

Peter said, "The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us."
Acts 11:12



May 2010

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,

COMMUNICATION: STARTING LOCAL

Are you are reading this by holding a copy of the Recorder in your hand, or are you looking at your computer screen and reading it 'on-line'? If you are doing the latter you will have already noticed that our website has some helpful new features. We have the facility now to view the room bookings calendar for several months ahead. Thanks to Tim Sparks for setting this up and to Simon Evans for keeping the information up to date. Also, on our home page, you can clearly see what's on at Trinity, arranged so that it always starts with 'today'.

This is all part of good communication. Good communication is what our June Open Week is going to be about too. The idea is that we will communicate clearly to our neighbours what is going on at Trinity and invite them to come and see for themselves. Come to Church Meeting on the 18th May for more news about that and to share your own ideas.

COMMUNICATION: GOING COUNTRYWIDE

Last Sunday Bernie and I went to the Election Meeting at All Saints to hear some of the candidates for Parliament introduce themselves and answer questions. There were far more questions than could be tackled in the time available. However we did get a chance to hear what the prospective MPs and their political parties would like to do on a number of issues. These included, amongst others:

- addressing global climate change and ensuring energy security.
- preventing the inevitable cutbacks in public spending from fuelling increased tensions in a multi-cultural town like ours.
- respecting freedom of conscience and/or upholding sexual orientation legislation, such as in the case of a recent B&B proprietor.
- addressing inequalities in funding available to university students.
- supporting small businesses.

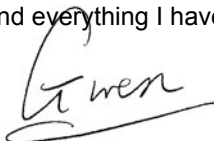
I had missed the first debate on television between Gordon Brown, David Cameron and Nick Clegg, although I do hope to be able to hear or see the next two, so I really enjoyed the opportunity to hear at first hand what their local representatives said. The evening confirmed for me my belief that most people go into politics because they care about our country and the wider world. Who is best placed to do the job is, of course, another question. And one we each have to decide for ourselves. As your minister I encourage you to do that, and to use your vote. On later pages you can read more on this topic.

COMMUNICATION: IMPACTING GLOBALLY

Christian Aid Week, 9 – 15th May, is a chance for us to communicate Christ's love through our giving and our collecting. As you know Christian Aid partners around the world serve people of all ages whose lives are made very hard by lack of money, lack of education, lack of adequate health care and much else. The recession has had an impact on Christian Aid's ability to fund all these partners so our help is needed more than ever this year.

COMMUNICATION: COMING ALIVE SPIRITUALLY

At Pentecost on the 23rd May Christians remember and celebrate the remarkable day when the Holy Spirit gave power to the first band of Christ's followers to speak out about Him. The church then grew and developed under the direction of the Spirit [e.g. the verse on the cover]. In writing this letter I looked at our website again, and then at Christian Aid's website. The system was a bit sluggish and in order to make the internet connection live I had to click on the refresh button. In a similar way we too need to refresh, renew and Revive our communication channels with God. Nothing is more important than being openly receptive to the Spirit's leading in our lives. And everything I have written about in this letter lies within the Spirit's realm.



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 unless otherwise stated

May 2	10.30	Holy Communion
	4.30	Prayer Circle for Healing
May 9		Morning worship with infant baptisms
May 16		Christian Aid Service and All Age Worship
May 23		Pentecost
May 30		Morning Worship with infant blessings/baptisms

Rotas for May

Not included in this version

What's on in May



- May 10 Talk - Sailing round the Islands - Andrew Winton
(Host - Andrew Winton)
- May 24 Planting containers
(Hostess - Ellen Murray)

WOMEN'S MEETING

- Tuesday 4th May Preparations for the Rally next week.
- Tuesday 11th May Service in the Sanctuary at which our Minister, Rev Dr Gwen Collins, will be the speaker. This will be followed by tea. Ladies from other churches have been invited and we extend a warm invitation to all our ladies to join us.
- Tuesday 18th May Picture Quiz
- Tuesday 25th May Why not walk under a ladder? A look at some popular superstitions and their possible origins.



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Coffee Bar

Diary Dates

- May 2** Prayer Circle For Healing 4.30pm
4 Users' & Hirers' Meeting 6.15 –7.15pm
5 WWNS Day Centre opens at Trinity
5 REVIVE Committee Meeting 8pm
8 Coffee Morning
10-16 Christian Aid Week
15 Peter Twilley 9.30am – 12.30pm
18 Church Meeting 8pm
22 Coffee Morning
22 Chiltern Camerata Concert
25 Elders' Meeting 8pm
29 Fifth Brigade 9.30-12.30 DIY session

- June 12** Coffee Morning
13-20 Open Week for all organisations & local residents
20 Communion Service 5pm
26 Coffee Mornign
26 Early Harps Concert
29 Elders' Meeting

- July 9&10** Churches Together Barbeques
11 Church Picnic followed by Songs of Praise on The Rye at 3.30pm
20 Church Meeting
26-30 Lighthouse Week

May 2010						
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Not included in this version



CARIBBEAN EVENING SATURDAY 19th JUNE

Rose is organising a fun Caribbean Evening again this year and it will be held at Trinity on 19th June. Make a note of this date in your diaries and more details will follow shortly.

Harp Concert

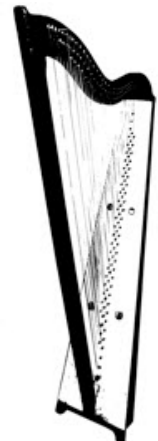
MUSIC FROM THE BAROQUE, CLASSICAL, AND ROMANTIC
PRESENTED BY INTERNATIONAL HARPIST

Robin Ward

Saturday 26th June

7:30pm

Trinity United Reformed Church



Tickets & Enquiries: 01494 520365

kate@trinity-urc.org.uk

Adults £10 / Concession £8 / Under 18 Donation

[www.earlyharps.com]

A portion of proceeds will go to Trinity's *Revive* Development Fund

Commitment for Life

ZIMBABWE

ZimPro

Zimpro is one of five Christian Aid partners working in a consortium to provide support in conservation agriculture to farmers in the drought-prone Matabeleland southern region. This year they have managed to reach 1,000 additional farmers who in October were ready and waiting with fields prepared for the rains. Lead farmers are identified who are given extra training and support and then help to identify, recruit, train and advise other farmers in their communities.

ZimPro also trains local government agricultural extension officers in the conservation agriculture techniques to ensure that as many farmers as possible benefit from the proven results that conservation farming can bring to poor farmers in arid areas. ZimPro staff set up training sessions in communities which the agricultural extension officers then lead. ZimPro then provides drought-resistant seeds, fertilizers and tools. Their local field monitors visit farmers more regularly than the state workers are able to, for advice, support and further training.

As Zimbabwe enters the worst months of its annual hunger season, many farmers and their families who were forced to eat the seeds they had to plant last time around, who have been identified by ZimPro with the help of lead farmers and taught conservation farming techniques, will grow a significantly larger crop to ensure they are not forced to resort to this desperate measure another year.

Habakkuk Trust

Habakkuk Trust, in partnership with the Zimbabwe Coalition in Debt and Development, mobilized over 3,000 residents of Bulawayo to reject the proposed budget of the Bulawayo City Council (BCC) which would have seen astronomical increases in various rates and charges.

In response to this the BCC brought down its charges by 60 per cent in an unprecedented move. A Zimbabwean newspaper, *The Chronicle*, described the move by the two organisations as 'a rare show of people power'. In an editorial carried in the same publication the two organisations were commended for mobilizing residents to participate in decision making processes.

Habakkuk Trust will continue to lobby for rates and tariffs charged by government departments, parastatals and local authorities to be reduced to the level of other South African Development Committee (SADC) countries or lower. Habakkuk Trust says 'astronomically high rates and tariffs will reverse whatever economic growth we are hoping to achieve as a nation. Both businesses and ordinary residents will have their incomes eroded, resulting in increasing poverty and unemployment as companies struggle to survive.' They continue: 'We appreciate the fact that most of these parastatals and service providers are struggling to survive themselves but if the current rates and tariffs regime persists, the service providers might find themselves folding up as people just do not have the money to pay these bills.'

Habakkuk Trust says 'the success of the budget campaign shows that Habakkuk Trust's Action Teams were able to apply what they learnt in advocacy training.'

Day Centre for the Homeless at Trinity

The success of the Wycombe Winter Night Shelter has been outstanding and certainly the need for it has been evidenced by the attendance of the guests. How blessed we have been, to have been able to offer our building, and many of our members, in service. As you all know, this has encouraged the Night Shelter staff to consider extending the work to provide a Day Centre.

Stage one - start up of day centre

As agreed at our Church Meeting in January, the pilot will start in May for two mornings a week in the Coffee Lounge. It will include basic breakfast and provision of sandwich lunch, and **small teams of volunteers from Trinity and other churches will be needed to prepare this at church or at home. Please let me know if you are interested in helping.**

The Day Centre staff will provide information and support with issues such as finance, housing, work and moving on in life. There will be the possibility of skills workshops. This work will be reviewed by Night Shelter and Trinity after two months. We will be looking at numbers attending, any successes or challenges that have been faced, and any other feedback we have received. The road will not always be smooth and there are certainly challenges ahead but we pray for the support and guidance to be able to cope with these.

Stage two - development

With the future in mind, and as instructed by Church Meeting in January, Gwen Collins, Simon E and myself have been meeting with night shelter staff to discuss the possible ways this work could develop. We want to be able to have a pathway forward, if the need for the daycentre is substantiated by attendance and support. We also wanted to be mindful of proceeding at a pace that could be monitored and managed by the team. It was suggested therefore that a staged approach would be most appropriate.

We can revisit an old idea of leasing out the Kate Smith and Lionel Jowett room, creating a designated space for Night Shelter office, store and meeting place. It is also easier for Night Shelter to secure funding for development if they can promote the service as Night Shelter as opposed to Trinity Church. In order to achieve this some modifications would need to be made. A new direct access door from outside to the Lionel Jowett room with some partitioning to create a lobby; access to the Crendon Hall could then either be the existing doors or from the door at the bottom of the stairs to the kitchen. Users could then have unique access points. Both areas would also have access to toilets and basic kitchen facilities. The idea, if supported, would obviously need a detailed plan. But don't worry, WWNS have already agreed as part of the theoretical discussions that have taken place that Junior Church could take place in the Day Centre. The good news is that Night Shelter would find the funds for the majority of the modifications we had already planned for this area in **Revive Phase three** and we would have a secure income from the rent, through a lease agreement. The Night Shelter team, working with Trinity, believe this work could start during 2010. The Thames North Synod Trust Officer is being kept informed of these possible developments, and has promised the backing of the Trust to make all necessary formal arrangements should it proceed to that stage.

If this, or another worked proposal is successful in partnership we could then move forward to:-

Stage three -

This would include a full evaluation of the Day Centre, its aims and ambitions, the facility requirements and the relationship /impact on Trinity. We will by then have established our use of the building and that of our other users, including Crown House School, and hopefully have a wish list of our own outlining the type of spaces we need to complement the sanctuary, coffee bar and lower kitchen. It may be possible for further growth to take place through the redevelopment of Crendon Hall level of the premises, more or less in accordance with our remaining Revive plans with perhaps a few tweaks. The Day Centre could then make extensive use of the Crendon Hall level as well. This redevelopment would, in all likelihood, require joint funding (or seeking Grants together with the WWNS charity) or at the very least contribution from Trinity as we will be benefiting from considerable improvements.

Hopefully this has given you all some idea of the scope of the project. It is not set in stone and in fact needs to be very fluid to ensure we are continually re-evaluating what is required. We will keep you updated through the Recorder and at Church meetings, and welcome your comments.

Valerie L

Edited summary of Chiltern Area URC Committee Meeting - April 2010

1. News from the churches

- a. Fairford Leys: Over Lent they looked at Water Aid and had Jars of Change for Jars of Water, with the children involved; they hold a midweek service on a Wednesday morning followed by fellowship; Open House for over-50s for which they collect those house-bound or without transport; hosted core skills course (Anglican) for children's leaders; working with 'Trailblazers' through Fred Ireland, advertising for people to mentor young offenders and build relationships and encourage them, and keep in touch when they leave prison; recently did one-off special collection for local church in Zimbabwe. Lots of stuff going on in the community on the estate.
- b. Gerrards Cross: Worship and church life at St. Andrew's URC move up a gear with the appointment of Dr David Henry as Interim Moderator. We have had a good increase in numbers at Sunday morning worship, with three new attendees expressing a wish to become members. David holds an "open vestry" hour on Friday at which anyone is welcome. During February and March they held four joint Bible study sessions on the four gospels with our Methodist neighbours. Average attendance was about eighteen.
- c. Slough United Reformed Asian Church: They had wonderful Palm Sunday, Friday and Easter Sunrise services and one infant baptism on Palm Sunday. More coming to worship at Asian URC in Slough. Relationships are strengthening not only among church families but with local churches too. They're networking with local churches to come together for joint programmes such as youth groups, social activities or joint services. They had joint service during Lent where three Asian congregations (Methodist, Pentecostal & URC) had good time of praise & worship with hot meal after.

2. Vacancies

- a. **Beaconsfield/Holtspur** – Revd Nigel Douglas from Gosport, Hants, preached with view on 21 March and has accepted call to be minister. Likely to start ministry early September.
- b. **Trinity Slough/Iver** – Vacancy committee will be meeting a prospective minister soon.
- c. **Fairford Leys LEP** – Revd Alan Kirkcaldy is Interim Moderator. Someone is preaching with a view on 7 May.

3. Vacancies on Area Committee – Ecumenical Representative; Ministry & Mission (M&M) Representative

Do you know anyone who might be willing to serve?

4. URC Representative on Bucks New Uni Chaplaincy Council

Revd Alan Kirkcaldy has agreed to take this on; meetings are termly.

5. Building projects

a. Amersham Free Church

Proceeding with Phase 1 of works - £400,000; (Phase 2 would be further £30,000). Giving and pledges in excess of forecast. Sought references for preferred contractor – paperwork with the Trust. Building regs approval in. Taking opportunities to go down eco route where possible. Aim to start work 4 May with completion by end September.

b. Chesham

Last church meeting agreed to proceed with proposals.

6. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 12 May. News reports will be given from Colnbrook & Poyle United, Chesham, St Mark's Aylesbury, Trinity High Wycombe, Trinity Slough

Elders Pastoral Groups - 2010/11

Not included in this version

A statement from the Church Leaders in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire following the announcement of the General Election on 6th May 2010 (Since the Moderator of our own Synod is a signatory to this statement, it only seems right to publish this in the Recorder)

On 6 May 2010, the people of the United Kingdom will be invited to vote for their local candidate in the General Election. As Church Leaders in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire we encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote and to do so with the well-being of all people in our communities in mind. We urge Churches Together groups, where appropriate, to host hustings to enable the Christian voice to contribute to the debate. We hope that Christians will engage vigorously with candidates about their party's policies. We ask that, as well as local issues, they will discuss areas of national and international concern. In particular, we highlight four questions which we hope will be at the heart of this election campaign:

1. In the light of forthcoming cuts in public expenditure how can we ensure that the poor and vulnerable (both in this country and abroad) do not take the main brunt of the cutbacks?
2. In the light of the growing consensus on the effects of global warming, how can we take responsibility to decrease our carbon footprint and live in more sustainable ways, seeking to protect the poorest from the worst of its effects?
3. At a time of social fragmentation, how can we support marriage and family life?
4. With an increasing number of elderly people in our country, how can we ensure that we are making adequate financial, social and medical provision?

We believe that hospitality and mutual respect remain the foundation of a civilized society. While not endorsing any particular political party, the policies and practices of those who promote racism and religious intolerance, whether individuals or political parties, are incompatible with our understanding of the love of God for all people. We urge people not to vote for candidates who promote racist policies, instead, we encourage members of all churches to practice and promote racial justice and social inclusion, and reject any political parties that attempt to stir up racial and religious hatred and fear of asylum seekers.

Revd Anne E Brown, Chair of Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District

Revd Geoff Colmer, Team Leader, Central Baptist Association

Revd Stephen Copson, Regional Minister, Central Baptist Association

Revd Dr Andrew Prasad, Moderator, Thames North Synod, United Reformed Churches

Major Christine Bailey, Divisional Commander Central South Div., The Salvation Army

Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans

Rt Revd Christopher Foster, Bishop of Hertford

Rt Revd Richard Inwood, Bishop of Bedford

Further Information from Arun Kataria, Communications Officer, Diocese of St Albans

01727 818110, mobile 007809 149430

General Election - 6 May

Exercise your right - and responsibility.

Why immigration is an economic and human rights issue (from Vaughan Jones)

In what amounts to a less than subtle clue to the way in which politicians and the media have been constructing the public 'debate' on migration, Labour's new manifesto has a large section entitled: "Crime and Immigration".

As if the two somehow belong together by default.

It declares: "We understand people's concerns about immigration – about whether it will undermine their wages or job prospects, or put pressure on public services or housing – and we have acted. Asylum claims are down to the levels of the early 1990s and net inward migration has fallen. We will use our new Australian style points-based system to ensure that as growth returns we see rising employment and wages, not rising immigration – but we reject the arbitrary and unworkable Tory quota."

There will also be an "English Language Test" for all public sector employees, we are promised.

Contrary to the popular distortions which the main General Election contenders are colluding in and perpetuating, immigration is an economic and human rights issue.

Crime and Immigration are both the responsibility of the Home Office so it is possible to understand why they are linked together in the manifesto. However, the authors should have been considerably more aware of the impact that will have on the reader.

Many migrants are victims of crime, through those who profit from the trafficking of people and those who exploit their vulnerability. There is no need for 'dog whistles' which attach attributes to people which they do not deserve.

There is a logic and far greater transparency within the points-based system. However, it is based on a philosophy which treats the human being (i.e. the migrant) as a commodity within a 'just in time' supply chain.

Well-intentioned though it be, the points based system lacks the flexibility and capacity for compassion which makes it prone to cause human rights abuses. In turn, these then need correcting through time-consuming and costly legal interventions.

The points system is also too blunt a weapon and is in danger of undermining the social and cultural value of migration by keeping out faith leaders, academics and cultural workers.

No-one denies the importance of English language as the *lingua franca* (so to speak!) of the public sector. It is vital that there are opportunities for people to learn and to improve their English. This does require a new approach to developing communications skills through access and in-service courses in communication skills for people for whom English is not their first language.

It has to be said these skills are also needed by many native speakers who still find it hard to communicate well in their mother tongue. English language tests should not be used to penalise and exclude, but rather as a spur to new investment in up-skilling all workers. It is not easy to learn another language so it will need to be accepted that there will always be some, especially the more vulnerable people, who need to communicate through interpreters.

[Vaughan Jones is CEO of Praxis (<http://www.praxis.org.uk/>), a London wide multi-agency NGO working with displaced people. He is a United Reformed Church minister and an Ekklesia associate.]



Chiltern Camerata

Conductor: Simon Lambros

Leader: Linda Miller

With the Camerata Consort directed by Mark Johnstone

A concert of Orchestral & Choral Music

J S Bach - Magnificat in D

J S Bach - Brandenburg Concerto No 4 in G

Handel - Coronation Anthem "Zadok the Priest"

Bruckner - Motets

Trinity URC

Saturday 22nd May at 7:30

Tickets - £10 (acc 14's and under, free)

Enquiries and bookings: 01494 883112

E-mail: info@chiltern-camerata.org.uk

www.chiltern-camerata.org.uk

Two forthcoming events with a common purpose

Both of the following are fundraising events where ALL proceeds will go to Wycombe Night Shelter & Wycombe Rape Crisis

All Saints Church

Invites you to a

Seaside Trip

on

Saturday 29th May 2010

Pick up 8-30am come back 6-30pm

To Brighton

£15.00 per adult £8 children

Cheques to All Saints office

Oakley Hall, Castle Street, High Wycombe

Downley Bridge Club

Invites you to a

Charity 'Military' Bridge Afternoon

on

Friday 25th June 2010

at

St James Church Plomer Hill Downley

2.00 - 5.00pm

£28.00 per table

Afternoon Tea & Raffle



From Bottom Table to Top Table!

Some are getting older,
Our hearing indistinct;
The stuff that lies between our ears
Is not as quick to think.

Our trusty little biro
Has just run out of ink
Or is in our other jacket
Which we left just by the sink.

And those who chat among themselves
When they should be "all ears",
Might lubricate their throats instead
With T J's wines or beers.

The diary that we carry
To remind us of each day,
Is often left at home some place
Just where - we cannot say.

So when events exciting
Are announced at our meeting
We can't remember what was said
The details are so fleeting.

So please consider passing round
A sheet which summarizes
All upcoming things for us to do
So there are no surprises.

The National Day of Prayer for the Police is 13 May 2010.

The following are suggestions for prayer from the Christian Police Association. You may care to use them on or near the day.

As you remember the Police Service please pray —

- That senior officers may have wisdom to direct their Forces well and have concern for all their staff
- That local Forces would be effective in administering justice, supporting victims, preventing and detecting crime, reducing the fear associated with it and building public confidence
- That officers will be kept safe and will enforce the law with integrity and wisdom especially in volatile situations
- That officers and their families would be protected from the effects of stress and know God's peace in their lives
- That Christian police officers and support staff will be strong and effective in their witness within the Police Service
- That God would crush the forces of evil that are at work in the lives of individuals and communities which lead to addiction, despair, crime and disorder
- That the Church would respond to local issues and help bring communities together with the police to tackle local problems effectively.

Your Police Service needs Christians to support them in their work.

Please consider linking with local Christian officers and staff to develop prayer networks and support community projects.



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Kay E

Hannah H (5th)

Rev'd Bernie C (10th)

Sarah E (13th)

A Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity



Congratulations



With Best Wishes to

Sarah & Simon (6th)

Kate & Alan Y (21st)

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

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 30th May.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 21st May*

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

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

prayer page

Looking forward to Pentecost

Dear God,
in this noisy world,
where so many different voices
scream for our attention,
help us to hear your voice.



Within all the clamouring din,
help us to listen
for your word of truth.

Tune our hearts and ears
that we may know
what you are saying,
and, knowing,
live your wise and holy way.

Ian Fosten – URC Prayer Handbook 2010

Lord, we thank you all your people,
made and loved by you.
You know their needs better than we
do, and you also care for them even
more than we do. They are carved in
the palm of your hands. Take our
prayers, we ask you, and keep us faith-
ful in praying regularly and doing what-
ever we can. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Adapted from John Pritchard's "Intercessions
Handbook"*

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2010

Set us on fire, Lord, for you.
Challenge our complacency, our wealth, our comfort;
Help us to identify with those
who are so different from us –
in faith, in culture, in environment...
Strengthen our faith, our love, our charity
and give us hope –
hope for the future, hope for today, hope for the next generation.
Help us to share your vision of the world you have created
and of how you want it to be.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

KL 2010

Sunday	Pray for the church worldwide as we celebrate the festival and season of Pentecost
Monday	Pray for people all over the world suffering from AIDS and malaria
Tuesday	For firefighters (4 May is International Firefighters' Day and is the festival day of Saint Florian, patron saint of firefighters)
Wednesday	Pray that you would hear and respond to God's word to you today
Thursday	Pray for the work of Christian Aid as we mark and support Christian Aid Week (9-15 May)
Friday	Pray for foster parents