

Pray at all times  
[1 Thessalonians 5:17]



*May 2013*

# *The Recorder*

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

|                  |      |                      |         |
|------------------|------|----------------------|---------|
| Pastoral letter  | 2    | Church family & Life | 5, 6, 9 |
| Services & Rotas | 3    | Commitment for Life  | 8       |
| What's on?       | 4, 5 | Prayer Page          | 10      |

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,

It is Pentecost this month, and many Wycombe churches including ours will be worshipping God together on May 19<sup>th</sup>. It's a good month to think about Spirituality and Prayer.

*When praying with a friend, Jacky paused to ask the Holy Spirit if there was anything she should especially focus on. She was surprised when what came to mind was his health because she knew him well and was certain that he did not have any health issues. Nevertheless, she told her friend what had come to mind, and he confirmed that she was quite correct. He had not told anyone about his concern, but God knew and was able to guide Jacky in her praying.*

*When Kate 'hit a concrete wall of depression' in 2010 she resigned as a primary school teacher. A few months later at Spring Harvest she discovered God's inspiration for starting a church-based community café. As the idea was shared with her Minister, Elders and church, there was a growing affirmation that this was a 'God idea'. Today CaféVISION provides something different at the heart of the local community.*

Last month I wrote about our three mission priorities, as part of the URC's Vision 2020 framework, and I said that for each of the next three months I would focus on each of these three mission priorities in turn in my letter in the Recorder, starting with Spirituality and Prayer this month. Vision 2020 explains this mission priority in these words:

**"We will grow in our practice of prayer and spirituality, nurturing strength for our witness to Jesus Christ, and developing our discernment of where God is and what God is calling us to do by reading and studying the Bible and through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

"Our faith must be at the heart of all we do. Faith is nurtured by worship and prayer, by reading and studying the Bible, by the life of our church community and by how we practice it from day to day. We must therefore seek to engage more deeply with Bible study and prayer, seek to develop worship that is engaging and joyful, seek to live faithfully and hopefully as a church community and as individuals, confident that God still talks to us and shows us how to live."

*The link between prayer and other activities is a mystery. So rather than discuss theories and philosophies, let us simply recognise this fact: the exact details may be unfathomable, but the connection is certainly real. As William Temple once said: "When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don't, they don't."*

*Can you think of any occasions when you have prayed and then 'coincidences' happened?*

Trinity's house group, its Vision 2020 prayer meeting, and the Christianity Explored course all flowed directly from our Church Meeting decision 9 months ago to focus on Spirituality and Prayer. My prayer as your minister is that each of you, and everyone who connects with Trinity in any way, may grow in your/their practice of prayer and spirituality. It won't just happen. You have to want it and work at it. But the rewards are more than well worth it.



*Words in italics are quoted from 'Spirituality and prayer: vision 2020' by Paul Stokes, Group for Evangelism and Renewal within the URC, 2012.*

|   |
|---|
| Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins<br>e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk |
|---|

|   |
|---|
| Church Secretary :Mrs Sue Saunders,<br>e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk |
|---|

## May Services

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

**Theme for the month:** 'Seeing the extraordinary in the ordinary: the Way of resurrection', we find in the Acts of the Apostles Luke's understanding of what it means to encounter the risen Christ

Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m. and led by the Minister unless otherwise stated.

May 5 Holy Communion, and Andrew Winton speaking about his mission placement in St Vincent

4.00 Prayer Circle for healing

May 12 Morning worship led by Mrs Mary Carpenter (from Trinity URC, Slough)

May 19 PENTECOST 'Love Wycombe' united worship at Frogmore, arrive from 10.30 for the celebration to start at 11 a.m.

**NO SERVICE AT TRINITY on 19<sup>th</sup>**

May 26 Morning worship

---

**Rotas for May**

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in May

## WOMEN'S MEETING

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Tuesday 7th May  | Hymns and readings for Ascension Day (May 9th) |
| Tuesday 14th May | Christian Aid - Bring & Buy                    |
| Tuesday 21st May | Favourite Hymns                                |
| Tuesday 28th May | Mexico - Marian Mole                           |



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*

## Diary Dates

| Event   | Day  | Date | Time              | Venue                    |
|---|------|------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Vision 20/20 Prayer meeting                         | Wed  | 1st  | 9.30am            | Sanctuary                |
| Trinity Book Worms                                  | Wed  | 1st  | 2.00pm            | 21 Fremantle Rd          |
| 24/7 Prayer for Wycombe                             | Fri  | 3rd  | 8.00am            | till Saturday 4th 8.00am |
| Mission Strategy Meeting                            | Fri  | 3rd  | 9.30am            | 21 Wordsworth Rd         |
| Simon Fairnington's presentation of John's Gospel   | Sat  | 4th  | 6.00pm            | Sanctuary                |
| Morning Worship with reflections from Andrew Winton | Sun  | 5th  | 10.30am           | Sanctuary                |
| Prayer Circle for Healing                           | Sun  | 5th  | 4.00pm            | LSR                      |
| Housegroup  | Tues | 7th  | 8.00pm            | 134 Brands Hill Ave      |
| Coffee Morning                                      | Sat  | 11th | 10.30am           | LSR                      |
| Morning Worship led by Mrs Mary Carpenter           | Sun  | 12th | 10.30am           | Sanctuary                |
| Traidcraft Stall                                    | Sun  | 12th | After the service | LSR                      |
| Christian Aid Week                                  | Sund | 12th | till              | Saturday 18th            |
| Vision 20/20 Prayer Meeting                         | Wed  | 15th | 9.30am            | Sanctuary                |
| Pentecost Service "Love Wycombe"                    | Sun  | 19th | TBA               | Frogmore High Wycombe    |
| Church Meeting                                      | Tues | 21st | 8.00pm            | LSR                      |
| Rebecca and Neil's Wedding                          | Sat  | 25th | 12.30pm           | Sanctuary                |
| Praise Service                                      | Sun  | 26th | 4.00pm            | Sanctuary                |
| Elders Meeting                                      | Tues | 28th | 8.00pm            | LSR                      |
| Churches Together Meeting                           | Wed  | 29th | 7.30pm            | Union Baptist            |

There is so much going on this month that the calendar will not fit - so it can be found on the page opposite.

## Not included in this version



### WEDDING

Becky and Neil are to marry in Trinity on Saturday 25th May 2013 at 12.30 p.m. As Becky grew up at Trinity and you all helped shape her spiritual understanding, we would like to invite all our dear friends to join us to celebrate her marriage. This is a very special day for the family and we hope you can come and share our joy with us.

Blessings

*Richard and Anne Harding*

### Trinity Bookworms

Wednesday 1st May                      Hostess - Marian Mole

We shall be discussing "The Olive Readers" by Christian Aziz



See page opposite for details of the events of the month

| May 2013 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |

## Trinity's kitchen

Grateful thanks go to Valerie and Norman Lwho spearheaded the revamping of our kitchen. Thanks too to those who helped them – Alan, Linda, Simon and Ben.

1. The kitchen now has some new units, worktops and non-slip-flooring. The remaining old units have been repainted and the contents thoroughly sorted.
2. With cupboard contents having been moved around you may have to hunt for things. We have put photos of each cupboard's contents inside the cupboard doors to help people put things back in the right place. (For example, the urns are now on the top shelf of the old tall cupboard and the cake-stands now have a cupboard of their own and no longer sit in the crockery cupboard.)
3. We have put a sign on the window above the sink saying "Do not open". The windows cannot be reached without standing on the worktop/sink and this must not be done as neither is strong enough. The extractor fan has now been fully cleaned and works well, so there should be no need for additional ventilation.
4. The small tablecloths used in the Lower School Room are now in a plastic box in the left-hand tall cupboard in the Lower School Room should you need them. This seems a sensible place, particularly as the kitchen drawers have also been sorted and better-used.
5. Notices (food hygiene & safety, instructions for turning on the extractor fan when cooking, etc) are all on the noticeboard on the wall.
6. Used tea-towels should always be taken home, laundered, and returned the following week.

We have passed this information on to the groups who use the kitchen and would be very grateful if Trinity folk would help keep the kitchen neat and tidy too, with items being returned to their proper "home".

With thanks!



on behalf of Lettings Management Group

---

### CHRISTIAN AID



This year we are making a slight change to our collecting for Christian Aid. We will still have a collection in church but, because of the difficulty in finding enough collectors, we will only cover 4 roads in the Wycombe area. Then on June 15th we will have a fun evening of games and competitions starting at 5.0 o'clock and also share a meal together.

If you are not around on that evening you can still contribute. We have some tubes of Smarties which you are welcome to take and eat but we would then ask you to fill up the empty tube with silver coins and return to the church by a given date.

More details of the fun evening a little later but do put the date in your diary, round up your friends, hone your competitive and team work skills and please come and join in the fun.

Margaret L

## The Leprosy Mission

Bill Hewis has emailed to say that he is retiring, following restructuring in The Leprosy Mission. He sends this message to Trinity, "I shall greatly miss my work and the people I have got to know over the past nine and a half years, and I shall particularly miss you and all the folks at Trinity. Over the years your fellowship and support has come to mean a great deal to me. It has been my pleasure to serve you and to worship with you when I have visited and I pray that God will bless and prosper you all, both now and in the future."



I have replied on your behalf, "Thank you for sending us this update. I am sorry to hear that it is now definite that you will no longer be our link with TLM, and I know that the congregation will share that sentiment. You have become a friend of the church and your leading of worship has been truly appreciated. I know the church would want to join me in wishing you a very happy retirement. I'm sure that not only your wife, but churches in your area too will be only too happy to have your help as and when you can give it. An unsettling time, but God has plans for your future."

Kay has contact details for the Leprosy Mission and in due course can contact them to request a speaker to come and lead worship at Trinity.

*Gwen*

### **"" WHEN YOUR HUT'S ON FIRE!!!! ""**

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky... He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?"

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

### **The Moral of This Story:**

It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.

*[Submitted by Andrew W]*

## ZIMBABWE

### IMF able to assist Zimbabwe again

The IMF has removed restrictions on giving technical assistance to Zimbabwe. The decision allows the IMF to agree a Staff Monitored Programme, where Zimbabwe would implement IMF conditions, but not receive any money. Completing a Staff Monitored Programme would be one of the pre-conditions for Zimbabwe to enter the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative.

Discussions on a programme between the Zimbabwean government and the IMF have been ongoing for many months. It is thought that conditions the IMF wants Zimbabwe to implement include:

Banking sector reform, increased transparency in revenue from diamond sales, a move away from the indigenisation policy, reducing the public sector wage bill

However, no agreement has yet been signed. Zimbabwe is due to hold both a referendum on a new constitution and a general election in 2013. It is now looking less likely any programme will be agreed prior to elections.

### ZIMBABWE: African Development Bank asked to support a debt audit

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) has written to the African Development Bank, calling on them to signal they would support a debt audit in Zimbabwe, and release all information on past loans to the country. The letter was supported by over 30 international organisations, including Third World Network, Zimbabwe Europe Network, Eurodad and CADTM.

## BANGLADESH:

### VAT law passed

Bangladesh is due to spend 18 per cent of government revenue on foreign debt payments this year, \$3.3 billion, according to the latest update from the IMF. Bangladesh is partly meeting these payments by taking \$1 billion of new loans from the IMF between 2012 and 2014.

One of the conditions of the loan was to bring in a new VAT law, which would increase tax in many areas, including on essentials such as rice, lentils and cooking oil. The law was passed in November 2012, and the new rates of VAT are due to be brought in between now and 2016.

## JAMAICA:

### IMF bailout delayed by talks with World Bank and IADB

Jamaica's \$750 million bailout loan from the IMF has been delayed, due to discussions between the IMF, World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). The IMF's Board was due to agree the loan by the end of March, but this discussion has now been cancelled. It is thought that the IMF wants the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank to join the bailout programme, so that financial risks are shared between the institutions.

The Jamaican government spends around 30 per cent of export revenues on foreign debt payments, a huge amount, well above the level the IMF and World Bank regard as 'payable'. Jamaica's high debt has existed for four decades. The current proposed bailout loans are the latest in a long line. Whilst the IMF insisted that Jamaica restructure some of the debt owed to private creditors before the loan is agreed, foreign creditors have been left untouched. This potentially weakens the Jamaican financial system, whilst doing nothing about the damaging foreign-owed debt.

Of the Jamaican government's foreign owed \$8 billion debt, half is owed to private creditors, 40 per cent to multilateral institutions (such as the IMF, World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank) and 10 per cent to other governments. As with Grenada, the UK is lending \$10 million to Jamaica via the World Bank for projects to adapt to the impacts of climate change.





This month we would like to wish a

## Happy Birthday

to

Rev'd Bernie C (10<sup>th</sup>)

Sarah E (13<sup>th</sup>)

Janet R (14<sup>th</sup>)

Hannah H (15<sup>th</sup>)

## Birthday Congratulations



to

Kay E (15<sup>th</sup>)

on celebrating her 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday



## Wedding Congratulations

to

Rebecca H and Neil C

for their forthcoming Celebration on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May

## Happy Anniversary



to

Sarah & Simon (6<sup>th</sup>)

Kate & Alan (21<sup>st</sup>)

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

---

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 26<sup>th</sup> May.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May*

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

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

prayer page

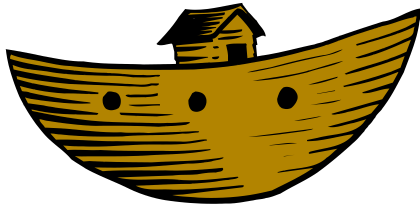
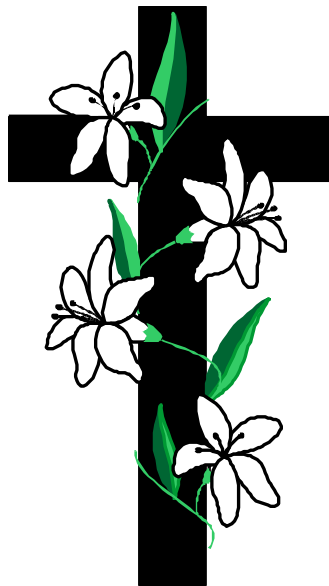


May the Dove of peace . . .



. . . help keep us from evil . . .

m  
a  
y  
2013



. . . as we sail through life . .



. . . and follow The Shepherd

