

Finally, build up your strength in union with the Lord and by means of his mighty power ... So stand ready, with truth as a belt tight round your waist, with righteousness as your breastplate, and as your shoes the readiness to announce the Good News of peace.
[Ephesians 6 v.10, 14-15.]



November 2007

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,

How would you describe Trinity United Reformed Church to a friend who didn't know us? What would you say are our strengths?

In Australia there is a well-established way for a church like ours to gather together the views of all who come to worship. The National Church Life Survey [NCLS] has been doing this for many years for Australian churches, through its 'Enriching Church Life Survey'. The survey is designed to respond to Jesus' words in John's gospel, chapter 10, verse 10b. "I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness". Its aim is to help churches to assess their strengths and build on them.

To do this NCLS provides a form for everyone to complete during an act of worship. From the answers given it produces a Church Life Profile that gives a clear view of a church's strengths and information to help that church work out how best to move forward.

NCLS are now working with the British Christian Research Association to find ten 'pilot' churches in the UK to try out their materials here. Trinity is to be one of those churches. At our Church Meeting in September we decided to participate. We agreed that there was nothing to lose and everything to gain by knowing ourselves better – and hearing the opinions of everyone, not just a few. The extra incentive is that as a pilot church there is no charge! [In the normal course of events it would cost £100 - £200].

The day fixed for our Enriching Church Life Survey is Sunday Nov. 25th. During the morning service that day we will take time [about 20 minutes] to each fill in a survey form. There are over 60 questions, ranging from the usual personal details needed for statistical analysis through to questions about the style of music you like; the friendliness of the congregation; matters of faith; community service; what you think of the leaders. The survey covers all church related activities and characteristics. I hope that we have an atmosphere at Trinity where people feel able to say what they think anyway – but this will give us a chance to do that in a structured and comprehensive way, set within our praise and worship of God.

Everyone aged 15 or over completes a form. It doesn't matter if you are a first time visitor that day, or have been part of Trinity for years. All perspectives are welcome in building up an all round picture of who we are. Please make every effort to be there so that your view is included. If you cannot make it on the morning of the 25th but are keen to join in please let me or your Elder know and we will do our best to enable you to complete a form.

It is a tremendous encouragement this month to see phase one of our building redevelopment coming to completion. On Nov. 18th we shall celebrate with a morning Parade Service and an afternoon Official Opening with our Synod Moderator, Revd. Roberta Rominger. How appropriate to follow that up immediately the following Sunday with a good, honest look at ourselves through the survey!

How would you describe Trinity? Here is an opportunity to give a careful, thoughtful answer to that question.



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins

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

Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole,

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

November Services

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

Nov 4 **Holy Communion** followed by a Special Church Meeting [see below]

Nov 11 **Remembrance Service**

Nov 18 - **10.30 a.m. Parade Service and All Age Worship**

Some of us will stay at church and bring our own packed lunch – all welcome to do so

- **2.30 p.m. Opening of new west entrance** [Phase 1 of redevelopment], by

Rev Roberta Rominger, Synod Moderator

Nov 25 **Morning worship**, including Enriching Church Life Survey

Special Church Meeting: We have been advised to submit a new grant application to Synod for Phase 2 of the redevelopment. It requires Church Meeting approval and with papers needing to be in by 6th Nov. this cannot wait till our next regular meeting on 20th.

Rotas for November

Not included in this version

What's on in November



Nov 12th Papua New Guinea (Hostess - Gwen Collins)
 Nov 26th St Andrew (Hostess - Ellen Murray)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 6th Nov Wycombe Past & Present (at the Friends Meeting House)
 Tuesday 13th Nov On this day . . . (at the Friends Meeting House)
 Tuesday 20th Nov Thanksgiving for our new premises
 (in the Lower Schoolroom)
 Tuesday 27th Nov Animals of the Bible: Pigs and Dogs



All meetings start at 2.30



Only one meeting - make it a "good-un"

9th November (only)

Diary Dates

1 Nov 6-8pm Bible First
 6 Nov 8pm Elders' Meeting
 10 Nov Coffee Morning
 18 Nov Church Parade
 18 Nov 2.30pm Moderator opens new
 west entrance
 20 Nov 8pm Church Meeting
 24 Nov Coffee Morning

November						
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	

1 Dec 8.30-10.30am Bible First
 2 Dec 3pm Service For Healing & Wholeness
 4 Dec 8pm Elders' Meeting
 8 Dec Coffee Morning
 16 Dec Gift Service led by Junior Church
 23 Dec 4.30pm Carol Service
 24 Dec 11.30pm Midnight Communion
 25 Dec 10.30am Family Worship

Not included in this version



Many thanks to all you kind folk who so generously donate to coffee fund every Sunday. I have accumulated a spare £55 after paying for all the ingredients, and have given this sum to the treasurer for banking and transferring to Revive Fund. Thank you once again for your support.

It will soon be Christmas, and I will be around asking for mince pies and sausage rolls for the Carols by Candlelight service. God Bless Anne x

Carbon Footprint

Have you measured your carbon footprint?

Do you care how big it is?

If not, why not?

Why not come along to the BIBLE FIRST meetings on the first day of the month and discuss what we, as Christian individuals, can do, and, even more importantly, why we should do anything about global warming and our carbon emissions.

For full details, see September Recorder.

Eileen T

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe

City and Urban areas

All semblances of normality have collapsed in most parts of Zimbabwe. The supply of electricity is negligible most days forcing many people to behave in the most absurd fashion in order to remain functional. They have to go to bed at 7pm in the cold and the dark - and 'wake up' when the lights come on at 11pm. Their bodies struggle to adjust to the new routine; doing the ironing at 11 pm; businesses downloading emails and working on the computer at midnight. They rise again at 4am to cook porridge for breakfast (if fortunate to have food) and are thankful for that achievement as the electricity goes off again at 5am and another day of insanity begins.

Chaos reigns in commerce and industry and those in the public sector are frantic. There are shopping and business centres where machines no longer work, lifts do not move, supermarket meat fridges defrost, bakery ovens are cold, food goes bad and people just sit out on walls and pavements. World experts are unanimous -- inflation in Zimbabwe will continue to snowball and economic collapse is expected before the end of 2007. By that point the Zimbabwean currency will have become unusable and shops and services will virtually cease to function.

The health service has all but collapse. The privileged 10% continues unabated. The people's suffering is of little concern. No worries about their children's education as most have sent their offspring to the finest private schools and universities in Europe, SA and the States. Every day, poor desperate Zimbabweans cross the Limpopo River, braving crocodiles and occasionally drowning, to try their luck in neighbouring South Africa where many are exploited and abused.

Jon Simpson

Bangladesh

Millions of people were affected by a second wave of monsoon flooding earlier this month, the worst for three decades. The death toll is over 900. The monsoon swept away homes, crops, roads and bridges across much of the country's north and northeast. Many now face hunger because they have no jobs or income since their crops have been ruined or businesses disrupted. Thousands of families can be found huddled on highways and embankments, with their cattle and whatever else they could carry. Others are still living on the roof of their flooded homes, Newspapers are full of stories of people who had just started to replant crops and rebuild houses following the rains in July.

Abdul in Gangachara, a northern district, told of the anguish of losing another crop. "People's hopes are fading as hunger and diseases continued to spread,"

(Reuters)

Poverty is a way of life in Bangladesh's remote northern region where people grow just one rice crop for the year and there are only few factories offering jobs.

'Country in Crisis' Focus on Zimbabwe
Linda Mead, National Co-ordinator of Commitment For Life
Saturday 24 November 6.30pm
Palmer's Green URC, Fox Lane, London
The Acholi Choir will give presentations of African Music
There will be a meal with African food at 6.30pm

(Gwen is planning to attend.)

Advance Warning (keep your ears pinned back for further details in due course)

A social evening is being planned in Crendon Hall on Friday November 30th starting at 7.00 pm. We would like to raise some money for **Children in Need** and also hopefully involve other people who use our building and who most of us rarely get to meet. More details will be forthcoming later when Rose has had a chance to talk to everybody.

THE OPENING OF THE NEW WEST ENTRANCE

by

REV^D ROBERTA ROMINGER

Moderator of Thames North Synod

on

SUNDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2007

at 2.30pm

Followed by a Service and Refreshments

If you would like an invitation to be sent to any friends of Trinity please speak to the Church Secretary

Revive

Dear Friends

Work is well advanced and on schedule on the Phase 1 building re-development work and we look forward to the official opening by the Moderator, Revd Roberta Rominger, on the afternoon of Sunday 18th November. The end result will be improved access facilities, new disabled friendly toilets and a pristine redecorated Lower School Room, amongst other practical and aesthetic benefits. I hope it gives us renewed vigour for the work that lies ahead!

Looking forward, some of us have been planning the application to the LBAC for approval to implement our plans to convert the Sanctuary into a flexible Worship and Community space, which will help us to fulfil our vision to be an extending church family and some of us have been preparing an application to Synod for a Capital Grant which will, if approved, lighten the financial burden at Phase 2.

There is also some encouraging news on the sale of the manse plot and Arthur Winning has been in negotiation with Synod and Michael Shanly, the developers, on this matter. Additionally, fund raising and giving (in the latter case with all the promises of intent donations and loans in the bank) continues to match our expectations.

We have much to thank God for at this time in the story of Trinity United Reformed Church and we look forward to the fulfilment of His Vision for our future.

Amen.



Thames North Synod United Reformed Church

in partnership with

Karnataka Central Diocese Church of South India

**A visit will be made to our partner church for a period of ten days
during 10 – 24 February 2008.**

The base will be Bangalore and accommodation will be at the Church Guest House next door to the Diocesan Office. Church projects always feature in the programme, worship will be at various city churches, ministers and lay people escort visits to projects.

Synod is able to send a group of six – possibly eight – people on this visit. Your air tickets will be arranged and advice given on obtaining visas and inoculations. Information and guidance is given from the time a person applies to be a participant. A full and extensive briefing programme will be given a month before departure.

If anyone from Trinity would like to take part in this visit please talk to Gwen as soon as possible.

White Poppies for Remembrance

Last year several people expressed an interest in the white poppies which can be worn side by side with the British Legion red poppy showing that peace and remembrance walk hand in hand. We have 20 white peace poppies available and if you would like one please contact me.

Marian
marian@trinity-urc.org.uk

DFID (Department for International Development)

Did you know your taxes help lift over three million people permanently out of poverty every year?

The Department for International Development (DFID) is leading the UK Government's fight against world poverty.

Visit their website www.dfid.gov.uk for:

- Up-to-date news about what they are doing for the world's poorest people;
- The latest facts about their progress towards the UN Millennium Development Goals;
- Real life examples of how DFID has made a difference, in their case studies from around the developing world;
- Details on how we can help to save people's lives in disasters and emergencies;
- The opportunity to contribute our views on fighting world poverty, through their open consultations.

Opting out of receiving unaddressed mail through the post

Instead of recycling unwanted mail, you can stop receiving unaddressed mail delivered by Royal Mail to your home. You can do so by contacting them at the address below. However, there are a few things you should consider before doing this:

The opt out service only relates to **unaddressed** mail. Royal Mail is still legally obliged to deliver all addressed mail, which includes mail that is addressed "To the Occupier" (or with any other generic recipient information), as well as mail that is personally addressed to you by name.

It is not possible for Royal Mail to separate material you don't want from material that you do want, such as advertising offers or leaflets from Central and Local Government and other public bodies. Opting out from Royal Mail Door to Door stops **all** unaddressed items from being delivered by us (although we would work with Government to get a message to every UK address in exceptional circumstances). Election material is not delivered by the Door to Door service and is therefore not affected by this opt out.

Opting out means **no one** at the address will receive unaddressed mail items – is this acceptable to everyone living at the property?

Please be aware that Royal Mail only delivers about 25% of the total volume of unaddressed mail items in the United Kingdom. The opt out will not cover any other distributors, who will continue to deliver unaddressed mail items. Opting out of Royal Mail Door to Door deliveries will not necessarily reduce by a significant amount of the number of items that you will receive, as there are other carriers in the market place.

If you would like to stop any other unwanted communications please visit www.mydm.co.uk which provides details on all other preference services, or call 0845 703 4599.

If you wish to opt out of receiving Door to Door mail items, please send or email your name and address to the address below:

Freepost RRBT-ZBXB-TTTS
Royal Mail Door to Door Opt Outs
Kingsmead House
Oxpens Road
OXFORD
OX1 1RX

or email: optout@royalmail.com

They will then send an opt-out form to your address, which you must sign and return. They do this for security reasons, to verify that those resident at the address have requested the 'opt out'.

Once you've returned this form, Royal Mail will stop delivering unaddressed items to your address within 6 weeks.

How times have changed!!

In the year 2007, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in England and said, "Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated, and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save 2 of every living thing along with a few good humans."

He gave Noah the CAD drawings, saying, "You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights. " Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark.

"Noah!" He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed Building Regulations Approval because the Ark was over 30m². I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is development of the site even though in my view it is a temporary structure, but the roof is too high.

We had to go to appeal to the Secretary of State for a decision. The Local Area Access Group complained that my ramp was going to be too steep, and the inside of the Ark wasn't fully accessible, then the Department of Transport demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it.

Getting the wood was another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to protect the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls, but no go!

When I started gathering the animals, the RSPCA sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.

Then the County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood.

I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission on how many BMEs I'm supposed to hire for my building team. The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only CSCS accredited workers with Ark-building experience.

To make matters worse, Customs and Excise seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species. So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord. "The government beat me to it."



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Julia S (9th)
Grandma Bell (9th)
Ben L (16th)
Gwen (19th)
Ellen C (26th)

A Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.



Congratulations



With Best Wishes to

Bell P (9th)

on celebrating her 90th Birthday
With love from us all at Trinity.

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 25th November.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 16th November*

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

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

prayer page

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4.6,7



A prayer of self-offering

Lord Jesus,

I give you my hands to do your work.

I give you my feet to go your way,

I give you my eyes to see as you do.

I give you my tongue to speak as you do.

I give you my mind that you may think in me.

I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.

Above all

I give you my heart that you may live in me,

Your Father, and all humankind.

I give you my whole self that you may grow in me,

So that it is you, Lord Jesus,

Who live and work and pray in me.

From Travelling Well by Steven Croft and Stephen Cottrell

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2007

O God of all comfort, grant to those who grieve, whether for sin or for sorrow, that they may so yield to grief that they grow not hard, but, by admitting that they are hurt, may be open to being healed.

From Asking God by Oliver Tomkins

Weekly prayers through November:

Sunday

For the Old Tea House

Monday

For Chaplains (health, prisons, universities, industrial, sports)

Tuesday

For our local police men and women

Wednesday

For farmers who are finding life hard at present

Friday

For those responsible for religious communities and retreat houses

Saturday

For peace negotiators globally, nationally and locally