



November 2006

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,

All sorts of thoughts have been going through my head during these past few weeks as I've been thinking of what to write in this letter and I never expected the answer to my prayers to arrive in an email from our future minister, Gwen Collins! But it did when she said 'I have a dancing going on in my spirit as I think of this new step'. That reminded me of the service she led when she came to 'preach with a view' at the beginning of September and she took the theme of 'Journeys'.

For we, who believe Jesus to be our Saviour, are on a journey of faith as individuals and as a church, here at Trinity. As we come to the end of the vacancy we reach a new stage in that journey. We consider that God has led us through the months since Mike left us and has used Andrew Busby, our Interim Moderator, to so ably lead us with the Elders to the next stage of Trinity's journey. Do we, like Gwen, have a 'dancing in our spirit'? I do hope so, as we look to the future and all that we hope to realise with God's help.

To be sure we're on the right road we need to check regularly that we are truly being led by God and remind ourselves of the Vision we agreed for Trinity a few years ago.

A couple of weeks ago I read the following & found myself substituting the word 'vision' for 'dream'. "When you dream you move closer to the way God sees things; you see beyond your limitations; you move from where you are to where He wants you to be; you begin to see your goals in their completed state. The question isn't can you dream, but do you have the courage to act on it? 'Faith without works is dead' (James 2:20) If your dream doesn't stretch you to the point of discomfort it's probably not of God. God has a dream for you and if you seek Him He'll reveal it to you. But remember: a) dreams are specific, not general; b) dreams are usually outside the realm of the expected and c) dreams separate winners from losers. So follow your God-given dream." (Taken from Word For Today)

As we move to the next stage of our journey together I pray that we may all be united in following our 'God-given dream' and know that 'I am the Lord your God....who leads you by the way you should go.' (Isaiah 48:17).

Love and blessings,

Marian

Minister :
There is no minister in post at present

Church Secretary: Mrs Marian Mole,
e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

November Services

Morning Worship at 10:30am

Nov 5th	Communion - Revd Erna Stevenson
Nov 12th	Dr Iain Frew
Nov 19th	All Age Worship: Brownie & Guide Church Parade - Lighthouse Puppets
Nov 26th	Revd Graham Long

Rotas for November

Not included in this version

What's on in November



Monday 13th Nov - Researching Your Family Tree - Pat W
(Hostess - Pat W)

Monday 27th Nov - Weddings.
(Hostess - Ellen M)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 7th Nov

Fireworks! Bring & Buy

Tuesday 14th Nov

John Standfield - Video of Malta

Tuesday 21st Nov

Jim Cumin - All the Queen's Men

Tuesday 29th Nov

Women in the Gospels (2) - Women Jesus met.



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

On November 3rd and 17th . . .

YOU will have a chance to show off your
lexicographical skills

at 2pm

Scrabble

Diary Dates

- 11 November - 10.30am Coffee Morning
- 14 November - 8pm Elders' Meeting
- 17 November - St Andrew's Buffet & Dance
- 20 November - 10am Prayer Circle For Healing
- 25 November - 10.30am Coffee Morning
- 28 November - 8pm Church Meeting
- 3 December - Sale of cards for Christian Aid
- 10 December - Church Christmas Lunch
- 17 December - 10.30am Gift Service led by Junior Church
- 4.30pm Carol Service - Carols by Candlelight
- 24 December - 10.30am Morning Worship
- 11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion
- 25 December - 10.30am Christmas Day Service
- 7 January - 3pm Induction of Rev Dr Gwen Collins

Not included in this version

CARDS **CARDS** CARDS

Following Morning Worship on Sunday 3 December there will be a sale of gift cards in aid of Christian Aid.

It was decided at the Church Meeting held on 5 September that people could do what they wish concerning exchanging Christmas cards this year. Therefore if you wish to give and display one card to everyone and donate to the chosen charities via the Empty Plate, you may or you might prefer to give individual cards to your friends in the congregation.

	Donations	25.00
	Door	23.36
Autumn Fayre	Alison's Cards	3.00
	Osborne Books	7.00
	Name the Doll	25.60
The proceeds from the Fayre are shown on the right.	Linen Stall	12.00
	Woodcraft	10.00
	Sarah's Cards	10.00
	Books	17.15
	Matchboxes	18.11
Thanks to all those who helped <u>in any way</u> to achieve this result.	Jewellery	22.40
	Nightbirds	90.56
	Groceries	57.00
	Bric a Brac	24.80
	Handicrafts	55.90
	Cakes	33.30
	Teas	24.00
	Tombola	122.80
	Barbara's Stall	27.60
	Brownies	13.16
	Erin's Cards	10.92
	Total	633.66

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe: No support for struggling farmers.

The government's withdrawal of free agricultural inputs for new farmers is certain to affect food production adversely, analysts are warning. Farmers who were allocated land under the fast-track land reform programme that began in 2000 have received fertilisers and seed for the past three years, for which they could pay after the harvest, but last month the agriculture ministry announced that it had stopped the "free" inputs scheme.

Most agricultural inputs are imported and have become all but unaffordable for many farmers, who are suffering the combined effects of Zimbabwe's steadily deteriorating economy and last season's low yields after widespread shortages of chemicals, fertilisers and seed. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe announced recently that it had secured a US\$490 million loan for purchasing agricultural equipment, inputs and fuel, with part of it to be disbursed to banks for loans. Farmers could then borrow money from the banks to buy fertiliser and seeds

Terence Makuyana, 45, who has a 50 hectare plot about 80km north of the capital, Harare, said even if the banks had finance for loans, farmers like him would find it difficult to access them. "I have not been able to obtain a loan from the banks, because all the time I approach them, they say they need me to demonstrate that I have the required experience as a farmer and have a proven record of success ... this is my third year into farming ... [but the banks] are demanding proof of ownership of property like a house and a car, which I don't have." Most of the farmers who benefited from the compulsory acquisition of land from about 4,000 white farmers have not received the promised 99-year leases that can be used as collateral to guarantee bank loans.

"The process of giving farmers leases is complicated, because it cannot be done without the land being properly surveyed, and that requires money and manpower that the government does not have. The situation has been made worse by the fact that most of the farms have been subdivided into small plots.

Makuyana, who grows maize and groundnuts, said the combination of last year's poor harvests, despite good rains during the farming season, and the withdrawal of free inputs this year might force him to reduce his target by half.

He has struggled to feed his family. "I am yet to repay the government for the inputs I received last year because I did not realise much money from the sale of my produce owing to poor harvests," said Makuyana. "I used the little money that I got to buy an extra beast for draught power, because the District Development Fund (DDF) is no longer assisting us with tractors." Zimbabwe's government insists that about 1.8 million tonnes of maize were harvested - just short of the annual cereal requirement - but independent analysts estimate that 800,000 tonnes at most were produced.

The government are importing grain to boost national reserves.

©Adapted from article by IRIN

Duties of Greeters at the door

Please arrive 20 minutes before the service is due to commence. Give out hymn books, bibles etc. Ask any visitors to sign the visitors' book at the back of the church. Ensure collection bags are in place .

If any date is not suitable, please exchange with another person on the list.



Note that Anne H will be on the hunt for Mince Pies for Carols by Candlelight (Sun 17th Dec) in the not too distant future. She thanks everyone for their support *[and presumably hopes it will continue!- Ed]*

T.V. hit series Priest Idol returns... on DVD with discussion notes!

The controversial Channel 4 Priest Idol series, which features the successful year-long battle to save a church from closure, is now out on DVD. What's more the two DVDs are accompanied by special study notes downloadable from the net.

Priest Idol, broadcast last autumn, tells the tale of Father James McCaskill's fight to save St Mary Magdalene Church, at the heart of the former mining village of Lundwood, Barnsley.

Father James and his small congregation of around 12 people worked alongside marketing company Propaganda and a special Turnaround Team to encourage people to return to church. Today St Mary's has between 70 – 100 worshippers on Sunday mornings.

Now the Diocese of Wakefield hopes that the lessons they learned at Lundwood, working alongside marketing company Propaganda, can be used to help churches throughout the diocese and the country to encourage people to go to church.

"Lots of people throughout the diocese and all over the country have been asking 'what's the secret of Lundwood's success?'" said Archdeacon Jonathan Greener, who featured alongside Father James in the programme.

"We decided to produce the DVDs and notes in the hope that other churches can benefit from our experience."

The Priest Idol package is designed to be used as six half-hour sessions of watching a programme, followed by discussion guided by the notes. The set of two DVDs can be ordered from Rita Peacock, Church House, Wakefield – call 01924 371802, price £16, which includes P & P. The study notes can be downloaded from www.priestidol.com.

For more details please contact Sally Codman, P/T Diocesan Communications Officer on 01924 371802 or 078377 07115 (mobile or text message) or sally.codman@wakefield.anglican.org or sally.codman@ntlworld.com
Or the Revd Michael Rawson on 01924 255349, 07966 783644 or michael.rawson@bishopofwakefield.org.uk

A Simple Question - or is it?

Ask yourself the question if "you would run" after you read this!!!

Imagine this happening to you... One Sunday morning during service, a 2,000 member congregation was surprised to see two men enter, both covered from head to toe in black and carrying submachine guns.

One of the men proclaimed, "Anyone willing to take a bullet for Christ remain where you are."

Immediately, the choir fled...

the deacons fled...

and most of the congregation fled....

Out of the 2,000 there only remained around 20. The man who had spoken took off his hood. He then looked at the preacher and said "Okay Pastor, I got rid of all the hypocrites... Now you may begin your service. Have a nice day!"

And the two men turned and walked out.

Would YOU still have been there when the men left?



Revive Update

The Revive Committee met on Wednesday 11th October and we are pleased to celebrate good news with all the church family at Trinity. We have the necessary approvals from the LBAC to proceed to detailed construction drawings and if all goes to plan we can commence work in June 2007.

A key discussion concerned how we bridge the gap in funding of some £35-40000, between our funds to date and the budget for Phase 1 of the development. Arthur Winning will be commenting in his report on some promising discussions with Shanley Construction on purchase of a plot of land at the manse. However each of us must challenge ourselves in action and in prayer and seek God's guidance on raising the necessary funds.

Andrew Busby suggested at the October church meeting that there may be some among us who can offer interest free loans and others may still wish to increase their regular giving or make a large donation.

I am confident that we will all be amazed at the changes Phase 1 will deliver, so please consider your role thoughtfully and prayerfully in the months leading up to the quarter 2 commitment to proceed.

Sincere thanks are due to the organisers of the Autumn Fair and many congratulations to all who supported this event, which successfully beat last year's financial result.

Finally, at the time of writing, the St Andrew's event looks like being a "sell out" and we hope that everyone who attends will have a truly joyful and memorable evening.

Ian Buchanan

The success of the cream teas both for fundraising and fellowship has given food for thought, with the result that Audrey Bn will be hosting an afternoon tea on the first and third Wednesday afternoons of each month. The 'afternoon tea' folk have already collected £30 towards REVIVE and are 'improving the shining hour' by knitting baby clothes for an outlet in Africa. Those who can't knit have to make the tea!

Tickets for the St Andrew's Dinner & Dance have sold quickly and it looks as though we will have a sell-out. Thanks to Arthur, Marie, Ian and Maureen for organising this – it promises to be a very enjoyable evening.

The Autumn Fayre went well and although it seemed as if there were fewer people than last year, we made over £600 which was up on last year's total. Thank you to all who ran stalls, provided gifts, did refreshments and helped in any way. It was also lovely to see the Brownies with us and to experience their biscuit-decorating.

Event & venue

Craft Fair, Trinity URC

Burns' Night Supper & Ceilidh

Supper/dinner evening
with Pam Rhodes

Date and time

to be confirmed

January 2007 –
to be confirmed

2007 - to be confirmed

Further details

**Not included in this
version**

Kate Yates

I am thankful . . .

for the wife who says it's hot dogs tonight,
because she is home with me, and not out with someone else.

for the husband who is on the sofa being a couch potato,
because he is home with me and not out at the bars.

for the teenager who is complaining about doing dishes
because it means she is at home, not on the streets.

for the taxes I pay
because it means I am employed

for the mess to clean after a party
because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

for the clothes that fit a little too snug
because it means I have enough to eat.

for my shadow that watches me work
because it means I am out in the sunshine

for a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing
because it means I have a home.

for all the complaining I hear about the government
because it means we have freedom of speech.

for the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot
because it means I am capable of walking and I have been blessed with transportation.

for my huge heating bill
because it means I am warm.

for the lady behind me in church who sings off key
because it means I can hear.

for the pile of laundry and ironing
because it means I have clothes to wear.

for weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day
because it means I have been capable of working hard.

for the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours
because it means I am alive.

and finally, for too much e-mail
because it means I have friends who are thinking of me.

[Submitted by Marian Mole - having been received from a friend of hers.]



Keep Your Fork

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things "in order," she contacted her priest and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the priest was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly.

"What's that?" came the priest's reply.

"This is very important," the young woman continued.

"I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The priest stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say.

"That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the priest.

The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from there on out, I have always done so. I have also, always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement.

'In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming, like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!' So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder "What's with the fork?" Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork . the best is yet to come." The pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye.

He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did.

She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. ***She KNEW that something better was coming.***

At the funeral people were walking by the young woman's casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the priest heard the question "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the priest told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her.

The priest told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right.

So the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you ever so gently, that the best is yet to come.

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

Show your friends how much you care. Remember to always be there for them, even when you need them more. For you never know when it may be their time to "Keep your fork."

Cherish the time you have, and the memories you share - being friends with someone is not an opportunity but a sweet responsibility.

And keep your fork

[With thanks to Lesley B, who, having seen this immediately thought of it as a suitable filler for the Recorder. If YOU come across any little stories or tales which would be worth sharing - don't be selfish!]

INDUCTION OF REV DR GWEN COLLINS

The Induction Service for Rev Dr Gwen Collins
will take place at
Trinity United Reformed Church
on

Sunday 7 January 2007 at 3pm

The Moderator for Thames North Synod
Rev Roberta Rominger
will preside

Refreshments will be served after the service

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 26th November.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 17th November*

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

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

prayer page

Let us think of all the people who work for us;
The men and women in factories, shops, and offices:
Bless them and help them, O Lord.
The farm workers, gardeners, builders, and all who help
to provide our homes and food and clothing:
Bless them and help them, O Lord.
Those who carry people and goods, by road, railway sea or air,
Bless them and help them, O Lord.
The police, firemen, soldiers, sailors and airmen, who protect us:
Bless them and help them, O Lord.
The scientists, doctors, nurses, and hospital workers,
who care for our bodies:

Bless them and help them, O Lord.
The artists, entertainers, musicians and writers,
who delight and instruct our minds:
Bless them and help them, O Lord.
Those who teach, govern, and guide us:
Bless them and help them, O Lord.
Those who can find no work to do:
Bless them and help them, O Lord.
Blessed lord, who worked as a carpenter at Nazareth,
teach all people to work together for the good of the world
and the glory of God.

A Brownie Guide prayer



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2006

*Pray for Gwen and Bernie Collins,
for the Elders, and all church
members and adherents as we
work together next year in our
service to the Lord.*

We dare not ask you bless our harvest feast
Till it is spread for poorest and for least.
We dare not bring our harvest gifts to you
Unless our hungry brothers share them too.

Not only at this time, Lord; every day
Those who you love are dying while we pray.
Teach us to do with less, and so to share
From our abundance more than we can spare.

Now with this harvest plenty round us piled,
show us the Christ in every starving child;
Speak, as you spoke of old in Galilee,
'You feed, or you refuse, not them but me!'

Lilian Cox – from The Lion Prayer Collection

O Father of goodness,
We thank you each one
For happiness, heathiness,
Friendship and fun.
For good things we think of,
And good things we do,
And all that is beautiful,
Loving and true.

A prayer from France

God, give me strength to run this race,
God, give me power to do the right,
And courage lasting through the fight'
God, give me strength to see your face,
And heart to stand till evil cease,
And, at the last, O God, your peace.

Author unknown