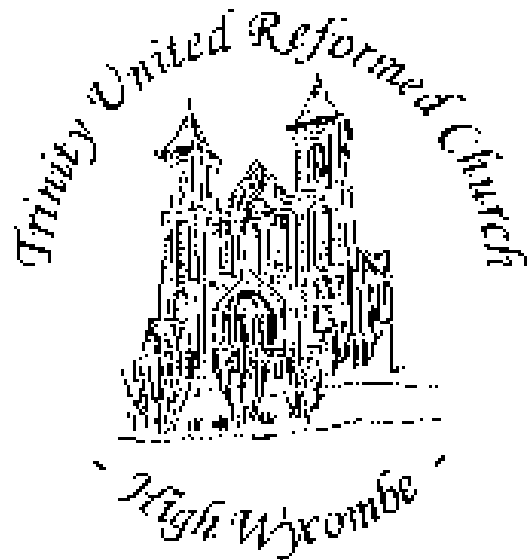


The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ,
the Son of God. *Mark 1:1*



November 2009

The Recorder

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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,

I wonder if you realise that you are part of a worldwide community of Christian churches with common roots in Congregationalism and Presbyterianism, the Council for World Mission [CWM]?

Certainly some of you know that. In past years you may have collected coins for annual CWM services, or way back, collected your ship ha'pennies for the John Williams series of ships that were a lifeline in the South Pacific. In the past Trinity has had visitors from some of our CWM partner churches. URC people serving abroad through CWM have come and shared something of their experiences. And there can't be many people at Trinity who don't know by now that the United Church in Papua New Guinea is a sister church within CWM!

The United Reformed Church is one of 31 partner denominations in CWM. It is more than 'another mission organisation' that we may or may not choose to 'support'. This is a global family of churches that includes us – and I have been realising that as your minister I have rather neglected to keep this belonging in the front of our consciousness as a church.

What we have been doing, though, in our enormous commitment to our Revive project, is acting in the spirit and according to the principles of CWM. As a CWM church we take very seriously the charge to "carry out God's mission locally". We understand that mission is not something that happens only overseas, but here and now – and we are all missionaries.

In June the CWM Assembly met in India with the theme "Live the Good News". I like the way that the editor of CWM's magazine, Inside Out, explains the theme: *"Live the Good News reminds us that our most powerful witness can never be elegant and persuasive words, but the evidence of changed lives. The theme challenges each of us in two ways. First is to ask, how deeply does the good news dwell in us, and secondly how does that find expression in our lives wherever we are."*

At the end of this month we shall 'open' our beautifully refurbished sanctuary for worship and for community use. If you are reading this as a friend of Trinity and not a regular worshipper with us, please do come and visit us sometime and see why we are so thrilled with what has been done.

This is a resource for mission – for changing lives – our own and other peoples. That only happens though when we 'Live the Good News.' There is nothing magic about a church building. The spiritual magic happens when people meet each other there, and experience acceptance, friendship, love and joy first hand.

And to keep in mind that what we are doing is just a part of the big picture of the whole CWM family's mission I recommend that you read 'Live the Good News' stories from around the world in the current issues of Inside Out. As always, it is a really good read [copies on the table on a Sunday morning].

The full title of the current issue is 'Live the Good News: mission meets everyday life'. That seems to me to be a good motto for us in this our Revive phase 2 completion month. 'Mission meets everyday life' ...mm ... lots to think about there.



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. 1 Holy Communion, led by Revd Kate Pryde
 3.30 Prayer circle [Lower schoolroom]
- Nov. 8 Remembrance Sunday: Prayers from the Bible [1 of 4]
- Nov. 15 Parade Service and all age worship: Prayers from the Bible [2 of 4]
- Nov. 22 Morning worship: Prayers from the Bible [3 of 4]
- Nov. 29 Thanksgiving and Dedication Service for refurbished sanctuary on Advent Sunday, with Prayers from the Bible [4 of 4] and much more.

Rotas for November

Not included in this version

What's on in November



Nov 9th Meet the Translation Team
(Speaker & Hostess - Gwen Collins)
 Nov 23rd Swan Theatre - Evita (7:30pm)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 3rd Nov Quiz
 Tuesday 10th Nov Communion Service - taken by Rev Dr Gwen Collins
 Tuesday 17th Nov Members' Meeting
 Tuesday 24th Nov Members' Meeting - Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom (unless otherwise advised)

Diary Dates

- October 31** Fifth Brigade all day 9.30am –4pm
November 1 Prayer Circle For Healing 3.30pm
3 More Any Questions – Vision4Life Bible Year
10 REVIVE Committee Meeting 8pm
14 Coffee Morning 10.30am
17 Church Meeting 8pm
21 Gwen attending 'Engage' Conference
24 Elders' Meeting 8pm
25 REVIVE Committee Meeting 8pm
28 Coffee Morning 10.30am
29 Thanksgiving & Dedication Service followed by a Buffet Lunch
December 5 Trinity Has Talent – Entertainment with Supper
12 Ramblers' Carol Service 4pm
13 Gift Service
20 Carol Service 4.30pm
24 Communion for Christmas Eve 11.30pm
25 Family Service for Christmas Day 10.30am

November 2009

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					

Not included in this version

AUTUMN FAYRE OCTOBER 3rd

Firstly a big thank you to everyone involved in the recent Autumn Fayre. In the preparation, providing items for sale, serving on the stalls, coming along to buy and the clearing up afterwards. We took £576 on the Saturday and the further sales on the Sunday morning after worship. A very welcome addition to our finances but not as much as in past years and certainly not as much as in the heyday of the Trinity Bazaar. Is it time to think of something else or could we perhaps give it one more chance, say in late November, making it a Christmas Bazaar ? That might attract more people than we had this year ! Anyway think it over and let me know your opinions and we could perhaps have a discussion at a future church meeting.

My thanks once again.

Margaret

TRINITY HAS TALENT



I have had quite a few offers of items for **TRINITY HAS TALENT**, also people willing to take part in items like sketches, a potted panto or other group items. We have several offers of dance items and poems or monologues, so don't be shy, don't hide your light under a bushel, come and strut your stuff on December 5th. If you would rather not get up on the stage, put the date in your diary anyway and come along and watch. Tickets priced at £7.50 for adults and £5 for concessions will be on sale soon, and the evening includes a 2 course supper as well as the entertainment.

See you all there in one way or another !!

Margaret

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe

This is an extract from an article by Revd Ed Cox who visited Zimbabwe and in particular Silveira House in August of this year. You will be able to see images of the trip in the October Update and the whole article will be available soon on our website.

Despite the scale of Mutoko's poverty, there was little evidence of development assistance. The government declared Mutoko a 'no-go' area after the aborted election of 2007: no go to any agency which might be responsible for agitating against the ruling party. Not that much agitation was necessary. Mutoko's historical allegiance to ZANU PF has been tested for several years and Operation Murambatsvina (restore order) in 2005 saw numerous homes and workplaces destroyed as ZANU henchmen attempted to assert party control. Alex and his colleagues lost their workshops in the process and have now formed Mutokon Home Industries Union to challenge the local authority to provide alternative accommodation. In recent times, Mutoko has been a hotbed of 'political' disturbance – violence fed by unemployment and despair than genuine party allegiance – where most NGOs now fear to operate.

But not Silveira House, with the support of Christian Aid, it has been running vocational training programmes for the past two years with a growing number of satisfied graduates. Silveira House has established training programmes in a wide range of skills: from welding to tin work, carpentry, hairdressing, tie-dyeing and screen printing. Courses are pitched at different 'levels' and some participants have now been on a number of courses as they have grown in their skills.

Most graduates previously did nothing having finished school and lived from day to day from the meagre earnings of their wider families or friends. But newly acquired skills can have an immediate impact. One man had learned to make tin watering cans and other tin products. He could make and sell five each day at \$10 a piece, earning him around \$30 per day after the cost of raw materials. Silveira House has often provided basic tools alongside the training as well as some individual follow-up support.

Alongside the skills training, every participant learns about HIV/AIDs issues and also about 'conservation farming'. Many homes in Mutoko have small subsistence plots growing spinach or maize, but Silveira House places particular emphasis on its course participants adopting sustainable agricultural practices alongside their newly-acquired vocational skills. Conservation farming requires no chemical fertilisers or heavy tilling and encourages people to plant a wide variety of crops giving households more nutritious food. It also enables hard-earned dollars to be invested in growing their small business rather than being spent on inflated supermarket products. Alex and his colleagues were as excited to show us their small plots as they were to show us their wares.

4 November

'Hope in God's Future' Day at Carrs Lane URC, Birmingham. Come and find out how climate change links into your faith and what you, as an individual and as part of a church, can do. To book a place please email gill.hillman@urc.org.uk

5 December

The Wave: Come to the service at Westminster Central Hall and hear the Archbishop of Canterbury and then join the March to encircle Parliament. Bring the family, wearing blue and make a wave at 3pm to show you care about the world God created,

DRAMA FOR WORSHIP GROUP

Drama can greatly enrich worship. We've had recent examples, in our Commitment for Life service and in the Mark Bible Studies, of short simple dramatic sketches that use humour to bring a serious point alive. We can hear God speaking to us in fresh ways. We know this too from the wonderful times of worship with drama that Junior Church lead for us at Christmas and Easter.

I would like us to have a 'Drama for Worship' group at Trinity. All ages welcome. The idea is that people who enjoy performing or writing would produce items of drama for services. I might ask the group to prepare something suitable for a specific service, or the group might ask me for an opportunity to include in worship an item that they have produced.

Would you like to part of this? Several people have already expressed interest – if you would like to join in too please let me know.



Can you give this item a home?

There are a few items of furniture that we had kept until the renewal of the sanctuary was completed and that we now realise are not needed. These are: the triangular wall cupboard; the 'choir' table; the wall clock; the long wooden kneeler with tapestry cushion. If you would like one of these please let me know by 30th October. Any that are not wanted will be taken for recycling as part of 5th Brigade work on Saturday the 31st Oct.



Any Questions?

Why curse a fig tree when it was not the season for figs? What's the message? That's just one of the questions that have been handed in arising from people reading through the New Testament in our Vision4Life Bible Year. Come along on Tuesday Nov. 3rd, 7.30 p.m. Lower Schoolroom to discuss them all.

Commemorative plaques

At the opening of Revive Phase 1 our friends from the Polish Lutheran congregations expressed the hope that they might be able to have a commemorative plaque in the church marking the fact that they have been worshipping here for over 50 years.

Only one of Trinity's young men did not return from service in the Second World War, but there is nothing at Trinity to mark this. As many of you will know, James Mole, known as Jimmy, was killed in a horrific accident whilst serving with 156 (Pathfinder) Squadron, at RAF Upwood. Jimmy was Bell P's first husband. He died shortly before his son Michael was born. He was a member and Scouter at Trinity. Four generations of his family are currently part of our church.

Plans are in hand for plaques commemorating these. We hope they might be ready to be in place for the opening service on 29th November.

“Reform” - 2010

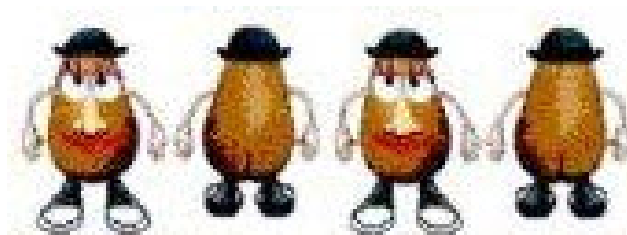
It is time once again for me to place our Reform magazine order. If you are a regular subscriber and have not yet given me your order for next year I should be very grateful if you would please let me have your return slip by Sunday 15th November, as our group order with payment needs to be placed in time for the January issue, published during December.

If you are interested in finding out about Reform there are a couple of sample copies in circulation. If these copies are not available or you would like to place an order please have a word with me. The cost is £19.80 for the year, 11 copies - July and August are published as one copy. Thank you.

Kay

E-mail: kay@trinity-urc.org.uk

The Tater People



Some people never seem motivated to participate, but are just content to watch while others do the work. *They are called Spec Taters.*

Some people never do anything to help, but are good at finding fault with the way others do the work. *They are called Common Taters.*

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do, but don't want to soil their own hands. *They are called Dick Taters.*

Some people are always looking to cause problems by asking others to agree with them, it is too hot, or too cold - too sour or too sweet. *They are called Agie Taters.*

There are those who say they will help, but somehow just never get around to actually doing the promised help. *They are called Hezzie Taters.*

Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not. *They are called Emma Taters.*

Then there are those who love to do what they say they will. They are always prepared to stop whatever they are doing and lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others. *They are called Sweet Taters.*

[Submitted by Margaret Lewis]



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Julia S (9th)

Grandma B (9th)

Ben L (16th)

Rev Gwen Collins (19th)

Ellen C (26th)

**A Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.**

Two little boys, aged 8 and 10, were excessively mischievous. They were always getting into trouble and their parents knew all about it.

If any mischief occurred in their town, the two boys were probably involved.

The boys' mother heard that a preacher in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys.

The preacher agreed, but he asked to see them individually. So the mother sent the 8 year old first, in the morning, with the older boy to see the preacher in the afternoon.

The preacher, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, 'Do you know where God is, son?'

The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there wide-eyed with his mouth hanging open.

So the preacher repeated the question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?'

Again, the boy made no attempt to answer. The preacher raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, 'Where is God?'

The boy screamed and bolted from the room, ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him.

When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, 'What happened?'

The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time...'

GOD is missing, and they think we did it!

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 29th November.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 20th November*

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

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

prayer page

A quick prayer for the day

Help me, Lord, I ask, this day
To see, to think, to act your way.
Amen.

May the God who gives us peace make you holy
in every way and keep your whole being – spirit,
mind and body – free from every fault at the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

1 Thessalonians 5.23

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2009

As we prepare to move back into our refurbished sanctuary, give thanks for all who have made this possible: the architects, the builders and all their sub-contractors, the funders, church members and friends, and others of whom you are aware.



Lord of the Church and Saviour of all, call to the Church's ministry those whom you want, and grant them the gifts which they need:

- o open their minds to truth and their hearts to love,
- o strengthen their wills to serve and their bodies to endure,
- o keep printed in their remembrance how great a treasure is committed to their charge, through Christ our Lord.

Father, thank you for the countless ways in which the goodness of others refreshes our lives:

for the little acts of kindness,
for the sympathetic smile,
for the gestures of generosity,
for every way in which your goodness is mediated ...
... for you, and you alone, are absolute goodness.

Oliver Tomkins, "Asking God"

Father God, forgive us when we hold grudges against people.

Jesus, our brother, forgive us when we hurt our family and friends.

Holy Spirit, heal us, help us to say sorry and mean it, and mend broken relationships we pray.

Amen.

Weekly prayers through November:

Sunday	For the Child Bereavement Charity
Monday	For everyone involved in getting the church ready for re-opening
Tuesday	For those who work at Wycombe Hospital
Wednesday	For teachers at our local schools
Thursday	For students struggling financially
Friday	For those who hire our building, that they may be aware of God's presence
Saturday	For elderly people who are housebound