



*May 2006*

# *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**

Dear Friends,

By the time this is published we should be well into spring, and thinking about the summer months ahead. For many this is a special time – when the garden comes to life, trees bloom and fresh greenery is everywhere. A bit like “rebirth”. Easter services will have come and gone, and we will have remembered the resurrection - the culmination of Christ’s mission and a new beginning for the church. Well, as a church, we are going through a lot of “new beginnings” right now.

At the last AGM, I was reminded of my first impressions coming to Trinity in 1998 – summed up in one word - “organised”. Not overbearing, but more like “oiled wheels”. Church secretaries like Margaret are part of the secret. We were blessed with a superlative organiser in Margaret, and we are so fortunate to have another very capable and high energy lady in Marian.

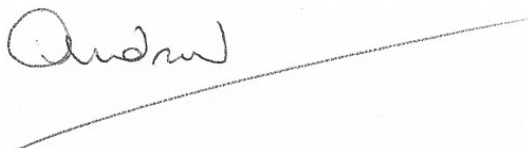
What a joy it is to be past the period of indecision, and feel the enthusiasm and excited anticipation, in the plans for our building. Another “spring time” for our fellowship. It’s interesting that now there is a project that “feels right”, there’s a spirit within us that is the complete vision for our church, not just focussing on the bricks and mortar. I believe that it’s due to being in God’s will, and our patience of waiting for the correct plan.

When I began to play the organ back in 1998, I felt a bit isolated with the balcony making it hard to see what was happening on the platform, and some of the time I couldn’t hear what was being said. It’s much better now there’s CCTV and loudspeakers making it easier to hear (even for the partly deaf like me!). Having the opportunity to take part in the worship was the beginning of a period of renewal of my faith, and I was sustained by the sensitive encouragement of many in the fellowship. At that time I had a vision of the gallery filling up with people and I believe that just as we are seeing answers to our prayers in the area of funding, so we will also see our outreach vision being answered too.

Along with the progression of our building plans, we should pray for the inspiration to reach out to those in our town who are seeking God, and seeking spiritual direction. We should pray also for our fellowship to be a bustling centre of encouragement to others.

As we move into the longer days of May and see things coming alive, let us continuously pray that God will help us sustain the excitement, as our project and our vision becomes a reality.

Yours in God’s love,



Minister :  
*There is no minister in post at present*

Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole,

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

## May Services

### Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

**7<sup>th</sup> May** - Morning Worship with Communion - Revd Andrew Busby (Interim Moderator)  
(Communion and Confirmation of new members)

**14<sup>th</sup> May** - Morning Worship - Revd Alan Kirkcaldy (Minister of Wendover Free Church  
and former member and Church Secretary of Trinity, High Wycombe)

**21<sup>st</sup> May** - All-age Worship - Led by Dr Sarah Hamilton, Youth Minister at All Saints

**28<sup>th</sup> May** - Morning Worship - Led by Maureen Lampard - All Saints, High Wycombe

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### Rotas for May

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in May



- Monday 8th May - Flower arranging  
(8pm. Hostess - Bettine Farley)
- Tuesday** 23rd May - Plate & recipe evening  
(8pm. Hostess - Lesley Bogart)

## WOMEN'S MEETING

- |                  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| Tuesday 2nd May  | Video - Who do you say I am?                     |  |
| Tuesday 9th May  | Quiz   |  |
| Tuesday 16th May | Christian Aid: Bring & Buy                       |  |
| Tuesday 23rd May | Women of the Old Testament in the book of Judges |  |
| Tuesday 30th May | Mrs Frances Alexander - The Environment Centre   |  |

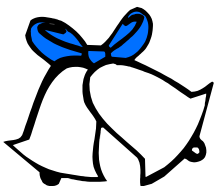
*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*

Scrabble

**12th & 26th May**

2pm

Since you can't spend the afternoon holding the hose in the garden - spend it with friends instead!



The marriage of  
**Sarah and Simon**  
at Trinity URC at 2.30 pm on  
Saturday 6th May 2006

Everyone is most welcome



**Not included in this version**

## Diary dates:

Tuesday **2 May** - 8 pm Elders' Meeting  
Saturday **6 May** - 2.30 pm Sarah & Simon's wedding  
Sunday **7 May** - 10.30 am New members welcomed

See below regarding **Christian Aid Week**

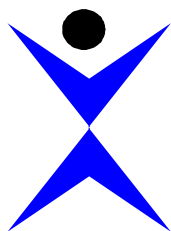
Monday **22 May** - 8pm Church Meeting **NOTE that this is not on the normal day!**



Christian Aid week, 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2006 is 'seven amazing days of fundraising, prayer and action against global poverty. Add your time, money and voice this week, and see them multiplied to make an impact around the world through Christian Aid. You add. We multiply.' That is a quote from the Christian Aid literature this year. We have been asked to collect from various roads around our church and Julia Sparks is kindly arranging for the guides to deliver as many envelopes as they can during the previous week. 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 put the list of roads we have been asked to cover, in the Lower Schoolroom, so please sign up if you possibly can. If you have not collected before and you would like more information, please have a word with me

Thank you

*Margaret L*



Rose CI is keen to do her bit in keeping members healthy. She reminds all readers of her Keep Fit Classes which are held every Monday & Wednesday at 7:30 pm in Crendon Hall.

# Commitment for Life

## ZIMBABWE

There has been rain, and plenty of it, but the green fields disguise one of the worst kept secrets in history: There is hunger in Zimbabwe, and the fear is that it is going to get much worse.

The grain stores have just about been emptied and small farmers who sold excess maize last year for 112,000 dollars a 50 kg bag are now themselves paying as much as 300,000 dollars for a bucketful which isn't enough to feed their family.

Zimbabwe was once the 'Bread Basket of Africa', but the basket is now almost empty and this is no longer a historical feud over land ownership between black and white: It is now a crisis which will effect everyone alike, the majority of victims being black Zimbabweans. As inflation soars at the rate of 600 per cent per annum the economy continues in crisis as electricity, petrol, food and even money are in short supply. As the national economy collapses so a 'black market' economy has emerged which is fed by a corruption influenced either by greed or an instinct for survival. The cost of petrol has risen from 100,000 dollars a litre a few weeks ago to 150,000, if it can be found at all. We needed petrol yesterday and the garage had a supply, but they had also received a letter from the ruling Zanu PF party giving instructions to sell only to their members. That followed the news that South Africa was freezing its exports of petrol to Zimbabwe, which could paralyse the country. Although the price of petrol is soaring for the general motorist public transport providers can buy it for 23,000 dollars a litre, and the chiefs and political leaders can do the same. This two tier pricing policy is fuelling the black market with some people able to buy at the subsidized price and then sell at a massive profit. Electricity cuts are also frequent and likely to increase, as the Zimbabwe government has not paid neighbouring providers. The value of the Zimbabwean dollar changes almost by the hour and shop prices change just as quickly. The official exchange rate is about 180,000 dollars to the UK pound, but on the black market people have bought pounds for 230,000 dollars, the desire to obtain foreign currency is so great. The Zimbabwean dollar has become like monopoly money to play with. At the end of the month, there can be long queues at the banks and cash machines, with people often finding that there is no money available.

In some parts of the country, there is already a food crisis, which is forcing people to peel off the bark of trees and pulp it into a mash which can be eaten with wild fruits. It fills the stomach, but has no nutritional value.

In a village last week, I was offered a slab of sorghum being distributed to families where there are food shortages. I was also offered roast crickets, but declined with a polite smile. I have been to a township where 95% of the population are unemployed and where the residents share public toilet blocks with no running water and there seems no way out of this poverty. I remember much worse in the shanty towns of Kenya when I visited Mathare Valley and Kibera, but this is a crisis in Zimbabwe today which can embrace a much wider section of the population, not just the poorest of the poor.

Forty-eight per cent of the population of Zimbabwe is under 15 years of age, but how many of them have a future to look forward to? Six thousand people a week are reported to be dying from the Aids virus, but as someone said "when you have Aids if you go hungry you go under" so how many more will die in the coming months.

Yes, the rains have fallen and the fields are green, but the harvest will not be brought in until May so how will Zimbabwe cope until then? Prayer is needed from all around the world for the wounds of history to be healed so that people may be reconciled and begin a process of working together before it is too late.

Revd Richard Becker

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**JAMAICA** . . . is described as 'a middle-income country', but this label masks huge inequalities. Many Jamaicans lack access to health clinics, schools, or stable employment. One quarter of the population lives on less than \$2 a day.

### Trade

The EU – in response to a WTO ruling – drastically reduced the amount they pay for sugar imports from the Caribbean by 36% over four years. They are also slashing the tariffs on bananas from the Caribbean. Whilst a relatively small amount of compensation will be paid, it will be a harsh blow to the incomes of small farmers.

Jamaica was one of six countries this year to join the Caribbean Community (Caricom) single market. The agreement allows free movement of goods, services and labour between the signatory countries with the aim of sustained economic development and a better standard of living. Discussions continue about the need to a development fund to allow the lesser-developed economies of Caricom to participate.

**Not included in this version**

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**ALL AGE WORSHIP APRIL 23<sup>rd</sup>**

What a wonderful service the Junior Church and music group provided for us on the morning of April 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was based on the theme of the Stations of the Cross with readings and prayers led by the children themselves. With lively worship songs, and banners and ribbons used to accompany the final hymn, it was a truly moving, joyous and uplifting occasion. Thank you Junior Church leaders for all the time and effort that you put in with the children week by week and thank you children for a truly glorious act of worship.

*A member of the congregation.*

**THANK YOU**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the wonderful gifts presented to me at the Annual Church Meeting at the end of March. The basket arrangement of flowers was beautiful and has only just faded. I have not yet spent the generous gift of John Lewis vouchers, I'm still enjoying thinking about what to buy, but it will be something to keep and treasure. I found my time as Church Secretary both rewarding and fulfilling and consider it was an honour to be asked. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank you all for your love, support and prayers and to wish Marian Mole joy as **she** takes on the role of Church Secretary.

Yours in Christian love

*Margaret*

# Re-development Project

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MONTHLY UPDATE

I am delighted to advise all members, adherents and friends that March Church Meeting approved the Phase 1 re-development of our buildings, at a projected cost of £150,000, as follows:

- Disabled access to the front of the Sanctuary
- Disabled access from the Sanctuary to the Lower School Room
- New heating system
- New, considerably enlarged dais
- Re-decoration of the Sanctuary
- New glass doors at the front of the Sanctuary and new entrance doors to the Sanctuary
- New disabled toilet, adjacent to the Lower School Room
- New toilets, adjacent to the Lower School Room

Additionally, church meeting approved:

- The appointment of a Quantity Surveyor to fully cost Phase 1
- The appointment of a Consultant Heating Engineer to assess the optimum replacement heating system for the buildings
- Application for a Synod Loan of £50,000, repayable over a ten year period, at a fixed interest rate of 4%
- The introduction of a special envelope scheme to fund the loan from Synod, commencing May 2006.
- The preparation of an application to the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee
- Disposal of BB Funds, in large part to the Project Development Fund

**Stop press: We have received the good news that Synod has approved the loan, so our funds at the time of going to press stand at £127,890.60.**

*Jan B*

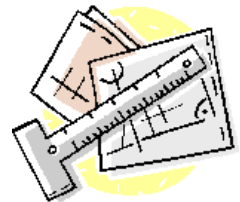
## News from our architect

Our run of good news continues. Jeremy our architect has reported that planning approval has been granted by Wycombe District Council. There are the usual provisos of building materials matching existing etc. No anticipated problems.

Jeremy is now busy sourcing a quantity surveyor for us. We await his recommendation with huge anticipation of really getting the show on the road.



Yours in fellowship,  
*Valerie*





## PROJECT NAME AND LOGO

The Elders considered a number of proposals at their April meeting and a winning entry was selected, as follows:

**Project name and strap line....**

**Revive**

**Trinity United Reformed Church**

**Building for the future**

Project logo.....



Please note that this is work in progress, which will be further developed by the concept originator, Alan Yates and Simon Evans. Sincere thanks to Alan for his inspiration in designing the logo, to Arthur Winning for the strap line (Building for the future) and the creativity team who put the project name (Revive), strap line and logo together.

*Ian B*

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## **BUILDING DEVELOPMENT - EXTERNAL FINANCE**

You will see from Ian's Report, that we have now been granted a loan from Synod of £50000 towards our project. The terms are repayment over ten years and 4% interest per annum.

A condition of receiving this loan, was that we put forward an acceptable means of repayment. To this end, I suggested that we introduce a new supplementary

envelope scheme, the same as the one which proved so successful when we did major work to the church roof. Based on an average contribution of £2 per member per week, our commitments will be met. Any shortfall will be made up out of fundraising for the project. This proposal was agreed at Church Meeting and the scheme will be introduced, using our new logo, early in May.

I hope you will participate in this scheme, but if you are feeling more generous and can see your way to offering a lump sum donation or interest free loan towards the development, please don't hesitate to contact Ian or myself.

As regards funding for the Crendon Hall and Extension Improvements, I am continuing to seek funding from bodies which contribute to community orientated projects. I feel confident that we can achieve our aims, it is just a matter of time.

*Arthur W*

# Re-development Project

## May 2006 internal fundraising report

In February we had the brainstorming meeting for fundraising ideas and so far I have had three response forms back with offers to help with:

- A District fete
- Quiz and pudding evening
- Beetle drive
- Silent auction
- Craft Fair
- Antiques evening
- Car boot sale
- Fashion Show
- Afternoon teas in the summer
- Ladies' pampering day
- 24 hour sponsored bike ride outside the front of church
- Line dancing evening
- Merchandise (mugs, tea-towels, etc.)
- Organ recital
- Fun evening
- Buy a 'quiz sheet'
- Wine tasting/food tasting
- Burns supper and ceilidh
- Envelope scheme
- Summer barbeque
- Concert/show/jazz evening
- Jumble sale
- Art evening

A few others have indicated a willingness to get involved but I could still do with some more responses to move things from paper to active projects! The response forms are still at the back of church and the list of ideas is in last month's Recorder, so do please prayerfully think about your practical contribution to raising the funds so that our church can be better equipped for our future.

Feel free to phone or email me with any ideas or offers of help.

Many thanks,  
Kate Y

### CREAM TEAS – Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>

We will be selling cream teas in the Lower Schoolroom on the afternoon of Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> between 3.00pm and 5.00pm and we will also have one or two craft stalls for you to browse. Tickets will be on sale at £2.50, so why not come along and bring your friends for a 'delicious' afternoon.

### SPRING HARVEST 2007

Daphne M, Sue S, Audrey B and I had a wonderful week at Spring Harvest from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April this year joining the party from Emanuel Church, Chesham at Butlins, Skegness. O.K. the weather was quite cold at times, and it is rather windy at Skegness, but we wrapped up warm. In fact Daphne's red woolly hat and scarf were a good beacon to home in on, making it easy to find each other in the crowds that had gathered there for the first week of Spring Harvest. There was so much choice of things to do. Uplifting worship; interesting and informative discussion groups; new skills to learn; and, if you had the stamina, a great late night cabaret. Bookings for Spring Harvest 2007 open in June this year, and it would be wonderful to make up a party to go together. Perhaps Minehead would be a warmer choice of destination for next year, but journey times would be similar, and content of programme equally good at either venue. So please think about it, and have a chat with Audrey, Daphne, Sue or myself if you would like more information.

*Margaret L*

Jonny Patton will be playing at Trinity URC on Saturday 13 May at 8pm. He will be supported by Tim Grainger. Please come along - and bring your friends!

Pure Flame Records "spreading the fire of God through music".

[www.jonnypatton.com](http://www.jonnypatton.com)

[www.myspace.com/jonnypatton](http://www.myspace.com/jonnypatton)



We have now had the formal approval of the 2005 Church Accounts from the Examiner. This will be put before the members at a Church Meeting so that the accounts may be formally accepted.

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*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 28h May.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 19th May*

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

## prayer page

I know that my Redeemer lives –  
what comfort this assurance gives!  
He lives, who once lived on the earth,  
who through his death now brings new birth.

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2006

He lives, triumphant from the grave;  
what joy, eternally to save!  
He lives to bless me with his love,  
to plead for me in heaven above.

He lives to help in time of need;  
what gifts, my hungry soul to feed!  
He lives, and grants me daily breath  
and leads me on to conquer death.

He lives, my wise and constant friend,  
what kindness guards me to the end!  
He lives, and while he lives I'll sing  
Jesus, my Prophet, Priest and King.

He lives: all glory to his name!  
What love, unchangeably the same!  
What joy the blest assurance gives.  
I know that my Redeemer lives!  
*Samuel Medley (1738-99)*

In the face of the struggle for freedom,  
**Give us strength.**

In the face of decisions about freedom,  
**Give us wisdom.**

In the practice of freedom,  
**Give us guidance.**

From the dangers of freedom,  
**Give us protection.**

in the way in which we use our freedom,  
**Give us a clear vision.**

*Latin American Council of Churches*

Dear Father, keep me through this day  
Obedient, kind and true:  
That, always loving thee, I may  
Seek all thy will to do.



Spirit of comfort and longing,  
enfold my fear,  
unclothe me of my pride,  
unweave my thoughts,  
uncomplicate my heart,  
and give me surrender:  
that I may tell my wounds,  
lay down my work,  
and greet the dark.

*Janet Morley – All Desires Known*

The love of God comes close  
Where stands an open door  
To let the stranger in,  
To mingle rich and poor:  
The love of God is here to stay,  
Embracing those who walk his way.

The peace of God comes close  
To those caught in the storm,  
Forgoing lives of ease,  
To ease the lives forlorn:  
The peace of God is here to stay,  
Embracing those who walk his way.

The joy of God comes close  
Where faith encounters fears,  
Where heights and depths of life  
Are found through smiles and tears:  
The joy of God is here to stay,  
Embracing those who walk his way.

The grace of God comes close  
To those whose grace is spent,  
When hearts are tired or sore  
And hope is bruised or bent:  
The grace of God is here to stay,  
Embracing those who walk his way.

*The Iona Community Worship Book 1994*

If you were busier, Lord, you would not bother with us.  
But you have time to listen.

**So we praise you, for having all things in proportion,  
and a time in your silence for us to speak.**

If you were wiser, Lord,  
you would not bother with us.  
But you are foolish  
and thus we are your choice.

**So, we praise you that your kingdom is indeed upside  
down;  
that your standards are not the world's standards;  
that you have bent down to touch us.**

If you were content, Lord, you would not bother with us.  
But you are restless: through anger, through excitement, and  
through love,  
you will all things to change and be made new.

**So we praise you that your restlessness has been  
born in us  
as the pain of the world, the cries of your people,  
the urgency of your gospel, and your Holy Spirit.  
Upset our easiness and require us to respond.**

*Wild Goose Worship Group – A Wee Worship Book – 1989*