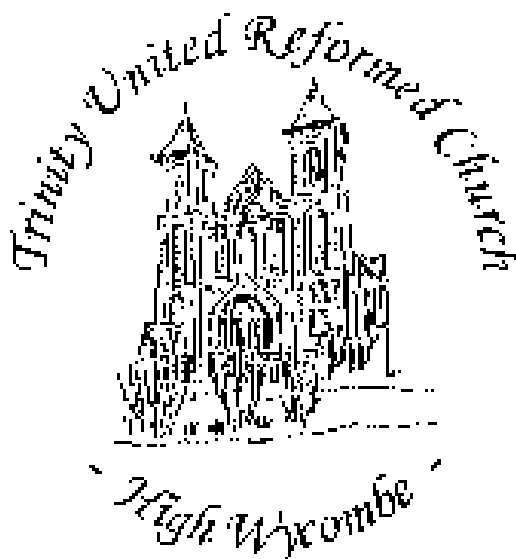


If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually ... and you shall be like a watered garden. [Isaiah 58: 10-11]



*May 2007*

# *The Recorder*

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

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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,

What a surprise and delight it was to return from a few days holiday after Easter and discover a beautiful flowering cherry tree in full bloom in the front garden of the manse. Those of you who are expert gardeners would have known what it was before it came into bloom – but I did not.

Trees are wonderful, aren't they? Not only beautiful to look at, they are useful for fruit and wood; essential for offsetting carbon emissions and maintaining a healthy planet; fun to climb [or used to be!]. It is hard to imagine our world without them. That is certainly true in the Chilterns, where we have such lovely beech woods.

Trees can be real life-savers. In northern Senegal an organisation called USE runs tree-planting seminars. USE is a Christian Aid partner. A local woman, Mairam, attended one of their seminars and was tremendously excited to be trained how to show her neighbours how planting fruit saplings will give them a better diet and fruit to sell. It will also help to regenerate their area, which has become a desert. To her, trees symbolise a whole new life.

This month we are part of something truly remarkable and exciting! Christian Aid Week is the biggest united act of Christian outreach in the UK. Tens of thousands of people, who would not dream of knocking on strangers' doors for any other reason, take to the streets. Christian Aid tells us that on average each collector raises enough to plant more than 50 mango saplings in northern Senegal (£33.50). Think about what 50 trees look like – and what a life-transforming gift they can be in such a place.

It's not only trees of course – every £1 raised means more healthcare, schools, tools, etc. You will see in this magazine that Margaret Lewis, Trinity's Christian Aid Organiser, is asking for more street collectors. Please offer if you can – it's a good idea to go in 'two's' if you are new to it.

Not everyone can be a house-to-house collector. But everyone can do something. There are so many ways in which we can contribute – time, skills, prayer, informing ourselves about the issues, giving money. Let's all help to make this a really successful Christian Aid Week.

On May 13<sup>th</sup> we shall have a Christian Aid & Parade Service. That day too we shall have a skills stall and the takings will be split between Christian Aid and Revive.

So, enjoy the beautiful trees this Spring – and enjoy them even more knowing that we are working with partners across the world to bring the blessings of life, including trees, to hard-pressed communities.



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins

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

Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole,

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

## May Services

**Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am - led by the Minister**

May 6	Infant Blessing and Holy Communion
May 13	Parade Service with a Christian Aid Theme [all age worship]
May 20	Morning Worship: 'Life Today' Series begins
May 27	Pentecost: Morning Worship: 'Life Today' week 2

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### Rotas for May

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in May



May 14 Planting Containers for Summer  
(Hostess - Ellen Murray)  
May 28 No meeting - **Bank Holiday**

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 1st May  
Tuesday 8th May  
Tuesday 15th May  
Tuesday 22nd May  
Tuesday 29th May

Readings for May Day and Summer  
A Taste of Spring Harvest - Margaret Lewis  
Christian Aid. Bring & Buy  
Beetle  
June Little



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*



To make up for last month's lack of suitable Fridays  
There are **THREE** chances this month

4th, 18th and 25th May

at 2pm

## Diary Dates

30 April	8pm REVIVE meeting
1 May	8pm Elders' Meeting
13 - 20 May	Christian Aid Week
13 May	Parade Service & Share Your Skills Stall
15 May	8pm Church Meeting
2 June	Wedding of Neil Blair & Pennapa Utta
2 June	Caribbean Evening
5 June	8pm Elders' Meeting
17 June	Church Picnic in Hughenden Park following Morning Worship
20-24 June	Gwen away
28 & 29 June	Churches Together Barbeques
3 July	8pm Elders' Meeting
7-10 July	Gwen attends General Assembly
11 July	8pm Church Meeting

**Not included in this version**

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**CARRIBEAN EVENING**



IN

**CRENDON HALL**



**SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE**

AT

**7.00 o'clock**

TICKETS £5. 00

CHILDREN UNDER 10 £2. 00

# Commitment for Life

## Zimbabwe

Just when we thought Zimbabwe was in its end game, things have once again turned President Mugabe's way. The recent meeting of south African leaders (where so much hope had been invested) have basically endorsed President Mugabe and accepted his claim that all the problems in Zimbabwe are about that country's relationship with Great Britain. Following on from that, the Znu-PF have endorsed President Mugabe as its candidate in the 2008 general election. Once again that the President has out manoeuvred African leaders and challengers in the Znu-PF.

We keep saying that things can't get worse in Zimbabwe, but they continually do. Around 3 million people have left their country in search of jobs, do to mass unemployment at home. Annual inflation is running around 2,000% and it is difficult to believe economic collapse is not near. Over 200 opposition party members have been arrested in the past weeks and leaders have been beaten. Medical care is breaking down and life expectancies are dropping alarmingly. The number of deaths due to hunger, disease and poverty is unknown simply because people cannot afford to report them. The right to assemble is, of course, being denied by the police, and now there is evidence that churches are being closed on Sundays. I received the following email from a ministerial colleague and friend living in the Harare area:

*We still need prayers for Zimbabwe. Last Sunday the police were closing churches in (a suburb of Harare). Officers were all over the place turning people away from their churches. We did not have them on our church so some people came and the elders wanted to turn them away which I thought was not the right thing to do. So we proceeded and had our service as usual, but unfortunately when people were going home in the afternoon, some of our youth were beaten by the police for no reason at all. Thank God they were not badly hurt and are recovering well. I am not sure what all this is leading up to. God knows and will be in control.*

Our prayers for Zimbabwe and our friends there are important and so is our support. Eastern Synod has a Belonging to the World Church Global Partners relationship with the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa Presbytery of Zimbabwe. We will pursue that relationship with sensitivity and wisdom, but we should never underestimate the power of solidarity.

Dale Rominger- International Relations Office  
March 31, 2007.

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### **The World Can't Wait: Your Voice Against Poverty**

On 2nd June, ahead of the G8 and EU Summits in Germany BOND (British Overseas NGOs for Development) are asking supporters to gather on the banks of the Thames, near Parliament, to raise **Your Voice Against Poverty**. Rallies will also take place in Germany and Canada. This is to show the Prime Minister and the German Chancellor Angela Merkel that **The World Can't Wait**: they must act decisively and with urgency on:

- debt cancellation and increased aid
- trade justice
- healthcare, education, water and sanitation for all
- firm plans to prevent catastrophic climate change

[www.bond.otg.uk](http://www.bond.otg.uk)

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>**

A final reminder of Christian Aid week and the need for people to help collect from the roads we have been allocated. I have put the list in the Lower Schoolroom and I'm delighted that one or two people have already signed up. However we do need more, and if you can spare even a couple of hours to help I would be most grateful to hear from you. If you've not had time to spare before, and would like more details before volunteering, please have a word with me, and I'll be happy to help.

Margaret



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Hannah Harding (5<sup>th</sup>)  
Kay Evans  
Sarah Evans

A very Happy Birthday  
With love from all at Trinity.



Congratulations



With Best Wishes to

Sarah & Simon Evans

on celebrating their 1st Wedding Anniversary  
With love from us all at Trinity.



Dear friends,

The special church meeting on Sunday 22nd April explored the views of the Fellowship on the future model for our Worship space. It appears that there is a consensus around change and the Revive committee has been asked to review the output from this meeting and formalise proposals for next steps which will be brought to Church Meeting on Tuesday 15th May. The review will take place at the next Revive committee meeting on Monday 30th April.

**Watch this space!**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ian'.

#### REVIVE FUNDING UPDATE AND PROMISES OF INTENT

As you will know from the Church Meeting held in March, we now have enough funds to begin the work to redevelop the west entrance access, the toilets, and a ramp into the sanctuary. This work should begin in late Summer/early Autumn - great news! Thank you to everyone who has given of their time, talents, money and prayers to get us to this stage.

However, as you will also be aware, we agreed to renew the heating system as part of the redevelopment and are currently obtaining costings and specifications. To carry out this work and also improve the sanctuary, install glass doors on Easton Street as per the plans and carry out redecoration work, we need to raise further funds.

The REVIVE committee hopes that now we are able to proceed with phase 1 in late Summer/early Autumn this will re-inspire us to raise the funds needed to renew the heating and carry out the sanctuary work. **WE THINK WE CAN DO THIS WORK IF WE HAVE THE PROMISE OF INTEREST-FREE LOANS OR GIFTS.** The elders will therefore be distributing a letter from Gwen and Ian to those in their pastoral lists in the hope that you will prayerfully consider whether this is something you would be willing to do.

For any promises of interest-free loans, individuals can specify the term of the loan between 2-5 years, and this is repayable on request.

If you want more detail, please refer to the letter you will receive from your elder, or ask Gwen or Ian.

With thanks for all your support,

*Kate Y*



## Wycombe Half Marathon.

I have decided to do my bit for **REVIVE** and on Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup> I am donning my trainers and running the Wycombe ½ marathon (for the first time!!)  
I hear you say – “is she Mad, Silly or just Foolish?”....

Anyway I have sent my application form in and I am embarking on a 12 week training plan – so no going back.

If anyone would care to join me they would be most welcome!!! If not, a little sponsorship money would be great. All money raised will go to REVIVE.

Sponsorship forms will be at the back of the church for you to sign.

Thank you for your support.(I will need it, and a cup of tea when I finish)

*Sarah H*



### An alternative point of view!

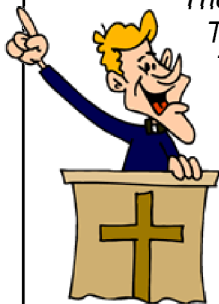
A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon. Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.

The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.

The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.

The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.



At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol - Dead.

The second worm in cigarette smoke - Dead

Third worm in chocolate syrup - Dead .

The fourth worm in good clean soil - **Alive.**

So the Minister asked the congregation - What can you learn from this demonstration?

A little old lady, sitting in the back, quickly raised her hand and said,  
"As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"

**Elders Pastoral List – Trinity United Reformed Church High Wycombe  
April 2007**

**Not included in this version**

## Spring Harvest – THE COMMERCIAL!

Our little foursome – John and Joy, Margaret and Daphne – have just returned from a fab week at the Minehead venue, well-fed both bodily and spiritually. We sang our heads off at praise worship in the Big Top; listened to some moving and powerful preaching and enjoyed great fellowship. (We even stopped out till midnight to partake of the late evening entertainment!) To those of you who have never been to Spring Harvest, you are missing a great Christian event. It is wonderful for families and all ages are catered for. We bumped into groups from Union Baptist and Hughenden church. It made us feel we should try to get you all enthused into making up a larger group from Trinity for April 2008. How about it? Too far ahead to think about it? No it isn't – we need to compile a list of names before the 6<sup>th</sup> June when booking lines open! So think about it now, if you have any questions see one of us and SIGN UP! (Places can be reserved for £30 deposit and the balance is not due until January 2008, so you have plenty of time to save up). We promise you a memorable experience.

*Joy*

How to describe the Spring Harvest Experience a-z

A	Amazing	P	Powerful preaching
B	Bible Study	Q	Quintessential
C	Christ centred	R	Restorative
D	Discussions	S	Singing
E	Entertainment	T	Tiring!
F	Friendly folk	U	Uplifting
G	Good news	V	Valuable experience
H	Happy	W	Worship
I	Inspiring	X	X-Factor!
J	Joyful	Y	Young people love it
K	Kids have fun	Z	Zany (at times)
L	Learning		
M	Meaningful		
N	Nice food		
O	OAPs are welcome		

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*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 27th May.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 18th May*

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

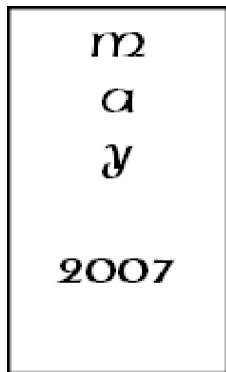
Church web site: <http://www.trinity-urc.org.uk>

## prayer page

Entice us  
by some means  
to come out from behind our barricades  
and expose ourselves to danger,  
as you came, in Christ  
from behind the barricades of heaven  
to be among us,  
vulnerable,  
the object of prejudice  
and cruelty.



Let love break in  
and steal our prize possession,  
pride,  
and crush our fear  
with confidence.



Let it be so, Lord,  
for Jesus' sake.

*Alan Gaunt – from 'Short Prayers for the Long Day'*

Let us throw open the whole of our being to the influence  
of God's forgiving love, asking him to deliver us  
from dread of the unknown future,  
from dread of illness or poverty,  
from dread of loneliness,  
from dread of death,  
from dread of trials and sorrow for those we love,  
from dread of what other people may think of us,  
from dread of criticism, misunderstanding and ridicule,  
from dread of taking responsibility lest we make mistakes.

Let us ask the abiding Spirit of love to increase in us the  
fear which is reverence, and to overcome in us the fear  
that is cowardice. Amen.

*From 'Short Prayers for the Long Day'*

Do not be afraid – I will save  
you.  
I have called you by name –  
you are mine.  
When you pass through deep  
waters,  
I will be with you;  
your troubles will not over-  
whelm you. *[Isaiah 43]*

O Christ for whom we search,  
our help when help has failed:  
give us courage to expose our need  
and ask to be made whole;  
that, being touched by you,  
we may be raised to new life  
in the power of your name, Amen.

*from 'All Desires Known' by Janet Morley*