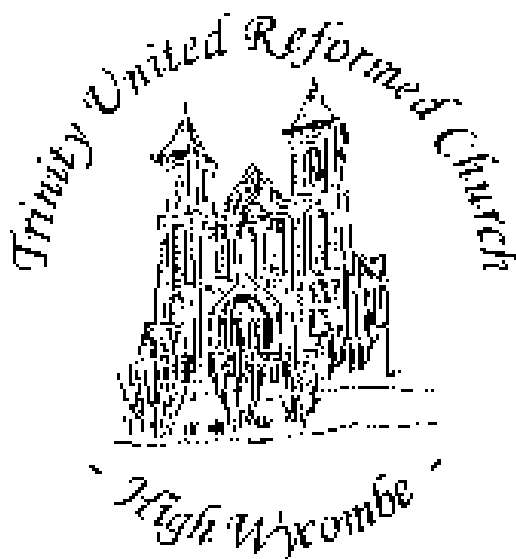


Fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honourable. *Philippians 4: v.8.*



May 2008

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,

Is the news all bad? Some of us were sharing points for prayer recently and the very understandable feeling was expressed that the news seems full of so much that is depressing.

So let's give space here to some good news items, to even out the balance a little. God doesn't ask us to ignore trouble, far from it; but neither does he want us to be unaware of the immensity of good that exists around us.

Paraguay – my attention has been caught by the news that a former Bishop in Paraguay has just been elected President of the country. Fernando Lugo, known as bishop of the poor, has entered the political arena to try to redress decades of corruption and hardship. The outgoing president acknowledged Lugo's victory with the words, "For the first time in our history, one party will transfer power to another without a coup, without bloodshed and without fighting among brothers".

Pakistan – following elections a few months ago a coalition, democratic government is being formed in Pakistan. Our Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, has just visited. BBC News reports, "He told the people of Pakistan that the country's new coalition government deserves credit for coming through the trauma of an assassination, and then being elected by genuine democracy." A beacon of hope in a nation with whom we, in High Wycombe, have so many links.

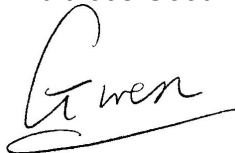
Partners – during May thousands of British Christians will take to the streets to raise large amounts of money to enable more than 600 grass-root organisations world-wide to continue work of healing and hope. These are Christian Aid Partner Organisations. The work they do makes a huge difference for good in communities right across the globe. It's great that we are part of this too. We need more door-to-door collectors. Please let Margaret Lewis know if you can help.

Pentecost – this month we celebrate the day when the Holy Spirit filled the disciples of Jesus with courage, power and very effective communication skills. It is a very familiar story, but worth reading again, in Acts. chapter 2. This is not just a historic event. It marks the birth of the church, and we and millions of others, including people in Paraguay, Pakistan and in Christian Aid's partner organisations all over the world, are living evidence of the Spirit's work in recreating Christ's body in each generation since then.

London is going to be hosting a Pentecost Festival 9th – 11th May. [See our website for details.] I like the words they use to describe it, "A cross-generational, multi-cultural celebration of the Church's creativity and compassion."

By God's grace you could say that about us at Trinity, too, could you not?

And that's Good News indeed,



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins

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

Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole,

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

May Services

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

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 4 | Holy Communion and the last of a 5 week series on Ezra. |
| May 11 | Pentecost: Morning worship at the start of Christian Aid Week. |
| May 18 | Parade Service: All age worship |
| May 25 | Morning worship led by Margaret Howard & Amersham Free Church Team |

Rotas for May

Not included in this version

What's on in May



May 12 Church History (part 2): Edna Walker
(Hostess - Marian Mole)
May 26 No meeting - **Bank Holiday**

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 6st May Wind, Fire and Spirit
Tuesday 13th May Christian Aid.
Tuesday 20th May The power of three
Tuesday 27th May The Venerable Bede



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom



Avoiding Bank Holidays is quite a task in May.
Only two chances to play this month

9th & 30th May

at 2pm

Diary Dates

6 May 8pm Elders' Meeting
10 May 10.30am Coffee Morning
11 – 17 May Christian Aid Week
18 May Parade Service & Share Your Skills Stall
19 May 8pm REVIVE Committee Meeting
20 May 8pm Church Meeting
23 – 27 May Gwen away
24 May 10.30am Coffee Morning
31 May 9.30am – 12pm The Fifth Brigade Come & help us tidy/DIY, etc
3 June 8pm Elders' Meeting
8 June Songs of Praise with Church of God & Polish Lutherans
15 June Church Picnic
20-24 June Gwen away at Westminster College
26 & 27 June Churches Together Barbeques
28 June Coffee Morning
1 July 8pm Elders' Meeting
4 & 5 July Faiths' Fair at The Guildhall
12 July Coffee Morning
15 July 8pm Church Meeting
28 July Lighthouse Week

| May | | | | | | |
|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

Not included in this version

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe meltdown in figures

As we wait to see the result of the Zimbabwe elections at this crucial time, look below at figures showing how the economy has declined and at the difficulties suffered by ordinary Zimbabweans.

INFLATION In 1987 inflation averaged 11.9 percent. It surged to an official record of 100,586 percent in January 2008, but economic experts say the real rate is much higher.

LIFE EXPECTANCY Average life expectancy dropped from 63 years in 1990 to 37.3 years in 2005, according to World Bank and U.N. figures.

HIV/AIDS In 2007, Zimbabwe had an HIV prevalence of 15.6 percent among adults aged 15-49 years - the fourth-highest rate in the world. The population is 13 million.

CHILD MORTALITY RATE Zimbabwe's mortality rate for children under five was 76 deaths out of every 1,000 in 1990. This increased to 105 in 2006.

MALNUTRITION The World Food Programme says 83 percent of Zimbabweans live on less than \$2 per day and that 45 percent of the population are malnourished.

MONEY SUPPLY GROWTH Zimbabwe's dollar is virtually worthless. The price of a loaf of bread on Saturday was about 6.6 million Zimbabwe dollars on the official market but as much as 15 million on the black market. In October last year bread cost 100,000 Zimbabwean dollars, in 2003 around 1,000 ZD and in 1998 five ZD

EXPORTS Once the breadbasket of southern Africa, Zimbabwe now needs to import maize. The U.N. agricultural production index for Zimbabwe fell from nearly 107 in 2000 to just over 74 in 2005. Exports of goods and services as a percentage of GDP averaged 33.5 percent in 1997-2001. UBS forecast this would decline to 9.9 percent in 2007.

DEVELOPMENT AID In 2000, the country received official aid and developmental aid worth \$175.8 million. The figure rose to \$367.7 million in 2005.

Sources: UBS, Reuters, WFP, World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, IMF (Reporting by Marius Bosch; Editing by Barry Moody) © Reuters March 2008

News Information from the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church

NEWS RELEASE: Monday 21st April 2008

Churches concern at Zimbabwe violence

The Methodist and United Reformed Churches have together voiced their concern about increasing levels of violence and political intimidation, linked to the delay in announcing the result of Zimbabwe's presidential election.

Commenting on the precarious situation, the Revd Dr Stephen Orchard, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, said: 'The Zimbabwe Election Commission owes it to the long-suffering people of Zimbabwe to announce the presidential result without further delay, to enable people to begin the urgent task of rebuilding their shattered lives and economy. We condemn the campaign of violence and intimidation that has been embarked upon by members of the ruling party, following the announcement of the parliamentary election results. We also believe that people who hold power in any country have a first duty to care for the poor and vulnerable rather than for themselves'.

Reflecting on the escalating humanitarian crisis, the General Secretary of the Methodist Church, the Revd David Deeks, said 'The impact on the lives of ordinary Zimbabweans has been immense. The people of Zimbabwe appear to have voted for change and the leaders of Southern African states bear a huge responsibility to ensure that the will of the people is respected. If that doesn't happen, the crisis in Zimbabwe could have an increasingly devastating impact on the entire region'.

The two churches expressed their solidarity and support in prayer and action with their partner churches and agencies in Zimbabwe and pledged to continue working together to achieve peace, justice and prosperity there.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2008

PLEASE ! PLEASE ! PLEASE ! Can you help ? Christian Aid Week this year is from the
11th - 17th May

I know that we all lead busy lives, but if you could spare even one morning, afternoon or evening I would be most grateful. The guides have kindly offered to deliver the envelopes so that will be a big help. I have a list of the roads to be collected from, and I'm sure there is one on it just right for you. I will have a sign up list in church on the next two Sundays or have a word with me after the service

Margaret L

CHAIRS DONATED FOR REVIVE FUNDS



One of our members has very kindly donated two very nice chairs to be used to raise funds for the REVIVE redevelopment project. One is a wooden Windsor type chair made by Stewart Lindford, the Wycombe furniture maker, and the other is upholstered and was made by Parker Knoll. We are most grateful for this donation.

If you are interested in any further information please speak to Margaret Lewis or Janet Roake.

MM

Synod have sent through two job descriptions for roles (voluntary) within Thames North Synod. One is for a Synod Disability Co-ordinator and one is for an Area Disability Advocate.

There is not enough space in this magazine to give full details, but a brief outline of ONE of the two roles is given below. If anyone would like further information, please see Kate Y.

SYNOD DISABILITY COORDINATOR - Job Description

The PURPOSE

To assist the Synod Executive in ensuring that throughout the Synod there are no barriers to anyone being included.

ACTIVITIES

- Actively networking with the Area Disability Advocates of the Synod
- Advising Area Disability Advocates of training opportunities and arranging for the provision of these opportunities as appropriate at Synod level.
- Encouraging Area Disability Advocates to ensure that all congregations within their area are ensuring that there are no barriers, either physical or attitude to anyone fully participating in the life of the congregations
- In conjunction with appropriate Synod Groups and Committees ensuring that in any event or activity planned recognition is given to the needs necessary to ensure that there are no barriers, either physical or attitude, to anyone participating.
- Arranging at least once a year a meeting with the Area Disability Advocates

The PERSON

- The Coordinator will experience of the problems faced by those with disabilities and prejudices.
 - The Coordinator will be familiar with the United Reformed Church's and the Synod's policy on equalities.
 - A reasonable level of computer literacy will be an advantage, with training available.
- The Coordinator should be enthusiastic, articulate and committed.

Car Washing



Revive, Renew and Renovate the outside of your car from £5.00

Refresh, Revitalise and Reform the inside of your car from £5.00

That Lot and The Other Lot will be washing cars to raise money for Revive on Sunday 25th May from 2p.m.

If you would like your car washed please speak to Simon, Sarah or any of the young people.

Refreshments and home baked cakes will be available while you wait on comfy chairs in the garden (or lounge if it's raining).

SHARE YOUR SKILLS



This scheme to raise funds for REVIVE has now been running for nearly a year and raised approximately £700. Here's a reminder of what's on offer. If you'd like to add or change anything please speak to Marian.

Not included in this version

Building for the future

**Elders Pastoral List – Trinity United Reformed Church High Wycombe
April 2008**

Not included in this version



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Hannah H (5th)

Kay E

Sarah E

A Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity



Congratulations



With Best Wishes to

Rev'd Bernie Collins (10th)

on celebrating his 60th Birthday
with love from us all at Trinity.

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

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

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

prayer page

Justice

Cease to do evil.
Learn to do good.
Search for justice;
help the oppressed, the poor,
the starving, the elderly,
the lonely, the imprisoned.

Be just to the stranger,
the single parent,
the mentally ill and those in distress,
plead for the outsider, the refugee,
and the immigrant.

Go in peace and serve the Lord. In the name of
Christ. **Amen.**

© Church Action on Poverty

Campaigning

Comforter Lord,
I thank you that I live in comfort
with food, shelter, healthcare and education.
Help me bring your comfort to those without;
By stepping out of my comfort-zone
and challenging unfair systems.

Lord of Peace,
I thank you that I live in peace
under the rule of law and justice.
Help me bring your peace to those without;
by breaking the peace
and shouting until their voices are heard.

Life-giving Lord,
I thank you that I am free
to worship you and express my opinions.
Help me bring your freedom to those without;
by freely giving of myself
and breaking down barriers of hatred.

© Melanie Frew

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2008

Hands strengthened to learn a trade;
Hands stretched out to help a need;
Hands lifted to rejoice in a new start;
Hands clasped to celebrate a partnership:
We lift high the hopes of the world's
poorest people to our God,
who has the whole world in his hands.
Amen.

© Peter Graystone , Christian Aid



I am glad you made my neighbour different
from me;

a different coloured skin,
a different shaped face,
a different response to you.

I need my neighbour to teach me about you.
He knows all the things I don't know.

© Monica Furlong

The living Christ still has two hands,
one to point the way,
and the other held out to help us
along.

TW Mason

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Sunday | for preparations for Christian Aid week beginning 11 May |
| Monday | for those preparing for exams this summer |
| Tuesday | for our elders, especially new serving elders Janet & Andrew |
| Wednesday | for community support officers |
| Friday | for local farmers and farmers' markets |
| Saturday | for Wycliffe Bible Translators |