

Guard the good treasure entrusted to you,
with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.
[2 Timothy 1:14]



October 2013

The Recorder

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

(Personal details are NOT included)

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

Trinity - a place to belong

Spirituality - Prayer – Community – Welcome

Dear Friends,

Bernie and I like to watch athletics. We enjoy the whole range of disciplines but our favourites are the track events. I can't recall exactly how and when this interest began for me, but it was probably through Bernie's influence as he had been a sprinter at school. Our son, Tom, subsequently proved to be fast also. So we have spent a fair bit of time cheering him on, loudly, at school sport days and inter-school events. One track event I don't enjoy, though, is the relay. The number of times that our top runners manage to drop the baton or bodge the handover seems inordinately high. I find myself going into the kitchen to put the kettle on and so avoid the tension and the disappointment!

Those thoughts lead me in one direct leap to this month's theme for worship. It's a four week series: "Guard the Good Treasure: exploring the Second Letter to Timothy as a model for handing on the faith we have received".

I am not going to have the chance to reflect on this theme with you in a Sunday morning service, as I am at Trinity only once this month (being at Burnham, Cores End, and Iver on the other Sundays). That one Sunday morning when I am at Trinity is our annual Commitment for Life service. Our focus will be global justice, especially in regard to our partner country of Zimbabwe.

That being so, I would like to share some thoughts here in my Recorder letter on what the Second Letter to Timothy teaches us about 'handing on the baton' of faith. The letter is written by Paul (or, some scholars think, by someone living a bit later than Paul) as an old man near the end of his life. He is in prison and facing the likelihood of execution. He writes to his 'beloved' protégé, Timothy. It is a deeply moving and personal letter, with references to lots of people who have either let him down or been a tremendous support. I wonder if it was intended for publication. I suspect not!

When it comes to guarding and handing on the faith this is what Paul has to say:

1. Rekindle the gift of God that is within you.
2. Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord.
3. Join with me in suffering for the Gospel.
4. Rely on the power of God.
5. Hold to the standard of sound teaching.
6. Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
7. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead.
8. Avoid profane chatter.
9. Be kindly to everyone.
10. Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed.
11. Proclaim the message.
12. Be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable.

Second Timothy is by way of a farewell message. Paul wants Timothy to come to be with him, but the way he writes shows that he realises that may not happen. He has to pass on in this letter what he really wants to say to someone he loves and may not see again.

As we are shortly going to have to go our separate ways it seems to me that this message of Paul's is a helpful one for us too. What is it most important that you as a church and I as a disciple carry forward into the next phase of our lives? Paul gives us a checklist.

And may his closing blessing also be ours. "The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you."



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October Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am - led by the minister unless otherwise stated.

Theme for the month: Guard the Good Treasure - 2nd letter to Timothy.

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|---|--|
| Oct. 6 | Holy Communion, led by Revd Alan Kirkaldy |
| Oct. 13 | “Committed to Justice”: the 2013 Commitment for Life service |
| Oct. 20 | All age worship, led by Alan Yates |
|  Oct. 27 | Morning worship, led by Amersham Free Church worship team |
| 4.00 pm | Holy Communion |

Rotas for October

Not included in this version

What's on in October



Monday October 14 - Card making at Ellen Murray's - **10.30**

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 1st Oct	October Sayings & Traditions
Tuesday 8th Oct	A look at Jonah
Tuesday 15th Oct	The River Thames
Tuesday 22nd Oct	Quiz
Tuesday 29th Oct	Poems & Readings for Autumn. Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Diary Dates

Event	Day	Date	Time	Venue
Vision 20/20 Prayer meeting	Wednesday	2nd	09:30	Sanctuary
Church Life Review meeting	Thursday	3rd	10:00	46 Warren Wood Dr
Housegroup	Wednesday	9th	20:00	134 Brands Hill Ave
Commitment for Life Service	Sunday	13th	10:30	Sanctuary
Vision 20/20 Prayer meeting	Wednesday	16th	09:30	Sanctuary
Traidcraft Stall	Sunday	20th	After service	LSR
Life Streams Bible Study	Monday	21st	14:30	Sanctuary
Trinity Link Person Training Evening	Tuesday	22nd	20:00	LSR
Housegroup	Wednesday	23rd	20:00	134 Brands Hill Ave
Coffee Morning	Saturday	26th	10:30	LSR
Evening Communion	Sunday	27th	16:00	Sanctuary
Life Streams Bible Study	Monday	28th	14:30	Sanctuary
Elders Meeting	Tuesday	29th	20:00	LSR

October 2013						
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 26th October!

Not included in this version

If you know anyone who would like a piano (and probably also a 2-berth caravan), and could collect from our house before the end of October, please get in touch. First come first served.

Gwen and Bernie

What warms your heart? Share it here.

Is there a hymn that you love? Has a Bible verse 'jumped out at you' and encouraged you in your faith? Maybe you've read a Christian Book that you'd like others to know about.

Could you share this with other Recorder readers? We're not asking for a mini-thesis. Just a few sentences saying which hymn, Bible verse or Christian Book has warmed your heart and why.

Gwen

On page 7, Kate Y reports on the Traidcraft AGM which she attended. She says:- *"It was an inspiring day – it was clear how passionate all the Traidcraft staff are about their work and the difference it can make. "More than just" is a great way to describe what they do, bringing about God's kingdom in the developing world today."*

Now turn to page 7 to read her report.



Do you want to grow spiritually?

*Do you wish that God could be
more real in your daily life?*

Life Streams

4 sessions

*Monday afternoons 2.30 - 4.00 pm
in the Sanctuary at Trinity URC*

October 21st & 28th

November 18th & 25th

Life Streams study book costs £8.64
(plus p&p)

Email gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk 01494 451847

www.trinity-urc.org.uk

On 14th September I attended my first Traidcraft AGM, in London, despite being a shareholder (not many shares!) for over 20 years. It was great and was a packed house! It was also an opportunity to see their new catalogue products. Their new Chief Executive, Mags Vaughan, summarised the challenges of the last financial year and outlined some of their strategy for the future. I'm sorry this sounds a bit boring but it's hard to sum up over five hours of input and a staff "sketch"!



2012-13 summary:

- Sales down by 10%
- £306,000 loss before tax
- More Fairtrade products elsewhere (supermarkets, etc.) have impacted their sales – it's welcome for farmers and producers, but a challenge for Traidcraft
- Big global companies are "flexing their muscles" on the interpretation of Fairtrade and there is concern about a risk of compromise:
 - at present a product has to have 100% Fairtrade ingredients to warrant the Fairtrade symbol
 - there is a proposal to have an amended scheme and logo for "partial" Fairtrade products – lots of discussion about that!
- Traidcraft was the first organisation to produce Fairtrade chocolate
- It has a "**more than just**" slogan – typically they pay 10% more to producers than the market price, so when you pay a bit more for buying from Traidcraft, you are really making a difference to the producers!
- Traidcraft is making better use of marketing through mobile phones and tablets
- Traidcraft is also allowing purchase of groceries in smaller quantities – they have seen an increase in sales through doing this
- ¾ million GeoBars were sold to Equal Earth company in the USA where there is a growing Fairtrade market
- They have some new speciality coffees available, and some new cleaning products will be on the market in Spring 2014

Traidcraft's charitable arm

The charitable arm of Traidcraft has had a drop in legacies and donations (27% down, equating to a drop of £3 million). New grants have reduced by 30% and they have had to reduce their programme spend by 9%.

They are helping producers look at new supply chains, and are working with CAFOD on reports of the effectiveness of Government/EU grant aid in reducing poverty.

Their big campaign "win" this last year was the formation of the Supermarkets Watchdog. The Big Four supermarkets control ¾ of the grocery market in the UK. Suppliers were found to be living under a climate of fear, worried about losing contracts if they complained about the terms of their contract, e.g. long hours, poor Health & Safety conditions, etc. Traidcraft and its coalition partners were successful this year in bringing into being the Supermarkets Watchdog (with "teeth" and the power to fine) through government legislation.

All their campaigning, investment and research work has benefited hundreds of thousands of people in the developing world. Traidcraft has always been a pioneer of good practice and transparency in company reporting.

Without Traidcraft, the Fairtrade movement in the UK probably would never have happened. The Trustees are charged with keeping Traidcraft's Christian ethos. It is regarded by its employees as a good employer.

Herun Baiya – honey for money

Herun is Chief Executive of *Site* in Kenya, and talked about the difficulties of people moving out of cities into the arid savannah because land is cheaper, but where it is more difficult to make a living from the land. Many are turning to making honey – bees love the savannah acacia trees – and this provides a vital source of income for many families. This is literally "honey for money". Natural Resource Management Committees have been formed to manage water supplies, and there has been less conflict over water.

Maria del Carmen de la Fuente – *Allpa* products from Peru

There are lots more "players" in Fairtrade now than in 1995 so there is more competition. *Allpa* seeks to help people become entrepreneurs and increase productivity in a competitive market. One of the greatest challenges is complying with EU and UK standards, e.g. having no nickel or lead in products. She still has a stock of earrings with nickel in them that she can't sell.

Traidcraft's work is important in highlighting poverty and promoting ways of selling Fairtrade products.



ZIMBABWE

My mind was opened

Patricia is 49 years old and lives with her husband and his parents in a community that has been faced with the challenge of farming and rearing livestock in a parched environment. Every day she walks two hours to fetch water from the well beside the river, and two hours back again. The nearest school for children in the community is more than 2 hours away and there is no health clinic for 25km.

Patricia's life is much improved though since the work of Christian Aid partner, Christian Care who started work in Patricia's community in February 2012 and trained them in Internal Savings and Lendings Schemes (ISALs).

"We were taught to contribute money in order to counteract poverty, as people can borrow the money to start a business and bring back the interest."

Once a month the 7 women in Patricia's group get together to contribute their money and invest in things for their businesses. The difference that this group has had in the community has been remarkable.

"My mind was opened. Christian Care came and taught us how to overcome poverty. We sell pots and bring back the interest we produce. I can now afford to buy things like toothpaste, cream and soap."

In the future Patricia and her group hope to buy a cow and a grinding mill. M. Webb

BANGLADESH

When the next crisis comes we will be ready.

In Mitradanga disaster preparation has empowered families living there. Flooding in Gopalganj area, South West Bangladesh is becoming more frequent and a huge problem for the people that live there. It is close to the Modhumoti river but 70 kilometres from the sea, recent salt water flooding has destroyed paddy fields and homes.

Mitradanga seems a neat village with cows eating from well stocked feeding bowls, strong constructed houses and crops growing on the little land they have. However when you look more closely you realise that the government cyclone shelter cannot be used because the path there is completely under water, all the surrounding fields are waterlogged with water hyacinth creeping over the once fertile land and there are little room for growing crops. For much of the year this village is totally flooded.

Experts are forecasting that sea levels will rise by 1.5 metres by 2050, if that happens 16% of Bangladesh will be under water and 17 million people, 15 % of the population, will be homeless. Through its Poverty Reduction Programme to prepare communities for disasters Christian Aid partner, The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) has been working with the community to enable them to adapt.

CCDB bring communities together into Forums. The Sonalir Shopnaw Forum was encouraged to build a shelter to hold meetings. This corrugated building holds emergency supplies such as water, batteries, torches and a megaphone for disaster alerts. The Forum meets monthly and works with CCDB to decide what is needed. An education programme has allowed many families to read and write. The shelves are packed with books about climate change which the Forum members read and share. The women are particularly keen that the children understand what is happening so they are encouraged to read the books too.

Other ways they are combating changes in climate include sowing saline resistant rice. Yields are lower and there is only one harvest a year but the rice is of a good quality. Campbell ducks are now kept for their nutritional eggs and many are growing turmeric or okra on floating gardens. These gardens layer soil and water hyacinth as a base.



Happy Birthday



to

Andrew L (1st)

Nina S (2nd)

Matthew S (19th)

Abigail L (23rd)

Margaret L (26th)

Nancy H (30th)

with love from us all at Trinity

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 27th October.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 18th October*

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

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

prayer page

On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

[Revelation Chapter 22 verse 2 (NIV)]

This comes near the end of the writer's vision of the New Jerusalem, the Holy City of God. They are not our earthly trees and leaves, but spiritual and visionary. The leaves on our trees, however, can suggest ways into meditation and prayer. Hold a leaf or look at the picture of one and study it closely. What can it tell you about God's care and purpose in his creation?

Here are a few facts about leaves if you need something to start you off. The leaves of deciduous trees are all different. Look at the shape of your leaf. If possible feel its thickness trace its veins, notice its colour. If it's green, what shade of green is it? If it is green it is a powerhouse helping to feed the tree through photosynthesis. In what other ways can it be of use?



It is October and your leaf may have its brilliant autumn colours. Did you know they are produced by waste matter? The body of the tree has absorbed all the nutrients to rest for winter and prepare its buds for spring. Beauty in the leaf is the result of collecting "rubbish" the tree does not need.

On the ground your leaf will join the "leaf litter" that protects developing plants from frost and supports a whole host of creatures from bacteria to woodlice and millipedes. Finally it will decompose and increase the fertility of the soil for future plants.



A single leaf may be small and seem insignificant but it has an important part to play at every stage of its existence.

Together leaves make up the glorious canopy of the woods around us.



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Thank you, Lord, for creating trees and their leaves. Amen

