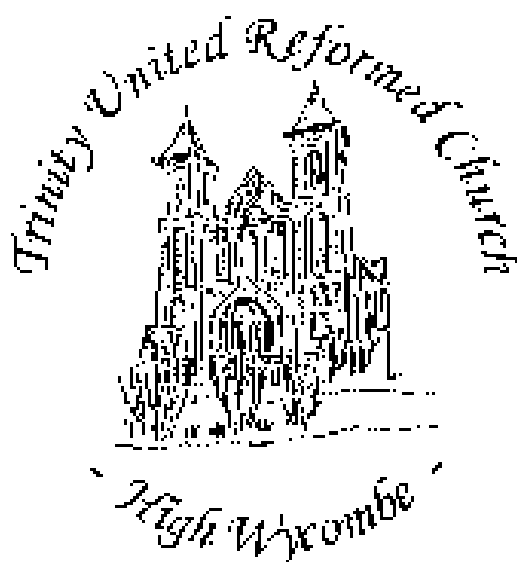


If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples. *John 13: 35*



May 2009

The Recorder

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An edited version of this magazine is available on the Church Website.

(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

Friends,

One of the things I love about the Bible is that it is full of people! Some we know a great deal about, and others are people whose personalities are communicated to us in a sentence or two. Cameo character studies bring to life people long gone who leap out of the pages at us with inspiration or warning. One of these is Dorcas. You can find her story in Acts chapter 9, after the much more famous incident of Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus.

Dorcas was a believer who spent all her time doing good and helping the poor. What a testimony that is. She seems to me to be a good role model for this month of May.

Christian Aid Week gives us the opportunity to help people who struggle with poverty, often very severe poverty. We can donate, and if fit enough we can help with the house-to-house collection. This year we have the privilege of having Cat Goldson join us for Sunday worship at the beginning of the week. Cat is the Christian Aid member of staff for Buckinghamshire. She recently visited the Democratic Republic of Congo and will be sharing what she learnt there. Year by year Christian Aid Week is the biggest act of Christian witness in the UK. It certainly stands firmly in the Dorcas tradition.

Dorcas was a believer. Her love for the Lord Jesus Christ motivated her life-style and her actions. She must have come to faith not long after that first day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit filled the believers. Or perhaps she was there that very day, or had met Jesus before his death and resurrection. Our celebration of Pentecost this month gives us a focus for renewing our own faith and seeking to be filled with the Holy Spirit afresh. Of course that is something we can do any and every day – not just at Pentecost. As you read through the Recorder this month you will come across an article by another 'D'. Delia Smith. She shares her recipe for spiritual growth. It is very simple and very profound.

It reminds me to remind you about the challenge I issued at the start of the year to read the New Testament, a book a fortnight, and to keep a note of questions that arise. On Tuesday 9th June we will have an 'Any Questions (so far)?' evening, for the questions you have noted, or for any other questions about the Bible that you would like us to consider. Please give me your questions in writing by the end of May. You can ask as many as you like. You may like to invite friends from outside the church to put their questions too, or, at least to come and hear the answers.

Dorcas became ill and died. She only got into the New Testament because the apostle Peter was summoned from nearby Lydda by her friends. Peter prayed and Dorcas got up. The news about this spread and many people believed in the Lord. That story in itself raises many questions.

What is clear though is that, like us, Dorcas was a believer in the midst of a community of believers. Not only did she love the Lord and pour all her energies into helping others, but she was in turn loved by her community, as we are. Our task and our joy at Trinity is to always be deepening and widening the reach of that love, in Christ's name.



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk
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Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole, e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk
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May Services

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

May 3	Holy Communion and induction of Elders for second term.
May 10	Christian Aid Service, with Christian Aid speaker Cat Goldson.
May 17	All Age Worship
May 24	Morning Worship
May 31	Pentecost

Not included in this version

What's on in May



May 11 Planting tubs and baskets
 (Hostess - Ellen Murray)
 May 25 No meeting - **Bank Holiday**

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 5th May
 Tuesday 12th May
 Tuesday 19th May
 Tuesday 26th May

Make me Laugh!
 Christian Aid. Bring & Buy
 Proverbs and Words to Live By
 Signs of Spring & Summer



All meetings start at 2.30



You LUCKY people.
 Three get-togethers this month
 1st, 15th and 29th May
 at 2pm

Diary Dates

May 9 Coffee Morning 10.30am in Crendon Hall
10 – 16 Christian Aid Week
15 REVIVE Meeting with Peter Twilley 7.30pm (Kate Smith Room)
19 Church Meeting 8pm in Crendon Hall
23 Coffee Morning 10.30am in Crendon Hall
26 Elders' Meeting 8pm
30 Fifth Brigade 9.30 – 12noon
30 Chiltern Area Elders' Day

June 7, 14, 21, 28 Bible Discussions as part of
 Vision4Life 9.40-10.10am
9 Any Questions So Far? 8pm (Crendon Hall)
13 Coffee Morning 10.30am (Crendon Hall)
20 Caribbean Evening
21 Picnic on The Rye
25-26 Gwen away

May 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	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						

Important Future Dates:

See page 5, opposite

Not included in this version

Auction for Revive - a gentle reminder!!

We are starting to plan an auction - possibly combining it with the Autumn Fayre on 3 October - and wonder if you (or anyone you know) would be willing to donate any quality items for this? At present we have two chairs generously donated by John Hillson, and Trinity's table tennis table, but for it to be a meaningful event we really need some more items for our 'catalogue'.

Please let either of us know.

With thanks,
Margaret L and Kate Y

Traveller's Tales:

Seen recently, on top of a School of Motoring car (one for the "not-so-young"):

Startkey & Clutch

Important Future Dates:

July 4 CWR Seminar for Women at Trinity

July 5 REVIVE BBQ

July 10 & 11 Wycombe Churches Together BBQs

July 20-24 Lighthouse Week

September 19 Harvest Supper & Social

September 27 REVIVE Phase 2 opening by Revd John Marsh

October 3 Autumn Fayre, REVIVE Auction & SV2G celebration of Black History Month

November 6 Haywood Trio with Roberta Rominger

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's water, sanitation, and health crisis has received a \$10 million boost from the government of Australia to help restore basic services as officials fight off an appalling cholera emergency. Half of the money will be directed at sanitation projects coordinated by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). The other \$5 million will help pay salaries of local health workers, many of whom have been sidelined by the country's enormous financial strains. Almost 88,000 Zimbabweans have fallen victim to cholera since the crisis began in August of last year, and almost 4,000 have died from the outbreak, which is attributed mainly to the collapse of sanitation services, corruption of the urban water supply, and shortcomings in local and urban garbage collection systems. © alertnet

Where have all the hustlers gone?

The failed economy created hidden livelihoods for hundreds of people, mainly through illicitly trading hard currencies and basic goods. The bus terminus I walk past in downtown Harare used to be filled with vendors, dealers and money changers.

But since the unity government introduced its policy of dollarisation, they have suddenly disappeared. I can now pass the bus terminus without being hustled. It's amazing. But it makes me wonder: what has happened to these people?

My cousin is a teacher. During the strikes, like many teachers, he would supplement his salary by moonlighting as a foreign currency trader. He says most of his fellow traders are now living under extremely difficult conditions. Many are homeless, evicted for not paying rent. Some have returned to the food shortages and deprivation of their rural homes to rejoin the families they provided for. Others have crawled under the electric fence to South Africa, the bright lights of Johannesburg – and its illusive greener pastures.

The new government has promised to resuscitate the closed factories so that people can go back to work again. To do this my million dollar question is: where is the money going to come from? I and many others are sceptical about the new government. I asked my sister who left Zimbabwe many years ago whether she was considering coming home. Her answer was swift and simple: 'Only when this marriage of convenience works and I see a future for my kids will I come back.'

© To read more of the Zimbabwe Diary go to:-

http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/current/zimbabwe-crisis/Zimbabwe_diary.aspx

Zimbabwe:

Lord, God of love and justice, we pray for the people of Zimbabwe as their sufferings still increase - as cholera continues to spread, and, as inflation makes money meaningless, food becomes harder to find, and hope begins to fail.

Speak to the hearts of those in, power, that they may be moved to co-operate. Strengthen, guide and encourage those trying to work for change and

by your Spirit bring healing and peace wherever there is pain and despair.

Lord, in Jesus name we pray, bless the people of Zimbabwe.

Amen

© M Robbins

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10th – 16th MAY

PLEASE, **PLEASE**, PLEASE . . .

I'm sorry if this sounds a bit like nagging, but Christian Aid Week will soon be upon us and we desperately need collectors. If you can spare even one morning, afternoon or evening during the week of 10th to 16th May, I would love to hear from you. We have a selection of roads to collect from, so I'm sure there will be one just right for you. If you're not sure what is involved and would like more information, please have a word with me and I can give you details.

Thank you

Margaret

A selection from Mussorgsky's

“Pictures at an Exhibition”

and works by Bach, Pachelbel, Frederick Frahm* and John Ellis*

Robin Walker
Organ

with Soo Webster (Contralto) and Barrie Oliver (Tenor)

Saturday 30th May 2009

7.30pm

**at Chesham United Reformed Church,
The Broadway, Chesham**

Tickets: £8 Concessions £6 Children/Music students – free

Pew seating – cushions recommended Interval refreshments

*Tickets available from “Perfect Pitch”, Chesham
or from Sue Oliver – 01494 713469*

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News from Chiltern Area Committee Meeting April 2009

1. **Request from Synod office for your response**

As of 1 October 2009 churches with a turnover of £100,000 or more have to register with the Charity Commission as a charity.

2. **Ministry**

- a. **Mr John Parry** is retiring as Interim Moderator at Iver at Easter 2009 – thanks go to him for serving as I/M.
- b. **Revd Andrew Busby** is back at work at Amersham – thanksgiving for his recovery.

3. **General news**

Church Secretary changes:

- a. Norma Jenns has replaced Janet Reid at Amersham
- b. Tom Hickling has stepped down at Chesham after his maximum term of service
- c. Graham Wright has stepped down at Wendover

Area Committee vacancy – Gwen Collins was voted back onto Area Committee at the March Synod meeting for a period of three years

4. **Vacancies**

- a. Trinity Slough / St Andrew's Iver and Beaconsfield / Holtspur are still in vacancy

5. **Area elders' day on – Saturday 30 May 2009, 10 am to 4 pm**

We are delighted that we have 57 people attending, including the Moderator.

6. **Vacancies for appointments to Synod Committees**

- a. Ministry & Mission Fund Committee
- b. Nominations Committee
- c. Leadership Development Group
- d. Synod Disability Coordinator

7. **Pastoral Consultation Visits**

Convenors and teams are being appointed for pastoral consultation review visits to Chesham, Gerrards Cross, Aylesbury St Mark's and Trinity High Wycombe during 2009.

8. **News from the churches**

News updates were given from Amersham, Kingsway Slough, Cores End and Holtspur, with a brief update from Gerrards Cross.

News updates due from the churches at the May meeting will be:

- Beaconsfield
- Burnham
- Deanway
- Fairford Leys

9. **Building projects**

- a. Trinity High Wycombe sanctuary redevelopment – well under way
- b. Amersham Free Church redevelopment – progressing
- c. Chesham – architects have been appointed

10. **Date of next Area Committee meeting – 13 May 2009**

SENT TO COVENTRY!

An Away Day for the Trinity Family to enjoy.

We are arranging a day trip to Coventry on Saturday 17 October when 10 members of our choir will be taking part with the Free Church Choir Union in the **FESTIVAL OF PRAISE** in Coventry Cathedral . You could be there to share in this wonderful experience. The performance will be at 7pm so whilst the choir of 400 rehearses in the afternoon you will be able to enjoy some sightseeing around Coventry city.

Ickenham URC will be there as their organist, Peter Williams, is the Festival Conductor and Audrey B will also be singing in the choir.

Please sign the sheet available at church as soon as possible in order that an appropriate sized coach can be booked or let Marian M know by phone or email.

Marian

Introduction to A Feast for Lent, by Delia Smith

My own spiritual journey into scripture began to take on a new meaning about six years ago when, because I somehow felt the need to deepen my *faith*, I began to pray for a new outpouring of the gift of the Holy Spirit. At the same time I started to read the 'prayer of the church' each day, what we call the breviary or divine office. It was through reading the full office most days and attending daily mass that I thus - almost unknowingly - got through most of the Bible in two years. It turned out to be a joyful and stimulating discovery and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, the Bible began to take on a new and more significant meaning. I have come to appreciate the truth of that famous and much-quoted verse that 'Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God' (Matthew 4:4).

In fact in that verse we are given the recipe for spiritual growth. Just as we need nourishment to sustain our bodies in the physical demands of day-to-day life, so we need to feed on God's word so that our spiritual lives may grow and meet similar demands. If we pursue the parallel then we come to realize that just as we need bodily food *daily*, so we need spiritual food daily. If we feed on scripture just once a week we are in danger of spiritual starvation.

If I could share with you one spiritual breakthrough of my own: it is that if we begin to seek God with all our hearts, he will let us find him. If we make a decision to spend a 'quiet time' every day, seeking him in his word, taking short passages of scripture to read in a prayerful way, praying for help and guidance — then there is no limit to what God has to teach us. It is here we will find wisdom, knowledge and healing; and most important of all it is here we will meet Jesus. In the Old Testament we encounter God the Father teaching the people of God and pointing them to Jesus; in the gospels we encounter him personally; in the Acts we learn how to receive the Spirit; and in the Letters we find teaching on the divine mystery of the Trinity and on every aspect of the spiritual life.

[By Delia Smith, from *A Feast for Lent*, BRF, www.brf.org.uk, 1983, used by permission]



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Kay Evans
Hannah Harding (5th)
Rev'd Bernie Collins (10th)
Sarah Evans (13th)

A Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity



Congratulations



With Best Wishes to

Sarah & Simon (6th)
Kate & Alan Yates (21st)

on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary
with love from us all at Trinity.

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 24th May.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 15th May*

Recorder Editor : Angus Massie, 86 Cressex Road, High Wycombe. ☎ 01494 444560
e-mail : editor@trinity-urc.org.uk

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

prayer page

It is not true that this world and its inhabitants are doomed to die and be lost;
This is true: for God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him shall not die but have everlasting life.

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction;
This is true: I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred shall have the last word, and that war and destruction have come to stay forever.
This is true: for to us a child is born, to us a son is given in whom authority will rest and whose name will be prince of peace.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the church, before we can do anything;
This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all people, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young people shall see visions, and your old folk shall dream dreams.

It is not true that our dreams for the liberation of humankind, our dreams of justice, of human dignity, of peace, are not meant for this earth and this history
This is true: the hour comes, and it is now, that true worshippers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.

From The Iona Community Worship Book © Iona Community

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2009

God our father,
you disarm our judgement
with your outrageous mercy;
and the punishment we seek
you turn to celebration.
Lift our self-loathing,
and embrace our stubbornness,
that we too may show such fathering
to an embittered world,
through Jesus Christ, Amen.



From All Desires Known by Janet Morley © Christian Aid

God, you alone see every side of every question without being paralysed by doing so. Grant to me the gift of understanding, by which I may see both this side and that, yet still choose, for there are two sides to every question – the right side and the wrong. Only you know for certain which is which, so give me faith, courage and forgiveness, for Christ's sake.

From Asking God © Oliver Tomkins

Sunday	For your elder
Monday	Give thanks for the young people and children in our church
Tuesday	For the Chiltern Area Committee serving the 17 URC churches in its area
Wednesday	For local farmers
Thursday	Give thanks for Angus and the team who prepare the Recorder each month
Friday	For countries affected by ongoing war and conflict
Saturday	For the campaign to limit global warming