



September 2005

The Recorder

Inside - this month . . .

Pastoral letter	2	MPH	7 - 9
Services & Rotas	3	Letters	10 - 11
What's on?	4 , 12	Prayer Page	14
Vacancy	5		

*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

An Introduction

Rev Andrew Busby

Interim Moderator

I am writing to introduce myself as your new interim moderator and to say a few things about this time ahead when you are without a minister.

So who am I?

I am the minister of Amersham Free Church, a joint URC/Baptist church in an ecumenical covenant with the St Michael's Anglican Church and St John's Methodist Church in Amersham-on-the-Hill. So I function as both a Baptist and a URC minister, although I am in fact a Baptist.

I have been at Amersham since 1998, and love it. I had the privilege of having Alan Kirkcaldy as my associate minister for five years, and Erna Stevenson became my colleague earlier this year. Over the years we have been encouraged by overall growth, despite being a traditional church with many older members (but some of them are new!). In 2000-1 I was interim moderated at Holmer Green Baptist Church and 2001-2 at Chorleywood Free Church. From 2002-5 I have been doing an MA in Christian Spirituality.

Before Amersham I was at Pinner United Free Church (Baptist) for fourteen years, and for thirteen years before that at a Baptist Church in Leytonstone, East London. I started young in the ministry; I have completed 34 years, and am still only just 56! I have been twice a hospital chaplain, twice a part-time teacher, and three times a school governor. In Pinner I also did a regional ministry job in several London boroughs.

And my family? My wife Angela is a radiographer four days a week (we both have Thursday off – please note!). We have four grown-up children: Rachel (31) is a social worker with the mentally ill in North London; James (29) is a drum-and-bass music entrepreneur in Nottingham; Patrick (27) is a mechanical engineer, working locally; Hannah (22) is a student of international relations & Chinese at Leeds University.

And the task at Trinity?

I am looking forward to it. I am expecting to be with you each month, unless unavoidably prevented for elders' and church meetings, and to be able to take a few services. In fact Amersham Free Church has taken responsibility for one service each month; it will either be me, or Erna Stevenson, or one of our lay teams (which we started five years ago and are now are in great demand – about 50 of our people are involved). I think the elders will have routine pastoral care well organised, but I can be called upon by your church secretary in more exceptional circumstances.

You will have to put me in the picture as to exactly how the URC works, but my understanding is that, in these days of ministerial shortage, a small group of senior people from the District will soon meet with the elders to assess what percentage of a minister Trinity will be eligible for. It may be 100% but we certainly cannot take that for granted. Alongside this we will set to work in thinking about the church's needs and mission potential and in prayerfully discerning the kind of ministry which is needed to take the church forward. I cannot overemphasise how important it is that we all pray often about this. It is God's church, and God in Christ who calls us.

I want to be of service to you, not merely in helping to keep things ticking over but encouraging ways of moving forward during this time of ministerial vacancy. From all that I have heard so far Trinity has a lot going for it, but the saying 'The church is only one generation away from extinction' is never more true than right now. Neither a building scheme nor a new minister will automatically halt decline or bring growth. There are exciting and challenging times ahead.

Andrew Busby

Minister :

Church Secretary:

e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

September Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

Sept 4th - Communion - Revd Geoff Bending

Sept 11th - Commitment for Life Sunday - Ms Hilary Blake. [Hilary is from Christian Aid]

Sept 18th - All Age Worship Dr & Mrs Frew [Dr Frew is a URC Lay Preacher who led worship for us last year. Mrs Frew is a former Moderator of the General Assembly. They are Linda Curley's parents.]

Sept 25th - Mr John Shaw. Mr Shaw is URC lay preacher and works for Oxfam

Rotas for September

What's on in September . . .



Monday 12th Sept - "Welcome Back"
(8pm. Hostess - Ellen M)

Monday 26th Sept - Wait and see!!
(or "To be arranged" - whichever you prefer!)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 6th Sept

Welcome Back & Faith Tea

Tuesday 13th Sept

Sylvia Rotherham -

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Tuesday 20th Sept

Mrs Beryl Peaty and the Wesley Singers

Tuesday 27th Sept

Autumn and Harvest. Bring & Buy

All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom



2nd, 16th and 30th September

Scrabble

First chance since the summer breezes
have refreshed the brain cells.

Church Walk

There is no organised walk this month.



Preparing For And Moving Into Vacancy

The Elders met in early August to consider the issue of Continuity (ideally sustained growth) during the vacancy as we seek to continue to develop the three strands of our Vision as a Worshipping, Nurturing and Extending Family Church. Part of our aim is to ensure effective communication to the Fellowship and this missive hopefully starts that process.

On the subject of **Worshipping**, for example, we have a rich variety of visiting or internal preachers / worship leaders scheduled through to the end of 2005, including our Interim Moderator, Andrew Busby, Minister in Charge at Amersham Free Church, who will be leading Morning Worship with Communion on 2nd October. Everyone will have an opportunity to meet Andrew, at coffee, after that service.

Several people will be involved in the production and photocopying of Orders of Service and Notices for the coming week or forthcoming events should be with Margaret L by 6 pm latest on the Wednesday prior to Morning Worship.

Regarding **Nurturing** the Elders are concerned that Pastoral Care continues to be ministered to our folk, not least in times of crisis, e.g. serious illness or bereavement. If you need urgent pastoral support, you should in the first instance, contact your Elder or Pastoral Assistant who will endeavour to ensure that your needs receive priority attention.

Each of the major organisations has a nominated Elder and that person is responsible for providing pastoral support, e.g. Youth Group, Simon E; Women's Meeting, Margaret L; Brownies & Guides, Marian M; Junior Church, Sue S.

Our present **Extending** activities are best illustrated by Café Days, which will continue to receive pastoral support from Audrey B and Andrew Busby has asked the Elders to consider how we might sustain our links with BUCC during the vacancy.

This Vacancy runs concurrently with the initial stages of our Building Development Project (including disability access), which should facilitate a quantum leap in the delivery of the three aspects of our Vision. What a challenge and what an opportunity!

The Elders met for a second time on Monday 22nd August to prepare for our imminent meeting with the District Pastoral Committee, a key pre-cursor to declaring the vacancy and hopefully securing 100% ministerial scoping for Trinity. In a lively, but thoughtful, "brainstorming" session we discovered, what Andrew Busby articulated as "**Our passion for work centred in the Gospel**". We cannot think of any better way to embark on this Vacancy and to use it as an opportunity for Renewal, Reflection and Discovery in our individual and shared ministries.

Ian B

On behalf of the Elders

From the Editor's chair . . .

Following on from the above article, there is one "small" aspect of the life of Trinity which may well show itself to be desperately missing the presence of a Minister - and that is The Recorder! This is the 94th edition which I have produced, starting not long before Mike came to us. In that time, he has been by far the most prolific contributor. Fortunately, this month we have several contributions from new and different sources, but we cannot just sit back and "hope" that someone else will do the necessary. It is up to YOU - yes, the person who is reading this right now! Don't be bashful. I am quite prepared to exercise the editorial knife quite harshly if you feel that your efforts might need some vicious pruning, but generally, I simply reproduce what is on offer. You can always remain anonymous if you prefer! Go on, spend a few moments during some evening, by the fireside, putting pen to paper.

Something to read

I have been given a number of new copies of a paperback book called "250 years of Chiltern Methodism", by Barry Sutcliffe and David C Church. It is nicely illustrated and full of interesting information about John Wesley and Hannah Ball, and gives a lot of facts and figures of local church interest.

The book is FREE, but the authors hope a contribution will be given to your own church funds or to your particular charity.

I shall be happy to pass on a copy to anyone who is interested.

Olivia P

Finance News

Gift Day total was £1527.90 which will be used towards completion of the refurbishment of the Lower School Room, including a new carpet.

The District Treasurer has proposed a reduction in our M&M payments for 2006, based on a new formula adopted by District Council, from £31271.12 in 2005 to £29500 in 2006. This will be brought to the September Church Meeting for approval.

Jan B

This is the parting contribution from Mike which could not be squeezed in last month. Some readers may have heard Rabbi Lionel Blue recount this on Radio 4 in the past fortnight. Had this been in last month's Recorder, we might have suspected he reads the Recorder for his material - but alas, that would not appear to be the case!

TRADITION

During a service at a synagogue when the Shema prayer was said, half the congregants stood up and half remained sitting.

The half that was seated started yelling at those standing to sit down, and the ones standing yelled at the ones sitting to stand up.

The rabbi, learned as he was in the Law and commentaries, didn't know what to do. His congregation suggested that he consult a housebound 98-year-old man, who was one of the original founders of their temple. The rabbi hoped the elderly man would be able to tell him what the actual temple tradition was, so he went to the nursing home with a representative of each faction of the congregation.

The one whose followers stood during Shema said to the old man, "Is the tradition to stand during this prayer?"

The old man answered, "No, that is not our tradition."

The one whose followers sat asked, "Is the tradition to sit during Shema?"

The old man answered, "No, that is not our tradition."

Then the rabbi said to the old man, "Please help us! The congregants fight all the time, yelling at each other about whether they should sit or stand."

The old man interrupted, exclaiming, "THAT is our tradition!"

August Newsletter from Anne Martin

MakePovertyHistory has not finished with the G8 Summit, it has not lost momentum. It is just preparing for the next major phase of activity in the autumn.

Below is the MakePovertyHistory newsletter (from the coalition) abridged. You will note the focus on Trade justice as the key part of the campaign in the latter part of the year, as we reveal how free trade is creating a new form of slavery for many poor nations.

- We have two key resources ready to help you pass on the messages: **Nine Lives** with stories and photos of people affected by unjust trade. Order more copies, so that lots of people get to read these stories. They only cost £1 each, and you will be helping to spread the word and to cover our costs. What action flows from that. Will your church follow up on one or more of the stories, using the websites given? Involve the children? The pictures can be downloaded from www.cforl.org.uk
- 'Praying for a change II - with the dates for the autumn, including harvest and One World Week when these issues can truly come before the Lord in prayer. Please note that the date of the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals is 14-16th Sept (not as printed!)
- Both these resources support the Resolution passed at General Assembly *"As part of the United Reformed Church's renewed commitment to challenging the world's injustices under Catch the Vision, General Assembly warmly welcomes the **MakePovertyHistory** campaign and calls on all relevant councils of the church to engage fully and imaginatively with the campaign actions for the remainder of the year"*

This is your mandate for action – your encouragement to renew our efforts for Christ's sake. Let us renew our energy to change, and restore God's economy and right relations in trade, so that all might have life.

Strength and power to all you campaigners.

Anne

From MakePovertyHistory (27th July 2005) abridged:

The main point to report is that MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY got extraordinary levels of media coverage around our event on July 2nd - 20 front-page mentions between 2nd and 7th July; 140 articles in major newspapers between 26th June and 10th July; 435 headline and lead paragraph mentions in national newspapers over the last three months. 350 members of the press registered in the media tent on 2nd July; the media team coordinated over 150 media interview requests, including CNN, MTV, STV, Newsnight (4), BBC News (5), ITN (5), Sky News (5), BBC Radio Five Live (7), BBC News 24 (10). This is an unprecedented level of media interest in global poverty issues, even recognising that Live 8, which undoubtedly helped to generate coverage before the event, overshadowed Edinburgh in the English press, and the London bombings meant a sharp decline in media space for the G8 communiqué on the Friday.

Over half a million subscribers visited the MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY website – ready to take email action and hold our Government to account on global poverty. Over 500,000 people in the UK have voted for Trade Justice in a special ballot.

The G8 outcome shows there is a need to carry the campaign on - the conclusions on all issues fall far short of the mobilisation's demands. Please take another look at the G8 press release from MakePovertyHistory which was circulated with the July newsletter.

The G8 Summit (www.g8.gov.uk) and the July General Council of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) (www.wto.org) both demonstrated once again just how entrenched rich countries are in resisting the need to act for trade justice. Many campaigns across the world will now be exerting much more public pressure on the governments blocking the way to make poverty history in trade negotiations. In the UK as Trade Justice moves centre stage within Make Poverty History and public campaigning intensifies as the WTO meeting in Hong Kong in December comes closer.

A youth friendly version of the G8 Summit Communiqué and the MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY response is being written. These resources will be available on the website from mid August, alongside feedback and new ideas for teachers.

After the G8 both the Treasury and International Development Select Committees held one off inquiries with Gordon Brown and Hilary Benn on the outcomes of the G8. See link below for the transcript of the Treasury meeting.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmtreasy/uc399-i/uc39902.htm>

The common misperception is that MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

- a) finished with the G8;
- b) that the G8 largely did what was needed on Africa and world poverty
- c) that poor countries have had all their debt cancelled (see below from the Jubilee Debt Campaign)

If you see reports in your local papers that give these kind of messages, then we encourage you to write letters of rebuttal and correction! This simply cannot be done as a central task - so if you see or read something that makes your blood boil, write a letter to the editor, or comment via the appropriate route, mention you are a member of MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY (if your point is in line with Make Poverty History agreed policy!) and if possible let Catherine Cullen know [catherine.cullen@actionaid.org]

Be prepared for more action in the next few months – Five months to go. There are a large number of advocacy meetings and opportunities coming up, including the World Bank and IMF annual meetings where the better aid and debt issues will play out strongly.

Key Dates:

White Band Day II (10 September) and White Band Day III (10 December) – two key ‘moments’. Please do all you can to get buildings and people appropriately swathed!

The UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals 14-16th September

Plans are being made to produce a high impact media stunt to coincide with the Summit in New York.

Trade Justice Mass Lobby of Parliament on November 2nd – see below.

The Vote for Trade Justice campaign aims to have over a million votes by UK citizens by 10th December, White Band Day 3, as part of a massive ongoing global call for action for trade justice. Trade Justice Movement member online versions of Vote for Trade Justice www.tjm.org.uk/action.shtml. White Band Day 3 will also build up campaign activity on AIDS around World AIDS day on 1st December.

[continued on page 9]

World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong 13-18th December.

At the same time there is the EU leaders' summit in the UK.

Mass Lobby for Trade Justice 2005

Preparations are now underway for a Trade Justice mass lobby of parliament on 2 November as part of MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY. The event will focus pressure on the UK Government to change its negotiating positions ahead of the WTO Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong. Simultaneous lobbies across Europe will be followed by a lobby of European institutions in Brussels on 8 November, particularly the trade officials of the European Commission and MEPs who are part of the EC Hong Kong delegation. The UK event will be the only major mass mobilisation for campaigners in the second half of this year. (for details on the background and international context, go to <<http://www.april2005.org/news17.htm>>).

PLEASE NOTE: These arrangements are still being negotiated with the authorities and have not yet been publicly announced so please do not release the date of the event yet. A formal announcement will be made as soon as it can be publicly confirmed.

For a background paper and information about how your organisation can get involved in the mass lobby contact Jenny Ricks, TJM Assistant Co-ordinator (jenny@tjm.org.uk <mailto:jenny@tjm.org.uk> or 020 7404 0530). If you can assist with promotion to your supporters then please contact Glen Tarman, TJM Coordinator (glen@tjm.org.uk <mailto:glen@tjm.org.uk> or 020 7404 0530).

Jubilee Debt Campaign is asking supporters to write to Gordon Brown and Hilary Benn to call for debt cancellation for all countries that need it, without economic policy conditions. <http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/act>.

IMF documents leaked to Jubilee Debt Campaign revealed that some European IMF directors (representing about 38 countries in total, both inside and outside Europe) are trying to change the new G8 proposal for debt cancellation in such a way that IMF debts would not be cancelled at all. Instead eligible countries would get additional grants to cover their debt service - these would be conditional on implementing economic policies determined by the IMF, and could be suspended at any time if the IMF considered the policies to go "off-track". Campaigners in both the South and North have protested at this attempt to deny indebted countries the debt cancellation they have been promised, and to impose further conditions: we had already complained that a serious weakness of the original G8 proposal is the fact that countries have to comply with economic policy conditions to qualify in the first place. (Only 18 qualify so far.) The UK government has replied to us saying that it intends the proposal to be implemented as stock cancellation without further conditions; Jubilee Debt Campaign and member agencies are pushing them to ensure that this is the case. [<http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/imfleak>]

Youth and Students Working Group has spent the last 7 months working very closely to engage more young people with the campaign. We have produced and circulated promotional postcards nationwide, designed web pages and organised the exciting, engaging and unique array of activities for the Gener8ion zone in the meadows. They have produced and sell the pants (PANTS TO POVERTY!) and the key bottle openers (the keys to the prison of poverty) at Edinburgh. The funds raised will be spent on further MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY events throughout the year including an Ethical club night on September 15th across London, Edinburgh, New York and possibly several southern locations focusing on Trade Justice and a young campaigners' weekend in December.

The pants available from the gener8ion page on the MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY website or feel free to link your site to the shop:

<http://shop.sandbag.uk.com/MakePovertyHistory/Store/DisplayAllCategories.html>

alternatively, for more information on our activities feel free to email us on wakupe@hotmail.co.uk

If you are into text messaging - please send me an email so that I can connect you the text messaging service.

Summer Treats

Many of you don't know me, as I do not belong to Trinity, but I have spent many happy friendly and interesting hours at the Womens' Meeting. We have a long summer break and during this time we have met by invitation at three different venues.

Our first treat was at the home of Olivia P. Here we sat very comfortably in the lounge and had a good natter. We then had tea, waited on by two of Olivia's friends – scones with jam and cream, other cakes and plenty of tea.

Our next invitation was to the Manse, courtesy of Michael and Louise. Here we were able to sit in the garden as it was very warm. Michael compiled two quizzes which were fun. Tea was served – more scones, jam and cream, cakes and biscuits and plenty of refills in the tea cups.

Our last call was to the lovely garden of Colin and Margaret L. Here again a warm sunny day allowed us to sit outside where there were petunias of every colour, and lovely fuchsias. We were waited on with sandwiches and cakes – and, of course, plenty of tea!

A big thank you to all three hosts, and to the drivers who support Olive. (Transport can be difficult) Thanks also to Olive for her organisation of all the events and activities throughout the year.

June L

From - Jim Tanner

I am not a member of your wonderful Church, and yet I feel part of it, regularly.

Olivia P delivers to my home an article to go in my High Wycombe column in the Bucks Free Press and she also includes The Recorder when it comes out, so I read it thoroughly when I receive it, and keep up with all the interesting news items, and print them as often as I can. I was privileged to open your Autumn Fayre last year and will be there again enjoying every minute and meeting everyone on Saturday 15th October.

What I like about the Trinity United Reformed Church is how friendly everyone is to each other and to me, Margaret L made me so welcome and when I attend the Civic Service in a different capacity, she looks after me there, as well. In the latest issue of The Recorder I was very touched by the letter from Audrey B, following fall down the steps of the organ loft and the kindness of her neighbour Elsje's sister, I have an article in my column this week about Elsje and Tony,

How kind was her neighbour to apart from looking after Audrey, but she mowed her lawns as well. I try and do my bit in Terryfield road by giving our neighbours tomatoes from my greenhouse and surplus runner beans, and I have since I retired in 1990 put away all the neighbours wheelie bins each week, as most of them are at work.

I have included again this week for Friday 12th August some more news from the Church, God bless you all and may I continue to serve the Church, through the columns of the Bucks Free Press,

Jim Tanner,

Who is my neighbour?

This last few weeks I've been feeling increasingly like Joseph (of Nazareth). As far as I can make out, Joseph was a decent hard working type of bloke - much as I try to be - and without seeking it - indeed without much option - he gets pitch-forked into sustaining and training God's Messiah through childhood and adolescence. I wonder whether, as he wandered round Jerusalem ('Oh sorry God, I've just lost your son') he felt this was actually a project he wanted to be part of. As many biblical characters would attest, being used by God isn't necessarily a lot of fun.

So why do I feel like Joseph? Because without wanting it, or looking for it, I have the feeling that - along with every other Christian in the land - I am being required to serve outside my comfort zone. With the media bent on polarising current tensions, and characterising them in "Islam versus everyone else" terms, it is the pressing responsibility of all those of us in the faith communities to expose this for the grotesque distortion that it is.

I am not alone in feeling like this. I am also not alone in doing nothing about it (which is where any similarity between Joseph and myself ends). This is why I was particularly challenged by a 17 years old Muslim girl who, on her own initiative and at her family's expense, mounted an exhibition of Islamic calligraphy in our town's Guildhall recently. Her aim? To build bridges of understanding. I spent 40 fascinating minutes there and whilst I am never likely to accept her assertion that "God says the only acceptable lifestyle/religion is Islam", any more than she is ever going to accept my conviction that "No one comes to the Father except through Jesus", we will at least less often offend each other if we take time to learn what we mutually and separately hold dear, and why.

I suspect seeking to enhance understanding of Islam in Marlow, Bledlow or Penn would meet with limited success because, by and large, the good folk of those idylls encounter too few Muslims to appreciate why mutual understanding matters. Conversely seeking to promote interfaith understanding in Bradford or Southall would run into reciprocal problems. However, here in High Wycombe we are exceptionally well placed for our faiths to meet on equal, unthreatening terms, and for us to share factual doctrinal information without proselytising. (There is a time and place for that but here and now is not that time or place). If we did share in this way we would find vast tracts of areas of common concern in which we can unite and be a force for the good of society. Do not we all wish to see 'top shelf publications' actually confined to the top shelf? Do we not all want to teach our youngsters about fidelity and see curbs on the portrayal of all forms of immorality, which are too often presented as the norm on soap operas? Do we not all want secure, benignly supervised facilities for our children to relax and socialise but where alcohol and drugs are simply unavailable? Would not Muslim, Hindu, Christian and Sikh fathers like to be able to take their 6/7/8/9/10/11 year old sons into the Gents at the motorway services without having to field questions about why contraceptives are available in different flavours?

With our richly varied community and our social privileges in High Wycombe, I believe we, in the faith communities, are almost uniquely well positioned to lead our town - our nation even - along a path of mutual knowledge, understanding, tolerance and respect. I believe the calligraphy exhibition was an indication that our Islamic neighbours are seeking to reach out to 'us'. Are we ready and willing to make opportunities to shake the hands stretched out towards us, and to reach back in return?

Andy Saunders

[submitted to the Editor by e-mail]

Wycombe Swan - 24th September

Duggie Dug Dug's Praise Party Spectacular

11 am

All tickets £2.50.

An Evening Celebration

with Mike Pilivachi and Tim Hughes

7.30 pm

Tickets £4.50, concessions £2.50.

Hosted by Encounter in conjunction with Lighthouse Hazlemere, Soul Survivor, New Wine Networks, Xalt and Wycombe Youth for Christ. Sponsors The Entertainer toy shops and St Andrew's book shops. Tickets from the Swan on 01494 521000. See poster/leaflets for more information, or visit www.encounter-events.org.

For an occasional prayer and newsletter from Encounter please send a blank email to prayer@encounter-events.org.

Beware of your actions!

An honest man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman hit the roof, and the horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection. As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer.

The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said, 'I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'Choose Life' license plate, the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car.'

Murphy's Laws!

There are two types of dirt;

The dark kind - which is attracted to light objects; and the light kind - attracted to dark objects.

The shortest distance between two points is under construction.

The probability of someone watching you is proportional to the stupidity of your action.

Paper is always strongest at its perforations.

A linguistic nightmare?

There is a word that has more meanings in English than any other two-letter word, and that is "UP." How I admire those who succeed in mastering English as a second language!

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends And we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car. At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special. And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4th of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP When it rains, it wets UP the earth. When it doesn't rain for a while, things dry UP.

*One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so.....
Time to shut up.....!*

[Thanks again to Mike Shrubsole - who submitted this just a couple of days before he left. I don't think the last paragraph is to be taken personally!]

Sunday-school howlers:

The Agnus Dei is a woman composer of music..

An epistle is the wife of an Apostle.

The fast days are the days you have to eat in a hurry.

A layman is somebody who lays in bed on Sunday morning.

Parsimony is what the parson lives on.

Adultery is the sin of saying you're older than you really are.

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

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

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

prayer page
(submitted by Audrey Bruton)

S
e
p
t
e
m
B
e
R

2005

Christ lives in us
Galatians 2. 15 - 3. 9

God of yesterday

We remember all you were to us
and to our loved ones
with gratitude.
How can we forget
the faith of generations
in the family
in the church
through history
reaching back to Jesus
your expression of faith in us?

God of tomorrow

let us dream in hope
so that we will not fear
the passing years.
In your mercy
lead us through change:
love dying to be reborn
faith fading to flower again
out of sighs
songs rising
through your Spirit
may winter give way to spring.

God of today

guide us through the maze
of uncertainty and doubt.
Sustain us by experience of the past
and enthuse us with vision for the future
always,
by your Spirit
having faith in you
and in your Son.

