

At all times carry faith as a shield; for with it you will be able to put out all the burning arrows shot by the evil one. *Ephesians 6:16*



**October 2008**

# ***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,

What a week this has been! News breaking daily, hourly sometimes, about Lehman Brothers, AIG and nearer to home, HBOS being taken over by Lloyds TSB. There seems to be a strange disconnection between 'normal life' carrying on much as usual, and these calamities for Financial Institutions. For those directly involved of course there is no such disconnection – there are very immediate and hard consequences. But for most of us there is little in our daily routine that reflects these events. Yet these are events that are being described as the worst financial crisis since the Wall Street Crash of 1929.

If it doesn't feel as though there is a connection between global economic crises and our own lives, I wonder if it is going to continue to be that way? We are all noticing that filling the car at the petrol station costs about a third again as much as it did a year ago. Food prices are up. Unemployment is up. Some commentators say these are temporary phenomenon. How temporary is temporary? What will happen between now and then?

The economist Charles Goodhart, speaking on the Today Programme, Radio 4, spoke about waves of greed and fear that are an intrinsic part of the financial markets. "Two years ago we had greed," he said. "Now we are having fear." His view is that a great deal of nonsense is being bandied around. There is no need to panic. We need less moralising.

Maybe some who read this letter are fearful of what lies ahead financially. Such anxieties are natural, and should not be swept under the carpet. But let us take heart and draw on the reservoirs of faith that never run dry. As the apostle Paul discovered through many, repeated hard knocks, "I am certain that nothing can separate us from his [God's] love."

Even if we have no personal worries in relation to financial security, the turmoil in the financial markets and institutions might give us pause for thought. To what extent do we align ourselves with the values of the world around? A friend has very recently recommended to me a daily meditation on-line. Here is one from this week.

*I am convinced that most of the saints were religious dropouts from societies that were going nowhere. Faith called them to drop out and believe in something else.*

*Jesus' announcement of the reign of God was telling us that culture as we've created it is on a track toward self-destruction and emptiness.*

*All we have to give up is the utterly false understanding that we have of ourselves from civil society. For some reason that liberation seems to be the most difficult thing in the world! from Radical Grace: Daily Meditations*

Perhaps what that is trying to say is simply this: Remember, you are a child of God, an heir of the kingdom.




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## October Services

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

- Oct. 5th      Holy Communion, led by Rev Asif Jamshaid.
- Oct. 12th     Special service for Sightsavers Sunday.
- Oct. 19th     Harvest Festival and All age worship. [See article 'Harvest Gifts']
-  Oct. 26      Led by minister, with Dr Ruth Powell, Director of National Church Life Survey, Australia [through whom we did our Church Life Profile].

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### Rotas for October

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in October



Oct 13th Preparations for Autumn Fayre (*Lower Schoolroom*)  
 Oct 27th Talk: Walking The Coleridge Way - Marian Mole  
 [*Hostess - Marian Mole*]

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 7th Oct Pilgrim's Progress: The journey continues  
 Tuesday 14th Oct Harvest Celebrations  
 Tuesday 21st Oct Harvest Festival at Priory Road School at a time  
 to be announced - but it will be earlier than 2.30.  
 (lifts will be arranged)  
 Tuesday 28th Oct DVD: Hardy's Wessex  
*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom  
 (unless otherwise stated)*



You had better rush home after the second session this month - before the ghoulies and ghosties start coming out!

17th and 31st October  
 at 2pm - 21 Westover Road

## Diary Dates

29 Sept – 5 Oct Gwen on holiday  
 11 Oct 10.30am Coffee Morning  
 11 Oct Elders' & Pastoral Assistants' Day at Jordans  
 19 Oct Harvest Thanksgiving  
 19 Oct 5.30pm Communion Service  
 25 Oct Autumn Fayre  
 28 Oct 8pm Elders' Meeting  
 8 Nov 10.30am Coffee Morning  
 9 Nov Remembrance Sunday  
 16 Nov Share Your Skills Stall  
 22 Nov 10.30am Coffee Morning  
 25 Nov 8pm Elders' Meeting  
 29 Nov 9.30-12 Fifth Brigade  
 2 Dec 8pm Church Meeting  
 14 Dec Gift Service  
 21 Dec 4.30pm Carol Service  
 24 Dec 11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion  
 25 Dec 10.30am Christmas Day Family Service

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Remember to put your clocks BACK one hour when you go to bed on Saturday 25th October!

**Not included in this version**

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## **HARVEST GIFTS**

Our Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October. It will be an All-age service, with an emphasis on thankfulness, celebration of God's good gifts, and sharing. There will be the chance at Harvest this year to give three kinds of gift. You might like to give a little of each of the 3 categories – or you may prefer to concentrate on one or two. This is what they are:

### **NON-PERISHABLE FOODS**

Tins and packets that have a long shelf-life will be collected and given to the Winter Night Shelter. Janet Roake confirms that this is very much needed as stocks are built up for the coming session, opening again in January. If there is a large amount of non-perishable food donated we may also give some of it to the Money Advice Department at Bucks New University to give to students whose money is delayed in coming through. Again this is much appreciated.

### **HARVEST OF TALENTS & HOBBIES**

Do you enjoy woodwork, or knitting, or do you get lots of pleasure from reading? Bring something you've made, or a book you've enjoyed. Does football or netball switch you on? Bring a ball, or some of your gear. Is TV or radio a blessing in your life? Bring your programme listing magazine. Do you love growing plants? Bring one. During worship you will be able to bring your item to the front, symbolising your gratitude to God for this skill or interest. After the service you will be able take it home again, with two exceptions.

- i) The Saturday after Harvest is the Autumn Fair. If whatever you bring is suitable for selling at the Autumn Fair and you would like to donate it for that purpose you can leave it in the church. Our collection of items will be like a 'first fruits' through which we dedicate everything that will be sold the following Saturday.
- ii) If your hobby is baking and you bring a cake or biscuits they will be eaten with the coffee after the service.

### **FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES**

Because these are basic to our well-being and because they are a wonderful part of the Harvest tradition, fruit and veg. are also welcome. Audrey will have baskets at the ready, and the fruit and veg that is brought forward during worship will quickly be put in baskets. Alan will then auction these over coffee. All the proceeds from the fruit and veg. auction will go to the Night Shelter.

Gwen

# Commitment for Life

## Zimbabwe

*The following article was written prior to the middle of September. Since then, of course, there has been a political agreement, the results of which will be seen in the weeks and months ahead.*

Dear Friends,

In short, things are probably as bad as you have heard. Talks are under way, apparently 'talks about talks' because the two principals are not there, but people are not happy that it is all so secret. They have learned not to trust any politician. The international fixers may still be going for the politicians' solution: paper over the cracks and hope the wall doesn't fall apart before they walk away.

The buzzword at the moment is a 'transitional authority', preferably under a non-party leader, someone who will not be standing for office when the limited term of transition is over. The trade unions have suggested that a suitable High Court judge might be found. That seems optimistic, considering how compromised most of the judiciary are. In a Christian Alliance meeting, someone said 'What about a bishop?' but the first name that came up was clearly too compromised. Pius Ncube was mentioned and his name got a few cheers, but the whole question is still open.

Meanwhile, the killing continues. In some areas the irregulars (youth militia and so-called war veterans) are being reined in, but it isn't clear why. It might just be an attempt to improve the junta's overseas image while supporters of the rightful government are eliminated in less visible areas. The delay in remoter areas may be because they think the violence needs to continue a bit longer to justify declaring martial law. I can see scenarios in which that would include a ban on political parties - all parties.

Pray for us, or keep us in your thoughts,  
Brian

*[Brian is a Jesuit priest and was recently imprisoned. This letter was written in August]*

Amid the political uncertainty in Zimbabwe Christian Aid partner organisations are continuing to work. Partners working on HIV and home based care have been least affected, but their work load has been substantially increased by the huge numbers of people fleeing to the cities from the rural areas. Organisations which distribute food have been severely hampered by the government moratorium on their operations. Christian Aid partner the Zimbabwe Christian Alliance, was one of few organisations allowed to monitor the controversial presidential election on 27 June. ZCA has been very active in the movement to ensure a transitional government and played a key role in the meeting of the churches of The Fellowship of Councils of Churches in Southern Africa (FOCCISA) which issued a statement stating that the presidential run-off did not "reflect the will of the Zimbabwean people." © (Reuters Alertnet)

### **Zimbabwe lifts ban on aid agencies**

Zimbabwe has now lifted a ban on aid agencies suspended ahead of the 27 June presidential run-off over accusations that some of them were siding with the opposition. 'The government has with immediate effect lifted the suspension of operations of private voluntary organisations and NGOs,' said a Social Welfare Ministry statement read on state television.

## **Revive update**

### **1. Funds**

On Friday 5 September the Treasurer received a cheque from Blaser Mills solicitors, being the final part of our bequest from Ronald B's estate. We had received £12,500 previously and have now received £37,225.96. In addition, last week we received £1,000 in memory of Betty L, and with income from *share your skills* and That Lot's sponsored cycle ride we have funds available of **£215,640.47**. (At Church Meeting I had miscalculated the figures and given a slightly higher figure – apologies!)

### **2. Tendering process**

Tenders have gone out for all the work except the lighting as we weren't happy with the scope and designs submitted and are reworking that. You'll recall from the last Church Meeting that our Architect, and the Synod Property Officer, both recommended we should go to tender based on all the work we would like to do. Once we get proper costings we can assess what of the 'extras' like the coffee bar and extra storage we can afford to do.

Of course, the bequest from Ronald B makes a huge difference to our funds and it is looking much more likely that we will be able to commit to much more work that we had thought two months ago!

### **3. Fundraising**

We have also been working on an application to the Veolia Environmental Trust Fund for £20,000 as they have given us an indication that our project may fit within their trust guidelines. We hope to submit this shortly after liaising with Cristine Smalligan from Synod but funds from this are by no means certain.

### **4. Pulpit appeal**

Gwen, Simon, Jeremy Bell and I had a constructive meeting with four representatives from GLPC just over a week ago. Jeremy made a strong case as to why the pulpit should be moved, and showed a picture from 1924 to demonstrate how it looked then and now, and how disjointed it has become from its original architecture. Simon gave his views as someone who has grown up in the church, and I spoke as someone from a non-church background for whom the pulpit is unhelpful and threatening (as for many of my generation and younger). We had a long debate about worship and mission, and how we want Trinity to be, and all parties had an opportunity to put their views forward. We looked at the pulpit and explored possibilities and four scenarios were put on the table:

1. Our preferred option to remove the pulpit – and find a good home for it if possible.
2. To remove it for the floor works, and store it safely in the building in case someone should want to use it/restore it in the next 100 years or so
3. To move it elsewhere in the sanctuary (in whole or as separate parts) – for which we would need a Church Meeting decision
4. For GLPC to stand by their decision not to allow us to remove it, in which case we would appeal.

GLPC met the same evening as our Church Meeting to discuss this.

We have now heard that we have permission to remove the pulpit (we believe under option 2) **but** formal approval is subject to the negotiation process whereby the GLPC has to write to the consultees and obtain their views, and until they have the view of the whole Listed Buildings Advisory Committee (LBAC) we can't go ahead. However, this should be a fairly swift process, as the Secretary of the GLPC, will write to the consultees promptly. Thank you to everyone for support and prayers – this is an extremely positive and encouraging result for us.

### **5. Commencement of work**

The earliest work could start is the 1st/2nd week of November but this depends on how much negotiating on price we have to do. It will probably take around 3 weeks from the point of agreeing a contract to the point of starting work. Billboards, banners and removable items will need to be taken out of the sanctuary prior to the start of work.

We will be contacting those people who hire the premises to let them know what parts of the building will not be available during works and have already mentioned this to Marian D who runs the Thursday and Saturday morning cafés in the Lower School Room, as this room will not be usable during building works.



## ESCAPE TO A DESERT ISLAND



Well, that was the theme for our Church Away Weekend at The Wycliffe Centre and what a wonderful time we had in the beautiful and peaceful setting there. Yes, we did put messages in a bottle but they were prayers, some of which were private and were not read out with the others when the Prayer Bottle was cut open during Sunday's Morning Worship.

During the weekend 39 people participated and 15 (11 adults and 4 children) of these were residential throughout. We really were a church family in all senses and it was good to welcome Revd Bernie Collins and Revd David Rajan, from South India, on Saturday evening to join us for the Camp Fire and entertainment.

Those who attended enjoyed meaningful worship, Desert Island Discs, Crafts, Bible Study, Vision4Life, a Volley Ball Tournament, the Discovery Centre, walks, a Fitness Trail, building shelters, making mini rafts, watching videos, a quiz and much more.

It was a truly memorable weekend thanks to the planning team Gwen, Marian, Margaret and Linda and everyone who helped in many different ways.

This space was reserved for pictures from the Church Weekend.

Due to the availability of the editorial and printing teams, this edition has had to be produced without these pictures.

They will, hopefully, be included next month.



## A Puzzle

*Can you find the 30 books of the Bible hidden in the passage below?*

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman, in an aeroplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his John-boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column.

Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not capitalised. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event which featured this puzzle the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over two hundred patrons who reported that this puzzle was the most difficult they had ever seen.

As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, the books are right there in plain view, hidden from sight. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this passage waiting to be found.

## **SCOUT & GUIDE WEBSITE LAUNCHED**

The United Reformed Church Guide and Scout Fellowship has launched a new website. As well as showing what the Fellowship does, it will be used over the coming months to make resource and worship material available as free downloads. It will contain instant programmes for groups, prayers for use at meetings, ideas for parade services and support for leaders in using the faith badges, the Promise Challenge and the Faith Partnership Award. [www.urcgsf.org.uk](http://www.urcgsf.org.uk)

## CHRISTIAN AID NEWS - FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Elliot Morley MP is on a mission to make British companies play their full part in fighting climate change. But he needs your help to succeed.

The former Labour environment minister has proposed a clause to the Climate Change Bill which would reinstate annual mandatory carbon reporting for UK-listed firms.

He was joined by former Conservative environment secretary John Gummer and Liberal Democrat MP Steve Webb.

Please support Elliot - email your MP now.

The government accepted this measure in the House of Lords after Christian Aid and tens of thousands of you campaigned for it.

But then it backtracked and dropped the amendment in the Commons.

### Why is this important?

Britain's share of world carbon emissions officially stands at 2% of the global total. But when the international activities of UK companies are included, its share rockets to 12-15%.

That's why it's vital our large companies provide an accurate annual carbon audit of all their business activities. Without it Britain can't start to play its proper part in combating climate change.

So what can you do? Email your MP! Or write to them to back mandatory carbon reporting for companies in the climate change bill.

## UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

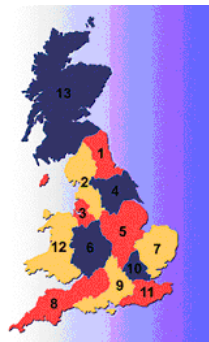
[in worldwide family of more than 70 million Reformed Christians]

100,000 people →→ in 1600 congregations

←← of which >400 are joint with other denominations



grouped together into 13 Synods, and supported by Assembly office and committees.



### WE ARE IN THAMES NORTH SYNOD [no. 10 on map]

Thames North Synod has committees to support the work of its churches.

Synod Executive  
Leadership Development Group-  
Ministry & Mission Fund  
Nominations

Youth and Children's Work  
Ecumenical  
Finance  
Grants, Loans & Properties  
& six Area Committees.

*Chilterns Area Committee has  
pastoral responsibility for 17  
churches, including  
Trinity.*

TRINITY'S AUTUMN FAYRE  
**SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

at 2pm in CRENDON HALL

Not long now till our Autumn Fayre, let's make it even bigger and better this year and raise as much money as we can towards our REVIVE project. If you have any handbags that you no longer want, Audrey Richardson would like them for her stall. We need Groceries for the Women's Meeting stall, and gifts for the Nightbird's stall and we would also like items for the Tombola which Rose is organising and not forgetting the home made cakes and preserves – they are always popular with our customers. Perhaps you have things that you have made that could go on a handicraft or talents stall. It would also be good to have one or two little competitions like a Treasure Hunt or guessing how many sweets in a jar. Has anyone got a burning desire to organise something along those lines, or if you haven't actually got a burning desire, perhaps you would do it anyway. We need all the assistance that we can get, both with your items for sale and your help on the day. Your reward – a nice cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, fun and fellowship and the satisfaction of a job well done – what more could you ask ? !!

We look forward to hearing from you.

***Audrey, Rose and Margaret***

**WORSHIP PLANNING TEAM**

We now have a Trinity Worship Planning Team. This is one of the ways in which we are seeking to enrich our worship so that it is joyful and inspiring for all, building on the strengths that our Church Life Profile revealed.

The Team includes Sarah Evans, Nina Sparks, Olive Shepherd, Andrew Winton and me. I'm grateful to these people for being willing to take this on. It is a good representative group. We will meet a couple of times a term, to look ahead, select some themes, and pool ideas. We hope that all members and friends of Trinity will feel able to pass on their ideas and suggestions for worship to Worship Planning Team members.

Also our young people will be inviting everyone to an open meeting one Sunday evening [date to be announced] so that people of all ages can share ideas about worship and hear what others say. Please make every effort to be there if you possibly can. The Worship Planning Team will help me to follow up the ideas that come up at that meeting.

Gwen

# Dine at Mine

## How well do you know your community?

Many of us would like to have more opportunities to get to know people from different backgrounds who live and work in the same town as us. Well, you can do just this on:

**Saturday 11th October, 7.30pm**

A number of small dinner parties across Wycombe will provide a relaxed setting for us to share food and time with people who we may not otherwise get to know in the course of our day-to-day lives. In this informal way, we hope that understanding and friendships will be built across our community.

This is a special Wycombe initiative for you, your family and friends. Do join us!

**If you would like to take part, or find out more please contact:**

Rebecca Hickman at [becks\\_hickman@hotmail.com](mailto:becks_hickman@hotmail.com) or 07748 905101  
Abid Hussain at [abidhussain\\_500@hotmail.com](mailto:abidhussain_500@hotmail.com) or 07792 883736



# Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Nigel Koeth (10<sup>th</sup>)  
Matthew Sparks (19<sup>th</sup>)  
Abigail Long (23<sup>rd</sup>)

A Very Happy Birthday  
With love from all at Trinity.

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# Congratulations



With Best Wishes to

Nina Sparks (2<sup>nd</sup>)

on celebrating her 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
With love from us all at Trinity.

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*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 26th October.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 17th October*

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

# prayer page

Bless your people, Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.  
who have walked so long in this night of pain.  
For the child has no more tears to cry  
and the old people no song of joy to sing,  
and the blood of our youth drains away in the gutters.  
The cry from the cross is heard throughout the land.  
The pain in your nailed hands is carried by the worker.  
Terrible thirst is in the mouth of the farmer,  
too many women mourn the loss of their sons,  
and all the earth is turned into another calvary.  
With your spirit, Lord, we cry for peace.  
With your spirit, we struggle to be free.



*From 'Bread for Tomorrow'*

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Peace does not mean the end of all our striving,  
Joy does not mean the drying of our tears.  
Give me, for light, the sunshine of Thy sorrow.  
Give me, for shelter, the shadow of Thy cross;  
Give me to share the glory of Thy morrow,  
gone from my heart the bitterness of loss.

*GA Studdart Kennedy*

From ghoulies and ghosties  
And long-legged beasties  
And things that go bump in the night,  
Good Lord, deliver us!

*Traditional Scottish Prayer*

## **Prayer to Christ Against Evil**

Christ Our Lord  
You suffered and were tempted.  
You are powerful to come to the aid  
of those who are assailed by the devil,  
For you are the support of Christian people.  
O Lord, protect with Your Right Hand  
those who trust in Your Name.  
Deliver them from the Evil One,  
and grant them everlasting joy. Amen

*St. Gregory of Khandzta (759-861)*

## **Weekly prayers through October:**

Sunday	Pray for Churches Together in Wycombe
Monday	Pray for those planning the 2008 Wycombe Winter Night Shelter
Tuesday	Give thanks for harvests
<b>Thursday</b>	Pray for Accident and Emergency departments
Wednesday	Pray for vulnerable children and adults
Friday	Pray for all working to promote good relationships between different faiths
Saturday	Pray for our architects, Jeremy Bell and Kelvin Sampson