

As they talked and discussed,
Jesus himself drew near and
walked along with them;
Luke 24:15.



May 2011

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

Dear Friends,

Our faithful Ford Fiesta (the older of the two) has been carted away by a trader who gave us the princely sum of £30 for her. She has travelled 208,000 miles, almost all of those miles with us on board. It was time for her to go. Yet I felt rather sad and nostalgic. Thanks to her we got to Rome and back in less than a fortnight some years ago, on our first camping trip. Thanks to her we speeded down from Leeds to the South coast twice to greet our first two grandchildren's arrival into the world. She has carried us to umpteen pastoral visits, services, meetings and conferences; to visit friends and family; to explore the highways and byways of this beautiful land. She has seen sadder duties too: taking a family flown in from China to visit the spot on the banks of Loch Lomond where their son/brother was killed in a car accident; dropping asylum seekers at the Refugee Council offices.

How pathetic to feel sad to say goodbye to a machine! It reminds me of Jonah, who felt sorry for a plant. Do you recall what happened? Poor old Jonah was so unhappy that God had pity on the people of Nineveh that he went off in a huff, sat down and waited to see what would happen. God made a plant grow up to give him shade, and Jonah was extremely pleased. But the next day the plant died and Jonah, with no relief from the relentless heat of the sun, wanted to die too.

The Lord said to him, "This plant grew up in one night and disappeared the next; you didn't do anything for it, and you didn't make it grow – yet you feel sorry for it! How much more, then, should I have pity on Nineveh, that great city. After all, it has more than 120,000 innocent children in it, as well as many animals!"

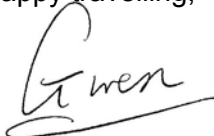
It's a strange story. It is a story about evangelism. It is a story challenging ancient Israel's isolationism and racism [for Jonah, read Israel]. It is a story that challenges me. Do I really care for the Nineveh's of my day? Am I sorrier for the loss of my old car, than I am for the innocent children of Misrata?

Thank God for those in His church who nudge and nag the rest of us to be compassionate and evangelistic. Thank God, this month, for Christian Aid and all its staff, and its partner organisations in so many countries. As Christian Aid Week comes around again I hope that we will rise to the challenge, giving all we can and getting out on to the streets to collect door-to-door if we are able. I can't really say that I enjoy doing that, but I am always pleased afterwards that I have!

On the cover is a snippet from the account of Jesus joining two of his followers on the road to Emmaus. They have not yet realised that He has risen from the dead. But later, looking back, they recall that it was a special moment. "Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" they say to each other. Then rush back to the city to share the news.

As Christ's followers today we too meet him on our road and his voice burns in us, cutting through to the essential truth about God, about life and about ourselves. If you'll excuse the car metaphor, let's be like my old Fiesta – give ourselves wholeheartedly to the journey until the day He takes us home.

Happy travelling,



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk
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Church Secretary :Mrs Sue Saunders, e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

May Services

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

May 1 Holy Communion led by Alan Yates and members of the congregation
May 8 Theme: CWM South Asia Region
May 15 Christian Aid Service and All Age Worship
May 22 Morning Worship
4.00 Praise service
May 29 Morning Worship led by Church of God Worldwide Mission International

Rotas for May

Not included in this version

What's on in May



- May 9 A surprise (Hostess - Joan S)
- May 23 Planting garden containers (Hostess - Ellen M)

WOMEN'S MEETING

- Tuesday 3rd May The Merry Month of May.
- Tuesday 10th May Quiz
- Tuesday 17th May Christian Aid - Bring & Buy
- Tuesday 24th May Heroines
- Tuesday 31st May Another look at the King James Bible



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Diary Dates

- May** 3 Elders' Meeting 8pm
- 4 Silver Surfers
- 14 Coffee Morning 10.30am
- 15 - 21 Christian Aid Week
- 17 Church Meeting 8pm
- 24 Revive Meeting 8pm
- 28 Coffee Morning 10.30am
- 31 Elders' Meeting 8pm

May 2011						
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				

Not included in this version

THANK YOU!

I'd like to thank everyone for the waterproof Bible which Gwen presented to me on the church's behalf at our AGM in March. It is something I will treasure and use often especially when we're enjoying cruising the canals on our narrowboat. I'll try not to drop it in the water but I won't have to worry if it starts to rain whilst I'm reading it in the bow cratch as every page is made of a special waterproof material and therefore shouldn't crinkle as ordinary paper would.

I've thoroughly enjoyed my five years as Church Secretary and hope I've served Trinity and everyone involved with the church well. I always considered it to be a calling from God, which rather took me by surprise, as it was the last thing I imagined I'd be doing when I retired from teaching. On reflection this links to the text on the presentation page of the waterproof Bible: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3 vs5-6.

Thank you all, especially Gwen and the Elders, for the support you have given me throughout that time and I know that you will do the same for Sue as she takes up the position of Church Secretary.

MM

Things they (probably) wish they hadn't said!

"I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body,"
--*Winston Bennett, University of Kentucky basketball forward.*

"Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country,"
--*Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, DC.*

"That lowdown scoundrel deserves to be kicked to death by a jackass, and I'm just the one to do it,"
--*A congressional candidate in Texas*

"Half this game is ninety percent mental."
--*Philadelphia Phillies manager, Danny Ozark*

"It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it.."

--*Al Gore, Vice President*

[more on page 10]

Commitment for Life

ZIMBABWE

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) is another new partner that Christian Aid is pleased to be supporting in their crucial and novel data collection, analysis and dissemination project on instances of politically motivated human rights and food related violations.

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) was conceived shortly after 2000 by a group of churches and NGOs working or interested in human rights and peace-building initiatives. It became a vehicle for civic interventions in a time of political crisis. In particular ZPP sought to monitor and document incidents of human rights violations and politically motivated breaches of peace.

ZPP's trusted community monitors, who send text messages to a central database in order to keep up-to-the-minute records, have been reporting on cases of assault, intimidation and harassment resulting from the contributions that individuals make to the community level constitutional outreach meetings. ZPP concludes from recent findings that 'the government has failed to protect the people's rights, to freely express themselves before and after making their contributions.'

Report to CforL Reference group February 2011

Conservation agriculture means Sarah can do her farming by hand

Sarah lives in a drought-prone region of Matabeleland where she is head of a household of nine, made up of three grandchildren, three orphans taken under her care, her 23-year-old daughter-in-law and an elderly neighbour.

Aged 46, she is also the lead farmer in the Hope Fountain conservation farming group that is supported by Christian Aid partner ZimPro.

ZimPro uses trusted and well-known community members such as Sarah to help their neighbours and to advise ZimPro's visiting field monitor which farmers are most in need of support and advice. Sarah practises the principles of conservation farming meticulously and her harvests have multiplied as a result.

Now she is passing on her knowledge, helping to convince others to switch from traditional farming practices by showing them the results conservation farming can bring.

The poorest in communities such as Hope Fountain often wait too long before planting because they have to borrow equipment and oxen from others

But Sarah's success proves that conservation agriculture's techniques, done entirely by hand, mean that farmers can plant at the right time, before the rains begin, to ensure the best crop to feed their families.

Sarah recalls how in the recent past her family had to eat the unripened kernels of maize still growing in the fields, because they had no other food.

'You can't digest it; she recalls. 'A couple of times we went three days, even a week without food.' But this year, Sarah is expecting a good harvest, and, thanks to conservation farming, she still has food left for her family from last year.

Sarah has also trained voluntarily as a midwife to help deliver the babies of those in her community who could not afford the transport to the nearest clinic, let alone the medical fees involved. In the past two years alone she has delivered 27 of Hope Fountain's children!

Zimbabwe faces severe food shortages, a ruined economy and one of the world's highest rates of HIV infection. The introduction of the US dollar means many have no access to money and are often bartering for scarce goods rather than using hard currency.

We've been responding to the ongoing humanitarian situation by helping more than 1.3 million people with emergency support, HIV support and training in conservation agriculture. Our work also includes high-level conflict mitigation and peace promotion.

Indian churches protest Pakistan murder



16 Mar 2011

More than 300 members of the Church of North India (CNI) joined hundreds of Catholics for a sit-in at the border with Pakistan on 5 March, Anto Akkara writes for CWM.

The ecumenical march to Wagh - the border check point between India and Pakistan - was organised to protest the assassination of Pakistan's minister for minority affairs Shabaz Bhatti, and to demand the release of Asia Bibi who has been sentenced to death on a blasphemy charge. The march was led by Bishop Pradeep Kumar Samantaroy of Amritsar, who told CWM: "We wanted to express our solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters in Pakistan and draw international attention to their suffering." Catholic bishop Anil Coutto of Jalandhar diocese along with Divisional Commander Major Makhan Masih of the Salvation Army had led hundreds of Christians to the Wagh border for the protest.

Forty-two year-old Catholic, Shabaz Bhatti was ambushed and shot on 2 March as he was being driven to his office in Islamabad after visiting his mother. Bhatti himself had become a target of Islamic fundamentalists after he initiated in November 2010 the clemency petition for Asia Bibi. The outspoken governor of Punjab province Salman Taseer who also publicly supported Asia Bibi calling the blasphemy law a "black law" was assassinated on 4 January. Bibi, a Christian mother of five, was sentenced to death on a blasphemy charge with little supporting evidence.

The Indian protestors had urged that the government to raise the issue of draconian blasphemy law with the Pakistan Government and to put pressure on the Pakistan government to release Asia Bibi to release her without further delay.

Asia's Christians support Japanese church

17 Mar 2011

Churches across Asia are leading support for church communities in Japan as the country struggles to recover in the aftermath of the devastating disaster. In a letter to the National Council of Churches in Japan, the Christian Council of Asia (CCA) said they would "get down on their knees" to pray in support of the people of Japan.

CCA general secretary Henriett Hutabarat Lebang said: "Our hearts bleed in unspeakable sorrow for the calamity that befell Japan recently, claiming lives and properties in one quick swoop. The entire CCA family is praying with you, and walking with you in this dark moment." The CCA is coordinating a disaster response effort with the National Christian Council in Japan (NCC Japan) as one Body of Christ. They have donated US\$10,000 from the CCA Emergency Fund to immediately support rescue and recovery efforts and have pledged to keep praying for the work of the churches in helping those in distress. The council has also put out a call to its churches across the continent to unite in supporting Japan.

Ms Lebang said: "Sisters and brothers in the CCA member churches and councils, I take this opportunity to appeal to you to support the churches and people in Japan in this time of difficulty, through your prayers and financial support. Intended to respond in the quickest way to emergency needs that arise, this is our small way of expressing our unity as an ecumenical family." The support comes in response to an urgent call put out by the NCCJ - a grouping of Anglican, Protestant and inter-denominational organisations - for emergency relief donations. Meanwhile churches across Japan are coping with the disaster aftermath through coordinated prayer, donations and relief operations.

On 15 March, the first meeting of the interdenominational Earthquake Christian Disaster Centre was held at the United Church of Christ in Japan's (UCCJ) Northeast District Centre in Sendai near the epicentre, ENI reported. The UCCJ also said church members, including UCCJ moderator Rev Hideo Ishibashi, are visiting disaster areas. The denomination's two local congregations near the Fukushima nuclear power plants were evacuated to one of them but are unable to escape from there, the report said.

Japan's 11 March earthquake and subsequent tsunamis have claimed the lives of more than 3,700 people so far and injured 2,000. Almost 8,000 more people are still missing according to the National Police Agency.

More than 400,000 people have been evacuated from the disaster zones in northeastern Japan. The earthquake also damaged the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, where workers have been struggling to contain radiation leaks.

Edited summary of Chiltern Area URC Committee Meeting - Feb 2011

Chesham

Chesham Foodbank is a new ecumenical initiative to provide food boxes to those in crisis situations in the town. Please pray for this exciting venture, which is just beginning to get up and running. As a church we also continue to collect for Aqua Boxes, which are used in crisis situations worldwide.

Leaders have now been found for Backpackers, an ecumenical summer holiday club in Chesham for 350 children following a period of uncertainty. We thank God for his guidance.

Trinity Slough

John Hoar (Area link person) and his wife Joan attended their morning service recently and sat in on the church meeting which followed. They found minister and congregation in good heart. Trinity Slough have embarked on a number of new activities since John Danso arrived. A large banner facing the busy junction on which Trinity is situated proclaims that the church will be open and serving coffee and biscuits twice a week and a lunch of soup and a roll will be available on one of those days.

John Danso is also URC Chaplain at Bucks New University (mainly at the Uxbridge campus) and is enthusiastic about what he hopes to achieve with that work.

Trinity High Wycombe

We are doing the 'Everybody Welcome' course during church meetings and morning worship. This fits in well with the Vision4Life Year of Evangelism. Church membership stays around the same but we have some newer people worshipping with us on a regular basis.

Use of the redeveloped sanctuary continues to grow and the Movers & Shakers groups (Caribbean style and Chinese style) thrive, with a good cultural and ethnic mix. Other community groups use the premises and we continue our termly 'hirers and users' meetings (HUM) to share information and ideas between regular groups and Trinity. We hope to start a Silver Surfers group in late Spring, and Trinity continues to be host to homeless people for the Winter Night Shelter from January to March. We are again participating in 24/7 Prayer for Wycombe this year, in May and November.

Area Committee representatives from March Synod 2011

As from March, both Darren Stickings and Jack Axford are standing down as elected representatives, having completed their term of service. We are very grateful to Darren and Jack for their commitment and service to the Area. Darren will continue his links with Area Committee through his role as Disability Advocate. Bridget Powell was elected in the recent elections, and we therefore have one vacancy. We look forward to welcoming Bridget onto the Committee.

Chiltern Area Elders' Day – Saturday 4 June 2011

This is for elders (serving and non-serving), ministers and interim moderators. The date is Saturday 4 June and the venue will be Amersham Free Church. The theme is 'Equipping the Elders', with a choice of workshops to attend.

M&M rep for Chiltern Area

Martin Powell (Chesham) has agreed to be M&M representative for Chiltern Area, a vacancy we have had since Area Committee was formed. The M&M rep. does not usually attend Area Committee meetings but is a link between Synod and the Area churches on M&M matters.

Edited report from Thames North Synod meeting on 12 March 2011

This was the first time a Children's Synod had run at the same time. The children clearly had fun and also brought some powerful poetry to the closing worship.

1. Vision2020

Ms Francis Brienen, Secretary for Mission, did a brief presentation on Vision2020. She is involved in developing a mission strategy for the Church. Vision2020 is a framework for local churches to help support them in their local mission. She requested that each church develops a 'local mission pledge' which should go to the Synod office. Synod office will then collate these to gain an overview of what Thames North churches are aiming for regarding mission, and can then help local churches.

2. Elections

The results of various Area elections were confirmed, and elections were held for two posts on Synod Executive and Mission Council. Edward Sanniez and Elizabeth Lawson were elected to Mission Council. Sue Chapman and David Lawrence were elected to Synod Executive.

3. Appointments

It was proposed that Liz Boyes (Children's Work Secretary), Soo Webster (Regional Pilots Officer) and Heather Pugsley (Youth Secretary) were all co-opted onto Synod. This was agreed.

Celebration of Stephanie Danso's election to the FURY Advisory Board as British Youth Council Delegation Member.

4. LMMR/MASA (Local Mission & Ministry Review and Ministerial Accompanied Self-Appraisal)

This will replace the former Pastoral Consultation Review Visits for churches and the "Taking Stock" reviews for ministers, as agreed at General Assembly 2006. The LMMR is the "church life review" and MASA is for ministers.

Aims:

- Pastorate Profiles will become living documents, reflecting on church life, mission and ministry needs – not simply to be created for a vacancy.
- Appraisal partners and pastorate partners will be sought for both parts of the review.

5. Religious Education Fund

Revd Jane Bazeley mentioned that there is still money in this fund for youth and children's work. It could be used for an educational day out.

6. URC advertising campaign

We had a brief presentation on the campaign which will "go live" in January 2012. The campaign is aimed at people outside the church who may have been put off church in the past. The campaign aims to be:

- Aspirational
- Inspirational
- Transformational
- Conversational

Any church can sign up to be a participating church and if they do, they will work alongside a "companion" to help prepare them. More information will follow in due course.

Forthcoming events and other information

Information was available on:

- CWM "Window on the World" holiday conference in West Wales from 15-21 August, on the theme of Christians at work, exploring how work and discipleship relate to each other.
- A questionnaire about Racial Justice Sunday from the Racial Justice Advocates.
- "Thinking Ahead 2011 – sharing, resourcing, supporting" – events in May on the theme of Harvest and Remembrance, and October on the theme of Advent and Christmas.
- Thames North Synod Elders' Day in Plaistow, London on Saturday 19 November – theme of "Getting The Message Out"

For more information on any of these, please see the Church Secretary or Synod Rep.

Kate Y, March 2011

Recorder - May 2011

March for the Alternative 26 March 2011

I'm here on behalf of the 1500 congregations of the United Reformed Church, nearly all of which are involved in community work. The stories they are telling these days are deeply frightening. It's not just huge, long-standing flagship projects facing closure. It's the everyday things. It's noticing that every week the number of people coming for help increases. It's watching the morale of a community decline. It's the church-based credit union reporting that more and more people are applying for loans. Where it's clear they will not be able to repay, you have to say no, but you say no knowing that their next resort will be one of those doorstep lenders with their extortionate interest rates. You can go on cooking meals for an old people's lunch club, but if the local authority can no longer help with transport, you don't have any clients. We Christians believe that we have a mandate to stand alongside the people society leaves behind. It's a sobering place to stand right now.

There are alternatives. Between us today, we'll be offering a host of ideas. But from us in the churches, two contributions.

The first is an alternative mindset. God's economy is about grace and sufficiency, not greed and scarcity. So the right solution will be one that closes the gap between rich and poor, inviting us to meet in that place called "enough", which is a place rich with possibility.

The second is a cause that is dear to our hearts. The URC has been campaigning hard for the Robin Hood Tax. It is a simple and elegant way to bring an extra £20B into the public coffers. It levies an infinitesimal tax on financial transactions around the globe. Redistribution of wealth that is both just and reasonable.

There is no shortage of solutions. See the passion and commitment and ingenuity represented by the thousands of us here today. On behalf of the United Reformed Church, I say, "Count us in". None of us is here today just for a one-day march. You're here for the long haul. So are we.

The Revd Roberta Rominger
General Secretary of the URC

Speech given by Roberta Rominger at the peaceful "March for the Alternative" in Hyde Park on Saturday 26 March.

More things they (probably) wish they hadn't said!

"The word "genius" isn't applicable in football. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein."
--Joe Theisman, NFL football quarterback & sports analyst.

"We don't necessarily discriminate. We simply exclude certain types of people."
-- Colonel Gerald Wellman, ROTC Instructor

"Your food stamps will be stopped effective March 1992 because we received notice that you passed away. May God bless you. You may reapply if there is a change in your circumstances."
--Department of Social Services, Greenville, South Carolina

"Traditionally, most of Australia's imports come from overseas."
--Keppel Enderbery

"Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I can't help but cry. I mean I'd love to be skinny like that, but not with all those flies and death and stuff."
--Mariah Carey



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Kay E

Hannah H (5th)

Rev'd Bernie C (10th)

Janet R (14th)

a very Happy Birthday

Birthday Congratulations



to

Sarah E (13th)

celebrating her 40th Birthday



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 29th May.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 20th May*

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

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

prayer page

Ever One, Sacred Three,
Holy God, the Trinity.

O God beyond us, lead us forward to pray.
O God beside us, teach us gently to pray.
O God within us, still our hearts to pray.

© John Pritchard, *The Intercessions Handbook*



Holy and incarnate one,
at whose unexpected touch
the ordinary world
is charged with God:

we pray for those
whose hardship is overwhelming, who cannot
find you;

who live in poverty, anxiety and hunger;
whose lives are fearful or lonely;
who are exploited, exhausted or ill.

For the Word was made flesh
and dwelt among us.

© Janet Morley, *All Desires Known*

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2011

Holy God, in giving us your son you release us from darkness.
You bring us into a new relationship with you.
From the darkness you lead us to call you Abba, Father.
**The Lord is my light, my light and my salvation.
In God I trust, in God I trust.**

© URC Prayer Handbook 2000-2001

...The Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. There is no law against such things as these. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have put to death their human nature with all its passions and desires. The Spirit has given us life; he must also control our lives. We must not be proud or irritate one another or be jealous of one another.

Galatians 5.22

Gracious God, THANK YOU! We are so often unthankful for the necessities and the luxuries in our lives, forgetting how much we have, and forgetting how much we rely on your goodness. We pray for those in need of water, food, comfort, clothing or safety, and ask that you would turn our sentimental thoughts into practical actions. Amen.

Anon

Father, we pray that this week we shall not be ashamed of being Christians:
that we shall not disown you or your standards;
that we shall not ignore the honest question.

We pray that this week we shall be glad to know you as Lord:
that we shall relax in the sheer normality of belonging to you;
that we shall speak of you and act for you with courtesy and integrity.

Give us, we pray, the dignity that was in Christ Jesus as he spoke of his Father's love.
Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

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