



September 2004

The Recorder

Inside - this month . . .

Pastoral letter	2	Christian Aid	8 - 10
Services & Rotas	3	History	11
What's on?	4,6 and more!	Prayer Page	14
The wider church	7		

*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

'Happy New Year!'

Rev. Michael Shrubsole

Minister of Trinity United Reformed Church

It may not be January the first, but for many of us, in many ways, this is the beginning of a new year. For pupils, students and teachers this is the start of an academic new year. For adult education classes this is the start of a new year. For many farmers, with the summer harvest safely in, this is the end of one growing season and it is now time to begin the field preparations for a new growing season. In church life and fellowship together, as the holiday season comes to an end, so attendance at worship and church events improves and the cycle of meetings and activities picks up momentum again.

It was the same back in the time of Jesus and the ancient Jews. Their annual calendar could also seem to have more than one beginning of a 'new year' in it. There was one tradition of celebrating 'new year' in the Spring, at the start of their month Nisan, as the 'latter rains' fell, the ground warmed up and the main growing season for many crops got under way. But there was also a tradition of celebrating 'new year' in the autumn, in the middle of their month Tishri, at this time many major harvests had been gathered in, the 'early rains' began to fall, and the ground was ploughed and was prepared for the sowing of wheat and barley in the following weeks. For Jews the autumn 'new year' was the bigger celebration, it featured an eight day festival called 'Tabernacles' or 'Booths'. (See Exodus 23, Leviticus 23, Deuteronomy 16, Numbers 29.) Jews were commanded to travel to Jerusalem and camp out in shelters for the eight days, whilst attending extravagant sacrificial ceremonies in the temple. Their New Year celebrations at this time make our church harvest celebrations seem very tame by comparison.

Modest though it is, at this New Year period we mark the start of a new season in the church in various ways. The children of Junior Church are promoted to new classes and groups. We organise a harvest service to celebrate the productivity of God's good earth. And we sign-up and commit ourselves to attend various activities refreshed and ready to take on new commitments. I don't know anyone in our church whose life is tightly bound to the passing agricultural seasons of the farming year. It is easy to fall into the bland and deadening trap of considering all days alike. I think it is good and healthy to vary the pace of life and to use certain events as a 'pick-me-up' to revitalise our life and activity. You may be tempted to feel that 'harvest' doesn't mean very much for you as a marker in the passing of the year. But I would like to encourage you to think about how you might use this season of the year to dedicate yourself to a new sense of beginning and purpose for the months ahead.

Do celebrate a 'new year' for your self and work out what new opportunities, commitments and activities this new season holds for you. From the perspective of the Minister of the church, I of course, always hope that any rededication that you do might include a deeper commitment to discover what God and the church might be holding out to you, and what you in your turn can offer in service to God and others through the life and ministries of the church.

Mike

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Rev Michael Shrubsole,

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September Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

Children of all ages meet for part of morning worship using the SALT material from Scripture Union. Adult worship usually follows the texts of the Revised Common Lectionary.

5th September - Morning Worship with Communion.

Luke 14:25-33, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Philemon 1-21 Psalm 1

12th September - Morning Worship.

Luke 15:1-10, Exodus 32:7-14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Psalm 51

19th September - Morning Worship.

Luke 16:1-13, Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Psalm 113

26th September - Harvest Sunday Celebration. All-age Worship.

Isaiah 65:17-25, Mark 4:3-8, 26-33

Rotas for September

Not included in this version

What's on in September



- Monday 13th September - All welcome for a chat, and discussion of dates etc for the new session.
(8pm. in the Lower Schoolroom)
- Monday 27th September - Bring along your gifts for our stall at the October Fayre (for pricing)
(8pm. - in the Lower Schoolroom)

WOMEN'S MEETING

- Tuesday 14th Sept Welcome back meeting
- Tuesday 21st Sept Rev Bill Hewis - Area Representative of The Leprosy Mission. Everyone welcome.
Collection for TLM and items for sale
- Tuesday 28th Sept Readings and Hymns for Harvest



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Scrabble

How dull have your brains become over the "summer"?

Time to hone them again.

10th and 24th September

at 2pm - 21 Westover Road



Church Walk

There is no Church Walk arranged for this month, but there is a Ramblers' Association walk on Saturday 25th September, easy paced, 3½ miles from Wendover Station at 10.30am. All are very welcome.

More details from Olive Shepherd.

A few financial highlights:

* Gift Day raised £2211.75

* Offertory, at £19261.75, is c. £600 ahead of budget, year to date

* Appeals paid: Commitment for Life £200; Sudan Fund £152.50; CWM £27.35

Let's keep up the good work.

I an B

Not included in this version

BIBLE READING AIDS & PRAYER HANDBOOKS 2005

'Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God' (Romans 10.17)

I am currently taking orders for the following, which are the most popularly used Bible Reading & Prayer Aids:

URC PRAYER HANDBOOK Advent 2004-2005 'Unwrapping the Kingdom'

This follows the pattern of the Revised Common Lectionary. Contains prayers, suggested Bible readings, thought provoking texts.

Starts at Advent, 28 November. Priced at £3.50 it's excellent value.

This year a Loose Leaf version with Binder is available for £5.75, Inserts only £2.50.

LIGHT FOR OUR PATH (I.B.R.A.)

A popular book of readings and commentaries. Covers the whole year. Price approx: £7

DAILY BREAD (S.U.)

A quarterly publication of daily readings with commentary. Price approx: £2.95 per quarter

Other aids are available, please ask me & I'll endeavour to meet your requirements.

Please inform me of your requirements as soon as possible.

Thank you

Marian M

What is happening on 2nd October ... ?

Diary

CHURCH DIARY DATES FOR SEPTEMBER

Open Church Afternoon - The Church will be open for a Milling Day. **Sunday 5th**. Open Sanctuary and refreshments in the Schoolroom. Please come and support us.

Bible Study - The Monday morning Bible Study Group restarts at 10.00 am on **6th September** at 21 Westover Road. Old and new friends are welcome to attend.

Elders Meeting - **Tuesday 7th**, 7.30pm. in the Schoolroom

Chiltern District Council Meeting **Wednesday 8th**, 7.30pm.

Coffee Morning - **Saturday 11th**, 10.30-12.00am. In the Schoolroom.

Youth Fellowship 'That Lot' - **Restarts Sunday 12th, 6.30pm at Sunnybank Methodist Church**

Worship Forum - **Tuesday 14th**, 8.00pm. in the Schoolroom. See page 9 for more information.

Church Meeting - **Tuesday 21st**, 8.00pm In the Schoolroom. ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEMPT TO ATTEND THEIR CHURCH MEETING. ABSENT MEMBERS ARE MISSED!

Harvest Sunday - **26th September** - Worship at 10.30am. Followed by Harvest Lunch in the Schoolroom. More details on page 8.

Property Management Committee - **Tuesday 28th**, 8.00pm in the Schoolroom

CHURCH DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER

New Church Event!

Tuesday 12th October. 8.00pm in the Schoolroom

Watch out for further information to come soon. A new church theological discussion group. Listen - Learn - Discuss - Debate.

Subject for Meeting One: "Who was the real Jesus?" A consideration of alternative points of view. See Mike or Arthur for further information.

Harvest Gifts - Sunday 26th September

Cash gifts will go to the Christian Aid harvest appeal to help set up farmers returning to their land after the end of the civil war in Sierra Leone.

This year we are trying a new venture for our harvest gifts. The two hostels at the bottom of Amersham Hill have requested help providing 'start-up' food packs for new people moving into their hostels, or moving on to new accommodation units. When someone moves in for the first time they probably have not had a fixed address previously and may not have been in receipt of benefits. They usually move in with virtually nothing. We thought we would try to respond to this request. A shoe box full of simple food items would be a good starter kit for a single young man. Either bring a shoe box you have filled yourself, or bring loose items ready to put into a shoe box. (Also, spare, empty shoe boxes might be useful if you have any!)

What do we need? Everything must have a long shelf life. It must be easy to cook or warm up. Here are some ideas: Snack pot; tin or packet of soup; tins of macaroni cheese, sausage and beans, meat balls, spaghetti hoops, tuna etc; small packet of rice or pasta; single portion box of cereal; jar of marmalade; small jar of coffee; small box of tea-bags; dried milk; packet of biscuits; bar of chocolate; packet of gum. A box containing items like this will only need some fresh bread and milk added to it to keep someone going for a few days. (M.S.)

OTHER DATES

Nurturing the Open Church - The Emerging Church

Saturday 11th September

9.30-12.30am.

Exploring new and alternative ways of 'being' church.

Guest speakers: Lorne Campbell (Youth for Christ), Revd Trish Davis, Revd David Downing.

See poster on noticeboard for further details

Pastoral Care

A six week course, starting 17th September

Fridays 7.30-9.30pm

Cost £30

Venue: Union Baptist Church

Mike says: "This looks good."

See poster on noticeboard for further details

Training the Trainers

Saturday 18th September

Bromley-by-Bow Centre, London

If you are involved in teaching or leading adult groups in the church then this day is for you.

See poster for further details.

Synod Resources Fair

Thursday 30th September

11.00am-3.00pm

Regents Square Church

Keynote Speaker: Revd Dr David Cornick

See July edition or noticeboard for all other details.

Making the Bible Dangerously Real

Led by Rob Lacey, author of 'The Street Bible'

Sunday 10th October

2.30-6.45pm

Crossway URC, Elephant and Castle, London.

See poster for further details.

Thames North Synod - Autumn Academy

15-17th October

St Katherine's Foundation

Limehouse, East London

A residential weekend. (Day visitors also welcome.)

Cost £100, with £50 subsidy available for all who wish to apply.

Guest speakers: Bishop Laurie Green, author Vaughan Jones, Moderator Revd Roberta Rominger.

See poster for further details.

... in the Crendon Hall ...

Strange though it may seem, as far as the editor is aware, there has been no collusion amongst three of the contributors to this month's Recorder - but there is an unusual theme of Christmas and New Year appearing. Having already read the Minister's letter on page 2, have some more!

Christmas Greetings!

After discussions at Church meeting and Elders, it has been decided that this year, instead of the Trinity post box, we could try and send our Christmas greetings to each other in a different way. There are, at the moment two ideas; either one large card that we all sign or a board that individuals leave one card on for the whole church. Either way you will not need so many Christmas cards (if you decide to send your greetings this way) and the money saved could be collected and given to a charity of the churches choosing.

Details to follow nearer Christmas!!

Julia S

An appeal for help

We are trying to come up with a different arrangement for lighting the church for the Carols by Candlelight service on December 19th. We have the metal candleholders, which we normally place on boards down the centre of the church, but we need these modified or new ones made. Are you any good at metalwork, or do you know any else who is? If you have any information or ideas would you please have a word with me as soon as possible. I know December seems a way off at the moment, but these things have a habit of rushing up on us.

Thank you.

ML

HARVEST LUNCH SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26th

As the bring and share harvest lunch has not been so popular over the last couple of years, we have decided to try something different. On Harvest Sunday we will be offering a roast lunch for £5 per head. This will be served in the Lower Schoolroom so numbers will be limited to 32. A sign up list will be available on Sunday 5th September, so if you would like to join us, make sure you put your name on the list.

Thank you

ML

... at 7.30 for an 8pm start ...

Worship Forum - Tuesday 14th September

8.00pm in the Schoolroom.

The Elders are calling a one-off meeting of a Church Worship Forum to allow members and adherents an opportunity to discuss worship in the life of the church. We want to hear your views.

Lots of questions come to mind: If you think things are perfect as they are, come and say so. But with the ending of evening worship earlier in the year - what do you think about that? The Minister has been following the lectionary Bible readings for three years now, what do you think about that? Is our style too casual, or too stiff and traditional? All-age worship seems to be a success story for our church, but could it be better? Are enough people taking part in worship, does Mike say too much, are we ignoring talent and if so how do we encourage new worship-ping talent to blossom? What do you think of the music? Too many old hymns, or too many new songs? What do you think of our musicians and how do you feel after two years without a regular organist/choirmaster?

Finally should we be focussing exclusively on Sunday at 10.30am, or are their other times (and places?) in the week where we should be trying to help make new acts of worship happen?

It could be that in the circumstances we are doing things just about as well as we can be, but it is good to check once in while and feel the pulse of worship which is the beating heart of the fellowship. This is not a meeting with an agenda. This is a chance to talk and to listen to one another as we review an important part of our life together. Please come and be a part of this Forum for one evening only. The Minister would be pleased to receive written comments from those who cannot attend, but this would be a second best substitute; your attendance and your sharing are the things that will help make this Forum a worthwhile experience. (M.S.)

Assembly snippets:-

Greener Church

Despite the fact that the state of our planet was one of the most serious concerns we had, it was six years since we last looked seriously at this issue. Church and Society Convener Martin Camroux told Assembly. Other denominations, especially the Methodists and Baptists were engaged in the same process and we acknowledged a debt to them because we have borrowed from their polices.

The time had come, he argued, to make hard choices about practical issues such as energy usage and transport. At the moment it was the poorest in the world who were paying for our profligacy. Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed a new policy paper setting out challenging guidelines for the whole Church in environmental matters.

Turn the page to find out !!!!!!!

What could you be doing on Saturday 2 October?

- a) Enjoying an authentic Indian curry
- b) Having a great evening with your friends
- c) Winning a prize
- d) All of the above

Join us for our quiz and curry night

Tables of 8 @ £15 per person

See Marieke, Jan and Andrew for more details
or call Jan and Andrew on 01494 461339 or Marieke on 01491 462263



Tickets do NOT have to be purchased in blocks of 8. Buy as many or as few as you want. Teams of 8 will, however, be guaranteed a table.

Our history

Chapter 5 of the writings of Rev Auty in 1924

Chapter V.

THE Rev. W. Miller, who served the Church from 1789 till 1807, was, like several of his predecessors, a fine scholar, and acted as tutor to the eldest son of the first Lord Carington.

We now arrive at the time when a secession, more lasting than that of 1799-1801, led to the establishment of a second Congregational Church in Wycombe whose separate existence extended over three quarters of a century. Its history will be told later; it is sufficient here to say that soon after the appointment in 1807 of the Rev. Andrew Horn to the Crendon-street pulpit, that minister, with some of his congregation, withdrew and formed another church at Ebenezer Chapel. Mr. Horn's place was filled in 1809 by the election of the Rev. Jacob Snelgar, who filled the Crendon-street pulpit for three years,

On Mr. Snelgar's resignation in 1812 the Rev. William Judson, of Saffron Waldon, accepted a call to Wycombe, and began a long and successful pastorate. He was minister till 1846, when he resigned, being- allowed by the Church an annuity of £100 and the use of the manse for life. He died in 1851, at the age of 81. From 1844 till 1846, the Rev. G. W. Conder had acted as co-pastor with Mr. Judson, but he also left in 1846, on an invitation to Ryde.

The Rev. Wm. Roberts (1847-50) and the Rev. Henry Winzar (1851-7) were the next two ministers.

In the last named year a minister was chosen who will be remembered with respect and affection by some Wycombe people—the Rev, Thomas Henry Browne. A native of Warminster, he had become a village preacher at the early age of 16. After collegiate training at Highbury he accepted a call to Deal, and removed thence to Stowmarket, and then to Wycombe. An eloquent and thoughtful preacher, he was also a man of high culture, deeply versed in science, and a member of more than one learned body, There are many in this neighbourhood who can recall the prominent part he played in the gatherings of the local Natural History Society, often held at his house. His wife-was a relative of the celebrated painter Gainsborough, after whom their only son was named. Mr. Browne resigned in 1874, and thenceforward till his death in 1888 " he lived in Wycombe in comparative seclusion, pursuing scientific research and preaching for all denominations." (Summers).

Assembly snippets:-

Open Church

The Communications Committee seemed to catch Assembly's imagination with a resolution calling for the more effective use of information technology in the Church. The resolution called for documents, other than those which are confidential, to be made openly available on the internet, for new facilities to allow those carrying out work at the local level to talk to each other, and for a common framework of email addresses within the Church.

AUTUMN FAYRE

Saturday 9th October

2 o'clock - 4 o'clock

TOMBOLA STALL

CAKE STALL

BOTTLE STALL

NIGHTBIRDS' GIFT STALL

SOFT TOY STALL

LEGO, COLOURED PENS, SWEETS & JAM JARS for LUCKY DIP

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROCERIES STALL

ERICA'S MATCHBOXES

If you can help on a stall or bring items for the above, we shall be very grateful. As you can see, we have changed the start time this year. We are hoping to see everyone there - please come and support us, even if it's just for cake and a cup of tea.

Remember, we need funds for our Disabled Access improvements.

Assembly snippets:-

Life-giving Church

The new *Assets for Life* pack had an impressive send-off at Assembly by none other than the Prime Minister's personal envoy to British faith communities, John Battle MP.

In a rousing speech Mr Battle commended *Assets for Life* as a practical tool for engaging with local communities and urged the United Reformed Church to share it widely with ecumenical partners. He complimented the URC for going further than any other denomination in embodying the importance of community work within its structures through the creation of the post of Church-related Community Worker.

Angry Church

The Revd Neil Thorogood introduced a resolution on behalf of the Church and Society Committee expressing the indignation of the Church over the separation barrier currently being built by the government of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The course of cuts off much of the most fertile Palestinian land, effectively annexing large areas of Palestinian land. People were being cut off from their land, their work, their families. Israel, he argued, had the right to protect itself but not by destroying the lives of others. The current course of the barrier, however, was not a protection, it was a provocation.

After a number of speakers had shared their own experiences of the damage being done, Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed the resolution.

Committed Church

Introducing a resolution on the elimination of world poverty, *Commitment for Life* director Anne Martin told Assembly that only eight countries in Africa were on course to meet the internationally agreed Millennium Development goals, which seek to eliminate the worst effects of poverty by 2015. The situation was urgent and we had to do something to 'make poverty history'. Development agencies (and others) were coming together to ensure that 2005 is a turning point, with a campaign focussing on trade justice and a doubling of aid. There will be a campaign of 'ballots' showing politicians that people care about trade justice - we have undertaken to provide 10,000 from the URC. We would also be campaigning for a commitment from the government on the date when we shall achieve the target of 0.7% of gross domestic product given in aid. Last but not least, Assembly enthusiastically recommitted the Church to *Commitment for Life* for a further four years.

There's more background information, including the full text of the Moderator's Address and other documents, plus pictures of Assembly, on the URC website at www.urc.org.uk/hotline - and you can read full reports of the debates in the September edition of Reform

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

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

Prayer Page

(Prepared by the minister)

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2004

If there is one source of prayers which I most like to read aloud and contemplate, it must be those that come from our Celtic tradition. They comprise two sorts: English translations of ancient prayers recorded originally in Latin or Gaelic, and modern compositions in similar style.

To start the day:

God of the dawning,
Christ of the sea,
Spirit, giver of breath to me,
Trinity blessed, all praise to thee,
Giving this day of newness to me.
Bless me today, body and soul,
Bless me today and keep me whole,
Bless me today in all that I do,
Bless my powers, they come from you.
David A dam

To invite God to be with us:
Come Lord, come light, come love.
Come down, come in, come among us.
Come presence, come peace, come power.
Come down, come in, come among us.
Come grace, come glory, come goodness.
Come down, come in, come among us.
Come creator, come redeemer, come strengthener.
Come down, come in, come among us.
Come Father, come Son, come Spirit.
David A dam

For our daily activity:
Lord, whatever we build,
give us a glimpse of glory.
Whatever we make,
give us a sense of wonder.
Wherever we travel,
give us a sense of reverence.
Whoever we meet,
give us a sense of awe.
Whatever we do,
give us a sense of achievement.
Whatever our situation,
give us knowledge of you.
David A dam

To seek laughter:

I have had enough of sad saints and sour religion.
I have had enough of sin spotting and grace doubting.
I need some laughter, Lord.
The kind you planted in Sarah.
But please, may I not have to wait until I am ninety and pregnant.
Church of Scotland

For mealtimes:

Bread is a lovely thing to eat,
God bless the barley and the wheat.
A lovely thing to breath is air,
God bless the sunshine everywhere.
The world is a lovely place to know,
God bless the folk that come and go.
A live is a lovely thing to be,
Giver of live we say, Bless Thee.
A nonymous

To end the day:

May god bless us
In our sleep with rest,
In our dreams with vision,
In our waking with a calm mind,
In our souls with the friendship of the Holy Spirit
This night and every night. Amen.
Wild Goose Resources Group

