

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.  
*Galatians 3: 28*



**October 2009**

# ***The Recorder***

## **Inside - this month . . .**

Pastoral letter	2	Church family & Life	5, 7-11, 13
Services & Rotas	3	Vision4URLife	11 - 12
What's on?	4	Lighter stuff	14
Commitment for Life	6	Prayer Page	16

An edited version of this magazine is available on the Church Website.

(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,

My daughter Jo phoned just as I was about to write this letter. So I asked her, "What do you think I should write about this month?" "Well," she said, "It's One World Week in October, isn't it? Maybe you ought to write about that." We discussed a few other possible topics, and then got down to the serious business of an update on family news.

After I had put the phone down I looked at the One World Week website. I scrolled through the Christian Worship Anthology 2009 and my eye was caught by an article headed, "Without women there is no light." The article tells the story of a woman called Eva who grew up as a nomad in northern Kenya and now works for the Catholic Diocese there running workshops to help women learn about their rights and about how to set up and run businesses. This is in a community that traditionally and culturally believes that "Women belong wholly to men except their teeth", as a tribal elder put it. "If you break a woman's arm you don't pay for it, if you break her teeth, you do." Domestic violence is common. Yet the Rendille people have this proverb, "Without women there is no light," and, the article explains, light is being shed through Eva's work so that both men and women are supported to change together.

Perhaps that headline jumped out at me because I began to re-read 1 Chronicles this week, a good proportion of which is genealogies – just the kind of Bible passage that you don't want to get when you are on the rota for Bible reading on a Sunday morning! What has struck me forcibly as I read is the scarcity of women. Roughly a hundred men are named before we get to the first woman in chapter 1, and it continues in a similar proportion. Patriarchal societies are thousands of years old and still exist today. Women have been second class citizens for a long time, and in many places still are. We know that women in our own town and county suffer violence still. We should support them all we can; and those, like Pat Wallace, who work to bring such situations to an end.

So gender issues are current and can be serious, despite the colossal freedoms that women have gained over the last century – gains for which I thank God.

But at Church Meeting in September it was a different slant on gender imbalance that one member perceptively brought to our attention. "We don't have anything for men", she said. She was talking about groups through the week, and she was right. Should we do something about that?

We sang some powerfully worded new hymns at our Greenbelt and Commitment for Life services recently. One verse from a hymn by New Zealand writer Shirley Murray relates to the theme of this letter, and the verse on the cover:

For woman and man, a place at the table,  
Revising the roles deciding the share,  
With wisdom and grace dividing the power,  
For woman and man a system that's fair.

The family news that Jo and I chatted about on the phone this evening was mainly about her two small children, a girl and a boy. As I think about that now I am grateful that they live in a time and a culture of gender equality. Amy will be given every bit as much of a chance in life as Matthew will. One of the central aims of One World Week is to combat inequality and discrimination. Amen to that.




Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk
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Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole, e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk
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## October Services

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

Oct. 4th		Holy Communion
Oct. 11th		Morning worship led by Dr Iain Frew
Oct. 18th	10:30	All age worship
	4:45	Holy Communion [please note earlier time]
 Oct. 25th	10:30	Morning worship led by minister, with guest preacher Rev Paul Stokes.
	1:00	Vision4Life Bible Workshop led by Rev Paul Stokes [ <i>see page 7</i> ]

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### Rotas for October

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in October



Oct 12th Book Reviews & Sale [*Hostess - Norma G*]

Oct 26th Talk: 30 years across the Atlantic - Michael Mole  
[*Hostess - Marian M*]

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 6th Oct  
Tuesday 13th Oct  
Tuesday 20th Oct

All creatures Great and Small  
Looking at the Psalms  
Harvest Festival at Priory Road School  
(NB - an EARLY START - at 1.15pm.  
(lifts will be arranged)  
Autumn Readings etc. Bring & Buy



Tuesday 27th Oct

*All meetings start at 2.30 (except 20th Oct)*

## Diary Dates

- October** 3 Autumn Fayre, & SV2G celebration of Black History Month  
5 – 11 Gwen away on holiday  
12 – 16 Clean Up Week in preparation for the re-opening of the sanctuary  
17 Festival of Praise at Coventry Cathedral  
25 Vision4Life Bible Day Workshop led by Paul Stokes  
27 Elders' Meeting  
31 Fifth Brigade all day
- November** 1 Prayer Circle For Healing  
3 More Any Questions – Vision4Life Bible Year  
17 Church Meeting  
29 Thanksgiving & Dedication Service followed by a Buffet Lunch

October 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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 24th October!

Not included in this version

John and Joy would like to thank all their Trinity friends for the lovely cards and kind thoughts plus all the good wishes received for their Golden Wedding anniversary on 19th September.

### **Important Future Diary Dates:**

December 5 Trinity Has Talent – Entertainment with Supper

December 13 Gift Service

December 20 Carol Service 4.30pm

## **Help wanted!**

Just a note to say that I will be around with a list of food required for this much awaited event. If you could offer to help by preparing something, I would be so grateful. We all want this day to be so special, and it will be! Thanking you in advance.

Blessings Anne x

# Commitment for Life

## Zimbabwe

Harare

(Ecumenical News International). Zimbabwe's coalition government has failed to address widespread hunger and human rights violations in the country, a Christian youth movement has charged.

"The sad reality remains that the expectations of the public remain largely unmet," the Student's Christian Movement of Zimbabwe said in a report released on 17 June and made available to Ecumenical News International. "It is sad to note that little has been done to bring about economic sanity in the country and most people are still living below the poverty datum line," said the students, noting that the majority of workers earn 1 to 3.5% of what they need to meet the cost of basic needs.

The Consumer Council of Zimbabwe said in its latest report that an average family of five requires US\$437 a month for basic commodities, while the majority of workers earn 100 dollars a month or less.

"The law enforcement agencies continue to enforce the law in a partisan manner and the culture of impunity for the police, who are the perpetrators of human rights violations, remains intact," the Christian students said. "Even the attorney-general has clearly failed to demonstrate non-partisanship and independence. There are still reported cases of retributive violence in some areas like Mutoko and disturbingly, none of the perpetrators has been prosecuted despite the fact that they are known within their communities."

In London on 20 June, Zimbabwe Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, who reluctantly joined a government of unity with his old foe Mugabe, was heckled and booed by exiles in London's Southwark Cathedral when he said it was safe for them to come home.

Some reports have said that a secret security cabal from Mugabe's Zanu-PF party want to make sure that that Tsvangirai, who won parliamentary elections and a presidential poll in 2008, does not succeed in the government of national unity role that began in February after being brokered by African leaders.

Tsvangirai, who was beaten and detained by Mugabe's police in 2008, tried to tell about 1000 Zimbabweans who came to listen to him in the London cathedral on 20 June that it is time for them to return home. He declared, "There is peace and stability in the country."

On 18 June Zimbabwe riot police blocked a march by a group of women and beat up protesters, who were demanding greater participation of women in the writing of a new constitution. At least 18 activists face prosecution on charges of seeking to overthrow the 85-year-old president, Robert Mugabe, who has held power since 1980. None of those in custody have been charged and legal experts dismiss the case as a ploy to harass Mugabe's opponents.

"The government of national unity has failed to resuscitate the social services delivery system in the country," the Christian students said in their report. "There is need for concerted efforts from the so-called government of national unity to revive the education system, right from the infrastructure to service delivery, if we are to reclaim Zimbabwe's position on the continent."

Zimbabwe's main national university has not opened since the beginning of 2009 as the government has failed to raise money to pay lecturers, who went on strike at the end of the previous year demanding higher salaries.

- Restrictive media laws and practice remain in Zimbabwe; hence ENI's correspondent is not named.

## Trinity United Reformed Church

### *Vision4Life*

## BIBLE WORKSHOP

25<sup>th</sup> October 2009, 1.00 – 5.00 (ending time tbc)

### **Title: *Transformed by the Bible***



About the Workshop: The good book, or a difficult book?  
This workshop traces the Big Story that runs through the pages of the Bible; it considers Jesus Christ's own approach towards the scripture; and it explores practical ways of engaging with the Bible that take account of people's differing personalities and learning styles.

Led by: Rev Paul Stokes is one of three Evangelism and Renewal Advocates of GEAR [the URC's Group for Evangelism and Renewal]. He is based in Plymouth where he serves a growing suburban URC congregation. He is involved with national and international leadership with the Dunamis project for renewal in the power of the Holy Spirit.

As well as leading the afternoon workshop, Paul will also be preaching in our morning worship on a V4L Bible year theme.

Lunch: Bring and share lunch at 1.00. Finger food and cold please, as we will be meeting in the Lionel Jowatt Room [unless Lower Schoolroom is ready to use by then]. No-one is planning the menu - it will be 'pot luck'.

Bring: Your Bible, a notebook, and a plate of food to share for lunch.

*This workshop will be a high point of our V4L Bible year. Don't miss it! To help with arrangements please sign the sign-up sheet on the table in Cren-don Hall, or give your name to Sue Saunders or Alan Yates.*



## Revive update for October 2009

### Building work

• Organ pipes due to be painted mid September – we had to store and lock them in the Lionel Jowett Room to afford them maximum protection; this had an impact on some of our hirers although we have tried to accommodate them as best we could.

- The Revive team will be deciding preference on chairs in September once redecoration is complete and carpet tiles are down
- Cables have started going in, and we hope to have small speakers in the Lionel Jowett Room, Kate Smith Room and Lower School Room so that those involved in Junior Church, crèche or other activities can listen in (and adjust the volume) on services etc. taking place in the sanctuary if they wish.
- Premises management working party – revised documentation for hirings is nearly complete. Reviewing Hire Agreement in light of changes to premises. Will need more help with welcoming, admin and caretaking. Hope to have mix of volunteers and paid staff. Have applied for MIG (Mission Initiatives Group) grant for part-time paid staff – awaiting response.
- We have not been successful in our BT Community Connections grant for a laptop & broadband. We have just heard that we have not been successful in our application to the National Churches Trust for funds towards our unexpected repairs.
- Clean-up week 12-16 October – there is a list of jobs to be done during this week (or at other times during October/November), in a red folder which will be out on the table during each service. Will look at organising specific time slots.
- Good news: the budget is in the black and we are imminently claiming the £30,000 grant from the Veolia Environmental Trust towards the heating. A gift aid claim cheque from the Inland Revenue has given us back £2,873.66 into the Revive coffers. Synod URC Thames North Trust are now drawing down our grant, having used up our money.
- A reminder of the work that is **not** being done in this phase until we have the funds:
  - o the coffee bar and urn
  - o redecoration of the stairwells/vestibule in the front entrance (although some of this has been carried out)
  - o the front entrance vestibule which will retain its floor tiles. We would like to repaint the large front doors, though
  - o the large front glass doors, new inner wall & doors, and storage cupboards

### Usage

Caribbean Elderly project in partnership with Bucks Primary Care Trust. Those attending share fellowship, do some gentle exercise (seated), and share a meal amongst other activities. The pilots have been going well and they hope to make it an established ongoing project. They hope to use the sanctuary once it is open for use.

We are receiving other enquiries for the sanctuary and the rest of the premises. If you know of any group who might be interested – or if you would like to participate in any of the groups meeting here or volunteer to help with them – please talk to Gwen, Marian or Kate.



## Fundraising

We obviously need to keep the momentum up for fundraising, as we do still want to do the other works that have been approved. I'm sure that many of us will want a bit of a break before starting on that anyway, but if we are to have a hope of doing it we need to raise more money. so ideas of events (plus willing volunteers to help) are welcomed.

We are looking at some commemorative fundraising items to mark the re-opening of the sanctuary. These include the following, but we will only go ahead if people indicate they might buy them, as we don't want to lose money through 'start up' costs:

- Mugs, tea-towels, coasters, pens to mark the opening
- Photo book
- CD of photos of Trinity through the ages
- Beachballs
- T-shirts
- Gym bags
- Mobile phone 'sock' cover
- Mobile phone 'charm'
- Mouse mats

## Opening season

Flyers should be available by the time the *Recorder* is published, and invitation letters to the congregation, friends and others connected with the church and redevelopment are going out shortly.

*Kate*

## WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL VOLUNTEER AWARDS

The leaders of our Guide units, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers, have been nominated as a group for the annual Wycombe District Council Volunteer Awards. Together they give, week by week, invaluable service to local girls aged 5 to 25 years of age. They also take the girls on outings, camps and holidays giving unstintingly of their time, skills and interests whilst keeping up to date with Guiding in the UK and internationally by attending training, meetings, etc.

The awards will be presented on October 15<sup>th</sup> and the winners will be announced on the evening but everyone who has been nominated will receive a certificate.

Congratulations to all our leaders on their nomination and we wish them well on 15 October. We're proud of and thankful to you all.

MM

**NEWS FROM CHILTERN AREA COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 2009**

**1. News from the churches**

**Chesham**

Bridget Powell's move to stipendiary ministry is starting with some additional training at Westminster College for 2 days a week later this month. She will be officially leaving her post as NSM at Chesham at the end of December 2009. She will be available for ministry from September 2010.

Life at Chesham is swinging back into action after the Summer holidays. Two things are uppermost in their minds: the redevelopment of the Church buildings and the loss of Bridget after Christmas. The redevelopment of the Church is in good hands and they are receiving good support from David Skipp and Synod office. The church thinks they are on course for having buildings which suit their ambitions. Church life continues with organisations and committees playing their part (The Coffee Shop, Rendezvous, Choir, Youth Group, Ladies' Fellowship, Urchins, etc.)

On a lighter note Midsomer Murders used the church frontage for a brief scene which will be shown next Summer. The townsfolk showed great interest during the filming on a Thursday morning. An Organ recital was organised and played to a full Church and raised some £600 towards the redevelopment. They hope to do more in this line in the future. A Flower and Cake Stall raised £620 in May. They have a full complement of Elders and Tom Hickling is still secretary with a very able assistant in Sharon Hattan. The Elders are of course concerned about losing Bridget.

**Trinity High Wycombe**

A lot of summer activity over summer in Churches Together in High Wycombe – Churches Together BBQ serving about 1000 beefburgers to the public. Participate in an annual Faiths' Fair in Wycombe, and also Lighthouse Christian holiday club. People from Trinity are involved in both Hazlemere and Wycombe clubs. Have now three other congregations meeting at Trinity, and they all met in July to join with the Salvation Army to worship on The Rye for a 'songs of Praise' service. A number of members went to Greenbelt.

**Trinity Slough**

John Hoar was at their service last Sunday and had a very warm welcome. It's now two years that they've been in vacancy and they're on their third Interim Moderator, looking forward to the appointment of an ordained leader. Their numbers are keeping up and are well served by pulpit supply. Membership is drawn from around Slough with a rota for bringing people in. There are a few Asian and Caribbean families there, but they don't tend to reach people in the centre of Slough. Strong Scottish contingent.

**2. Vacancies**

- a. Beaconsfield/Holtspur – a minister has expressed interest in the profile
- b. Trinity Slough/Iver – a minister has expressed interest in the profile
- c. St Andrew's Gerrards Cross – vacancy recently declared
- d. Wendover LEP – they have just had a Baptist minister preaching with a view.

**3. Interim Moderator at Trinity Slough & Iver – The Revd Gwen Collins is to be the Interim Moderator at these churches.**

**4. Pastoral consultation visits**

These are progressing at Deanway United, Trinity High Wycombe, Chesham, and Aylesbury St Mark's.

## 5. Other matters

The Moderator continues to be very busy, attending 325 regular meetings a year plus others, and with his other responsibilities has a demanding role. Do please remember him in your prayers.

## 6. Building projects

a. **Trinity High Wycombe** – still expecting the builders to vacate the building at the end of September. Opening service of thanksgiving and dedication to take place on Sunday 29 November.

b. **Amersham Free Church** – Good progress to report. Planning application was submitted to Chiltern District Council at the beginning of August, with no adverse comments received to date. Assuming an easy passage, they are looking to go out to tender around the end of the year and this will allow site works to start end April 2010. So the programme still holds, with the major part of scheme complete by end 2010. Financial pledges are being delivered on programme. These funds, together with the URC grant, are allowing them to prepare fairly accurate cash flow forecasts against the Building Surveyor's cost estimates. In line with their original plan, the architects are reducing their involvement following planning submission, with the Building Surveyor taking on the major part of the work. The handover details are under consideration.

### c. Chesham

They had a Special Church Meeting on 9 September to discuss the choices for development of the buildings. The plans the architects have drawn up were be available to view, together with a model, and they had a good discussion on the proposals.

### d. Aylesbury St Mark's

No news.

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# Vision4URLife



See next page for more information

**VOCATIONS FAIR**  
SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2009  
10.00—15.30

Trinity Church, Mount Street, Stafford ST16 2BZ

For further details contact the West Midlands Synod Office  
admin@urcwestmidlands.org.uk 0121 783 1177

# Vision4URLife

This one day event presents you with the opportunity to explore, look at, think about and reflect on the variety of ways of developing your vocation, learning and service in the United Reformed Church. Perhaps your vision is 4 eldership or community work or stipendiary ministry or lay preaching. Perhaps you are aware of God calling you and you just need to know more. Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you will be free to explore your vocation in an unpressurised way, with information and guidance at hand as you seek to find the right way forward for you.

You may be asking

- Are there ways of enriching my ministry as an Elder? Have I the gifts for Lay Preaching?
- Can I be a Church Related Community Worker?
- Is there a ministry for me as a Youth and Children's Worker? Is the Ministry of Word and Sacraments right for me and if so, would it be stipendiary or non-stipendiary?
- Is Local Church Leadership the way forward for me?

Or you may be looking to explore and study theology and learn more about the Bible.

As you explore Vision4URLife

- There will be information about courses and course providers in your area.
- There will be time and space for prayer and reflection.
- A chaplain will be on hand for one-to-one conversation and support.
- Synod Training Officers will be there to explain the help available to you in your own Synod.

You will be able to find out

- What is involved in different ministries What training you will need
- What financial help is available
- What study courses will suit you
- What the United Reformed Church expects
- What it is like to be a . . . . .
- What you will be able to do with all the skills you bring

And answers to lots of other questions There will be no cost for the day. A snack lunch will be provided.

Refreshments will be available from 9.15 for a 10.00 start and we will finish no later than 3.30.

Your spouse, fiancé, relative or friend is welcome to come too.

*Please return this form by October 3rd to Rachel Vernon, West Midlands  
Synod Office, Digbeth-in-the-Field United Reformed Church, Moat Lane,  
Yardley, Birmingham B261TW (admin@urcwestmidlands.org.uk)  
You will receive an acknowledgement of your booking and a programme and further details in due course.  
A map of central Stafford is available\*\* There is public car parking as indicated and easy access from the  
Railway Station.*

Name.....  
Address.....  
.....  
Tel home..... Tel work.....  
Email.....  
Church.....  
I heard about this day from.....  
Name of person attending with you.....  
Any special dietary requirements.....  
Anything we need to know to make the day more comfortable for you  
.....  
I am interested in (tick any applicable):  
 Study courses  
 Local Church Leadership  
 Lay Preaching  
 Community Work  
 Stipendiary Ministry  
 Non-Stipendiary Ministry  
 Youth and children's work  
 Other – please specify  
 Not sure

**[\*\* A copy of the map can be obtained from Gwen or Angus upon request]**

## **SHARE YOUR SKILLS – VOLUNTEERS**

The hire of our premises is an opportunity for us to embody our values and to live out Jesus Christ's call in our lives and service. We hope that all who encounter us at Trinity will see something of Christ within and become part of our extended family.

We hope to get a lot more bookings in future and therefore will need more volunteers. If you would like to be involved in any of the roles below – either occasionally, regularly, or on a rota, we would love to hear from you! We anticipate having a team of people involved.

We don't want to exploit your willingness and time, and do want to support you in what you agree to do on Trinity's behalf. The detail of the roles in these role descriptions is not necessarily restricted to each specific role – tasks can be reallocated depending on the skills and wishes of the volunteers involved. We also want to be realistic about what might be involved so that you would know what you are taking on. More detail is available in role descriptions.

*Role overview – welcomer(s)*

### **Overview**

You need to enjoy meeting and greeting people and building relationships. You would have a good understanding of church life at Trinity and why we have refurbished our sanctuary for community use during the week. Can you give a couple of hours a week – up to you!

### **Likely time commitment**

Bookings may be from 8 am to 11 pm (or 11.30 on a Saturday night) but we wouldn't expect you to be at church all the time, whether in the early days of fewer bookings or later on when we hope to have lots! We anticipate having a team of people involved.

*Role overview – administrator(s)*

### **Overview**

This role is vital in the smooth running of hiring out our premises and would suit people who love organising and bringing order to things. You would need to be computer literate, numerate and be able to cope with people and paperwork!

### **Likely time commitment**

You might be needed around 2-3 hours a week, depending on the number of ad hoc booking enquiries.

*Role overview – caretaker(s)*

### **Overview**

We want to make sure that practical arrangements for hirings work smoothly. This is a role that could be carried out by several people on a regular or rota basis (e.g. John Hillson arranges the heating; someone else might put chairs. Equally, if you are good at fixing things or doing a spot of decorating, you would be a real asset to the team.

### **Likely time commitment**

Could you give half a day or a day per week, or per fortnight? We might need occasional help, people to go on a rota, etc., depending on who is hiring what rooms and facilities, and set-up requirements.

*Role overview – "Trinity Link" (i.e. Trinity volunteers for partner organisations)*

### **Overview**

Where Trinity is host to a partner organisation, e.g. SV2G, Movers and Shakers, we are looking for volunteers to help on their committees and/or be an active 'link' person to go to the group regularly but not necessarily all the time.

### **Likely time commitment**

Depending on the group, its activities, and your availability, it could be anything from 1 hour a week upwards. The choice is yours!

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO GWEN, MARIAN OR KATE, PLEASE. <i>October 2009</i>
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## Great truths . . .

### . . . that little children have learned:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mum is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandpa's lap.

### . . . that adults have learned:

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge . . . mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fibre, not the toy.

### . . . about growing old

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

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I once had a friend who grew to be very close to me. Once when we were sitting at the edge of a swimming pool, she filled the palm of her hand with a little water and held it before me, and said this: "You see this water carefully contained on my hand? It symbolises Love." This was how I saw it: "As long as you keep your hand caringly open and allow it to remain there, it will always be there. However, if you attempt to close your fingers round it and try to possess it, it will spill through the first cracks it finds.

This is the greatest mistake that people do when they meet love...they try to possess it, they demand, they expect ... and just like the water spilling out of your hand, Love will retrieve from you. For love is meant to be free, you cannot change its nature. If there are people you love, allow them to be free beings.

Give and don't expect. Advise, but don't order. Ask, but never demand. It might sound simple, but it is a lesson that may take a lifetime to truly practice.

It is the secret to true love. To truly practice it, you must sincerely feel no expectations from those who you love, and yet an unconditional caring."

Passing thought... Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away.

*[Attributed to Swami Vivekananda, and submitted by Andrew W]*



# Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

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

Nigel K (10<sup>th</sup>)

Matthew S (19<sup>th</sup>)

Abigail L (23<sup>rd</sup>)

Margaret L (26<sup>th</sup>)

Nancy H (30<sup>th</sup>)

a Very Happy Birthday  
with love from all at Trinity

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*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 25th October.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 16th October*

Recorder Editor : e-mail : [editor@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:editor@trinity-urc.org.uk)

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

# prayer page

O loving Father, we remember before thee all those who travel or whose work calls them to the distant places of the earth: in loneliness may they be helped by the knowledge that others are remembering them; in time of temptation may they be given strength to hold fast to what they know to be right; and may the sense of thy presence and the knowledge of thy fatherly love be ever with the, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Anon

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C  
T  
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2009

God most holy, in worshipping you we discover the glory of humanity, for left to our own devices we become less than human even if we are the most ingenious of beasts. Spare us, Lord, from pride and grant us so to worship you that we may find ourselves, for Christ's sake. Amen.

*Oliver Tompkins*



God, give me strength to run this race,  
God, give me power to do the right,  
And courage lasting through the fight;  
God, give me strength to see your face,  
And heart to stand till evil cease,  
And, at the last, O God, your peace.

*Author unknown*

O God of pure and uncreated light, in whom is no darkness at all, give me courage never to call black white or white black, and perception to distinguish between shades of grey.

*Adapted from Oliver Tompkins*

Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

*Matthew 11.28-end*

Have mercy, O God, on those who have been robbed of homes, livelihoods, family or friends, whether through war, oppression, famine or floods. Assist those who try to help them, we pray. We also commend into your care those whose homes are broken by conflict or neglect, or lack of love. Be gracious, we ask, so that where human love has failed, your divine compassion may heal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Weekly prayers through October:

<b>Sunday</b>	For the Polish Lutheran Church
<b>Monday</b>	For Andrew Prasad, our Synod Moderator
<b>Tuesday</b>	For Social Services
<b>Thursday</b>	For the Samaritans
<b>Wednesday</b>	For our Architects, JBKS (Paul, Kelvin & Jeremy)
<b>Friday</b>	For Churches Together in Wycombe
<b>Saturday</b>	For Operation Noah, the climate change campaign of the churches