's prayers from **Commitment for Life**,

Christian Aid Week 15-21 May

**Christian Aid**  
We believe in life before death

*Christian Aid Week* coincides with Pentecost. The worship has a flavour of Mozambique. It is designed to be one of the many strands of MakePovertyHistory, **and** tells the stories of people who have had positive turning points **in their** lives.

***A prayer from Africa:***

May the life of Africa bring joy to the world: Spirit of Life in the dust and the sunshine, Spirit of Life in the sickness and laughter, Spirit of Life in the friendship and grieving, Spirit of Life for the workers and traders, Spirit of Life for campaigners and givers. The Spirit of Life is God's gift to the world. Amen.

*Pastor Armando Rafael Namuchia, Baptist minister in Namourroi, Mozambique, quoted in Christian Aid Week service: "Here we worship God in straw and mud churches. When the storms come the churches are destroyed. But we do not give up. Again and again we rebuild them. This is how God forgives us, never giving up on us when we let him down, but rebuilding our relationship with him again and again.*

*After the floods we lost everything. There was nothing left. But we did not lose our faith that God would deliver us, and he has. Faith is crucial. Faith and action and partnership are what make turning points happen in the world. We are all in the service of God, and the service of one another. Because we are one in God we should know each other and pray for each other. Even if the distances are great, we feel isolated, and the roads are impossible to travel, prayer brings us together."*

*Holy Spirit of God, light a flame within me, burning for justice, glowing with kindness, -shining with hope for the end of poverty and the peace of all people in this ever-turning world. Amen.*

**May 16th** World Debt Day.

God our redeemer, You have promised liberation for our world: freedom from hunger, remission of debts, forgiveness of sins.

Deliver us, body, mind and spirit from the grip of all that is evil; may we who claim the blessing of release have the courage to live by it, in the name of him who died to set us free, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

*Christian Aid/Janet Morley, from Life or Debt, Christian Aid Week service, 1999*

---

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 29th May  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 22nd May.*

Recorder Editor :e-mail : [editor@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:editor@trinity-urc.org.uk)

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

**prayer page**  
(prepared by the elders)

m

a

y

2005

In **Spring** - Nature overflows with the beauty, strength and power of new growth.

“Father, there is so much to be joyful about:  
The natural world around us, infinitely varied,  
beautiful and ever new.  
The closeness of others in family and friendships,  
the many opportunities for helping others,  
the fresh experience and the secure routine.”

At **Pentecost** - the hearts of the crowd overflowed with a new and unexpected strength, through the powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

“Father, we bless you for pouring out your Holy Spirit upon the Church: For the free wind that sweeps through the world,  
for the tongues of fire, signs of warmth and love,  
for the words to praise and proclaim you,  
for hearts open to receive you.

Breathe your Spirit into our hearts, Lord.  
Touch our tongues with holy fire that we may proclaim the gospel.  
Fill our activities with the love of Christ.  
Father, give us the energy of your Spirit and the new joyful heart of Pentecost.”

