



October 2005

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

During October we will be remembering God's goodness to us in our Harvest Festival celebrations. It occurred to me that Harvest is an apt time to think about the passing of a Ministry, because we can give thanks to God for the harvest of spiritual and temporal gifts that the departing Minister has helped us to sow and reap, while we, who remain, can prepare the ground for the future.

I have been privileged to experience three very different Ministries at Trinity and each one has delivered a rich harvest. When Wesley moved on he left behind him a deep sense of Peace and a Spiritual Re-Awakening. At the time of Bill's departure no one could have avoided noticing the large number of new members and adherents, drawn by the warmth that he had generated in the fellowship.

When the Elders met recently to prepare for the imminent visit of the District Pastoral Committee we were encouraged by Andrew Busby, our Interim Moderator, to consider aspects of church life which were initiatives or even familiar with a new twist, during the Ministry of Mike Shrubsole. I typed up the "verbatim" from that "brainstorming" session and I was amazed at what we had achieved over the last seven years.

At the heart of all those good things, one stands out: our Vision to be a Worshipping, Nurturing and Extending church family!

Let me share two aspects of church life that I believe demonstrate the nascent power of that Vision. We have declared that Nurturing is a key aspect of our work at Trinity. From that concept, so far, have come forth the initiatives of Pastoral Assistants supporting Elders, the re-development and extended use of the coffee bar (Lower School Room) and Church Weekends. Secondly, for years we have debated the state of our buildings. The Vision has brought clarity to our thinking: we need buildings which are accessible to all (Nurturing and Extending); welcoming to all (Nurturing and Extending) and fit for the Glory of God in the 21st century (Worshipping). Hence the July Church Meeting's decision to move forward in faith with the architect's proposals.

In common with his predecessors Mike Shrubsole's Ministry has yielded a rich harvest for Trinity and we must use this time of vacancy to prepare for and to listen to where God is calling us next.

Every blessing.

Ian Buchanan

Minister :

Church Secretary:
Mrs Margaret Lewis,

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

October Services

Morning worship at 10:30am

October 2nd - Communion. Revd Andrew Busby - our Interim Moderator

October 9th - Harvest Festival Dr Iain Frew, lay preacher from Sutton Coldfield
(and Linda Curley's father).

October 16th - All-age Worship Mr Stewart Morris.
Stewart is the Youth Pastor at the King's Church in High Wycombe.

October 23rd - Revd Kate Pryde. Kate is the Minister at Marlow URC

October 30th - Revd Gregory Hargrove. Gregory is a Methodist minister, now retired.

Rotas for October

Not included in this version

What's on in October . . .



Monday 10th Oct -Preparations for the Autumn Fayre
(8pm. Meeting at Trinity)

Monday 24th Oct - Wait and see!!
(8pm. Hostess - Pat W)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 4th Oct

Celebrating St Francis of Assisi

Tuesday 11th Oct

Preparations for the Autumn Fayre

Tuesday 18th Oct

Visit to the Harvest Celebrations
of Hamilton School at the Priory Road site.

NB - these start at 1:30pm
(See Olive Shepherd about lifts.)



Tuesday 25th Oct

Joy & John Standfield - video of Bruges

Meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom unless otherwise indicated

Scrabble

There is NO Scrabbling this month

Church Walk

Saturday 29th October

Meet at 10am in the Car Park by Hughenden Church
(grid ref 864955) for a leisurely walk of about 3 miles.
More details from Olive Shepherd.



Ian and Maureen Buchanan have a grand-daughter, Imogen. The proud parents are Andrew and Ali.

Mony a Mickle maks a Muckle !

The committee who were involved with Mike in finalising the plans to improve our access with Jeremy Bell, the Architect, were re-assured and encouraged by the whole hearted endorsement of their efforts by the Church Meeting.

The next stage will be to meet with Jeremy and other members of District and Synod to get their approval, then seek permission to do the work. All this is now in hand. But, of course, the vital need is **MONEY**.

Grants and loans are being sought from various bodies, but these will only be forthcoming if we can show that we are making every effort to raise money ourselves. Events such as the Autumn Fayre will, we hope, swell the coffers, but there is still a need for an on-going effort by **everyone** to raise money for phase one of our project.

No doubt we can all think of ways in which we can use our talents to good effect. While the nice weather is still here why not invite friends and neighbours for coffee mornings or tea parties for a small charge? Car drivers could offer outings into the country, garden produce and home cooking can be sold on our mini-market stall. Older people could baby-sit and children could take part in sponsored events. Many ladies living alone would welcome the help of a handy man for small repairs which they would be only too happy to pay for – etc & etc. The list is endless, so we leave you to think how you personally, can respond. Norma Garden will act as our banker and will be pleased to receive your money any time. But please start now! Don't let's wait for **'them'** to help, which may take a while. Let us begin now.

Happy fund-raising.

Audrey Bruton

[Apologies to Audrey for correction of the title to "proper Scottish" – Ed]

Promises, promises [The New York Times, August 22, 2005]

In 1947, when 23 nations agreed to start a new international organization to promote trade and arbitrate disputes, the wants of poor countries mattered little. Industrialized nations were rebuilding after World War II, and remained the colonial masters of Asia and Africa. Over the next half-century, that club - now known as the World Trade Organization - aggressively dismantled barriers against trade in industrial goods and services, areas in which its members hold a comparative advantage.

But when it comes to areas where poor countries could flourish, such as textiles and agriculture, it has been a different story. American tariffs on textiles and apparel are among the nation's highest. Europe, Japan and the United States continue to resist facing global competition in agriculture on fair terms. The very same representatives of the club of rich countries who go around the world hectoring the poor to open up their markets to free trade put up roadblocks when those countries ask the rich to dismantle their own barriers to free trade in agricultural products.

Last month, negotiations at the W.T.O.'s Geneva headquarters once again brought this sad reality into stark relief. The group is supposed to finally be taking up the issue of agriculture subsidies. Four years ago, in Doha, Qatar, poor countries demanded - and supposedly won - a promise that Europe, Japan and America would slash agricultural subsidies, in addition to further liberalizing world trade in services and manufactured goods. One year ago, the W.T.O. gave itself until July 2005 to draw up a plan for how it would do all this.

Since then - surprise, surprise - negotiators have made big strides toward agreeing how to cut tariffs on manufactured goods, and, to a lesser extent, services. Both of those are important to rich countries.

And guess where negotiations have stalled? The European Union and the United States are busily fighting over how little they can get away with when it comes to liberalizing farm trade. Listening to these two economic powerhouses snipe about who should be doing what is revolting; neither is doing anything real.

The developed world funnels nearly \$1 billion a day in subsidies to its own farmers, encouraging overproduction, which drives down commodity prices. Poor nations' farmers cannot compete with subsidized products, even within their own countries. In recent years, American farmers have been able to dump cotton, wheat, rice, corn and other products on world markets at prices that do not begin to cover their cost of production, all thanks to politicians and at the expense of American taxpayers. Europe's system, meanwhile, is even more odious: United States farm subsidies are equal to only a third of the European Union's.

Farm tariffs are also a problem. Take cocoa. European tariffs on raw material are lower than tariffs on final products. That means that cocoa-producing countries like Ghana can't export chocolate to Europe, and are forced to export the raw material, cocoa, instead.

It was with great fanfare five years ago that the United States and some 188 other countries signed the United Nations Millennium Declaration, a magna carta to eradicate poverty and hunger and disease among the one billion people in the world who subsist on barely anything. Chief among those goals was for the rich world to finally put muscle behind that overused phrase "level the playing field," when it comes to trade.

But so far it has been nothing but talk, talk, talk on trade. While the rich continue their shameful obfuscating, poor countries are priced out of the market. A few weeks ago, the European Union's trade envoy, Peter Mandelson, actually complained to reporters that Europe had been making more than its fair share of compromises in the W.T.O. talks. "This process of compromise has been a one-way street for well over a year," he said.

Mr. Mandelson and his counterparts in America and Japan would do well to remember what happened in Cancún, Mexico, in September 2003, when a bloc of poor nations, led by West African countries upset about cotton subsidies, helped torpedo an international trade deal. Big business on both sides of the Atlantic dearly wants a trade pact that liberalizes the rules on manufactured products and services. But for poor countries, the process of compromise has been a one-way street for more than half a century. It's time for the rich world to start doing a little compromising.

. . . for Harvest

Almighty Lord,
In Jesus you have called us to walk as children of the light;
but we have preferred our own way, the way of darkness;
we have not been willing to let the light of Christ
into every part of our lives;
we have not been willing to respond
with wholehearted obedience and total dedication.
Forgive us,
Because we find it so easy to profess faith
but hard to translate it into action;
Because we say so much but do so little.
By your renewing love, grant us the assurance of pardon
And strength to live up to our calling;
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

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To the countries where food is scarce,
mercy Lord, while there is still time.
To the countries where crops have failed,
rescue Lord, while there is time.
To countries where people are fearful,
security Lord, while there is rime.

In the countries where we have plenty,
set our hearts on sharing this time.
In countries where we feel in control,
set our minds on justice at this time.
In countries where we forget those in need,
set our prayers on Africa at this time.

© Peter Graystone, Christian Aid

God of love,
In villages, open doors of opportunity
In cities, open doors of welcome
In us, open our hearts to respond
to the needs of displaced people. Amen.

© MRDF/Sarah Hagger

God of the just weight
And the fair measure,
let me remember the hands
that harvested my food, my drink,

not only in my prayers
but in the market place.
Let me not seek a bargain
That leaves another hungry.

© Janet Morley, Christian Aid

One World Week - 23rd to 30th October

Rejoice, people of God!
Celebrate the life within you,
And Christ's presence in your midst.
Our eyes shall be opened!
The present will have a new meaning,
And the future will be right with new hope.
Rejoice, people of God!
Bow your heads before the One
Who is our wisdom and strength.
We place ourselves before our God,
That we may be touched and cleansed
By the power of God's spirit.
[A prayer from Guatemala]

MakePovertyHistory September Newsletter

Key campaign dates

2nd November – Mass Lobby of Parliament (see below)

10th December – White Band Day 3

13-18th December – World Trade Organisation Ministerial conference in Hong Kong

There is growing evidence that promises made on aid, debt and trade are not being honoured. For that reason I attach a strong article from the New York Times “Promises, promises” which speaks of “nothing but talk, talk, talk on trade. While the rich continue their shameful obfuscating, poor countries are priced out of the market.” See also ‘**Nine Lives**’ from the URC.

In The Guardian, 23rd August, Mark Curtis (former Director of the World Development Movement) talks about **How the G8 lied to the world on aid** – major extracts printed below.

Information on the Mass Lobby for trade justice 2nd November

Where? Westminster **When?** 12noon onwards till 6pm on Wednesday 2 November

The mass lobby has been organised by the Trade Justice Movement (TJM) working in partnership with The Co-operative Bank. The TJM is a coalition of more than 70 UK organisations, including campaign groups, trade unions, faith groups and environmental organisations. It is also a member of the Make Poverty History campaign - an unprecedented coalition of 500+ organisations.

What are we calling for? Trade justice – not free trade - when the WTO meets in December.

A mass lobby is when a large number of people go to Parliament to raise the same concern with each of their MPs at the same time. We need as many people as possible to convince their MPs to call for trade justice. We call on the UK government and its partners in the European Union to:

- stop pushing poor countries to open their economies
- respect poor countries' right to decide on trade policies to help end poverty and protect their environment.

We need to deliver a powerful and targeted message to the UK government ahead of the WTO ministerial in December. The G8 said very little about trade, and it's crucial that we increase the pressure on the UK government at this time to change its policies and take action. The more MPs from all parties hear the same message on the same day, the more pressure the government will feel to listen to our demands. We'll be linking up with campaigners across Europe and around the world. Lots of campaigning on trade justice is planned internationally during October and November. Some countries are planning their own lobbies including Bangladesh, Kenya and the Philippines.

What will happen on the day?

People will be formed into queues, colour-coded by nation and region to enable constituents to lobby their MP together. The lobby will continue throughout the afternoon, until 6pm. You don't need to be an expert, anyone can take part! You just need to be willing to ask your MP some questions.

[continued on page 9]

What you can do:

- Put 2 November in your diary - and tell your friends and family to come along too!
- Contact your MP to let them know you are coming.
- Use 'Nine Lives' as a resource on the stories of trade liberalisation, and how the United Reformed Church is taking up the issues. Get ready to quote from it.
- Keep checking <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign/lobby/index.htm> for more information, including a lobby pack which will contain everything you need to take part (details of what to say to your MP, tricky questions and answers and a map).
- You will also be able to register online to let us know you are coming. To order resources call 08700 787 788 or email orders@christian-aid.org

How the G8 lied to the world on aid – Mark Curtis, The Guardian 23/08/2005 (extracts)

World leaders are now preparing for the millennium summit to be held in New York next month, described by the UN as a "once-in-a-generation opportunity to take bold decisions". Yet the current draft outcome simply repeats what was agreed on aid and debt last month in Gleneagles.

The reality of that G8 deal has recently emerged - The G8 agreed to increase aid from rich countries by \$48bn a year by 2010. When Tony Blair announced this to parliament, he said that "in addition ... we agreed to cancel 100% of the multilateral debts" of the most indebted countries. He also stated that aid would come with no conditions attached. These were big claims, all of which can now be shown to be false.

First, in recent evidence to the Treasury committee, Gordon Brown made the astonishing admission that the aid increase includes money put aside for debt relief. So the funds rich countries devote to writing off poor countries' debts will be counted as aid. The debt deal is not "in addition" to the aid increase, as Blair claimed, but part of it.

Far from representing a "100%" debt write-off, the deal applies initially to only 18 countries, which will save just \$1bn a year in debt-service payments. The 62 countries that need full debt cancellation to reach UN poverty targets are paying 10 times more in debt service. And recently leaked World Bank documents show that the G8 agreed only three years' worth of debt relief for these 18 countries. They state that "countries will have no benefit from the initiative" unless there is "full donor financing".

The government's claim that debt relief will free up resources for health and education is also a deception. The deal explicitly says that those countries receiving debt relief will have their aid cut by the same amount. If, say, Senegal is forgiven \$100m a year in debt service, World Bank lending will be slashed by the same amount. That sum will be retained in the World Bank pot for lending across all poor countries, but only when they sign up to World Bank/IMF economic policy conditions.

And this leads to the third false claim. Blair's assertion that aid will come with no conditions is contradicted by Hilary Benn, his development secretary, who told a parliamentary committee on July 19 that "around half" of World Bank aid programmes have privatisation conditions. Recent research by the NGO network Eurodad shows that conditions attached to World Bank aid are rising. Benin, for example, now has to meet 130 conditions to qualify for aid, compared with 58 in the previous agreement. Eleven of 13 countries analysed have to promote privatisation to receive World Bank loans, the two exceptions having already undergone extensive privatisation programmes. Yet in the G8 press conference Blair refuted the suggestion that privatisation would be a condition for aid. According to recently leaked documents, four rich-country representatives to the IMF board want to add yet more conditions to debt relief.

REFORM MAGAZINES FOR 2006

The time has come round again for me to place a new order for Reform.

For those who are not familiar with the magazine, Reform is the magazine of the United Reformed Church and is published monthly, apart from August (July and August are published together). The magazine keeps us up to date with new developments in the URC and contains many interesting articles, letters, book reviews, photos and news of what has been happening in other United Reformed Churches and much more. It is regularly quoted at General Assembly and Mission Council and is also read by other denominations.

If anyone would like to see a sample issue or has already decided to order Reform for the first time please let me know as soon as possible. If you do wish to receive Reform at a later date please contact me as they can be ordered at any time.

The subscription for 2006 is £12.50. Will all present subscribers please let me know whether they wish to continue by completing the form I have enclosed with the October issue and returning it to me with their subscription (if applicable) by the 22nd October. I have to send off our monies with the order by the beginning of November. Please make any cheques payable to "Trinity URC".

Thank you.

Kay E

HARVEST GIFTS (OCTOBER 9th)

High Wycombe Central Aid would be very pleased to receive our Harvest gifts this year to help the residents of the Old Tea Warehouse. Tins of meat, fish, vegetables & soup, tins of fruit and rice pudding. Packets of tea and sugar, biscuits and perhaps some chocolate and sweets. Any gifts will be very welcome and will be sorted by Central Aid and will help the residents of the Old Tea Warehouse when they first move in.

Another example of Murphy's Law - from recent personal experience!

Whilst trains frequently run late, they are always on time when you are not!



Remember - clocks go BACK one hour on Sunday 30th October. Forget, and you will get cold standing at the church door waiting for someone to open it!

**Trinity
United Reformed Church**

Autumn Fayre

Saturday 15th October

In

Crendon Hall

to be opened by

Jim Tanner

at

2.30pm

Gifts - Cakes - Tombola - Groceries
Jewellery - Bric-a-brac - Competitions

Admission - 30p

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 30th October
Closing date for contributions is Friday 21st October*

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

prayer page
(submitted by kate yates)

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2005

God our creator,
 you have made us one with this earth,
 to tend it and to bring forth fruit:
 may we so respect and cherish all that has life from you,
 that we may share in the labour of all creation
 to give birth to your hidden glory,
 through Jesus Christ. Amen.
Taken from "All Desires Known" by Janet Morley (SPCK)

Every part of this earth is sacred -
 whatever befalls the earth befalls the children
 of the earth.
 The air is precious -
 for all of us share the same breath.
 This we know, the earth does not belong to
 us - we belong to the earth.
 This we know, all things are connected -
 like the blood which unites one family.
 Our God is the same God
 whose compassion is equal for all.
 For we did not weave the web of life -
 we are merely a strand in it.
 Whatever we do to the web
 we do to ourselves.
Taken from "Bread for Tomorrow"
(SPCK/Christian Aid)

O God our creator,
 whose good earth is entrusted
 to our care and delight and tenderness,
 we pray:
 For all who are in captivity to debt,
 whose lives are cramped by fear
 from which there is no turning
 except through abundant harvest.
 May those who sow in tears
 reap with shouts of joy.
 For all who depend on the earth
 for their daily food and fuel
 whose forests are destroyed
 for the profits of a few.
 May those who sow in tears
 reap with shouts of joy.
 For all who labour in poverty,
 who are oppressed by unjust laws,
 who are banned for speaking the truth,
 who long for a harvest of justice.

May those who sow in tears
 reap with shouts of joy.
 For all who are in captivity
 to greed and waste and boredom,
 whose harvest joy is choked
 with things they do not need.
 May those who sow in tears
 reap with shouts of joy.
 Turn us again from our captivity,
 and restore our vision,
 that our mouth may be filled with laughter
 and our tongue with singing.
Taken from "Bread of Tomorrow"
(SPCK/Christian Aid)

O God, in our plenty give us compassion for those in need.
 Turn our compassion into acts of justice
 so that in tenderness our faith may become living and real
 and not just some pious sentiment.
 O God, in our spiritual poverty
 grant us your Spirit to overwhelm us with joy
 so that we may pass that joy in you on to others
 and bring them healing and hope.
 O God, in our selfishness
 chide us and provoke us so that we no longer
 conform our minds to the standards of this world
 but that we instead let your kingdom come.
 O God, forgive us and make us new.
 Through the power and presence of your son Jesus the Christ.
 Amen

