



November 2005

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

Dear friends,

Do you know the poem by Thomas Hood** which begins:-

“No sun, no moon
No morn, no noon
No proper time of day”?

It continues with every line beginning with “No” describing something you can’t see or do and ends:-

“No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds –
November”

A clever play on words, but a thoroughly pessimistic view of this month. It’s a description of a “pea-soup” foggy day, typical of city life in the last century when coal fires and factory chimneys belched out smoke and polluted the air.

Thankfully, these fogs are rare now, which prompted me to turn the poem round, using “No” positively – ie being glad about things that are not. With gardening in mind one could begin “No lawns to mow, no seeds to sow, no watering day by day”!

More seriously, on wider issues we can rejoice that there is no slavery, no child employment in mines and factories now, no religious discrimination barring non-conformists from university and many offices, no longer sex discrimination preventing women from becoming ministers of religion.

Having got into the positive mood, why not try your hand at writing a poem in the style of Thomas Hood, beginning each line with “No” used positively? (Best entries will be printed in next month’s Recorder.)

November can be a dreary month if you allow it, but it can also be a respite – a space between the rush of summer outings and the frenzied preparations for Christmas. Calm, still days with trees dripping with moisture under a grey sky can be a wonderful background for meditation and prayer. And through the greyness, there comes from time to time a sliver of gentle sun peeping through the cloud to remind us that it’s still there.

I like to think of God being there for us like that. In the background, through our dark days of worry and sadness, God tip-toes gently to us through the touch of a friend, the music of a hymn, or the words of a sermon, and a corner of the darkness is lifted.

In His mercy He deals gently with us just then, but when our worries ease and we have passed through our November He can reveal Himself to us once more in His full brightness. Then can we fully appreciate His great love for us and affirm in the words of the hymn

Yes, God is good – in earth and sky
God made us all and God is good.

***Thomas Hood, born May 1799, died May 1845*

Audrey B

Minister :

[There is no minister in post at present]

Church Secretary:

e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

November Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

6th November - Communion Revd Bill Frame Minister of Saint Columba, Headingley, Leeds (Minister of Trinity High Wycombe from 1991 - 96.)

13th November - Remembrance Sunday Mr Andrew Winton

20th November - All-age Worship. David and Barbara Sparks. (Tim Sparks' parents)

27th November Mrs Barbara Fordyce. URC Lay preacher from Chorleywood

November Rotas

Not included in this version

What's on in November . . .



Monday 14th November - Asian Culture Speaker: Farah Chaudrey
(Hostess: José Barber)

Monday 28th November - Speaker - The Town Crier (John)
(Hostess: Lesley Bogart)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 1st Nov	Beetle. Bring & Buy
Tuesday 8th Nov	Speaker - Francis Dunstan
Tuesday 15th Nov	Jim Cuming: "Out of the Blue"
Tuesday 22nd Nov	Joy & John Standfield: Bangkok & Singapore
Tuesday 29th Nov	Video: Favourite Hymns. Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Scrabble

There is
NO Scrabble
this month

Church Walk

There is no walk arranged for this month



Not included in this version

**BIBLE READING AIDS & PRAYER HANDBOOKS
2006**

'Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God' (Romans 10.17)

I am currently taking orders for the following, which are the most popularly used Bible Reading & Prayer Aids:

URC PRAYER HANDBOOK Advent 2005-2006 'Glory At Ground Level'

This follows the pattern of the Revised Common Lectionary and contains weekly prayers, suggested Bible readings and thought provoking texts.

Starts on Advent Sunday 27 November.

Priced at £3.75 it's excellent value.

LIGHT FOR OUR PATH (I.B.R.A.)

A popular book of readings and commentaries. Covers the whole year.

Price approx: £7

DAILY BREAD (S.U.)

A quarterly publication of daily readings with commentaries.

Price approx: £3 per quarter

Other aids are available, please ask me & I'll endeavour to meet your requirements.

Please inform me of your requirements as soon as possible.

Tel: 01494 528041

Email: marian@trinity-urc.org.uk

Thank you

Marian M

MakePovertyHistory

26 September 2005

Your pressure pays off

After frantic negotiations over the last few months and weeks, this weekend has seen international agreement to the debt cancellation deal proposed by the G8 in June and July. THANK YOU – your support has been crucial in creating the political will to see this deal through. Over the weekend, both UK Chancellor Gordon Brown and World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz acknowledged the importance of worldwide public pressure in driving this deal through.

We know that debt cancellation frees countries to spend their own money on their own people, instead of giving it to the rich world. And all the evidence shows that debt cancellation so far has benefited millions in Africa and elsewhere by paying for healthcare, education, clean water and crucial infrastructure.

But it is not over yet – the long delays were worrying and this weekend's announcements made it clear that some issues still need to be resolved. We will continue to monitor this, and keep up pressure where need be. Your determination and energy in calling for debt relief over past months and years have been crucial in taking us from a position where governments routinely refused to listen, to one where they are taking concrete steps towards ending debt domination. We hope your support will continue, as we see how much more we can achieve.

More details: www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/25sept05

MPH UPDATE OCTOBER 2005

You have stayed up all night at the Global Week of Action Vigil, walked, or at least journeyed to Edinburgh and marched with 225,000 others, plus numerous other campaigning actions.

Now we are close to the next mass mobilisation.

When: WEDNESDAY 2nd NOVEMBER

Where: St Stephen's Gate, Houses of Parliament, London

What you need to do now: Tell your MP about the Lobby and ask to meet him on the the 2nd November at Westminster. Send him a copy of "NineLives" with a relevant part highlighted (available from alison.blick@urc.org.uk price £1). If you are unable to get to Westminster still send him a copy and ask to meet him at his Constituency office.

If you are coming please let TJM or Christian Aid know how many of you there will be and who you will be lobbying.

You will then be sent a 16 page Lobby Pack together with a Question and Answer booklet that will explain everything. The Lobby Pack, booklet and Registration Form will be available to download shortly as a PDF file, see TJM web page

Please use these links to let them know you are coming : www.tjm.org.uk , www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign/resource or www.pressureworks.org

Trade Justice Movement
c/o Fairtrade Foundation
16 Baldwin Gardens,
London EC1N 7RJ

[continued on page 7]

Why : This has been a momentous year for campaigning to make poverty history

Important progress was made at Gleneagles although September's UN was largely a failure. It is imperative to let the World Leaders know that we STILL care deeply about those trapped in poverty through unjust trade rules. There have been positive words now it is time to put their rhetoric into action.

There have been two important statements about trade this year;

- 'Forcing poor countries to liberalise through trade agreements is the wrong approach to achieving growth and poverty reduction in Africa, and elsewhere.'

Report of the Africa Commission

- 'Developing Countries..... need to decide, plan and sequence their economic policies to fit their own development strategies'

Paragraph 31, G8 communiqué.

In December, the spotlight shifts to Hong Kong for the World Trade Organisation's ministerial. Trade is one of the most important ways in which developing countries can work their way out of poverty and Trade is the area in which there has been least progress. Poor countries can expect to come under more pressure to continue opening their markets as attention turns to their industrial and manufacturing sectors. The EU and US are pushing for an agreement that will allow their manufacturers greater access to the markets of poor countries. This agreement is known as non- agricultural market access, or NAMA. For the rhetoric to become reality, agreements made by the WTO must ensure that poor countries have the right to protect and support their farming and industry.

Stewarding

Stewards are needed to help out on the day. There are a range of duties from outdoor stewarding, giving information, helping with managing the queue or assisting MPs. Shifts are 4 hours long – the first from 11am – 3pm (arrival at 10am for briefings). The second shift is from 3pm - 6.30pm (arriving at 2pm for briefings). All volunteers will be given food, drink and training before the event. If you have previous stewarding experience, please indicate this when you volunteer. Please contact Sirius Gibson by e-mail sgibson@oxfam.org.uk with any questions and to register as a steward.

Other Campaign Actions

Parliamentary update

The TJM Parliamentary Group have been preparing for the mass lobby. There will be a mailing to all MPs from **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** and the Trade Justice Movement when parliament sits again after the summer recess on 10 October, encouraging them to take action on our demands and get involved in the mass lobby. An Early Day Motion will be tabled on 10 October for MPs to sign and a briefing meeting on the mass lobby and our WTO demands will be held for MPs on 26 October. Please encourage your MP to sign the EDM.

VOTE FOR TRADE JUSTICE

Since last summer, over 600,000 people in the UK have voted for Trade Justice in a special ballot. They are calling on the UK government to deliver Trade Justice – not free trade. This Vote for Trade Justice, which aims to have over a million votes by UK citizens by the end of the year, is part of a massive ongoing global call for action for trade justice.

Vote for Trade Justice on the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** website

www.makepovertyhistory.org/mph/campaign.do?code=vtj

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Brussels mass lobby for trade justice - 21 November

Join thousands of other European campaigners in Brussels to demand that the EU supports our call to make poverty history by delivering trade justice - not free trade.

Where? Brussels

When? Monday 21 November - start time to be confirmed.

Why? The EU is the largest trading bloc in the world and has huge influence over world trade. In particular, it negotiates trade agreements between the EU and poor countries.

From 21-22 November, trade ministers from the 25 EU nations will meet for the last time before the crucial trade talks at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in December in Hong Kong. This meeting will finalise the EU's position on how it negotiates at the WTO talks.

Christian Aid will be focusing on Peter Mandelson, Europe's trade commissioner, who will be at the meeting and will represent the EU at the WTO. In his first few months in the job, he has delivered nothing on trade justice. This is why we must make sure our call for trade justice is heard by both the Trade Ministers and Peter Mandelson, at the heart of the EU.

What are we calling for?

Alongside the UK lobby, and other national lobbies being held across Europe and around the world, we are calling for trade justice not 'free trade' when the World Trade Organisation meets in December in Hong Kong.

We're calling on the UK government, its partners in the European Union, and the European Commission to:

- stop pushing poor countries to open their economies
- respect poor countries' right to decide on trade policies to help end poverty and protect their environment.

White Band Day 3

Plans are underway for White Band Day 3 on 10 December – a culmination of the Vote for Trade Justice and a day where the depth of support for trade justice from British voters will be highlighted. The day will include a 'send off' activity so the UK Government delegation can be in no doubt as to what they must do in Hong Kong.

Make Poverty History - Email the DTI and tell Alan Johnson(Secretary of State for Trade and Industry) the UK Government must stop pushing poor countries to open their economies.

www.makepovertyhistory.org/mph/campaign.do?code=dti

WDM – Take action for Sierra Leone now! Sierra Leone is next in line for the UK Government's push for water privatisation. Eight consultants have been short listed to advise the country on privatisation and the winning bidder will be funded by UK aid money. [Email the shortlisted consultants to pull out of the bidding process now.](#)
<http://www.wdm.org.uk/campaigns/aid/action/sierra.htm>

Christian Aid

13,417 Chicken postcards were sent to Gordon Brown in March 2005. The IMF have written a response that can be found on www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign/index.htm

Christian Aid are advertising a new resource called "Trade Justice: Your Questions Answered" that explains many of the acronyms and phrases used in development issues. To order your copy please ring 08700 787 788

HARVEST REPORT:

How beautiful the church looked for the Harvest Service on Sunday 9th October. The church was a hive of activity on the Saturday morning as everyone worked so hard on the flower arrangements and decorating the windowsills with greenery. Luckily there was also a coffee morning in progress in the Lower Schoolroom so tea and coffee were in plentiful supply. On the Sunday morning Dr Iain Frew, (Linda Curley's father,) took the service and received the gifts of groceries for Central Aid.

After the service 29 of us gathered in the Lower Schoolroom for a delicious roast lunch cooked by Simon Evans and served by his assistants. The harvest gifts were delivered to Central Aid on the Monday morning and very gratefully received, for distribution around High Wycombe. So a big thank you to everyone who contributed to this special day.

COFFEE & DESSERTS EVENING NOVEMBER 14th 8.00pm

Have you been coming to services at Trinity? And have you perhaps been wondering about membership? Then this evening could be for you. It will be an informal get together to talk to Andrew Busby and some of the Elders about what membership actually entails and to tempt you along we will be serving desserts and coffee (or tea). If the lack of a baby sitter might be a problem for some of you, please don't let that stop you, speak to any of the Elders and we will see what can be arranged. If you would like any more details, again please have a word with an Elder, but do please come along on November 14th and see what it's all about. We really look forward to seeing you there.

Margaret L

Lessons of Life

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away.

The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer, and the youngest son in the fall.

When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent, and twisted.

The second son said no it was covered with green buds and full of promise.

The third son disagreed; he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most graceful thing he had ever seen.

The last son disagreed with all of them; he said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfilment.

The man then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen but only one season in the tree's life.

He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up.

If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, fulfilment of your fall.

Moral:

Don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest.

Don't judge life by one difficult season.

Persevere through the difficult patches and better times are sure to come some time or later.



Zimbabwe emergency appeal

In late May the Zimbabwean government launched Operation Murambatsvina, or 'Drive Out Trash'. An estimated 85,000 families were forcibly evicted from their homes – some were long-term residents and some had come to the city to find work following a series of failed harvests. Without warning, police and army officials destroyed large areas of urban housing, demolished market stalls and arrested traders.

It is also estimated that at least 375,000 people have been left without homes or jobs. Some are living in temporary camps, but many have been forced back to rural areas, which are already facing food shortages as a result of four years of poor harvests. The World Food Programme estimates that up to four million people could require food aid. Many rural communities are unable to support their existing population, even without an influx of people from the cities.

Christian Aid partner Christian Care has provided emergency help, including food and shelter at Caledonia Farm holding camp. The camp, 25km east of the capital Harare, accommodates more than 4,500 people. Further camps are being rapidly set up in other areas and Christian Aid partners are aiming to help approximately 13,000 people. For information on how Christian Aid is responding to the crisis in Zimbabwe, please visit www.christianaid.org.uk

We urgently need funds to provide to deal with the immediate situation and to help Zimbabweans in their long-term recovery. Those of our partners who can, are speaking out about human rights violations in Zimbabwe.

Christian Aid is very conscious of the on-going generosity of United Reformed Churches through Commitment for Life. But because of your focus on Zimbabwe through Christian Aid, we are asking for your special generosity to help to bring immediate and ongoing relief to the people of Zimbabwe by holding a special collection.

Christian Aid works entirely through local organisations, not governments, so you can be sure your money will reach those most in need.

- £10 provides one 15kg pack of drought-resistant seed.
- £1 7.50 provides one blanket to protect an individual from the cold of the winter months.
- £630 provides shelter for 1 5 families

Money can be sent to Commitment for Life (marked Zimbabwe emergency appeal) or directly to Christian Aid (also marked Zimbabwe emergency appeal).

Thank you for your support.

. . . and on a lighter note . . .

A lady was collecting for Christian Aid.

Calling at one house, she was met with the response, "Sorry I can't give you anything, the dog ate the envelope".

"Ah," responded the collector, "Don't worry, I have a spare envelope".

Back came the reply. "It's no good, he'd only eat that one too"!

High Wycombe Central Aid Society

[Registered Charity 201445]

The Society was founded in 1906 by Dame Frances Dove, Head Mistress of Wycombe Abbey School. One of the ideals was to help the poor people of the High Wycombe area who were begging at the School gates. It is amazing to think that 99 years later the Society still has people knocking on the door for a bag of food. On most of these occasions the clients have no money, as they have been let down by the Benefits Agency or Job Centre Plus, as it is now known. The Society still gives out grants to needy people in times of crisis. This is often to pay a utility bill or similar. Referrals for these grants are from CAB, Social Services, District Nurses and others. The Trustees, who meet monthly, award the grants.

Other activities of the Society are a 50+ Pop-in at the Reggie Goves Centre on Tuesday and Thursdays. This has been operating for over 20 years and offers lunches at fair prices. It is also a venue for a cup of tea and a chat. On Thursday, Dial a Ride picks up many clients and for some it is their only outing of the week. Another important project is the Furniture Warehouse, which collects unwanted furniture and passes it on at reduced prices to those on benefits. Grants are also given to those who are very needy and cannot afford basic items like a bed and a chair.

The Society receives very little in grants from local authorities but operates on bequests given over the years, which produce interest to help towards running costs. The Society is also fortunate to receive donations from local churches, companies and individuals and organises fundraising activities.

Look out for activities in 2006 when the Society will be celebrating its Centenary.

. . . from babes and suckings . . . !

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher asked, " What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him".

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 27th November
Closing date for contributions is Friday 18th November*

<p>Recorder Editor : e-mail : editor@trinity-urc.org.uk Church web site: http://www.trinity-urc.org.uk</p>

prayer page
(prepared by the guides)

**N
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2005

The prayer page has been prepared by some of the Trinity Guides, with the theme of Harvest and Autumn

Lord, we give you thanks for the harvest, and for the great variety of food that you have provided for us.

We remember those people who are starving throughout the world, and pray that you will help us all to work together, so that we can share the world's resources equally.

We remember especially those in our own country who go hungry because of lack of money. We pray that they will receive the help that they need and show us how to play our part. In Jesus' Name.

*'Harvest' From Young People Talking to God
(The United Reformed Church Guide and Scout fellowship)*

Food for our hunger, water for our thirst,
Shoes for our little feet, but first things first,
Thanks be to heaven, Thanks be to God,
That we go satisfied sheltered and shod.

'Food for our hunger' from Give thanks (the Guide Association)

Seek him in the rainbow that arches across the sky,
Seek him in the budding trees that lift their branches high.
Seek him in the golden sunbeams dancing in the air;
Seek him and you will surely find him. God is everywhere.

From 'Seeking' (the Guide Association)

Dear Lord, autumn is so often a time of new beginnings and planning. Conkers grow into chestnut trees and the blackberries contain seeds to create new plants. As we plan our next year's activities, help us to ensure that there really is something for everyone in everything we do.

'Autumn' From Young People Talking to God (The United Reformed Church Guide and Scout fellowship)



The Lord is good to me,
and so I thank the Lord for giving me the things I need,
The sun the rain and the apple seed,
The Lord is good to me.
And every seed that's sown, will grow into a tree.
And one day soon, there'll be apples there for everyone in the world to
share;
The Lord is good to me.

Johnny Appleseed (sung as a grace)