

Jesus said: "I am the vine, and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me." *John 15:5.*



September 2007

The Recorder

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*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

Dear friends,

It is still summer! Well, officially, at any rate, although it certainly hasn't seemed like summer with all the rain we have had. Rain is a sign of God's blessing – a sign that he will provide for us with all that is needed for our plants to grow and the harvest to be brought in. In June and July we were acutely aware of the excess of rain and severe flooding that many people had in so many parts of the UK, particularly in the north. That doesn't seem much like a blessing, even though we are not at risk of drought this year!

Some of you will have picked up on a news story that the Bishop of Carlisle had made a statement saying, "We are reaping the consequences of our moral degradation, as well as the environmental damage that we have caused." There was a lot of media furore about this and other statements by various bishops, some of which seem to have been misquoted.

I don't know about you, but I find that squaring this statement in general with that of a loving God thought-provoking and uncomfortable. But as I reflect on the overarching message of God's love – and judgement – throughout the Old and New Testaments, and how he sent prophet after prophet to continually urge his created people to turn from selfishness and self-centredness towards 'rightness', both in relationship with God and with the whole of creation, including human beings and our stewardship of the earth, this does resonate with me. As the Lord says in Jeremiah 9.24, *What I like best is showing kindness, justice, and mercy to everyone on earth.* We need discipline for our own and others' well-being.

Our society does seem to have become more frightened, aggressive, self-serving and hedonistic, on an accelerated path to self-destruction. But there is hope! Jesus the Messiah came into the world to teach us different and better ways of being, with the Holy Spirit to help us. We need to allow God to refresh and recharge us with the Great Commission, *"Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you."* To accompany this somewhat daunting and scary command, God says, *"I will be with you always, even until the end of the world."*

It is no accident that "disciple" has its root in "discipline". May this time of harvest – whether we have rain or shine – be a time when we allow God's Word in all its fullness to permeate our own spirits, and give us the confidence and sensitivity to let God disciple us so that his blessings are shared more equally in our world.



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September Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am - led by the Minister

- Sept. 2 Holy Communion, including highlights from Greenbelt
- Sept. 9 Racial Justice Sunday
- Sept. 16 Harvest Festival [All Age Worship]
- Sept. 23 Difficult Stories from Luke I: The Shrewd Manager
- Sept. 30 Difficult Stories from Luke II: The Rich Man and Lazarus

Rotas for September

Not included in this version

What's on in September



- 10 September 8pm Welcome back, Review & Planning (Hostess - Barbara Macleod)
- 24 September 8pm - Preparations for Autumn Fayre (in the Kate Smith Room)

WOMEN'S MEETING

- Tuesday 4th Sept Welcome Back and Faith Tea (Crendon Hall)
- Tuesday 11th Sept Please bring contributions for the Grocery Stall for the Autumn Fayre to be priced and stored (Crendon Hall)



From now on, all meetings will be held in the Friends Meeting House

- Tuesday 18th Sept Joan Smith - Holiday in Scarborough
 - Tuesday 25th Sept Animals of the Bible: Donkey and Horse
- All meetings start at 2.30pm*



Watch the dates again this month - they are not in the normal pattern.

Brains relaxed after the break? Time to get them working again
14th and 21st September
at 2pm

Diary Dates

- 1 Sept Elders' Day
- 4 Sept 8pm Elders' Meeting
- 11 Sept 8pm Church Meeting
- 15 Sept 6.30pm Harvest Supper (see page 9)
- 16 Sept Harvest Thanksgiving
- 22 Sept Coffee Morning
- 23 Sept 4.30pm Prayer Circle For Healing
- 1 Oct Bible First
- 2 Oct 8pm Elders' Meeting
- 6 Oct Autumn Fayre
- 6 Nov 8pm Elders' Meeting
- 8 Nov Moderator opens new west entrance
- 20 Nov 8pm Church Meeting
- 4 Dec 8pm Elders' Meeting
- 16 Dec Gift Service led by Junior Church
- 23 Dec 4.30pm Carol Service
- 24 Dec 11.30pm Midnight Communion
- 25 Dec 10.30am Family Worship

September

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30						

Not included in this version

BIBLE FIRST

Debate the biggest issue of the day. Check out the Bible as a first step. Encourage each other to do what it takes to save the planet. Chart our progress over 5 months.

BIBLE FIRST is a new opportunity to do just that. We will meet on the 1st day of the month, for 5 months. Using an exciting study guide, "On the Water's Edge", we will explore the issue of climate change through water. Starting each week with the Bible, we will get serious with God.

Why BIBLE FIRST? Three reasons:

1. As United Reformed Church people we say that "The highest authority for what we believe and do is God's Word in the Bible, alive for his people today through the help of the Spirit". So – the Bible is first in our search to know and do God's will.
2. Global warming/Climate change was recognised at our General Assembly this year as the greatest challenge facing the earth.
3. Meeting on the 1st day of the month is an easy date to remember and also it falls on a different day of the week each time, so people for whom a particular day is always impossible get a chance to come sometimes.

Open to all ages. Meet at the manse. Food provided.

October 1 st	Monday	6 – 8 p.m.
November 1 st	Thursday	6 – 8 p.m.
December 1 st	Saturday	8.30 – 10.30 a.m.
February 1 st	Friday	6 – 8 p.m.
March 1 st	Saturday	8.30 – 10.30 a.m.

Book a place each time by emailing, phoning or telling me no later than day before.



LIGHTHOUSE

It was wonderful on Sunday to say a little about the Lighthouse experience. It is such a huge event that we could only cover a little in the service so I thought I would take the opportunity to give an overview of the organisation and structure of the event in our church Magazine.

Lighthouse is a one week Christian holiday club for children age 4 to 10. There are several local sites, the largest of these are Great Missenden, Hazlemere and Wycombe. There are smaller events at Princes Risborough, Marlow and Burnham.

Last year I transferred from the Hazlemere team to assist with establishing a second site for the Wycombe area at the R.G.S. I will refer mostly to the Wycombe site in this article.

What happens at Lighthouse?

The children are grouped by age. The four year olds and the ten year olds have a modified version of the main programme. The five to nine year olds are grouped firstly according to age and then into smaller groups of 12-15 in number. Each year group, approximately 100 children, has a Year Group Leader who has overall responsibility for the group and the leaders in the group. Each of the smaller groups then has an adult or older teenager referred to as a Lighthouse Keeper who ensures the children follow the programme and arrive in time for each activity. This person is also responsible for the teaching workshops which support the main teaching for the week. Each Lighthouse Keeper then has several Lamplighters who assist them, these are usually teenagers. Throughout the day they escort the children to toilets, rest area, assist in activities and generally provide support for the Lighthouse Keeper. There is also a toddler group.

The programme consists of collective worship and main stage teaching at the beginning and end of the day. In between, the age groups take it in turn to participate in activities such as drama, sports, craft, teaching and lighthouse time when the children complete a workbook of activities which underpin the teaching for the day.

Other people on site are undertaking tasks such as security, registration, shop, sound and technical support, first aid, administration, coffee dock for helpers and transport.

So how does this all happen?

A leadership team which consists of chairman, trustees and team leaders for teaching, worship, craft, operations and site, leader and children's applications, finance and charity compliance, young leader training and prayer network meet long in advance of Lighthouse week to undertake the business strategy and planning necessary for the event. Each is then responsible for co-ordinating their own team and executing an action plan for their area of responsibility. The leadership team meets regularly to update on progress.

How is it funded?

The event is funded from donations. It is estimated that the cost per child per week is £50. This year's event at Wycombe is estimated to cost £33 thousand pounds. The largest expense is the hire of marquees. Donations are received from churches, parents, gifts from other individuals and gift aid tax refund. Some local churches covered the full cost of coaches to transport children from the Lane End area, Micklefield, Pastures and Cressex.

[[cont on page 7]

Trinity's contribution.

To my knowledge we had members of our church on three Lighthouse sites Wycombe, Hazlemere and Great Missenden. My estimated head count is:-

2 x Lighthouse keepers
4 x craft team members
7 x lamplighters
1 x technician
2 x set up team helpers
9 x junior church children attending for the week
1 x crèche member attending toddler group
1 x Sound desk
and
1 x very large set of ladders.

Add to this all of you who gave donations, raised funds via jumble sale, counted and grouped masks, provided materials and of course those who supported Lighthouse in prayer.

A phenomenal effort!

Some of you have expressed interest for next year, the event is always the first week of the school summer holidays so put it in your diary.

Yours in fellowship

Valerie.

AUTUMN FAYRE

6 October

2pm – 4pm

Our Annual October Fayre will take place in less than 6 weeks time. Would you be able to help on one of our stalls? Perhaps you may have an idea to run a stall. Please let us know.

LET'S MAKE IT ONE OF OUR BEST EFFORTS YET.

We would be grateful for items for the following stalls.

New Gifts Jewellery Tombola Groceries

Margaret, Audrey, Rose

Meditation on the Lord's Prayer

Leader: This meditation is from the daily prayers of a Nicaraguan community organisation for agricultural projects. As we speak these words we are not telling others, we are reminding ourselves:

A: Don't say "Father" if you don't behave like a son or daughter each day.

B: Don't say "Our" if you only ever think of yourself.

A: Don't say "As it is in heaven" if you only ever think of earthly matters.

B: Don't say "Hallowed be your name" if you don't honour that name.

A: Don't say "Your kingdom come" if you are weighed down with material goods.

B: Don't say "Your will be done" if you won't accept the hard times.

A: Don't say "Our daily bread" if you have no concern for the hungry or the homeless.

B: Don't say "Forgive us our sins" if you remain angry with your brothers and sisters.

A: Don't say "Lead us not into temptation" if you intend to continue sinning.

B: Don't say "Deliver us from evil" if you won't make a stand against injustice.

A: Don't say "Amen" without considering the words of your prayer.

Leader: But we do consider the words of our prayer,
and so we can joyfully pray together:

All: Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen

Adapted from Christian Aid Prayer Diary 2003

Free to a good home

Once upon a time, (not so) many years ago, people passed information from one computer to another by means of "floppy disks". Due to the advancement of technology and greater use of e-mail and the internet, these disks have now become somewhat redundant. However, there may be someone out there who has a use for them. If so, please let me know, as I have a fairly large supply which I would be happy to pass on to the proverbial "good home". I do not care where they go - it is against my principles to simply dump them! They are all wiped clean and are virus free. Form an orderly queue!!

Angus

**HARVEST SUPPER & SOCIAL EVENING
SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER**

Because of the alterations to our building there won't be anywhere for us to have a Harvest Lunch after worship on Sunday 16th September, so, we've decided to have a Harvest Supper and Social Evening on Saturday 15th September, starting at 6.30pm.

I will be putting a list out on Sunday so that people can sign if they think of coming, this will help with the catering arrangements. I will also be looking for offers of help with the catering.



More details later about the rest of the evening – that could be because it's a secret or it could be that we haven't yet decided what would be the most fun thing to do. So look out for the notices on the back of the order of service and put the date into your diary.

See you there

Margaret

THE PASSING!

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, life isn't always fair, and maybe it was my fault. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer Panadol, sun lotion or a sticky plaster to a student but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar can sue you for assault. Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion, his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by three stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, Someone Else Is To Blame and I'm A Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not join the majority and do nothing.

[Submitted by Andrew W]

MORNING WALK.

Amidst the dew of early dawn,
I took a morning walk.
And along with me, I took a Friend,
For I felt a need to talk.
I unburdened both my heart and soul,
And spoke many things
Of plans gone wrong, of failure's pain,
And how to live with shattered dreams.
My Friend just listened quietly,
And uttered not a word.
For it was His time to listen,
And my time to be heard.
His sympathetic ear brought peace,
As we walked this earthly sod
And I learned to trust life again,
On my morning walk with God.

[Submitted by Andrew Winton]

Travellers Tales

Bolton, Lancashire

A large sign by a gateway in a nicely built stone wall reads: -

Cemetery & Garden of Remembrance.

Entrance only

Good advice (- from children)

"Never trust a dog to watch your food."
Patrick, age 10

"When your dad is mad and asks you, 'Do I look stupid?' don't answer."
Hannah, age 9

"Never tell your mom her diet's not working."
Michael, age 14

"Stay away from prunes."
Randy, age 9

"Don't pull Dad's finger when he tells you to."
Emily, age 10

"When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair."
Taylia, age 11

"Never let your three-year old brother in the same room as your school assignment."
Traci, age 14

"A puppy always has bad breath -- even after eating a Tic-Tac."
Andrew, age 9

"Never hold a Dustbuster and a cat at the same time."
Kyoyo, age 9

"You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk."
Armir, age 9

"Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts."
Kellie, age 11

"If you want a kitten, start out by asking for a horse."
Naomi, age 15

"Felt-tip markers are not good to use as lipstick."
Lauren, age 9

"Don't pick on your sister when she's holding a baseball bat."
Joel, age 10

"When you get a bad grade in school, show it to your mom when she's on the phone."
Alyesha, age 13

"Never try to baptize a cat."
Eileen, age 8



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

James Forster (8th)
Denzel Johnson (22nd)
Valerie Lockhart
Simon Evans
Saskia Forster (24th)

A Very Happy Birthday
With love from all at Trinity.



Congratulations



With Best Wishes to

Kay & Glyn (30th)

on celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary
With love from us all at Trinity.

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 30th September.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 21st September*

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

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

prayer page

God, strengthen those who work at the details of co-existence in a torn world, who have sat for years round the same conference tables and seen few results; let them share in your endless patience, and in your inflexible will, for Christ's sake.

from Asking God by Oliver Tomkins

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2007

O Holy Wisdom, impart to me I pray
the gift to see the entire picture with myself in it,
the meaning of the whole and the beauty of the parts,
the perfection of the end and the values in the process,
the contribution of the failures to the fullness of the success,
the sharpness of conflict for the enriching of harmony,
the role of destruction in purifying creation,
the glory of dying for the finding of life.
from Asking God by Oliver Tomkins

You're blessed when you've lost it all.
God's kingdom is there for the finding.

You're blessed when you're ravenously hungry.
Then you're ready for the Messianic meal.

You're blessed when the tears flow freely.
Joy comes with the morning.

Luke 6 – The Message

O Lord our God, we turn to you and pray,
knowing that you are near,
knowing that you are merciful
and quick to forgive.
For your thoughts are not like ours,
and your ways are different from ours.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are your ways and thoughts above ours.
Isaiah 55.6-9

O God, you have given me life, and
I know that you want me to make
something worthwhile out of it.
Help me:
To keep my body fit;
To keep my mind sharp;
To keep my thoughts pure;
To keep my words clean and true.
This I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Weekly prayers through September:

Sunday	for the builders working on the vestry area
Monday	that local police officers will be kept safe and will enforce the law with integrity and wisdom, especially in volatile situations
Tuesday	for local farmers and market gardeners
Wednesday	for your elder
Thursday	for our Moderator, Roberta Rominger
Friday	for people called to ordination
Saturday	for Junior Church, That Lot and That Other Lot, and their leaders

