

Blessed are the peacemakers, for
they will be called children of God.
Matthew 5:9



November 2013

The Recorder

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An edited version of this magazine is available on the Church Website.

(Personal details are NOT included)

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

Trinity - a place to belong

Spirituality - Prayer - Community - Welcome

Dear Friends,

November is the month of Remembrance. It's a bitter-sweet thing. War is so sad, and so wasteful of precious human life. For all our progress as a human race in matters technological, we've not managed to eliminate war. Perhaps, though, the horrors of 20th century warfare have made us treasure peace more than ever.

I'd like to write about peace, in this month of Remembrance.

Jesus thought very highly of it. "Blessed are the peacemakers" he said. "For they will be called children of God."

Peace makers Jesus-style are pro-active relationship builders. They are unarmed. They are clear headed and see right through the smokescreen of established privilege that needs to exclude others to maintain its position. They are brave, even when fearful. They tread a path that is personally costly and can be dangerous. Remember Calvary.

Peace makers! Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could set up a factory to make peace, turning it out from a production line in the way that we do with weapons. But peace, like love, can't be manufactured on a production-line. It is a spiritual matter. A spiritual 'fruit' according to St Paul. It is crafted by individuals who are prepared to give peacemaking creative time and effort, pouring themselves into the process wholeheartedly. Guided by God.

Peace making is our calling.

I thank God that President Obama stepped back from ordering air strikes on Syria. I pray that the time and space this creates will enable the peace makers hard at work in that terrible situation to make progress. Peace making begins with mercy.


I thank God for Malala Yousafzai's outspoken and costly stand for female education. Peace making begins with justice.

I thank God that representatives of Iran and world powers have had 'their most detailed talks ever' in Geneva in the last few days, with more to take place on 7 and 8 November. Peace making begins with meeting face to face and talking.

But not all peace making is done on the world stage. Locally, even domestically, creative peace making is much needed. What parent hasn't had to exercise creative peace making skills as children are cooped up together indoors on rainy days! I wonder if we give enough thought and energy to teaching children to be peace makers? Sometimes we confuse peace making with an 'anything for an easy life' attitude. One hard look at Jesus quickly dispels that error!

The internet tells me how to say peace in different languages: "in Arabic you say Salam, in Bosnian you say Spokoj, in Catalan you say Pau and in Mandarin you say He Ping". If you speak another language think of that language's word for peace ... In Melanesian Pidgin there are three ways of saying 'peace'. Malolo means being at rest, having a break. Bel isi means being at ease inwardly, casting aside feelings of anger or revenge. Gutpela sindaun refers to a community that has enough to eat and is in harmony with neighbouring clans.

In all these senses, may peace be ours, and may we be peace makers,



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November Services

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

- Nov. 3 Holy Communion
 3.30pm Prayer Circle for healing
- Nov. 10 Remembrance Sunday
- Nov. 17 Parade Service 'Flag Fest', and all age worship
- Nov. 24 Morning worship
 4.00pm Praise Service
- Dec. 1 Holy Communion - led by Dr John Parry,
 Minister of Deanway United Church, Chalfont St Giles.

Rotas for November

Not included in this version

What's on in November



Nov 11th Chat at Norma's.
It is hoped that Pat Wallace will be able to attend.

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 5th Nov Communion Service for Remembrance - led by
Rev Dr Gwen Collins
Tuesday 12th Nov *to be arranged*
Tuesday 19th Nov Jonah - part 2
Tuesday 26th Nov The River Thames - part 2



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom unless otherwise stated

Diary Dates

Event	Day	Date	Time	Venue
24/7 Prayer for Wycombe	Fri/Sat	1st/2nd	08:00	
Cores End Quiz Evening	Saturday	2nd	19:30	Cores End
Prayer Circle for Healing Meeting	Sunday	3rd	15:30.	LSR
Vision 20/20 Prayer meeting	Wednesday	6th	09:30	Sanctuary
Housegroup	Wednesday		20:00	134 Brands Hill Ave
"How to replace the sermon without preaching" training	Saturday	9th	09:30	Sanctuary with Synod Training Officer
Radical Welcome: "What really makes an All Age Church"	Monday	11th	19:30	High Cross URC, Tottenham
Churches Together in HW meeting.	Tuesday	12th	19:30	LSR
Worship Planning Meeting	Friday	15th	10:30	Kate Smith
Church Meeting with Revd. John Mackerness	Sunday	17th	After	Morning Service
Mission Strategy Meeting	Monday	18th	10:00	21 Wordsworth Rd
Life Streams Bible Study	Monday	18th	14:30	Sanctuary
Vision 20/20 Prayer meeting	Wednesday	20th	09:30	Sanctuary
HUM meeting	Saturday	23rd	11:00	Sanctuary
Gwen's last Morning Worship	Sunday	24th	10:30	Sanctuary
Gwen's last Praise Service	Sunday	24th	16:00	Sanctuary
Life Streams Bible Study	Monday	25th	14:30	Sanctuary
Elders Meeting	Tuesday	26th	20:00	LSR
5th Brigade	Saturday	30th	09:30	Trinity
Gwen's Retirement Social	Saturday	30th	Noon	Trinity

DECEMBER

Vision 20/20 Prayer meeting Wednesday 4th 09:30. LSR

Due to the high number of activities this month, the Calendar has lost its slot!

Not included in this version

URC PRAYER HANDBOOK 2014

There has been a delay with the publishing of the URC Prayer Handbook for 2014 and we are still awaiting the details. As soon as the latter are received I will let you know. However, if you would like to order one anyway please either email , phone or see me at church.

Maian

THANK YOU!

As many of you know I have been recently undergoing many hospital tests and following a biopsy have been diagnosed with Giant Cell Arteritis for which there is no cure but the condition is controllable by medication. I have so appreciated all your thoughts, wishes and prayers during the past weeks, they make such a difference and I have felt God guiding me through it all. I feel very blessed so thank you all so much.

Maian

Trinity Bookworms

We meet on Wednesday November 6th at 2pm at St Bernards Court.
Hostess - Joan Smith.

We shall be discussing "If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things" by Jon McGregor



Neighbourhood Return!



Did you know:

- 40,000 people with dementia go missing in England and Wales each year for the first time and many go missing more than once.
- 41% of all people with dementia go missing at some point.

You can help - Neighbourhood Return is a registered charity that assists with returning lost people with memory problems home and they are looking for local volunteers. It's a free service, using local volunteer searchers to help find people with memory problems including dementia, who have gone missing or 'wandering'.

It aims to reduce the worries of carers, and enable people with memory problems to remain at home and part of their community, for as long as possible.

How can you help?

- Join the database of volunteers who are prepared to help find someone.
- Tell your friends about the scheme and get them to register as a volunteer.
- If you know anyone with memory problems or their relative, tell them about the service.

What does it involve?

- It isn't a regular commitment, you may be rarely called to help but if you are, you could help to save the life of a vulnerable person.
- If you are not available to help when called upon just say so.
- You will be asked to walk, cycle or drive to a search area and then search on foot following directions from the Neighbourhood Return call centre.
- You can stop or rejoin the search at any time.

How does it work if someone gets lost?

The call centre will:

- Contact you via a text, home phone message and an email.
- Send you a description of the missing person, and a photograph, if they have one.
- Direct you to search from point A to point B.
- Ask you to text or ring them when you reach point B.
- Direct you on to where to search next.
- Text you immediately if the person is found.

What happens if I find someone?

- Let the call centre know on 0845 155 0418
- Stay with the person until their relative, carer or the police come to take the person home.

When do the police get involved?

- If there aren't enough volunteer searchers available.
- If someone lost is at high risk.
- If the missing person hasn't been found in two and a half hours.

What about confidentiality?

- Your information is confidential to Neighbourhood Return unless you choose to share it during the registration process with Neighbourhood Watch or the police.
- We may share some of your contact details with the police during a search.

How do I join Neighbourhood Return?

- To volunteer for the service you must have a mobile phone which is regularly charged and has credit on it.
- You can register on the website www.ourturn.org.uk
- To register over the phone call the Neighbourhood Watch Head Office on 0116 229 3118.

Do I get any training?

- You will be provided with a safe searching guide which you must read and follow. As you will be searching at your own risk, it provides you with tips on how to search safely. It is available on the Neighbourhood Return website at www.ourturn.org.uk/safesearch.pdf

CHILTERN AREA COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER – Sept 2013 [Edited]

1. News from the churches

Amersham Free Church

- recent modernisation work on the main hall was very successful.
- plans now drawn up for second phase of alterations involving other parts of the building which serve this and the sanctuary.
- anticipated cost exceeds the £50,000 already in hand and consideration will now have to be given to how (or whether!) the balance can be found.
- decision has just been taken to spend over £40,000 on renovation and enhancement of the church organ and an appeal is currently running for this.

Cores End

- took decision to share a minister with Trinity. Working on church profile in readiness for declaring the vacancy.
- some members attended the *Hope* seminar in London in July. This links well with discussions on Vision2020 priorities. Three groups have been set up to investigate mission in the area. Activities could become ecumenical.
- Harvest celebrations coming up, accepting contributions for One Can Trust and also donations for Wycombe Homeless Connection
- the new heating project in the church and lower hall is partially completed
- by the end of November they will have taken on 7 new members in 12 months.
- David Bailey has taken on the role of Treasurer.

2. Wednesday 11th December “Making it Work: exploring team and group ministries” session at Trinity High Wycombe 7.30-9.30 pm

Churches should be aware of this session which will also include an update on Chiltern Area's deployment strategy (i.e. how we best provide ministry to our churches with the allocation of stipendiary ministers available to us).

The session will be led by the Revd Anne Sardeson and Tim Reith (Synod Mission Enabler) and will also focus on church growth. It would be great if each church can have at least one representative attend. Please let Kate Yates know if you plan to be there.

3. Area Committee vacancies from March 2014

We will have two vacancies from March's Synod meeting:

- A one-year vacancy following the retirement of Gwen Collins (then eligible for two further three-year terms)
- Bridget Powell comes to the end of her three-year term but is eligible for re-election and willing to stand

Please consider prayerfully whether you may be able to serve God and the Chiltern Area as an Area Representative.

It is not generally an onerous role, with a two-hour meeting every two months, and being a communication link person to three of our churches. If you would like more information on what's involved, please talk to your Chiltern Area link rep.



ZIMBABWE

Teaching others

Jimmy is 32 year old farmer who lives with his wife near Binga in the north west of Zimbabwe. In the past communities in this region used to farm and fish along the banks of the Zambezi River, but after the Kariba dam was built in the late 1950s, communities were forcibly displaced inland with promises of irrigation as compensation. This irrigation did not materialise and Binga is an area that now suffers from the effects of climate change, experiencing long periods of drought, followed by intense and sometimes unpredictable periods of rainfall.

Before the work of Christian Aid partner, Christian Care, Jimmy used to plough his fields using cows. This caused soil to become loose and encouraged easy erosion and nutrient loss during heavy rains. Christian Care introduced a technique called 'Conservation Farming' which is designed to conserve soil, water and nutrients. This technique has transformed Jimmy's life. Before conservation farming he produced virtually no food, now he grows sorghum and maize yielding about 5 drums of sorghum and 4 drums of maize. Sometimes he sells his yield to get soap and sugar but sometimes he just keeps it to eat. Thanks to the work of Christian Care, he can sustain himself and is now teaching others in the community to be able to do the same. www.cforl.org.uk

EL SALVADOR (one of the countries in our new region)

El Salvador is a tiny but densely populated nation in which the gap between the poor majority and the rich elite is huge. The country suffered through years of bitter civil war in the 1980s and is highly susceptible to natural disasters, which constitute a regular and formidable threat to the security of the population.

It is vulnerable to earthquakes, hurricanes, flooding, landslides and even volcanic eruptions. These natural threats easily turn into full-blown disasters due to high levels of poverty, vulnerability and lack of infrastructure. Any weather related disasters are likely to be exacerbated by the growing threat from climate change.

El Salvador's colonial legacy left a society full of inequalities, with a few wealthy people owning most of the land. A succession of dictators and military regimes widened the gap between the elitist land-owning class and the landless workers. The twelve year civil war left social and economic problems that remain unsolved to this day.

El Salvador is the most violent country in Central America, with 19% of adults victims of some form of crime each year. Violent and criminal gangs act with impunity, and justice and security institutions are unable to fulfill their role. This is the very real and dangerous reality within which Christian Aid's partners work. They help people prepare for the devastating impact of tropical storms, hurricanes and floods. They also try to address economic inequality by empowering communities to improve their livelihoods. Partners also advocate for policy change at government level on issues like climate change and sustainability.

BANGLADESH

'Poo Sticks'

For an increasing number of people around the world, access to firewood or charcoal is becoming too expensive, unreliable, and difficult. They are often forced to look for alternative sources of fuel. Solid biomass waste is one such alternative source. Where ever you go in south west Bangladesh you find women squatting besides the road moulding, what looks like clay, onto long sticks. These are actually jute sticks covered with a mixture of cow dung, straw and sand. The women work quickly and deftly mixing the mixture together and then pressing it onto long sticks with their bare hands. The covered sticks are then left to dry, propped up against whatever wall or bush they can find. The dried sticks are then sold as cheap fuel. When burning they keep the fire going for longer during cooking. By using this waste product in this way it has lessened the need to collect wood for fuel and thus deforestation. The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) often include this money making product as part of their climate mitigation programme.

This month we would like to wish a

Happy Birthday



to

Julia S (9th)
Grandma B (9th)
Taye A-C (14th)
Willie M (14th)
Ben L (16th)
Gwen C (19th)
Ellen C (26th)

Across the miles

After a rush to get ready, I'm here in Barbados. Great to be back. Warm, fresh air, and blue skies - a contrast to the day I left Gatwick.

After a busy period at home, I plan to take a few days quietly and get back into the swing of cycling and swimming again. I hope to go over to St Vincent for a short trip at the end of the month.

My prayers and good wishes extend across the miles.

Blessings

Andrew W

*The December edition of the Recorder will be published on 1st December.
Closing date for contributions is Sunday 24th November*

The January edition will be published at the usual time - 29th December
Closing date for all contributions will be Monday 23rd December

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prayer page

Lord Jesus, breathe your healing breath on
all who mourn old losses, whose hearts are still raw
because of the deaths of family and friends;
all whose hearts are newly torn by the deaths of loved ones;
all who fear for the lives and security of those dear to them;
all who fear for their own lives.

Bring them courage and comfort. *Amen*



Lord of Life you are the eternal friend who is ever present. Thank you for the gift of friends who support each other on their journey through life. When their paths diverge grant that they bless each other in your name and look forward through the sorrow of parting to the new adventures you have in store for them in your company. *Amen*

Lord of Light whom darkness can never overcome shine your assurance and love into those who find the shortening days of autumn and winter a time of trial and distress. *Amen*

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2013

Lord of fogs and misty mornings,
Of dew on the grass and dampness in the air
Of muddy paths and puddles in the road
Of biting winds and rain in the face
Thank you for wellies and macs
For rainhoods and umbrellas
For walking sticks and helping arms
For jolly companions and high spirits
To get us there and back
All in one piece.
Praise be to you ,0 Lord

For all the saints and martyrs of the past

Thanks be to God

For all who have set us on the paths of righteousness

Thanks be to God

For all who are willing today to stand up for truth and justice

Thanks be to God.

Lord you have called your prophets and ministers in every age to preach justice for the poor and disabled. We are sorry that the world, often including ourselves, has been too busy to stop and listen. Wake us up, Lord, to be your true saints. *Amen*