



October 2006

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

Dear Friends,

September is a lovely month when we welcome Autumn and we have normally enjoyed and reflected on our sunnier holidays.

September was a very important month for Trinity. We welcomed Gwen Collins to come to Trinity to 'preach with a view' and as an Elder was heartened by the response we had by our members and friends to hear her service on the Sunday, and the response of everyone who came on Tuesday evening to vote unanimously for Gwen. I know we are prayerfully looking forward to Gwen and husband Bernie joining us here at Trinity.

I would like to give a big THANK—YOU to everyone who organised and took part in our fundraising over the months the Coffee Mornings – Cream Teas – Barbecue – Scrabble – Church Lunches – etc. All these fundraisers make our Church Fellowship much stronger.

So can I please make a plea for our AUTUMN FAYRE on Saturday October 14th where I believe we have a lovely time of fellowship together, so try to bring along a friend or relative, even if it's just for a cup of tea or coffee, but don't forget we have some great stalls where you can get your Christmas presents.

So we offer all that we do,
all that we have,
all that we are
to your glory, Lord.
For you give us our abilities,
build up our skills,
and offer us the words and strength
to be your people in the world.

Audrey R

Minister : <i>There is no minister in post at present</i>
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Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole, e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk
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October Services

Morning Worship at 10:30am

Oct 1st	Rev Ian Millgate (Baptist Minister)
Oct 8th	Mr Andrew Winton
Oct 15th	All Age Worship - Mr Alan Molyneux from Wycombe Youth for Christ
Oct 22nd	Amersham team
Oct 29th	Rev Jack Ramsbotton (Ret Baptist Minister)

Rotas for October

Not included in this version

What's on in October



Monday 9th Oct - Preparations for the Autumn Fayre
(Lower Schoolroom)

Monday 23rd Oct - Visit to the Mayor's Parlour:
Speaker - Darren Hayday

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 3rd Oct Celebrating Harvest - in words and music

Tuesday 10th Oct Preparing for the Autumn Fayre

Tuesday 17th Oct School Harvest Thanksgiving at Priory Rd.
Please note this starts at 1pm. Lifts will be arranged by Olive Shepherd

Tuesday 24th Oct Women in the Gospels Family & friends of Jesus

Tuesday 31st Oct Mrs Beryl Peaty and her choir



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

6th & 20th October

2pm

Scrabble

Whilst on holiday, your editor managed a treble treble word score, achieving the cricketer's nightmare - 99!
Can you do better? Come along and try.

Diary Dates

- 3 October - 8pm Church Meeting
- 14 October - 2pm Autumn Fayre
- 17 November - St Andrew's Dinner Dance
- 20 November - 10am Prayer Circle For Healing
- 28 November - 8pm Church Meeting
- 17 December - 10.30am Gift Service
- 4.30pm Carol Service
- 24 December - 10.30am Morning Worship
- 11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion
- 25 December - 10.30am Christmas Day Service

Not included in this version

The Breakdown

A man's car broke down as he was driving past a beautiful old monastery.

He walked up the drive and knocked on the front door. A monk answered, listened to the man's story and graciously invited him to spend the night. The monks fed the man and led him to a tiny chamber in which to sleep. The man thanked the monks and slept serenely until he was awakened by a strange and beautiful sound.

The next morning, as the monks were repairing his car, he asked about the sound that had woken him.

"We're sorry," the monks said. "We can't tell you about the sound. You're not a Monk."

The man was disappointed, but eager to be gone, so he thanked the monks for their kindness and went on his way. During quiet moments afterward, the man pondered the source of the alluring sound. Several years later the man happened to be driving in the same area. He stopped at the monastery on a whim and asked admittance. He explained to the monks that he had so enjoyed his previous stay, he wondered if he might be permitted to spend another night under their peaceful roof. The monks agreed, and so the man stayed with them again.

Late that night, he heard the strange beautiful sound. The following morning he begged the monks to explain the sound. The monks gave him the same answer as before. "We're sorry. We can't tell you about the sound. You're not a monk."

By now the man's curiosity had turned to obsession. He decided to give up everything and become a Monk, for that was the only way he could learn about the sound. He informed the monks of his decision and began the long and arduous task of becoming a monk. Seventeen years later, the man was finally established as a true member of the order.

When the celebration ended, he humbly went to the leader of the order and asked to be told the source of the sound.

Silently, the old monk led the new monk to a huge wooden door. He opened the door with a golden key. That door swung open to reveal a second door of silver, then a third of gold and so on until they had passed through twelve doors, each more magnificent than the last. The new monk's face was awash with tears of joy as he finally beheld the wondrous source of the beautiful mysterious sound he had heard so many years before.....

[Turn to page 11 for the conclusion of this story]

REV. DR. GWEN COLLINS

Trinity's Next Minister

The Sunday we had all been waiting and praying for arrived – 3 September when Rev Dr Gwen Collins came to Trinity to 'preach with a view'. She had already impressed the Vacancy Committee when she visited High Wycombe and met with them in June but what would her preaching and leading of worship be like we all wondered. We were not disappointed and if you weren't there to experience first hand her warmth towards the congregation before, during and after worship you missed out. Her theme for the service, which included Holy Communion, was 'Spiritual Journeys'. Please contact Simon Evans if you'd like to hear the sermon again or for the first time.

Following the lovely buffet lunch, for which we thank Margaret Lewis and all her helpers, questions were put to Gwen, which she answered ably and honestly. During the afternoon she tried to speak to everyone present and her memory for who does what at Trinity was impressive. We were pleased that Gwen's husband, Bernie, was able to join us part way through the questions session after travelling from Ickenham URC where he had also been 'preaching with a view' that morning.

On Tuesday 5 September the Vacancy Committee met to discuss Gwen's Sunday visit and to decide on their recommendation to the Church Meeting, which followed. They voted unanimously to recommend to the church members that Gwen should be our next Minister here at Trinity. At the special Church Meeting there were many positive comments from lots of members and adherents and when it came to the vote 93% voted to invite Gwen and there were no negative votes. There were less than 7% abstentions.

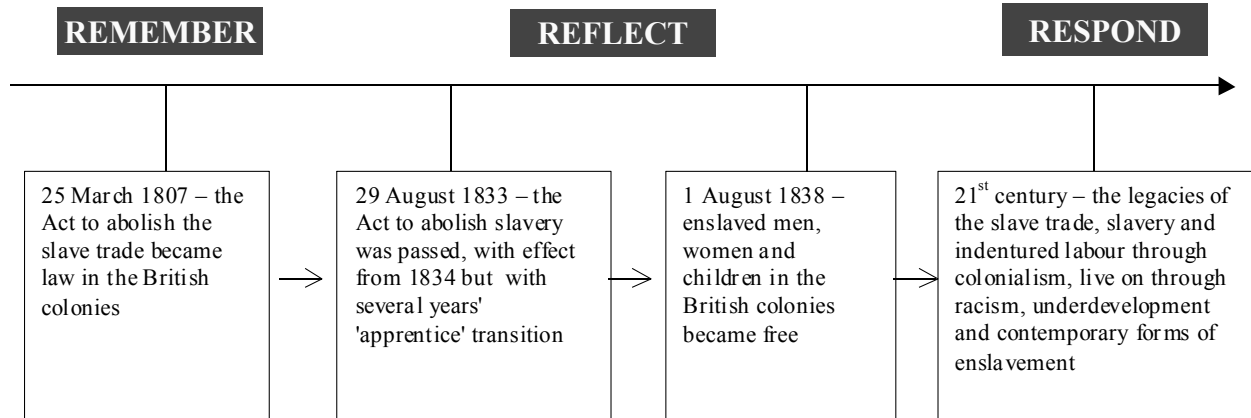
The following day, Wednesday, Ickenham URC held their Church Meeting and voted unanimously to call Bernie. In addition to his 50% ministerial duties he will be the Ecumenical Officer for North Thames Churches Together. Gwen and Bernie have chosen to live in the Wycombe Manse and Gwen will also be a Chaplain at Bucks Chilterns University College here in High Wycombe.

So now we look forward to having a Minister once again and all that goes with getting to know each other and working together to bring about God's Kingdom here. It is very likely that Gwen's Induction will be in January. What a start to a New Year that will be!

Finally, I'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to Andrew Busby, our Interim Moderator, who was present throughout Gwen's visit, and has been a wonderful guide and adviser during the whole process and indeed ever since he was appointed to the role. Many of us have felt that God was truly guiding us on this spiritual journey to its conclusion on 5 September, which is just the beginning of another journey.

Marian M

THE SLAVE TRADE AND SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES



Some of you may already be aware that I work on a project called **set all free**, set up by Churches Together in England to encourage churches and others to commemorate next year's bicentenary of the 1807 Act to abolish the British Slave Trade. Britain's involvement in the brutal kidnapping and enslavement of millions of Africans and their subsequent transportation to the colonies to work on plantations was widespread over several centuries.

You may remember the Alex Haley programme *Roots* in the 1970s where, as a Black African-American, he traced his roots back to his ancestor Kunta Kinte who was captured in a slaving expedition in Gambia. *Roots* gave many of us an idea of what life was like on an American plantation but a close look at history shows that conditions in the Caribbean islands as well as America were even more brutal, violent and dehumanising.

My own learning curve since starting work on the **set all free** project a year ago has been huge. I realise that I had learned next to nothing about the slave trade or slavery at school – or since – and that this was a huge chunk of our shameful history. I had heard of William Wilberforce, the MP who persisted for years to have the Act to abolish the slave trade – and slavery decades later – passed in Parliament, despite the entrenched attitudes and vested interests most MPs had. It is easy to forget that MPs then bought their seats, and that the 'common man' was not permitted to vote.

I did not know that enslaved Africans resisted and campaigned for abolition, right from the point of capture, or that the abolitionists were Black, white, male and female. Did you know that most of the techniques used in modern campaigns were first used in the campaign to abolish the slave trade?

I did not know that the Church was complicit in the slave trade and slavery over 200 years ago – the Church of England had money invested in plantations and many Christians such as the famous John Newton, writer of *Amazing Grace*, were either involved or did not oppose it. It took a long time before a groundswell of objections rose up into an active political and social movement, primarily through the Clapham Group of evangelicals from Holy Trinity, Clapham, south London.

The bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade is a huge subject. It is complex, sensitive for many, and there are lots of 'hot potatoes' which some would rather not discuss, such as '*should the Government apologise?*' and what sorts of reparations might be appropriate.

Many Black descendants of enslaved Africans experience unexpressed pain, shame or embarrassment from generations of slavery not being talked about in their families, as do many white people. Millions of Africans died in the notorious Middle Passage (from Africa to the Caribbean) and on the plantations. Their descendants today are true survivors but they battle against the legacies of slavery that are with us today – racism, under-development and exploitation in Africa, marginalisation of Black communities to name but a few.

Most of the abolitionists were Christians. The 2007 bicentenary gives us the opportunity to follow in their footsteps, to fight against the legacies of slavery and modern forms of slavery and exploitation today. There is a lot of media coverage on trafficking at the moment, particularly sex trafficking, but this is a small percentage of slavery throughout the world. There is a lot of work to be done, especially as internationally slavery is illegal (unlike 200 years ago) but is still allowed to continue.

If we are truly made in the image of God, and if God created us as one human race, we have a responsibility to act to end slavery, and to bring about healing and reconciliation in our churches and society today.

The **set all free** website lists some ideas on 'what to do'. I would encourage you to take a look and consider your own response.

Kate Y

Recorder - October 2006



September 2006 fundraising report

Audrey B's summer cream teas went down a treat! Not only have her Thursday afternoon teas been raising money for REVIVE but they have also been a great way for church members to socialise during the August social wilderness. The first two cream teas have raised £22 and £31 respectively. [See Audrey's note on page 9.]

It has also been agreed that profits from the church Sunday lunches will go to REVIVE, so thanks to all those who are involved in making these happen.

I'll keep the colourful REVIVE events sheet updated on the Lower School Room noticeboard alongside the list of possible fundraising ideas that were put forward in the brainstorming meeting some months ago but I still need your help!

We are busy people with busy lives and lots of calls on our time but we can each play a part in REVIVE, whether through prayer support, additional financial giving, putting on an event or attending those that are held.

If each member took responsibility for one event or project over the next five years we could have 12 REVIVE events a year which would go some way to repaying our Synod loan (assuming my maths is right!) Everyone could play a part, whether it's a beetle drive, running the Webb Ivory catalogue (which Joan Smith is taking on), or one of the other ideas. We haven't got a shortage of ideas, just people to get them off the ground. Please do consider what you might get involved with – you don't have to organise it all on your own!

As a church we voted for the redevelopment project and it will only happen with **our** involvement and support. Now that we have had the chance to 'recharge our batteries' over the summer, let's get cracking with enthusiasm and energy on our vision for the REVIVE redevelopment to help us be the Family Church we want to be – one that welcomes and values EVERYONE and offers support and encouragement to ALL.

Thank you for your support and participation so far and remember the words that appear most frequently in the Bible – 'do not fear' and 'be courageous'!

REVIVE

Event & venue	Date and time	Further details
Autumn Fayre	Saturday 14 October 2006 - Crendon Hall - time tba	Not included in this version
St Andrew's night Dinner and Dance	Friday 17 November 2006 – Crendon Hall	
Craft Fair, Trinity URC	to be confirmed	
Burns' Night Supper & Ceilidh	<i>January 2007 – to be confirmed</i>	
Supper/dinner evening with Pam Rhodes	<i>2007 - to be confirmed</i>	

Kate Yates

Oldies August Frolics

Our Thursday tea-parties throughout August were a great success. We not only enjoyed each others company and had fun, but also raised £257 for Revive.

Thanks to all who came and helped in any way to make it such a success.

Audrey B

REFORM MAGAZINE 2007

The time has come round again for me to place Trinity's order for the Reform Magazines. For anyone who is not familiar with Reform it is the magazine of the United Reformed Church and contains amongst other things, what is going on in the URC, interesting articles by lay people as well as Ministers, book reviews, events and happenings in other URC Churches, also a monthly crossword and competition which one month recently was won by our own Joy S. Congratulations Joy! If anyone has not seen a copy of Reform and would like to do so please let me know.

I need to have placed the order by the beginning of November so anyone who would like to take Reform next year, including present readers, please note I will need to have all orders and monies in by at the latest Sunday 22 October. (For present readers I will be enclosing a form in the October edition. This should be in Church for distribution the same time as this edition of The Recorder.) The cost for 2007 is £13.00. This is for 11 magazines as July and August are published as one copy. Please make any cheques payable to "Trinity URC". If anyone decides at a later date they would like to order Reform this can be done at any time.

Thank you.

Kay E

Church Directory & Database

Together with your Recorder you will have received a letter regarding the new church directory which we plan to have available within the next couple of months. We would like to make sure that the information is as up to date and complete as possible so please complete and return the information promptly to either the secretary or your elder.

If you would like your details in the church directory but have not received a letter please either complete one of the forms at the back of the church, or use the online form on the website <http://www.trinity-urc.org.uk>

St Andrew's Dinner & Dance

Be there or be square!

See the advertisement on the inside back page.

The Daffodil Principle

[Submitted by Margaret L, having been received by her from a friend]

Several times my daughter had telephoned to say, "Mother, you must come to see the daffodils before they are over. "I wanted to go, but it was a two-hour drive, from Laguna to Lake Arrowhead.

I will come next Tuesday, I promised a little reluctantly on her third call. Next Tuesday dawned cold and rainy. Still, I had promised, and reluctantly I drove there. When I finally walked into Carolyn's house, I was welcomed by the joyful sounds of happy children. I delightedly hugged and greeted my grandchildren.

"Forget the daffodils, Carolyn! The road is invisible in these clouds and fog, and there is nothing in the world except you and these children, that I want to see badly enough to drive another inch!"

My daughter smiled calmly and said, we drive in this all the time, Mother."

"Well, you won't get me back on the road until it clears, and then I'm heading for home," I assured her. "I was hoping you'd take me over to the garage to pick up my car. How far will we have to drive?"

"Oh...just a few blocks," Carolyn said. "But I'll drive. I'm used to this."

After several minutes, I had to ask, "Where are we going? This isn't the way to the garage!"

"We're going to my garage the long way," Carolyn smiled, "by way of the daffodils."

"Carolyn," I said sternly, "please turn around."

"It's all right, Mother, I promise. You will never forgive yourself if you miss this experience." After about twenty minutes, we turned onto a small gravel road and I saw a small church. On the far side of the Church, I saw a hand lettered sign with an arrow that read, Daffodil Garden.

We got out of the car, each took a child's hand, and I followed Carolyn down the path. Then, as we turned a corner, I looked up and gasped.

Before me lay the most glorious sight. It looked as though someone had taken a great vat of gold, and poured it over the mountain peak, and it's surrounding slopes. The flowers were planted in majestic, swirling patterns, great ribbons and swaths of deep orange, creamy white, lemon yellow, salmon pink and saffron and butter yellow. Each different-coloured variety was planted in large groups, so that it swirled and flowed like its own river with its own unique hue. There were five acres of flowers.

"Who did this?" I asked Carolyn.

"Just one woman," Carolyn answered. "She lives on the property. That's her home." Carolyn pointed to a well-kept A-frame house, small and modestly sitting in the midst of all that glory. We walked up to the house. On the patio, we saw a poster. "Answers to the Questions I Know You Are Asking "was the headline.

The first answer was a simple one. "50,000 bulbs, " it read.

The second answer was, "One at a time, by one woman. Two hands, two feet and one brain."

The third answer was, "Began in 1958."

For me, that moment was a life-changing experience. I thought of this woman whom I had never met, who, more than forty years before, had begun, one bulb at a time, to bring her vision of beauty and joy to an obscure mountaintop. Planting one bulb at a time, year after year, this unknown woman had forever changed the world in which she lived. One day at a time, she had created something of extraordinary magnificence, beauty and inspiration.

The principle her daffodil garden taught, is one of the greatest principles of celebration. That is, learning to move toward our goals, and desires one step at a time and learning to love the doing, learning to use the accumulation of time. When we multiply tiny pieces of time, with small increments of daily effort, we too will find we can accomplish magnificent things. We can change the world.

"It makes me sad in a way," I admitted to Carolyn "what might I have accomplished, if I had thought of a wonderful goal, thirty-five or forty years ago, and had worked away at it 'one bulb at a time', through all those years? Just think what I might have been able to achieve!"

My daughter summed up the message of the day in her usual direct way. "Start today," she said. She was right. It's so pointless to think of the lost hours of yesterdays. The way to make learning a lesson of celebration, instead of a cause for regret is to only ask, "How can I put this to use today?"

Join us for an evening of Scottish hospitality, good food and entertainment.

ST ANDREW'S DINNER & DANCE

**The Venue: Trinity United Reformed Church
Easton Street, High Wycombe
The date: Friday 17th November 2006, 7.30 pm**

Tickets £20 / Table of 8 £145 (for bookings before 30th October)

Complimentary drink on arrival



Three Course Buffet Meal



Ceilidh band

Bring a bottle – glasses provided

Contact Ian B or Arthur W

The Breakdown [continued from page 5]

Unfortunately, dear reader, I can't tell you what it was. You're not a monk.

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

Recorder Editor :
e-mail : editor@trinity-urc.org.uk
Church web site: <http://www.trinity-urc.org.uk>

prayer page

Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness;
Life is stronger than death;
Victory is ours through him who loves us.
Desmond Tutu

Source of all life,
For your name's sake,
For your joy cast upon the earth
For life's great delight in your handiwork,
Remember all the wounded and broken things,

unclean water
poisoned air
desecrated land
fleeing wildlife
dying innocents
And please remember us,
When our lives become enemies
of your life.
Open our hearts to your family,
Earth's many children;
Return our hearts to you.
Amen.
Daniel J McGill



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2006

From Psalm 121

*My help will come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
The protector of the Israel never dozes or sleeps.
The Lord will protect you from all danger; he will keep you safe ...*

... We pray for all people in the Middle East – for Jews, Muslims and Christians. Life is hard and grim for many there, particularly in Israel, Lebanon and Iraq at the moment. We pray for Christians especially, who are often isolated, marginalised and persecuted in small ways as much as in greater ways.

We pray for humanitarian aid agencies such as Medecins Sans Frontieres, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Christian Aid, Oxfam, CAFOD, and many others. May people give generously to their work so that they may bring hope, healing and immediate relief to the thousands affected by wars inflicted on them by those in power. Amen.

Psalm 23:

The LORD is my shepherd; I have everything I need.

2 He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.

3 He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths, as he has promised.

4 Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, LORD, for you are with me.
Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me.

5 You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me; you welcome me as an honoured guest and fill my cup to the brim.

6 I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life; and your house will be my home as long as I live.