



November 2003

The Recorder

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*An edited version of this magazine is now available on the Church Web-site.
(Personal details are NOT included.)
Church web site: <http://www.trinity-urc.org.uk>*

Trinity - A Family Church

Worshipping together - Caring for one another - Sharing with others

‘Jesus prays that we will be one’

Rev. Michael Shrubsole

Minister of Trinity United Reformed Church

At the end of John’s gospel the long prayer of Jesus for his disciples is recorded. In it, Jesus prays that we may be one, just as he and his heavenly father are one. Lovely idea! But the tough thing to accept is that he prays this prayer about a diverse and divisive group who only share a love of Jesus in common. There is a Roman tax collector sat beside a Zealot Jewish terrorist, There are common fishermen sat beside a doctor, There are Jews of Greek descent sat beside Jews of Hebrew descent. What an optimistic prayer Jesus prays!

We all know of Jesus’ prayer, yet all too easily decide we don’t have to act as though we want it to be true for us. And so through the years the one church of Christ has split into often violently opposed denominations and factions. Sometime we have divided over complex theological issues, sometimes we divide over petty matters of a personal nature. But complex or petty, the divisions go on and on.

Unity is something that has to be worked at. Differences do exist, but we are called to overcome them. Disagreements happen, but restoration has to be sought out. People get hurt, and have to learn how to forgive. Other people behave badly, and have to learn how to say sorry. Jesus prayed that we might be helped to achieve unity, but we still have to work almighty hard at it.

All this goes on just as much in a local small church, as it does between major church denominations. Yes, Methodists and Anglicans are talking about greater unity. Yes, the world-wide Anglican Communion is having serious talks about unity in the face of the homosexuality debate. But we too in our own minor and humble ways also have to work at unity in the local church. Big or small the call to work for unity remains the same.

Let me give a petty example. And I really do mean PETTY! Various different people have been mentioning to me the problem of extraneous noise in church during Sunday worship. There are toddlers who can’t keep their feet still on the booming bare boards of floor and pew. There are children who fiddle with rattly toys. There are adults with whistling hearing aids. There are some folk who unwrap crinkly cellophane sweets. There are all sorts of people who mutter private asides to one another. (And if your neighbour in the pew is hard of hearing then the muttering can sometimes be heard by all!) Now whatever group you are in, you probably don’t notice the noise your friends make, but you might be highly distracted by the noise another group makes. So what is the answer? Move to a church without children or without old folk? Ban the elderly or the youthful from our church? Employ wardens to patrol the aisles and silence all mutterers and rattlers? Of course not! You are all loved and welcomed.

Unity comes to us as we discover how to welcome and worship with one another despite our differences. Your willingness and skill at coping with the petty in the local fellowship, is a reflection of your willingness and ability to seek to overcome deeper divisions in the hurting and divided world-wide body of Christ. Think of Sunday worship as a training ground for greater efforts to work for Christian unity!

Mike

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Rev Michael Shrubsole,

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November Services

Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

Children of all ages meet for part of morning worship using the SALT material from Scripture Union. Adult worship usually follows the texts of the Revised Common Lectionary. Advent starts on the last Sunday of this month and we begin our third yearly cycle of gospel readings focussing this year on the Gospel of Luke.

2nd November - Morning Worship with Communion. Mark 12:28-34, Hebrews 9:11-14, Deut 6:1-9

9th November - Morning Worship. Mark 12:38-44, Hebrews 9:24-28, 1 Kings 17:8-16

16th November - Morning All-age Worship Mark 13:1-8, Hebrews 10:11-25, Daniel 12:1-3

23rd November - Morning Worship. Sunday of Christ the King – The Sunday before Advent, John 18:33-37, Daniel 7:9-14, Revelation 1:4b-8

30th November - Morning Worship Advent One. Luke 21:25-36, Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thess 3:9-13

Evening Worship at 6.30 p.m.

We usually hold a quieter evening communion service once a month.

16th November - Evening Communion Using the full 'Second Order of Holy Communion' from the new URC Worship book.

Rotas for November

Not included in this version

What's on in November



Monday 10th Nov - Calligraphy
(8pm. Hostess - Louise S)

Monday 24th Nov - Advent (Rev M Shrubsole)
(8pm. Hostess - Norma G)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 4th Nov Rev Mike Shrubsole -
Suggestions for the future of our church
Tuesday 11th Nov Remembrance Day
Tuesday 18st Nov Beetle Drive. Bring & Buy
Tuesday 25th Nov Favourite poems and readings



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Pay attention now!!

Scrabble

November 14th - at Joy S

November 28th back "at home"

at 2pm on each occasion

There is no walk planned for this month

Not included in this version

Wales: Tradition holds back Presbyterians

Love of tradition in the Presbyterian Church of Wales has led to a neglect of evangelism and discipleship, said former Singaporean missionary to Wales Rev Graham Ng.

Welsh Christians' love of their buildings means they are reluctant to join with other congregations, even if their own congregation is small or closes, he said in a recent edition of a Singaporean Presbyterian Church newsletter.

They are also unwilling to adapt their church service styles, which appear archaic to outsiders, Ng said. Personal faith in Christ has not been promoted for around 40 years so there is no motivation for evangelism.

"This clinging to tradition is a sign of insecurity," Ng said. "I believe that the loss of confidence in Scripture is central to their decline."

Ng served as a CWM mission enabler in Swansea from 2001 to 2003, after finding out the need for ministers in the Welsh Presbyterian Church. He focussed on giving bible teaching and evangelism training to churchgoers. As many church members were elderly, he also frequently made home and hospital visits.

US: Christian porn site draws millions

An evangelistic website which helps people addicted to pornography has received more than 30 million hits since it was launched last year, The Christian Herald reported.

Californian pastors Mike Foster and Craig Gross developed www.xxxchurch.com to reach Internet pornography users with the gospel.

"Our mission is to make people aware of all the issues about porn and for Christians to be accountable and to get their crap cleaned up," the website states. "We also want to help and give hope to those who feel like there is no way out and are drowning in porn."

The online ministry provides bible studies, a chat room, prayer and free "accountability" software that keeps track of previously visited sites and notifies a friend of choice about questionable ones.

[From CWM email news service. To subscribe to CWM News, send an empty message to: cwmnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com]

Autumn Fayre

Despite the weather trying to make the event into a Summer Fayre, the Autumn Fayre on 11th October raised the sum of £540.18 as shown below. Thanks are extended to all those who helped in any way, and to those whose purchases contributed to the end result.

Groceries - Womens' Meeting	49.20
Matchboxes	15.00
Books / Games / Toys	48.93
Roy's Gallery	40.00
Refreshments	37.41
Cakes	20.10
Gifts - Nightbirds	103.35
Bric-a-brac	43.05
Tombola	133.25
Door	14.89
Table hire	10.00
Donation	<u>25.00</u>
	<u>£540.18</u>

Wanted (1)

(A new person)

If you have a few hours to spare every week, except school holidays, there are 22 very keen Brownies looking for someone to run their unit.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being their Brown Owl and it has been lots of fun.

If you are interested, please give me a ring.

Ellen M

Wanted (2)

(A new home)

is making a great offer. She wants a new home for a Yamaha electronic organ. It is an Electone B-20R, which is roughly piano size. It is in very good condition. There are only two conditions. Firstly the "buyer" collects, and secondly, a donation should be made to church funds. There is no other charge or cost involved.

Elders Meeting - Tuesday 4th November, 7.30pm. in the Schoolroom

Finance Committee - Tuesday 11th November, 7.30pm in the Schoolroom

Church Concert - Saturday 15th November, 7.30pm. In Crendon Hall. Come and be entertained, and entertain. Offers of talents to Margaret Lewis please. A fun, social evening for all.

Church Meeting - Tuesday 18th November, 8.00pm. In the Schoolroom. Our regular monthly meeting for ALL members to come and share in news and decision making as we further our common life together for the glory of God.

Property Management Committee Meeting - Tuesday 25th November, 7.30pm. In the Schoolroom.

Dance Evening in Crendon Hall - Friday 28th November from 7.30pm to 9.30pm

We thought we would try a slightly more energetic evening with some easy to follow dancing and suitable refreshments to refresh you.

Prayer Circle for Healing - Sunday 30th November 6.30 - 7.30pm in the Sanctuary. Come and pray by name for those known to us who are in need of God's healing presence in their lives at this time. New people are welcome, our prayers are simple and it is not a threatening experience to come and share in prayer, no one expects you to pray out loud if you would feel more comfortable remaining silent.

OTHER EVENTS IN BRIEF

Wycombe Prayer – November Meeting

Venue this month: *In our Church Schoolroom! Hosted by our Minister. Why not come and meet this ecumenical prayer group and see if you would like to join them?* 6.00-9.00a.m. Saturday 1st November, Calling all Intercessors - Prayers for those who wish to intercede for local issues concerning church and community. All welcome.

Parenting Morning

22nd November 10.00am-1.00pm. At the Kings Centre, Desborough Road. Free of charge. Guest speakers and local church representatives gather together to establish what resources exist within local Wycombe churches for running Bible-inspired parenting courses. Working with parents to strengthen parenting skills in our local communities. Open to any interested persons. Why not attend to see how Trinity URC can share in possible new ventures? Leaflet with further information is displayed on noticeboard.

Godly Play

22nd November, Union Church, Totteridge, North London. A Synod event to learn more about creating space for children to explore their relationship with God through action and reflection, story telling and play. Giving children tools to build a spiritual way of life. Cost £15.00 per day. Contact Sue Russell, Synod Training Assistant for more details: 020 7799 5000.

Encouraging a Church to Grow

Saturday 29th November, 9.30-12.30. at Holtspur URC, Beaconsfield. A locally hosted event of Synod-wide appeal – why not give it a go? Chose between two out of four sessions each led by an experienced practitioner:

1. Stewardship. by John Steele, Secretary for Life and Witness.
2. Managing Change and Working in Teams. by David Marshall-Jones, Advocate for Mission.
3. Growing and Training Local Leaders. by Derek Wensley, Minister of several growing urban multi-cultural churches.
4. Development and employing people's gifts and talents. by Fiona Thomas, Synod Training Officer. Details available on church noticeboard or contact Sue Russell 020 7799 5000.

2004 Giving

I presented the draft 2004 budget to the October Church Meeting, proposing a £4660 deficit next year.

Our Giving is one of the few ways we can be certain of addressing this situation. Although it is only last year, at this time, that we mounted our Giving Campaign, I would like to ask you if you are able to consider increasing your Giving for 2004.

Equally if your personal situation has changed for the worse you should not feel embarrassed about reducing your Giving.

Please let me know, by completing the form below.

Many thanks

I an B

Treasurer

My Giving for 2004 will be:

Unchanged

*Increased / decreased by £ per *week / month
[*delete as appropriate]

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

THINK ABOUT THIS: You may not realize it but it's true:

1. There are at least two people in this world that you would die for.
2. At least 15 people in this world love you in some way.
3. The only reason anyone would ever hate you is because they want to be just like you.
4. A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.
5. Every night, SOMEONE thinks about you before they go to sleep.
6. You mean the world to someone.
7. You are special and unique.
8. Someone that you don't even know exists, loves you.
9. When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good comes from it.
10. When you think the world has turned its back on you, take a look at all God has created.

The Vision

Our national denomination, the United Reformed Church is undergoing a radical review of our life together. It is being headed by our General Secretary, Revd David Cornick, and has become nicknamed 'The Cornick Review' But it is not his review, it must be a review which is endorsed by the whole church, locally and nationally. David and a committee are currently working to collect and organise comments from individuals and groups. Do you want to contribute to the process? Your thoughts would be very much appreciated. Do write to David Cornick, The URC, 86 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RT. And do it within the next two weeks.

Ideas which are probably receiving serious consideration include: Abolishing Districts and replacing them with revamped Synods and small clusters of local churches. Creating a London Synod of all churches inside the M25. Creating the stipendiary posts of Evangelists. Approving the post of Local Church Leaders for all churches that share Stipendiary Ministers with other churches. Having a smaller Church House staff team and moving them out of central London. Do you like these ideas? If so, say so, if not, say not. And there are lots more ideas like them. Tell David what you think about anything to do with national and local church reorganisation.

A Vision Statement for the church will be produced in November, circulated to all the churches in December and will be on OUR church agenda for our January Church Meeting for us to consider and comment on. In the view of every church's comments a revised Vision Statement will be presented at Assembly 2004 for approval of the whole church. (M.S.)

Coming soon

December 19th Musical Soiree in Crendon Hall

A reminder of the evening of music that we have organised, with Margaret Craner coming along to teach us how to play the hand bells, and we will be having other musical items and finish the evening with a sing song round the piano.

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

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

Prayer Page

(Prepared by the Nightbirds)

Week commencing November 2nd

A Winter Day

We thank you Lord for the brightness of winter sun,
for winter's work and entertainments,
for the warmth of home and all it's comforts.

Lord of all times and all seasons,
we thank you that there is no season without its satisfactions,
and that there is no time without its promises.
Lord, when we have no light , show us the treasures of darkness.

O Lord Jesus, help us to accept your call as Andrew did.
Grant that the claims of business;
the attractions of pleasure;
the cares of this world
may not make us fail to hear your call

November 9th Remembrance Sunday

We pray for those in the Armed Services, especially those in areas of conflict.
We pray for those who have lost loved ones in the recent Gulf War and other
areas of conflict around the world.
May the World's Leaders work towards peace and understanding of the nations
through-out the world.

November 16th

Let us pray for today's children that they may be surrounded by
love,
that they may grow in wisdom and faith,
that they may learn to be open with one another,
that they may care for the world,
that they may be generous in their concern for others.



November 23rd

Pray for members of our church family
who live alone, who have recently lost some-
one dear to them, who are infirm and unable
to do the things they were once able to do,
who have concerns for members of their fam-
ily.
May we as members be aware of each others
needs and support each other.

November 30th - Advent Sunday

We thank you for the promise of the
coming of your son,
to make us think about things we
would rather not think about,
to call in question the things we set
our hearts on and the things we live
for.

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