

There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.  
[Mark 1, v7]



**November 2014**

# ***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**

Hello Dear Friends

Once again it is my turn to write the Elders' Letter for the Recorder and as Margaret said in last month's letter, "what on earth can I write about".

I have been thinking about this for a few weeks but nothing had come to mind but on Sunday suddenly I found something to write about.

I can't really believe that Gwen has been retired for nearly a year. As we have heard over the last few month's things seem to be going okay with her and Bernie in PNG, apart from the volcano of course. I expect you all know that at the Harvest Auction we collected £175 which will go via Gwen and Bernie to the people of their locale to help repair their gardens.

We have all been thinking about what comes next with regards to a new Minister and a CRCW. Suddenly we hear that someone is coming to "to preach with a view" at Trinity, with a social gathering at Cores End (still to be arranged). Not even a year has gone by and already we might have found someone to take over from Gwen. I hesitate to say replace Gwen as I think that is going to be difficult. How wonderful if we are all agreed that this person "is the one". A really exciting time for us all, both at Trinity and Cores End.

I wonder how the person coming feels about this time. I was out of work for three years and went to quite a few interviews before I found employment again. These interviews were not exactly stressful but sort of full of hope each time, only to be knocked back again when unsuccessful. The "interview" for the person coming won't be over in half an hour or so, as mine were, but will cover several days. I wonder how they will cope as they will be "on show" the whole time.

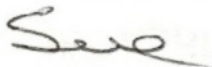
Perhaps the following will help give us all some direction.

"The revelation of GOD is whole and pulls our lives together  
The signposts of GOD are clear and point out the right road  
The life-maps of GOD are right showing the way to joy  
The directions of GOD are plain and easy on the eyes  
GOD's reputation is twenty-four-carat gold, with a lifetime guarantee  
The decisions of GOD are accurate down the nth degree"  
Psalm 19: Verses 7-9 'The Message'

When these meetings are all over and a decision is made either way, Christmas will be on the horizon.

I have always enjoyed Christmas but since the children have grown up and my parents are no longer here it isn't the same. Now though I have a beautiful grandson (Griffin) and it is different again. I always enjoy the Christmas Services but once again I'm afraid I will be missing the Carol Service and the Christmas Day Service as Nathan and I are going to Boston to spend the holiday with Jason, Ieva and Griffin. They have just moved into their own home (they were renting before) and the house has quite a few bedrooms. Ieva's Mum will be coming from Latvia and Jason's Aunt Helena will also be visiting. It will be a full house!

God Bless



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## November Services

### Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am

November 2nd	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Erna Stevenson
November 9th	Remembrance Sunday – Morning Worship led by Alan Yates
November 16th	All Age Worship led by Mary Carpenter
November 23rd	Morning Worship led by a Minister coming to 'Preach With A View'
November 30th	Advent Sunday – Morning Worship led by David Reynolds (from Cores End)

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### Rotas for November

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in November



Nov 10<sup>th</sup> - 10:30am at Ellen Murray's. Our theme will be Remembrance

## WOMEN'S MEETING

- Tuesday 4th Nov Quiz  
 Tuesday 11th Nov Armistice Day - Holy Communion - Rev Alan Kirkcaldy  
 (in the Sanctuary)  
 Tuesday 18th Nov *to be arranged*  
 Tuesday 25th Nov Looking forward to Advent



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

## Diary Dates

Event	Day	Date	Time	Venue
Vision 2020 prayer meeting	Wednesday	5th	9.30-10 am	Sanctuary
Elders' meeting	Wednesday	5th	8:00 pm	Lower School Room
24/7 Prayer for Wycombe	Friday	7th		
Coffee morning	Saturday	8th	10:30 am	Lower School Room
Housegroup	Monday	10th	8:00 pm	The Drakes' house
Remembrance Day Communion & Prayers for Tuesday Peace		11th	2.30-5.30 pm	Sanctuary
Church Meeting	Tuesday	18th	8:00 pm	Lower School Room
Vision 2020 prayer meeting	Wednesday	19th	9.30-10 am	Sanctuary
Coffee morning	Saturday	22nd	10:30 am	Lower School Room
Churches Together in Wycombe – Concert of Adrian Snell's "The Cry" to mark World War 1	Saturday	22nd	tbc	All Saints Church
<b>Morning worship – A minister to "Preach with a view" (See page 7)</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
Special Church Meeting	Monday	24th	8:00 pm	
Fifth Brigade	Saturday	29th	10:00am	

November 2014						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**Not included in this version**

## Lifts to church meetings

Now that the nights are drawing in there may be a number of our congregation who are not happy driving after dark or the bus route doesn't work for you. If you are one of these, please let me know and I'll see if I can arrange for someone to pick you up (and return you afterwards!).



You are an important part of our church family and we don't want you to miss out on contributing to church meetings, so please don't be shy.

*Kate*

You are welcome to join us for  
**Holy Communion and Prayers for Peace**  
at Trinity United Reformed Church, London Road, High Wycombe HP11 1BJ  
on

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

with communion from 2.30 pm  
and led prayers every half hour until 5.30 pm



On this Day of Remembrance we are offering you the opportunity to join us for holy communion, prayer and reflection, focusing on the need for peace in our world today, and in thanksgiving for the lives given in the cause of peace in the past.

## **Trinity Bookworms**

We meet on Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm  
Hostess - Joan S

We shall be discussing "The Farm" by Richard Benson



**The Recorder** It has just been discovered as we go to print this edition that there MAY be a problem in accessing the printer/photocopier at the normal time for printing the December magazine. It is, therefore, possible that we might have to publish a week later than normal. However, contributors should please keep to the published deadlines, in the hope that our logistical problem can be overcome! [Ed]

## **URC PRAYER HANDBOOK 2015**

### ***'LISTENING FOR THE WHISPER'***

I am now taking orders for next year's URC Prayer Handbook, Common Prayer.

The book begins in January and takes you through the complete year with weekly Bible readings and prayers based on the Church Lectionary readings. It is priced at £6.00 and many people find this book a useful aid to their devotions.

If you would like to have a copy please see me after Sunday worship or phone: 01494 528041 or email: [marian@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:marian@trinity-urc.org.uk).

Marian

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### **Church meeting – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November after the service**

Having canvassed opinions it was fairly even as to whether to stay with Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November or try after a Sunday service for church meeting, so the Elders decided to try Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November after worship.

Please do stay on for church meeting which should be a maximum of an hour after our All Age worship.

Church of God have kindly agreed to worship in Crendon Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> November so that we can stay in the sanctuary. We extend our grateful thanks to them for being so accommodating.

Kate

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### **2015 Reform Magazines**

As it was agreed a while ago I would no longer do a 'Group Order' for Reforms, if there is anyone apart from those already receiving the magazine who would like order Reform for next year would they please contact me, and I will give them the relevant information. (There is a form in Reform for those already subscribing.)

Thank you.

Kay

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### **Another snippet from September's Synod meeting:**

Season of Invitation (Michael Harvey)

Michael Harvey, creator of "Back to church Sunday" gave a lively, fascinating and challenging talk on how many churches welcome but few individuals in them actually invite anyone to a service or event at church. Michael said that we need to invite (i.e. plant and nurture the seeds) but it is God's work to harvest.

Success is one person INVITING one person – they don't have to say yes! The measure of success is that someone has actually been invited!

Up to 95% of people in churches have no real intention of inviting anyone to church – there was a group discussion on why this is.

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

## **Our vacancy – a minister to preach with a view on Sunday 23rd November: and notice of special church meeting at 8 pm on Monday 24th November to vote on the call**

Many of you will have been wondering what is happening with our vacancy. We had had nothing to report because of the confidential nature of the process.

However, we can now give you some exciting news. We have had some interest and our Interim Moderator facilitated an interview between the joint vacancy committee and the prospective minister. The joint vacancy committee invited the minister to preach with a view and the invitation was been accepted. We cannot give you the person's name at present but will do nearer the time. We do have the date for preaching with a view.

The current plan is:-

Saturday 22nd November – opportunity to join Cores End for their family fun day when the prospective minister and spouse will be there for a social (time tbc)

Sunday 23rd November – minister to preach with a view at Trinity in the morning, followed by shared buffet lunch and questions & answers with the minister. (Cores End members may join us if they wish.)

Sunday 23rd November – minister to preach with a view at Cores End late afternoon, followed by questions & answers with the minister. (Trinity members may join them if we wish.)

Monday 24th November – both churches to have separate church meetings at 8 pm to vote on a call. This will give people some time and space to reflect and pray before taking a vote on such an important decision.

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Please treat this as notice of a special church meeting for the calling of a minister.

As our Constitution states, we have to have 2/3rds of our active members (currently 49) at this special church meeting in order to be quorate (which means at least 33 active members present).

In order to vote they must have heard the minister preach and have attended the Q&A session.

A vote to call a minister requires an 80% (26 members) majority vote.

Non-active members may express an opinion but may not vote.

If you know you are unable attend the church meeting but meet the criteria to vote, please talk to me as our Constitution states that "the Interim Moderator shall have discretion to allow a postal vote in exceptional circumstances." Such a "postal" vote would have to be submitted by the end of Sunday 23rd November.

Kate Y

Church Secretary



## **ZIMBABWE - One person's experience**

In July of this year, I went on my first ever trip to Zimbabwe, joining a group from Broadway United Reformed Church in Walsall with the specific task of helping at Falcon Junior School in Harare, a school founded by Broadway's current minister, Wilbert Sayimani, and his wife Irene. They had started the school in their local church in 2008, when they witnessed the collapse of educational provision. The school is financed privately, but the school fees are pitched so low that even less well off parents should be able to afford them. And yet, at the end of every term the school faces the problems that many parents haven't afforded the school fees and there is a struggle to pay rent for the premises and to pay the teachers.

We were accommodated with local families and received a wonderful taste of Zimbabwean hospitality. The families we stayed with were well enough off to be able to feed us and to look after all our needs. But we still got some insight into the difficulties life in Zimbabwe poses, even now while the country is said to be on a programme of recovery from the famine conditions of 2008.

I stayed with families where the grandparent generation was trying make ends meet without the security of drawing a pension, where they were looking after grandchildren and great-grandchildren during their time in education, while the entire economically active generation of their children were in the US, in Britain or in South Africa, supporting them from abroad to the best of their ability. Any food left over from our table was gratefully received by worse off neighbours.

The daily power cuts were impacting particularly harshly on school life. During our third week, there was no available power during school hours on any of the days. We had brought along computers and had installed an IT lab in the school, but the time-table for giving the children computer education was dictated by the availability of electricity. In town, there was no evening street lighting, and evening power cuts meant traffic lights were out of order and there was massive traffic chaos in complete darkness. Police are not usually available, as they are needed to man the ubiquitous road blocks. Apparently, revenue from the fines they impose is needed to pay police, civil servants and teachers... Many residents are despondent about these conditions, especially as 'important' areas like the well-off quarters and districts where government ministers live never suffer power cuts and a programme to power traffic lights with solar panels has so far only reached those areas. In the same way, affluent areas get rubbish collections, while in middle-income and poor areas people have to burn their rubbish. These fires and fumes from diesel generators during power cuts are a real burden on the city's air quality.

The state of education is still difficult. This country, that once had the highest literacy rate in all of Africa, is now struggling to educate their children at all. The educational infrastructure has simply collapsed and people reckon it will take several generations to rebuild it. There are state schools - not entirely free, but fairly affordable – but they cater for 50 children per class and 2 sessions of different pupils per day. Some charities run low-cost private schools (like the school we attended), and those who can afford it will have their children educated at commercial private schools at a cost of \$2000 per term. We had occasion to ask some school leavers about their plans for higher education, and they all talked in terms of studying in the US, Britain or South Africa. There was nothing for them locally.

F.Herring. *(Part 2 of this report will appear in the next edition of the Recorder)*



## **Nominations to serve on Chiltern Area Committee of Thames North Synod**

There are two vacancies coming up on Chiltern Area Committee which is the Synod committee serving the 16 churches in our region. Nominations need to be received by 5 pm on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

### **What is involved?**

1. There is a two-hour meeting every two months, currently held on a Thursday afternoon at URC Chesham.
2. Each elected rep has responsibility for being the Area Link to three churches in the region, meaning that if elected you would be the contact person between them and Area Committee (most communication is done by e-mail but if reps like to visit their churches personally that is welcomed.)
3. If elected you participate in decision-making on issues that affect our local churches – it's not particularly onerous.

### **Why would I want to do this?**

It's a very good way of getting to understand more about the URC and how it works, why decisions are made as they are, and the limitations that we find ourselves working with. Others who have been elected reps have found it an enriching experience. I have personally learnt so much about the URC and have met many brothers and sisters in Christ in our different churches.

If you are interested in being nominated please talk to me as we will need to get church meeting to formally nominate you, which would probably mean calling a brief special church meeting.

## **Archbishop to deliver keynote speech at public issues conference**

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, will give the keynote address at the 'Love your neighbour: Think, Pray, Vote' conference organised by the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. This will be the third such conference arranged by the three churches and will be held at Coventry Central Hall on Saturday 21 February 2015.

The 'Love your neighbour: Think, Pray, Vote' conference has been designed to enthuse and equip delegates to be effective Christian disciples in the build-up to the UK's general election on 7 May 2015. The Archbishop's address will set the scene for a day of reflection, discussion and Bible study focussed on how churches and individual Christians can help create a more just society.

During the day delegates will be able to choose from a number of workshops covering issues such as poverty, housing, peacemaking, immigration and climate change, as well as sessions dealing with the practical issues of encouraging churches and communities to be an active part of the political process.

Rachel Lampard, Joint Public Issues Team leader and policy adviser, said: "The Conference aims to help us put Christ's call to 'love our neighbour' at the heart of everything we do in the run up to May's General Election. By responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and marginalised we hope Christians will use their vote to help to create a world that better represents God's Kingdom of justice and peace."

Archbishop Justin is committed to ecumenical working and building links across the denominations and is attending this conference as a guest of John Ellis, moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

Mr Ellis said: "Archbishop Justin has been a champion of social justice both in the UK – where he has shown great leadership in tackling payday lenders and in the reform of the banking system – and internationally where he has provided a much needed voice for peace and reconciliation in Iraq and Sudan. It is great honour to have Archbishop Justin as the keynote speaker at the 'Love your neighbour: Think, Pray, Vote' conference."

For more information, and to book your place at the 'Love your neighbour: Think, Pray, Vote' conference, please visit the JPIT conference page. Doors open at 10am, with the conference starting with worship at 10.30am and ending at 4pm.

## Pastoral lists

**Not included in this version**

*This month we would like to wish a*

Happy Birthday



to

Julia S (9<sup>th</sup>)  
Grandma B (9<sup>th</sup>)  
Taye A-C (14<sup>th</sup>)  
Willie Mac (14<sup>th</sup>)  
Ben L (16<sup>th</sup>)  
Rev Gwen C (19<sup>th</sup>)  
Connie B-D (22<sup>nd</sup>)  
Ellen C (26<sup>th</sup>)



*With love from us all at Trinity.*

### **WARNING for Computer users**

#### Peter Pan Virus

Consumers are being warned of a sophisticated new fraud – eg, a receipt sent by email to confirm the sale of 9 theatre tickets already bought with a credit card. The email, purporting to be from the ticket agency is a scam. This is a variation of similar scams doing the rounds. **Do NOT open the zip file**, (said to contain the tickets) as what it contains is a virus.

Check your antivirus/malware is up to date and operating effectively.

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*The December edition of the Recorder will be published on 30th November.  
Closing date for contributions is Tuesday 25th November*

*The January edition will be published on the usual day - 28th December  
Closing date for all contributions will be Monday 22nd December*

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

## prayer page

Dear Lord, we remember before you all those who gave their lives in the Great War and in other conflicts to keep our country safe. We cannot repay our debt to them but we bring before you the names of those known to us in sorrow and thanksgiving for their sacrifice.



We commend them to your care along with those whose names are unknown to us, some of them lost to human memory, but all known to you and held in your eternal arms.

*Amen*

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**2014**

It seems, Lord, that wars will never cease on earth and yet your prophets look forward to a day when weapons will be transformed into instruments of good and "nation shall not lift up sword against nation" (Micah 4. v3.). We long for the coming of that day and pray that, although to us it seems impossible, the hearts and minds and wills of people and nations may be changed so that they respect the differences between them and live in peace together. In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace,

*Amen*

Lord Jesus, healer of the sick. not afraid to touch lepers, we thank you for all the medical staff willing to risk their lives in caring for the victims of Ebola. We pray that more staff, more medicines and more aid of all kind may be sent to Africa to control the relentless spread of the disease there. We also pray that watchfulness and proper precautions will prevent it from becoming a global disaster. Thank you for all the organisations involved in this work and in caring for war victims and refugees throughout the troubled areas of the world. In your name, Jesus, we pray.

*Amen*

Advent Sunday November 30th

Lord Jesus, we rejoice that you came into this world as a helpless baby, grew up to be a leader, teacher, preacher and healer, the friend of the outcast and disregarded, died on the cross and rose again. Our Friend, Brother and Saviour we pray that as we are busy preparing to celebrate the Christmas feast of your birth we may find time to be still and allow your love to surround us.

*Amen*