

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



October 2014

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,

My how time flies. It seems like only yesterday that I was thinking of what to write in the Elder's letter for the April Recorder and now 5 months later it's again my turn. But what to write? For the last couple of weeks I've been jotting down random thoughts as they came into my head and now I need to pull those thoughts together into a coherent letter.

Last week I was looking for any appropriate items to share at the Brownie's Centenary service here at Trinity and I came across a small black & white photograph of my cousin Marian Stevens and myself, in uniform, standing on the front steps of the church together with the then minister, the Reverend Spooner. My, that was a long time ago !

That in turn set me thinking of the ministers who have served this church since then. After the Rev. Spooner there were Douglas & Margaret Watt, Ted Ward, Wesley Workman, Bill Frame, Mike Shrubsole and lastly Gwen Collins. Each, in different ways, contributed to the life and witness of this church.

And now we are again in an interregnum and looking for a new minister. It seems ages ago that Gwen retired, 10 months in fact, and we wonder how long it will be before someone answers our call.

A quote from the Trinity Congregational church magazine of 1953 by the Reverend Spooner: 'Our one desire is to see the Church built up on the strong foundations of robust faith in the goodness of God' .

And a quote from William Barclay, he says:

When we pray remember

1. The love of God that wants the best for us.
2. The wisdom of God that knows what is best for us.
3. The power of God that can accomplish it.

I'm not very good at being patient . My computer seems to be on a go slow at the moment and I get very impatient waiting for it to catch up with what I am trying to do, but I must learn. And so it is in our wait for a new minister. We must be patient, continue in our prayers, and wait for God's answer.

May it be soon.

Yours in Christ

Margaret

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October Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am - except where otherwise stated.

Oct. 5th	Holy Communion – Revd Erna Stevenson
Oct. 12th	Harvest service – Andrew Winton and members of Trinity - auction of gifts
Oct. 19th	All Age Worship with Barbara & David Sparks
Oct. 26th	Morning worship – Worship Band and Housegroup
 4.00 pm	Holy Communion

Rotas for October

Not included in this version

What's on in October



Nightbirds will be arranging their Harvest windowsill at Trinity on Saturday morning 11 October & this will be our meeting for the month. It's a Coffee Morning so we'll natter as well!

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 7th Oct
 Tuesday 14th Oct
 Tuesday 21st Oct
 Tuesday 28th Oct

St Francis
 1066 - The Battle of Hastings
 St Luke
 Hallowe'en & All Saints. Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom unless

Diary Dates

Event	Day	Date	Time	Venue
Vision 2020 prayer meeting	Wednesday	1st	9.30-10 am	Sanctuary
Housegroup	Monday	6th	8:00pm	The Drakes' house
Coffee morning	Saturday	11th	10:30am	Lower School Room
Vision 2020 prayer meeting	Wednesday	15th	9.30-10 am	Sanctuary
Elders' meeting	Wednesday	15th	8:00pm	Lower School Room
Housegroup	Monday	20th	8:00pm	The Drakes' house
Coffee morning	Saturday	25th	10:30am	Lower School Room
Afternoon communion – Rev'd Alan Kirkcaldy	Sunday	26th	4:00pm	Sanctuary
Vision 2020 prayer meeting	Wednesday	5th	9.30-10 am	Sanctuary
Elders' meeting	Wednesday	5th	8:00pm	Lower School Room
24/7 Prayer for Wycombe	Friday	7th		
Coffee morning	Saturday	8th	10:30am	Lower School Room
Housegroup	Monday	10th	8:00pm	The Drakes' house

October 2014						
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

Win G has moved into residential care. She has her own en-suite room which now contains her armchair and bureau from her flat in Chichester Close plus ornaments and photographs and a new TV. Each of the 4 'wings' of the home has its own dining room and lounge and there is a lovely enclosed central garden. There is lots going on with entertainment, games afternoons, and the home has its own hairdresser and even a manicurist! The staff are very kind and friendly and most helpful. Visitors are very welcome at any time – though it's probably best to avoid lunchtime which is 1 o'clock. Win has had several visitors already but I think her favourite has probably been Cliff her former next door neighbour. If you are in the area, do pop in and see Win, she would be pleased to see you.

Lifts to church meetings

Now that the nights are drawing in there may be a number of our congregation who are not happy driving after dark or the bus route doesn't work for you. If you are one of these, please let me know and I'll see if I can arrange for someone to pick you up (and return you afterwards!).



You are an important part of our church family and we don't want you to miss out on contributing to church meetings, so please don't be shy.

Kate

You are welcome to join us for
Holy Communion and Prayers for Peace
at Trinity United Reformed Church, London Road, High Wycombe HP11 1BJ
on

Tuesday 11th November 2014
with communion from 2.30 pm
and led prayers every half hour until 5.30 pm



On this Day of Remembrance we are offering you the opportunity to join us for holy communion, prayer and reflection, focusing on the need for peace in our world today, and in thanksgiving for the lives given in the cause of peace in the past.

CHILTERN AREA COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER – Sept 2014 [Edited]

SLOUGH

Farewell to the Revd John Danso and the Revd Linda Hillier

On 30th September we say goodbye to The Revd Linda Hillier (Anglican) whose Certificate of Limited Service for ministry at Kingsway Slough and St Andrew's Iver comes to an end.

On 12th October we say farewell to The Revd John Danso whose time as Interim Minister at Trinity Slough finishes.

We wish them both God's blessing for their respective futures.

Training for presiding at communion: Saturday 1st November at Trinity High Wycombe.

You can still sign up for this training session (morning only, or full day for "digging deeper"), led by the Revd Anne Sardeson. Church secretaries have information from Synod office but you can book a place through bookings@urcthamesnorth.org.uk or calling Sandhya Pinn on 020 7799 5000.

Same-sex marriage debate in the URC

A booklet and covering letter have gone to church secretaries together with a response form to show the general "feel" from the local church's discussion. Churches are not making decisions, just giving opinions back to Church House so they can be considered. The question as to whether this is a doctrinal matter is being pursued by the URC's experts. There may be a one-off General Assembly next year to make a decision. Three trained facilitators from the Synod will be available to help churches in their discussion.

Synod Meeting – Sept 2014 [Edited]

John Ellis, Elder Moderator of General Assembly (GA)

John's talk included:

- Unity of the church is more important than uniformity of its doctrine.
- Common questions about "does the URC have a future?" – challenge of how best to deploy the ministers we have available. (Note – Presbyterian Church in Wales has 40 ministers for 500 churches!).
- Personal discipleship is fundamental to our faith, involvement and action – we need to be confident, wholehearted disciples of Christ

Closure of St Mark's Aylesbury

Synod voted to approve.

Feedback from General Assembly included:

- future of the church (conciliarity, i.e. member-decision-making)
- resolutions from General Assembly – including request for churches to give 1% above their M&M contribution
- theology behind Food Banks
- use of inclusive and expansive language (*talk to Kate if this makes no sense!*)
- finances – income and expenditure of the URC Trust nationally

Dear Friends

We hope that you all had a wonderful summer and had opportunity to rest, relax and enjoy the amazing weather!



We are looking forward to a great start as the new school year begins and are excited by what God has in store for us. We have a few changes to the Wycombe Youth for Christ Team and are looking forward to some exciting new opportunities within our Schools Ministry. You will find information about this and more in our latest Newsletter, which we have attached for you. If you are able and willing to highlight this in your churches, that would be hugely appreciated.

November feels a little way off, but we are holding a **Creative Prayer with Kids** Training Event with guest speaker Catherine Clayton (Prayer Spaces for Schools). This is a really exciting event and will be opportunity to explore creative ways of engaging children in prayer (details attached). The provisional date for this event is Thursday 6th November. Once this has been confirmed, booking will be available online at <https://creativeprayerwithkids.eventbrite.co.uk>. Alternatively, you can contact Erica Holt on erica@wycombeyfc.org.uk for further details and to request a paper and/or electronic version of the booking form.

Alongside this we are hosting a **Prayer Event on Tuesday 18th November** (7.45-9.15pm, at WYFC Office) to pray for schools, staff, children and young people and schools in the area. This is a fantastic opportunity to come together and pray in unity for our schools. Finally, although Christmas is even further off, we would like to give you advance notice of our **Open Evening** that is taking place on the evening of **Tuesday 9th December**, which is an opportunity for you to come and meet the team and other WYFC supporters over a glass of mulled wine and other Christmas goodies! Please feel free to pop over to see us for part (or all) of the evening.

Thank you for your continued support of the WYFC Team and work. If you have any questions about the work we are involved in, or feel that we can support you or your church in some way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

God Bless

Erica

24/7 Prayer for Wycombe- September 2014 Prayer Points

CAP Centre, High Wycombe, at King's Church

- Over 2000 became debt free and more than 700 came to salvation last year through the work of CAP nationwide. Pray for God to continue to bless this amazing organisation.
- Pray they will be able to achieve their target of 500 Centres in the UK (currently 260, one of which is in High Wycombe).
- Pray for continued funding for the organisation.
- Pray for Ian & the team here in High Wycombe as they work together to help people with debt issues; pray for opportunities to share the gospel and pray for people.

CAP Money Course

The CAP Money course is a very useful tool to help people manage their money. It is a very good preventative measure to stop people getting into debt in the first place.

- King's Church do not currently run CAP Money courses but would like to change that. Please pray for the right individual(s) to accept the invitation to attend a Money Course Coach training course and start running CAP money courses from the King's Centre.
- Pray for CAP money courses running in other churches across the town in the Autumn term

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Please ask God continue to show favour and bless the work of WHC, especially as they start looking towards the winter night shelters.

- Pray for finances so that all needs will be met.
- Pray for word to spread for the need for volunteers, so when the time comes to sign up there will be many people willing to help, especially those willing to cover the night shifts.
- Pray that leaders will come forward to cover each venue.



ZIMBABWE

Intercessions for Zimbabwe from the World Council of Churches. *Give thanks for:*

- Health care workers who provide medical aid and education to those infected with the HIV virus.
- The Christian Council of Botswana and the Zimbabwe Council of Churches.
- Choir festivals where singers join together in praise of Christ.
- Those working for a better democracy in Zimbabwe.
- Uncles, grandmothers and cousins taking care of children whose parents have died of AIDS.

Pray for:

- The leaders of government and their success in bringing economic progress, education and health care to their people.
- Landowners and the land workers, and those who are displaced by land reform.
- Reconciliation between the races in Zimbabwe, leading to a society of equality and respect.
- AIDS orphans. Hope for those who have little to hope for.

Prayer from Zimbabwe

Lord God, we give you thanks for sending your only Son to give us life. In the midst of wealth we are crushed by poverty, and while we are offered Christ-life in all its fullness, we are surrounded by disease, death and destruction. We are tempted to despair, and yet keep hoping, knowing that you care.

At times we weep silent tears, and cry out with deep emotion. We come to you, our only hope and refuge.

Thank you for the gift of laughter, even when the going is tough. With you, O Lord, we may be troubled but not destroyed.

By Rev. Farai Chirisa, Zimbabwe. www.ctal.org.uk/zimbabwe.htm

CENTRAL AMERICA – Nicaragua, a little background information from the WCC

Indigenous people were living in the region when it was colonized by Spain in the 16th century. Britain established its influence on the Caribbean coast in the 17th century. Nicaragua became sovereign in 1854 and added the east coast, where the Miskitos live, to its territory in 1894. Dictatorships succeeded each other during the first half of the 20th century, with frequent US intervention, and armed resistance under the guerilla leader Sandino. From 1936 to 1979 the Somoza dictatorship held the country in its grip. In 1972, Managua was totally destroyed by an earthquake that took 50,000 lives. The mismanagement of international relief funds accelerated the armed opposition, resulting in the Sandinista revolution of 1979. The new regime introduced widespread social and economic reform, aiming at justice and popular participation, and had the support of the poor. As of 1981, however, the USA armed a counter-revolution and strangled Nicaragua economically, which brought the Sandinistas down in 1990. Nicaragua's economy, based on subsistence farming and the export of bananas, coffee and other cash crops, virtually collapsed during the war. The Catholic Church is the majority church. The largest non-Catholic church is the Assemblies of God (Pentecostal). Pentecostal churches represent close to 10 percent of all Christians. Sectors of the Christian churches and Christian groups have been supportive of the struggle for social justice, in cooperation with the ecumenical movement and the WCC.

Request for prayer – Chiltern Skills & Enterprise Centre/Wycombe Grange

Jesus said: "come with me by yourselves and get some rest" (Mark 6:31)

Chiltern Skills and Enterprise Centre (CSEC) is a new learning centre located in Chesham that provides alternative mainstream education for 11 to 16 year old children who are at risk of being excluded or permanently excluded from school. CSEC is a secular school and is part of The Wycombe Grange Pupil Referral Unit and has students from all over Buckinghamshire. They teach vocational subjects including Motor Mechanics, Construction, Plumbing, Catering, Horticulture and Countryside Skills as well as Art, Science, English and Maths to name a few.

The aim of CSEC is not only to create a learning environment but also to create a sensory and quiet garden for their own students and the students from Heritage House School; their students suffer from severe mental and physical disabilities.

John Avery is tutor of Horticulture and Countryside skills at the school and is at present developing their outside garden. He is also a committed Christian who believes that Jesus changes lives.

The Christian Charity "The Quiet Garden Trust" fully endorses the aim and has visited their school. They hope to work together in creating the garden so that the students have an opportunity to be still, to reflect upon creation and understand the value of stillness and peace.

The Quiet Garden Trust and John Avery are seeking support:- they are asking for prayer for the students who suffer from many complex issues. They are also seeking financial help to create the garden. They need to establish disabled access pathways, a pond, retaining walls as well as planting the entire garden. They hope to raise £15,000 to make the garden possible.

If anyone would like more information, or would like to contact John Avery, please talk to Kate.

Morning worship – songs

With the worship band helping us explore new songs of worship from time to time, the Worship Planning Group thought it worth asking if members of the congregation would like to suggest particular modern songs (anything from 1970 onwards!) that we can learn or sing afresh.



If you would like to suggest a song please talk to Marian D or Joy S.

Love thy neighbour !

Would all users of the premises please bear in mind that we have neighbours - on both sides of the church premises. When we arrive or leave either the Sanctuary or Crendon Hall, please have some consideration for those who live nearby and act in the same manner as we would wish others to do at our own homes.

Trinity Bookworms

We meet on Wednesday November 1st - at 2pm. We shall be discussing "The Suspicions of Mr Whicher" by Kate Summerscale



A short note about Sunday coffee money. If I am not in church please give the collection money to Sue T for safe keeping. Thank you.

Blessings Anne x

SUMMARY OF CHURCH MEETING HELD 16TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Introduction: Kate Y confirmed she will lead church meetings until we get a minister, as it had been agreed with our Interim Moderator the Revd John Mackerness that he would only be involved with us and Cores End when we have the name of a potential minister before us. (The Synod Moderator would not declare our vacancy unless we had an Interim Moderator so it was decided we could cope.)

1. **Community Partnerships:** Marian D spoke about her work with the Saturday Café and the Thursday Pop-in which fits with our Vision2020 priorities of Community Partnerships, Hospitality & Diversity, Spirituality & Prayer.
2. **Finance & M&M:** Sue T updated us on our finances, and Kate mentioned the new Ministry & Mission Fund (M&M) leaflet, confirming that what we pay goes towards paying for new ministers' training, ongoing ministers' training, their stipends and pensions. Because the URC pays its ministers centrally, this means that churches still pay their M&M during a vacancy so that other ministers get trained and paid!
3. **Spirituality & Prayer:**
 - a) **Pastoral Update/news of the family:**
Not included in this version
 - b) **News from Churches Together:**
 - i. Good Friday Walk of Witness will start at 11.15 prompt. Same route as this year. Followed by praise service in The Swan – no charge – from 12.30-2.30.
 - ii. Christmas 2014: There will be an "Angel Trail" like last year's Sheep Trail in local shops
 - iii. Sharing of news:
 - Father Willie Strain of St Augustine's has retired and moved away. Monsignor Paul Donovan arrives in October. Father John Bernard is covering as priest at present.
 - Quakers redeveloping their burial ground (garden at top of Railway Place car park) as a peace garden. They are also having an Open Day on Saturday 1st October.
 - "The Cry" concert by Adrian Snell at All Saints, Sat 22nd November
 - Relaunch of Wycombe Workplace Chaplaincy
 - Salvation Army – building works completed. Have launched Messy Church on a Sunday.
4. **Hospitality & Diversity:**
 - a) **Same-sex marriage – notice of future church meeting discussion:** Kate referred to discussions at General Assembly where no decision was made. Synods are asking local churches to discuss (not vote) by March whether the URC should permit local churches who wish to conduct same-sex marriages to do so. Any decision nationally does not mean that local churches have to do so. There is a booklet available shortly (also available in PDF). Our meeting will probably be in January, led by a facilitator. More details to come.
5. **Property**
 - a) **Quinquennial repairs update** – still awaiting start date (builders' project manager has been ill).
 - b) **Manse garden sale** – still under discussion. Please see church meeting minutes for details.
 - c) **Church cleaning** – Dawn Cornwall has resigned as cleaner at the top end of the building. Michelle Butler has taken on some of the upstairs cleaning, with reduced scope. Let Kate know of any problem. Thanks to Dawn for her years of service.

AOB

1. Would you like the worship band to play particular modern songs? Talk to Marian & Martin Drake
2. Struggling to get to church meeting in autumn/winter? Talk to Kate to arrange lifts.
3. Have one of our winter church meetings after Sunday service instead of a Tuesday evening? Kate is seeking views and Elders will discuss this.

Closing Prayer

*[Date of next Church Meeting: **Tuesday 18th November 2014**]*



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

Free NHS Healthcheck

at Trinity United Reformed Church
Wednesday 22nd October from 9.30 am to 4 pm

JUST TURN UPI



You are eligible for the NHS Health Check if:

You are between 40 - 74 years old.

You are resident in Buckinghamshire or registered with a Buckinghamshire GP

You have not had an NHS Health Check within the last 5 years.

You are not already diagnosed with or currently taking medication for: Stroke or TIA (mini stroke) / Heart Disease or Heart failure / Diabetes / Kidney Disease / High Blood Pressure / Atrial Fibrillation / High Cholesterol / Heart Attack

See noticeboard for more details.

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

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

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

prayer page

October, mid-autumn, the summer days are over, the nights draw in, the clocks go back and winter approaches. Thank you, Lord, for the brilliant reds, oranges and yellows of the leaves of the trees and the bright red of the hips and haws which brighten up this time and provide food and shelter for insects, birds and mammals living in the hedgerows as they prepare for the cold to come. Thank you too, lord, for the harvest of the fields which sustains human life. In Jesus' name,

Amen

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2014

Lord of the Harvest, we pray for all those responsible for harvesting the things we need in our everyday life.

We pray for the farmers and for the workers on the land whose livelihoods are at risk if the crops are poor. We pray that they may be alert and skilful in their handling of the machinery which today is used in the fields.

We pray for fishermen facing the perils of the sea who are finding it difficult to bring home a worthwhile catch.

We pray for miners of coal and the minerals we need. Some spend long hours under the ground with all the dangers that brings. We remember the quarrymen handling explosives and pray they may work with care.

We pray for those who work on oil-rigs and at oil-wells. May they always follow safety procedures and may these be sufficient to guard against disaster.

We thank you, Lord, for all these and all other workers who use their time and skill to bring the gifts of your earth to us. We pray in Jesus' name,

As we thank you, Lord, for the harvest in this country and town we remember those places where there is little or no harvest because of drought, flood or war. We pray for all organisations which bring relief to the war-torn and the refugee. We thank you for those who help struggling farmers and families by teaching them better ways of cultivating their land and ensuring a fair price for their products.

Amen

Lord Jesus we pray for our church as a body of the labourers you have sent to gather the spiritual harvest. In this time of inter-regnum we thank you for the commitment and inspiration of our Elders keeping us true to our vision as they lead us into the future which will be full of change and surprises. With you beside us we go forward with faith.

Amen

