



October 2003

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

‘All Squashed Up’

Revd. Michael Shrubsole

Minister of Trinity United Reformed Church

For those of you with eyesight problems – I plan to stick to my usual word count this month to ensure our Editor doesn’t have to squash things up to make this letter from the Minister fit! My computer also offers to compress and pack things up for me. If I compress things they take up less space, and they can be transmitted faster. Now that may sound good for computer files, it may even be a good thing in some other practical areas of our lives – I have sometimes wondered if the vacuum gadget which is advertised to suck the air out of bags of blankets and winter jumpers to compress them into a smaller space really works?

But as you know, some things are useless when compressed. Compressed text is unreadable. And I hope you all realise the folly of trying to compress your lives to much, trying to fit too many activities and commitments in. People who live compressed lives are as useless as compressed text. I’ve written before about the problems of trying to carry too much of a burden through life, and perhaps you remember reading in an earlier magazine the story of the rocks in the glass jar – if you fill the jar with rocks, you can then still trickle some gravel into the gaps between the rocks; and then you can still trickle some sand into the gaps between the gravel; and finally you can still pour water into the jar to fill all the gaps between the sand grains! Message one: life is like that, we humans can cram loads of stuff into our lives if we try. I admit it, I’m as guilty as anyone of having an over-full diary and too many commitments. But, message two: if you don’t put the rocks in first, there will never be room to fit them in later, all the little stuff would keep them out. So, as you cram the jar of your life full of activity, commitments and appointments etc., ask yourself, “Am I really sure I have made a proper place for the important things in my life? Am I giving first considerations to what really matters to me? What are the ‘rocks’ that I must have in my glass jar first of all?”

Would you agree with me that one rock to get in right from the start is God, together with worship, prayer, Bible study and sharing in the fellowship of a local church? Perhaps the next rock to make sure you have in your jar is that of family connections and responsibilities – parents, partners, children. Another important rock will be friends and the way you nurture their relationships through social activities. The next rock might be work – earning your living and finding your place in maintaining the fabric of society. Perhaps another important rock for you might be that of social responsibility – taking an active part in voluntary action and community care in a way of your choosing. What other rocks matter to you?

Don’t fall into the trap of letting the little things of life squash out the big things. Reassess your priorities on a regular basis. If you have to dig out and chuck away a little sand and gravel now and again in order to fit the rocks back in, then make sure you do so. Jesus said: “Do not worry about your life. ... Seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness.” (Matt 6:25-34) And please pray for me and my jar full of rocks and sand, as I also pray for you all.

Mike

Minister :
Rev Michael Shrubsole,

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October Services

Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

Children of all ages meet for part of morning worship using the SALT material from Scripture Union. Adult worship usually follows the texts of the Revised Common Lectionary.

5th October Morning Worship with Communion. Mark 10:2-16, Hebrews 1:1-2:12

12th October Morning Worship. Mark 10:17-31, Hebrews 4:12-16

19th October Morning All-age Worship. Mark 10:35-45, Hebrews 5:1-10



26th October Morning Worship. Mark 10:46-52, Hebrews 7:23-28

Evening Worship at 6.30 p.m.

We usually hold a quieter evening communion service once a month.

19th October Evening Communion - Using the full 'First Order of Holy Communion' from the new URC Worship book

Rotas for October

What's on in October

NIGHTBIRDS



Monday 13th Oct

- Surprise Evening
(8pm. Hostess - Daphne Murnane)

Monday 27th Oct

- Guest Speaker - The History of the Floral Dance
(8pm. Hostess - Lesley Bogart)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 7th Oct Preparations for the Autumn Fayre

Tuesday 14th Oct Nancy Brindley - A Musical Quiz

Tuesday 21st Oct Angels and Archangels. Bring & Buy

Tuesday 28th Oct Jean & Jim Stanbury - Slides



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Make the most of it!

Scrabble

Three opportunities to score on the little red and blue squares this month

3rd, 17th and 31st October

CHURCH WALK



On Saturday 25th October, I am leading an easy paced walk for Wycombe District Ramblers Association. Anyone is welcome to join us. We start from Winter Hill Car Parking area (gri ref 871861) at 10.30am. Route to be decided, but the walk will be between 3 and 3½ miles. More information from OS

CWM Boxes

Barbara M will collect CWM boxes in October. She apologizes for not collecting them earlier this year.
If any member of the Congregation is interested in becoming the CWM representative for the Church , please contact Mike.

Reform Magazines 2004

I am now taking orders for next years Reform magazines. Would all regular readers please confirm their orders with me, and any other people who are interested please let me know.

The cost for the year will be £11.25 for 11 copies (July and August are published as one copy). I need to know numbers by the end of October please. I will be collecting monies in early January.

KE



Remember to change your clocks when British Summer time ends. If you forget, you will get cold standing at the church door for an hour!

Report . . .

from September Church Meeting

A. Presentation of lines of enquiry followed by members of the Steering Group

At the September Church Meeting a report was received from the Property Steering Group who had been looking into a variety of ways through which we might improve or change our property. Links with other churches in High Wycombe were explored; commercial development of our site was explored further; an alternative scheme to sell half our site and thereby raise the funds to put a false floor into the Sanctuary (like Wesley Methodist Church) was explored; and conversations with Council representatives were pursued to discover if there were any community development plans we could link into. The conclusion of the Steering Group was that none of these further investigations revealed a compellingly attractive way to substantially modernise our buildings, at this time.

B. Proposals to the Church Meeting

- a. That the existing Steering Group (Representing Elders, Finance Committee and Property Committee) should be invited to continue to oversee future developments to property and activities, reporting to Church Meeting as necessary.
- b. That church meeting should resolve for the foreseeable future to stay in its current church buildings and to draw up plans for necessary changes to existing buildings and church activities.
- c. That church meeting should undertake a short consultation exercise involving existing church groups, seeking individual comments, and specially commissioning interest groups to suggest these necessary changes.
- d. That the Steering Group will receive these comments and collate a list of the possible tasks to achieve.
- e. That we will explore sources of finance and funding for these changes.
- f. That we will set priorities for completing these tasks over a short and medium term programme (long term plans are no good)

C. The List of Tasks

- a. The necessary tasks will fall into two categories:
 - i. Changes to the building for reasons of:
 1. Disability access
 2. Maintenance and repair
 3. Improvements for users of building
 - ii. Changes to activities – things we could do differently

- b. Tasks must be based on firm plans, be achievable, not too long-term in nature.**

D. Possible Items for Task List

The members of the Steering Group produced a list of possible items to go on the list of tasks. This list is just to show some of the possible lines of thinking which might help us to best make use of our existing buildings for the short-to-medium term.

A. Buildings

- a. Install coffee bar in Lower Schoolroom
- b. Install improved sound system in Sanctuary
- c. Remove a row of pews at back of church to give better space for sound engineers and access to information tables.
- d. Improve disability access. a. from outside, b. internally.
- e. Improve toilets
- f. Deal with damp in toilets and vestry
- g. Sort out leaks in roof
- h. Replace sanctuary heating system (not sure if this is a short term project or not)
- i. Relocate an upgraded Manse nearer to the church buildings so that the Minister lives in the parish – possibly Bassetsbury, Conegra Road, Rectory Avenue.
- j. Provide the Minister with a pleasant usable daytime Vestry in the church.

[cont on page 7]

B. Activities

- a. Appoint a youthworker for: a. extension streetwork, b. working with our existing youth.
- b. Appoint a community link person to establish wider community links.
- c. Start an after school club in Crendon Hall.
- d. Undertake leafleting of new houses on Ercol site.
- e. Revise our pastoral system (M.S.)

AUTUMN FAYRE

IN

CRENDON HALL

SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER

FROM 10:30 am to 2:00 pm

CAKE STALL

TOMBOLA

GIFTS

GROCERIES

COMPETITIONS

BRIC-a-BRAC

REFRESHMENTS

We would be pleased to receive any items that you can contribute

Please see either

Audrey Richardson, Joy Standfield, Rose Cornwall or Margaret Lewis

Diary

Prayer Circle for Healing - Sunday **5th October** 6.30-7.30pm in the Sanctuary. Come and pray by name for those known to us who are in need of God's healing presence in their lives at this time. New people are welcome, our prayers are simple and it is not a threatening experience to come and share in prayer, no one expects you to pray out loud if you would feel more comfortable remaining silent. (M.S.)

Elders Meeting - **October 7th** 7.30pm in the Schoolroom.

Autumn Fair - Saturday **11th October**, 10.30-2.00 in Crendon Hall. Come and support our social and fundraising event.

Boys Brigade Final Service - Saturday **18th October**, 2.00pm. In the Church. We meet in an atmosphere of worship to lay up the BB colours and celebrate the memories and achievements of the BB in our church. All boys and officers from all the past years have been invited to attend. (And if anyone thinks they have been left out, it is an oversight, please accept our apology and accept our invitation to attend.) And friends from Trinity Church are warmly invited to share in this closing act of worship. Led by our Minister and Chaplain, the Revd Mike Shrubsole.

Church Meeting - **21st October** 8.00pm in the Schoolroom. All welcome to share in the news and business of the church.

Fun Quiz Evening in Crendon Hall on Tuesday **October 28th** from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

Why not make up a team of four and come along and take part ? The prize for the winning team may not be up to "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" standards, but we will provide tea or coffee and biscuits and a fun evening.

See page 9 for details of events later in the year.

Other events

Godly Play - on Saturday **4th October** at Kings Church, Desborough Road. A training day for teachers, youth workers, parents and all those who work with children in Christian training and education. See Louise Shrubsole for more information.

Just Give Me Jesus – Women's Day - Saturday **4th October**, 10.00-6.00 at the Royal Albert Hall. Cost £20 includes lunch. Speaker: Anne Graham Lotz (the daughter of Billy Graham). See website www.AnneGrahamLotz.com for further information.

Wycombe Prayer – October Meeting Venue this month: 6.00-9.00a.m. Saturday **4th October**, Calling all Intercessors - Prayers for those who wish to intercede for local issues concerning church and community. All welcome.

Parent and Toddler Network - Tuesday **October 14th**, 12.30-2.00pm. At Kings Church, Desborough Road. Come and meet with Toddler Group people from all the High Wycombe churches. Network and share. Bring your own packed lunch. Tel: 459901 for more information.

Marlow United Reformed Church Building Project Opening Ceremony

Sunday **19th October**. By invitation only. Let us remember in our prayers with grateful thanks the building success of a neighbouring church.

'People of the Book' - **23rd October** 9.30-4.00pm. An Ecumenical Study Day at St Albans Cathedral. Free of charge. Hear Christians, Jews and Muslims explore the ways they use their scriptures. Mike Shrubsole is already taking a car full. Does any other driver want to join us for the day? See Mike for more information.

Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College Chaplaincy Service

For just over a year now I have been giving a few hours a week to my duties as a very part-time Chaplain. The regular commitment is to meet on Tuesday lunchtimes for prayers. I have got to know the other Chaplains and staff supporters. As yet, in this first year I have made very little substantial contact with other staff or students. But a lot has been going on behind the scenes. I have become Treasurer for the Chaplaincy Service and thankfully this is a very easy job with only a few cheques going in and out of the account over the year. We have worked on a lot of administrative tasks, putting in place an agreed form of words for a Chaplaincy Constitution. We sought, and obtained, from some of our denominations, increased funding, and with that money were able to appoint our first part-time Chaplaincy Administrator.

The highlight at the end of this first year of mine, and the culmination of several years' work by others, is just about to come to fruition on 16th October when representatives of our Christian church denominations and of the University administration meet at Missenden Abbey to sign the Constitution and formally bring into being the Chaplaincy Service as a full Ecumenical Partnership. Do think of us at lunchtime and hold us and the work of the Chaplaincy Service in your prayers.

Meanwhile, as I write this, I am just about to enter the busiest time of year as we make a big effort to attend all the first-year students' Enrolment days and Freshers' Fair days and give every student an information pack about the Chaplaincy Service and the local churches of High Wycombe. By the time you are reading this I will just have survived a most hectic fortnight of extra diary commitments. And yet, despite the effort, most of the paper will end up in student's litter bins, probably unread. But who knows what valuable contacts might be made? This is the tentative nature of modern Chaplaincy work. (Mike Shrubsole)

Coming soon

November 28th Dance Evening in Crendon Hall from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

We thought we would try a slightly more energetic evening with either Scottish or American Square Dancing with suitable refreshments. More details in next month's Recorder and in Church Notices.

December 19th Musical Soiree in Crendon Hall

We have booked the Guide Handbells and Margaret Craner is coming along to teach us how to play them, and we will be having other musical items and finish the evening with a sing-song round the piano.

The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 26th October.

Closing date for contributions is Friday 17th October.

Recorder Editor

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

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

Thames North Synod Autumn Academy 2003

What is it?

A learning event for lay people, recognising the Synod's commitment to 'Equipping the Saints'.

Why 'The Word and the World'?

To acknowledge our reformed tradition which gives the highest authority to the Word of God discerned through searching the scriptures while seeing the world as an arena of God's grace.

How will we go about all this?

We'll start on Friday evening with an opening session and a 'Hallowed Party'. Saturday will be spent being nourished and refreshed by some excellent speakers. In addition to Lawrence Moore we have input from Roberta Rominger and Julian Templeton, with other session leaders in the pipeline. There'll be time to take part in a trading game from Christian Aid, as well as start preparing worship for Sunday.

When do I have to be there?

Come for the whole weekend, or sign up for particular sessions. Stephen Collins and Henry Playle will be running a parallel event for children and young people, so all ages are welcome.

What does it cost?

£85 per person for full board for the weekend; £16.15 for morning coffee/ lunch/afternoon tea; £10.45 for evening meal. Subsidies may be available through the Synod Lay Development Fund.

Where do I get further information?

Send your name and address to Sue Russell at the Synod Office: 0207 799 5000 or sue.russell@urc10.org. You'll be sent a booking form by the end of July when the details have been finalised. Places are limited, so contact Sue now.

The Word and the World



Thames North Synod
Autumn Academy
2003

Friday 31 October -
Sunday 2 November

All Saints Pastoral Centre,
Colney Lane, St Albans

Highlights:

- Keynote address by Lawrence Moore, Director of the Windermere Centre
- Bible studies, trading game, practical workshops
- LITE bite-size, to try out the new material for people leading worship

Intended as an in-service training event for Lay Preachers and other lay people who are involved in preparing and leading worship. Open to those Ministers in non-stipendiary service who are not able to attend the annual Synod Ministers' Spring School.



Mission intolerable?

An Article from the Council for World Mission Website

23 August 2003

Tolerance has become a power word of the modern age. But it must be a part of Christian love, not a substitute for it, says Christo Lombaard. And it must be balanced against the imperatives of mission.

Say "tolerance", and people who disagree with you do so at their peril. Like a Harry Potter magical word, this power term casts a spell of acceptance over most people on most topics.

Naturally, the idea of tolerance carries highly positive connotations. In a time of war, inter-religious strife in many countries, and social adjustments to come to terms with differences of race, creed, gender and opinion, tolerance suggests peace.

Acceptance, patience and open-mindedness can prevent bloodshed and sorrow. Being tolerant is a virtue to which Christians can relate straightforwardly.

However, tolerance should not be accepted uncritically, first, in the way it is practiced and, second, in the way it relates to core Christian beliefs - because both these features influence the way we understand and practice Christian mission.

Political correctness

Tolerance, as it has come to be used in the public/political arena, has become a heavy-laden term. In particular, it is the mantra of political correctness. It is the catchphrase that goes along with it.

Neither this mantra nor its catchphrase - Don't judge me/it/them/us - are, however, adagios for understanding. In politically correct contexts, they are thundering choruses, drowning out and silencing alternative views.

In this way, tolerance has become peculiarly intolerant. Because political affairs are about influence, "tolerance" has become a power tool. What should be a concept that encourages inclusion is now working in exclusionist ways.

Many of the viewpoints political correctness rejects are utterly objectionable: racism, sexism, exploitation... But what political correctness with its brand of self-righteous tolerance cannot easily do, is look for the underlying causes of negative attitudes or behaviour, or seek solutions.

Tolerance required from a position of power simply creates new "in-groups" and "out-groups". And it cannot do what Christian love can do.

The sin, not the sinner

Christian love leads Christians to reject all derogatory -isms - but it is always the -isms and not the -ists that are discarded. At the heart of the gospel lies the call to love your enemy, not only in principle, but also - like the Good Samaritan - in practice. Christian love thus does more than include only those who are acceptable. While Christians reject Nazism, racism, Stalinism, we are committed to help the perpetrators of these -isms too. Grace knows no boundaries. It is more fundamental to the Christian identity than tolerance, and more exacting. It is the mean by which all concepts are judged.

Christians have a civic duty to balance critically - and if need be, publicly - the "exclusivist tolerance" currently in vogue. Tolerance may then regain its proper position of imploring inclusion.

[continued from page 11]

Implications for mission

In the traditional sense of mission - telling people about the gospel - the concept of tolerance as it is used nowadays creates unforeseen difficulties. When employed in certain ways, it can become an impediment to mission as evangelisation.

Dialogue with people who adhere to other religions, or none, obviously has its rightful place where no missionary intentions interject. But in order to fulfil its intentions, mission as evangelisation has at some stage to cross from acceptance of the other's stance to advancing one's own.

This too involves dialogue, but with persuasive intent. If tolerance means trading in such intentions for listening only, for example, it detracts from the essence of evangelisation. Pushed further, mission becomes impossible.

Here too Christian love should take primacy. If evangelisation (rather than inter-religious dialogue, for instance) is one's calling, one would feel compelled at some stage to extend the invitation to others to accept Christ's love as central to their lives.

A harsh take on tolerance would not allow this "proselytising". Couching tolerance within Christian love, though, makes such missionary invitations not only acceptable, but compelling to those who are called to evangelise.

Congratulations

Readers of the Bucks Free Press may have seen a small article concerning one of our members who has taken (temporary) possession of the Westover Bowl. The Westover Bowl? It may not be familiar to you, but in the Downley area it is hotly contested each year. The thing is that we actually get the benefit of this from time to time in our own sanctuary!

What am I on about? The Westover Bowl is awarded by the Downley Horticultural Society each year to the competitor who produces the winning exhibit in Floral Art. This year's winner is "our own" Daphne M. Obviously the practise she gets from doing the church flowers from time to time has helped!

Congratulations - and thanks for the displays you do for us.

BIBLE READING AIDS & PRAYER HANDBOOKS

'Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God' (Romans 10.17)

I am currently taking orders for the following, which are the most popularly used Bible Reading & prayer aids:

URC PRAYER HANDBOOK 2004

'Prescription for Prayer' follows the pattern of the Revised Common Lectionary. Contains prayers, suggested Bible readings, thought provoking texts.

Starts at Advent, 30 November. Priced at £3.25 it's excellent value.

LIGHT FOR OUR PATH (I.B.R.A.)

A popular book of readings and commentaries. Covers the whole year. Price approx: £7

DAILY BREAD (S.U.)

A quarterly publication of daily readings with commentary. Price approx: £2.85 a quarter

Other aids available. Please ask me & I'll endeavour to meet your requirements.

Please inform me of your requirements as soon as possible.

Tel: 01494 528041

Email: mmole@portables1.ngfl.gov.uk

Thank you

Marian Mole

Every little bit helps!

The Church has recovered the sum of £7,598.79 in tax on offertories in 20002/3. This represents 93.5% of the total offertories and, even if the givers of the other £1,872.98 of offertories were all taxpayers and joined, only £528.28 more would be recovered. This is a tremendous achievement, and heartfelt thanks are due to Ian Buchanan, our treasurer, for getting so many to join. I am sure that everyone will be pleased to know that so many participate and how worthwhile the result.

Tony Hatton

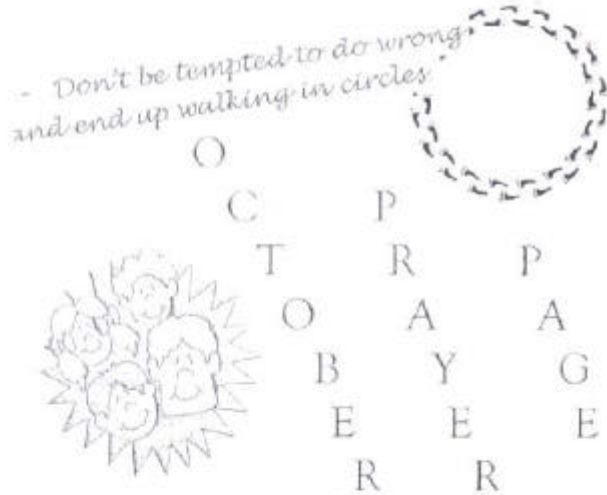
[Gift Aid Co-ordinator]

Apologies for the late delivery of this month's magazine. The editor has been away from home and had hoped to carry out the production work a few hundred miles away. However, the Minister has suffered gremlins in his e-mailing system, and his material did not get through until very late in the schedule. By that time the "printing team" were otherwise committed. It is hoped that it was worth waiting for!

Prayer Page
(Prepared by Junior Church)

**O
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2003**



- Don't be tempted to do wrong and end up walking in circles

Designed by Alex and Chris

It is often useful to have a focus for our praying. Junior Church children used these pictures as a stimulus for their praying

They hope you will find them helpful.

- Follow God's way, God is always beside us.

- God says 'I will forgive you'

- The cross and crown of thorns reminds us of suffering. People still suffer today because of their faith.

- Thank you for our foods

- To remember those who are hungry

- Thank and praise God

- for people who are sick and in hospital

- families who are separated because someone is in hospital

- people who are at home ill and can't get out.

- our church buildings

- the church as a important place in High Wycombe

- Peace between people and countries

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Chris Ellen Erin Nathan Aaron Luke Alex
Saskia Ava Sam Abby James Jonathan

SPARKLERS &

