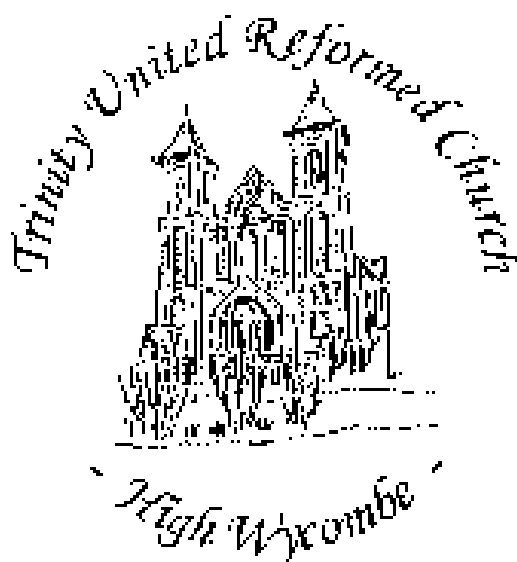


Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep. Have the same concern for everyone.
Romans 12:15-16



September 2008

The Recorder

Inside - this month . . .

Pastoral letter	2	Commitment for Life	6
Services & Rotas	3	Church Family & Life	5 - 11
What's on?	4	Prayer Page	12

*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,

There's nothing like a good film to get you out of yourself and into another world. Have you seen one lately, either on TV or at the cinema? If you have, what did you like about it, I wonder? And if you had to name the best film of all time, what would it be?

This summer I have watched two films that I would class as good films, for very different reasons. I saw *Mama Mia* in a tiny little cinema during my holiday in Guernsey, and I saw *Blood Diamonds* in the Christian Aid marquee at Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival. They could hardly have been more different from each other.

Mama Mia has a star studded cast and on one level is light, frothy and fun. A young woman is about to get married on her Greek island home and wants her Dad to come to her wedding. She does not know who her father is, but she invites three men whom she has never met but whose names she finds in her mother's diary of the summer of her conception. I won't say more of the story in case you want to see it and have not done so. Suffice to say that there is all you might anticipate in terms of alarm, muddles, romantic moments and happy endings! It was, in my view, a good film because it was beautiful and well acted, and it made me laugh and sing. Just what the Dr. ordered for a holiday film.

Blood Diamonds is set in Sierra Leone during the recent civil war. It is a story of horrendous violence, cruelty and desperation seen through the eyes of an ordinary family, a diamond smuggler and a western journalist. It is a story too of indestructible love, redemption and courage. It is a good film in my view because it exposes realities that most of us prefer to leave hidden but which are not hidden to God. The civil war in Sierra Leone has ended, thank God, but there are still 200,000 child soldiers in other parts of Africa alone. Diamond smuggling no longer buys guns for that war, but in many other places global networks of greed continue to fuel conflict and destruction of people's lives.

One film made me laugh. The other didn't quite make me cry, but it did make me want to run away and not watch till the end. These two films portrayed two very different worlds. Yet, in reality, there is only one world. It seems to me that it is important we are open to both of these 'worlds within the world' in equal measure and with equal commitment and passion.

One is the world of important individual personal relationships through which we find out who we are and through which we bless each other. Laughter, romance, beauty – these are not escapism; they are God-given and necessary for balanced living.

But equally important is the other world, the world beyond our own backyard. Fairness, integrity, radical sharing of resources for good, campaigning for these ends – these are not optional extras; they are God-given and necessary for balanced living.

What has God said to you through the films you have watched this summer?



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk
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Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole, e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk
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September Services

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

September Services

- Sept. 7 Holy Communion, welcome back to Junior Church, and a taste of 'Lighthouse'
Sept. 14 Morning worship on Racial Justice Sunday
Sept. 21 Worship as part of Church Away Weekend
Please note that this is at the Wycliffe Centre, Horsleys Green not at Trinity. Transport can be provided if requested.
Sept. 28 Morning worship

Rotas for September

Not included in this version

What's on in September



- 8 September 8pm Review & Planning
(Hostess - Lesley B)
- 22 September 8pm Book Review & Book Sale in aid of
chosen charity. (Hostess - Daphne M)

WOMEN'S MEETING

- Tuesday 2nd Sept Bring & Share Tea
- Tuesday 9th Sept Pilgrim's Progress: The Beginning
- Tuesday 16th Sept Favourite Bible passages
- Tuesday 23rd Sept DVD - Betjeman's Britain. Bring & Buy
- Tuesday 30th Sept To be arranged



All meetings start at 2.30pm in the Lower Schoolroom



Linguists and Lexicographers unite!

12th and 26th September
at 2pm

Diary Dates

- 6 Sept 12 – 4pm Night Shelter Garden Party at Wycombe Museum
- 13 Sept 10.30am Coffee Morning
- 16 Sept 8pm Church Meeting
- 19-21 Sept Church Weekend at The Wycliffe Centre
- 23 Sept 8pm Elders' Meeting
- 27 Sept 10.30am Coffee Morning
- 28 Sept 4pm Prayer Circle For Healing
- 29 Sept – 5 Oct Gwen on holiday
- 11 Oct 10.30am Coffee Morning
- 11 Oct Elders' & Pastoral Assistants' Day at Jordans
- 19 Oct Harvest Thanksgiving
- 19 Oct 5.30pm Communion Service
- 25 Oct Autumn Fayre
- 28 Oct 8pm Elders' Meeting
- 2 Dec 8pm Church Meeting

September 2008

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				

Not included in this version

Dear friends,

We have settled well into our new abode in Alnwick, which is starting to feel like home.

We apologise for this late, written acknowledgement of our sincere thanks for the wonderful farewell and the generous gifts we received. We were unable to access broadband for several weeks, but we are sure that Marian would have verbally passed on our thanks. The prints of Marlow have now occupied pride of place in our new dining room. Ian would also like to thank everyone who expressed their congratulations and sent cards when he reached his 60th birthday in June.

We will miss Trinity, but take some comfort in the knowledge that God is leading the fellowship in challenging and rewarding new directions. Please keep in touch and please come and see us if you are ever in Alnwick.

Love and best wishes

IAN & MAUREEN B

[see photo on page 7 - Ed]

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe

Kim Plumpton has been on a 3 week Church placement. She shares her impressions.

A short while after arriving at Harare (the capital), we scanned the supermarkets for groceries and no matter how many times you hear on the news about food shortages nothing prepares you for the rows and rows of empty shelves. For those able to bounce from one shop to the next the prospects are hopeful but for those further out in the rural areas the prospects are bleak. To hear that in countries like South Africa and Zambia, Zimbabwean products are in abundance strikes a note of irony that whilst its people are suffering it is more profitable to sell its products abroad than it is to feed its own people.

'We're all billionaires here' one man laughs as he pulls out a bundle of cash from a plastic bag. A loaf of bread costs 60 billion and considering you are only able to withdraw from the bank 100 billion daily it takes little imagination to realise that they face a daily challenge. By the time I leave they were no longer billionaires but trillionaires. It is a surreal world in Zimbabwe, as you drive around you can see evidence of a once prosperous Zimbabwe. The electricity and water cuts seem to be getting worse and it was not unusual to be without electricity for the whole day.

The resilience of these people amazed and inspired me. The stories I heard from many were heartbreaking, still reeling from the intimidation and the suffering endured by some during the election campaigns. It is difficult to separate yourself from politics in a country where the church must somehow find a way to help repair the damage caused by the brutality which saw many having to leave their homes, others having to come to terms with their neighbours informing upon them (usually through fear), and others tending their physical wounds.

One man told me 'I had to leave my home because the children I teach and my own neighbours turned against me'. It's difficult to equate the people of Zimbabwe with the harsh face that some are confronted with because the people are a humble, friendly, hospitable nation who have somehow been drawn into this awful mess. Their disheartened faces amongst the turmoil grasps at the only thing that makes sense to them, a trust and a faith in God which sustains many and a belief that God is still working on their behalf.

However, it is often challenged when they are faced with death on a daily basis, when the hospital has no doctors and the medications needed for the simplest of illnesses are almost impossible to find. Faith and hope that things will be different soon, is what keeps them going.

TRINITY'S AUTUMN FAYRE

SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER **AT 2pm IN CRENDON HALL**

Have you got this date in your diary ? We hope so because this is an important fund raising event for REVIVE as well as a social occasion. We will be having the usual stalls but would love your ideas for others that we can introduce. Of course we would also like your help with items for sale, things like cakes, groceries, handbags, also items that you have made and any unwanted gifts you may have. Help will also be needed on the day preparing the stalls in the morning and selling the goods in the afternoon. If you can help in any way we would love to hear from you.

Audrey, Rose and Margaret



They need no introduction! One of the final acts before they left to head north

Revive funds as at 31 July 2008

REVIVE funds 2008

REVIVE fund as at end 2007 £46,705.36
Interest-free loans £6,500.00
Income this year to date ** £11,192.65
Synod grant £100,000.00
Initial income from Ronnie Boxall's estate £12,500.00
Funds available £176,898.01

Money is still coming in but we need more! There is the probability of a further amount to follow from a generous legacy from Ronnie Boxall and we are hoping of course that the prospective sale of the manse garden will help meet any shortfall. We are also pursuing other fundraising options but we know we cannot assume that the funds will be there without effort, hard work and prayer. Thank you for all you have done so far, and do please keep praying!

Kate

Olivia Price would like any unwanted 1lb jam jars to enable her to provide marmalade for the Autumn Fayre . Please get in touch with her if you can help: Olivia P.

Scrabble Editor's confession!

The editor extends apologies to the Scrabblers for the omission of August dates in last month's Recorder. For many years they have had a summer break, and old habits die hard. It was only after going to press that the fact they were NOT having a month off came to light. Daphne had provided the information in good time but it was filed away for later use, without any thought being given to the possibility of a change in the routine.

COME WORSHIP WITH US AT WYCLIFFE!

Join us for worship at 10.30am on Sunday 21 September during our Church Weekend at The Wycliffe Centre, Horsleys Green.



The weekend will be focussing on developing our faith, sharing in fellowship and having FUN! During the weekend we will be looking at evangelism, 1 John, life/work balance in our daily lives and Sunday's worship should prove to be inspiring, challenging and encouraging.

Please let Gwen or Marian know if you hope to join us. Remember there will be NO morning worship at Trinity on that Sunday

High Wycombe Central Aid

As Trinity's representative to the High Wycombe Central Aid Society I was invited to the 102nd AGM. It was an informative and well attended and business-like event. The chair was taken by the Mayor of High Wycombe, Cllr Paul Lambourne, and also present was the Chairman of Wycombe District Council, Cllr Roger Wilson.

Central Aid's Chair, Mrs Rosemary Vere in her report said there had been staff changes over the year, mainly at the Furniture Warehouse, where collecting, displaying and delivering furniture to those who need it has meant a lot of re-organisation and modernising.

There have been changes too in the catering department. A number of outings have been arranged and these are always popular.

This charity gets no support from Bucks County Council or Wycombe District Council but generous help is given by Chiltern District Council and Bucks Housing Association. The Society received two unexpected legacies, one from the Gannett Foundation. Grateful acknowledgement was made too from schools, businesses and local churches (like us).

Co-operation between volunteers and agencies continues, and Central Aid helped the Wycombe Winter Night Shelter and provided advice and support to others in need.

The chair ended her report by thanking officers and the many volunteers who help Central Aid in so many ways.

PS I have the full report and financial information if anyone would like to borrow it.

Olivia P

CHRISTIAN AID NEWS - FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Elliot Morley MP is on a mission to make British companies play their full part in fighting climate change. But he needs your help to succeed.

The former Labour environment minister has proposed a clause to the Climate Change Bill which would reinstate annual mandatory carbon reporting for UK-listed firms.

He was joined by former Conservative environment secretary John Gummer and Liberal Democrat MP Steve Webb.

Please support Elliot - email your MP now.

The government accepted this measure in the House of Lords after Christian Aid and tens of thousands of you campaigned for it.

But then it backtracked and dropped the amendment in the Commons.

Why is this important?

Britain's share of world carbon emissions officially stands at 2% of the global total. But when the international activities of UK companies are included, its share rockets to 12-15%.

That's why it's vital our large companies provide an accurate annual carbon audit of all their business activities. Without it Britain can't start to play its proper part in combating climate change.

So what can you do? Email your MP! Or write to them to back mandatory carbon reporting for companies in the climate change bill.



For women in poor countries, having a baby is a life or death risk – every year half a million mums die during pregnancy or childbirth.

World leaders know that this scandal can end, and in 2000 they committed to meeting the Millennium Development Goals - 8 goals that aim to reduce the number of people living in extreme poverty, which included providing money to poor countries to help pay for things like midwives, doctors and medicines.

But as things stand these promises are being broken.

This September, world leaders will meet at the United Nations in New York to discuss their progress. In the run-up to the meetings, there are two ways you can remind them that they promised to end this crazy situation:

Knit a square for our giant, knitted petition

We're looking for knitters everywhere to create squares for a giant baby blanket - a 'visual petition' calling on world leaders to make sure mums in poor countries get the maternal care they need.

So if you're a knitter, follow the link above and find out how you can turn your knitting needles into poverty fighting needles.

Tell Gordon Brown that every woman has the right to a healthy, safe pregnancy

Gordon Brown will attend the UN meetings in New York. Use the second link to send him an email urging him to take the lead in ensuring that all governments get on track for meeting their commitments to tackle poverty.

Thank you for joining us,

Karina Brisby, - Oxfam Interactive Campaigns Manager

From cocoa to chocolate - the industry in Ghana

Anti-Slavery International's Director, Aidan McQuade, visited Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire at the end of 2007 to see the work of the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) in trying to address the issue of child labour in the cocoa farms. Anti-Slavery staff asked him some questions on his return:

What kind of work are children doing on cocoa farms in West Africa?

Children are helping their families in all of the activities associated with cocoa growing. In many instances this would not be a problem, but it becomes one when the children are very young, the work is dangerous, or when it keeps children away from attending school.

So far there is no evidence of child trafficking in the cocoa sector of Ghana but there have been cases identified in Cote d'Ivoire. The overall extent of the problem remains unclear, however it is well known that there is considerable migration into the cocoa sector of Cote d'Ivoire from neighbouring countries, that both the migrants and the communities which they travel to for work are poor, and that there is significant prejudice against the migrant workers. These factors suggest a considerable risk of forced labour.

Why is it so difficult to provide facts and figures about the extent of forced or child labour in the cocoa industry now?

The first thing to bear in mind is that most cocoa is produced by thousands of family farms - some estimates are around 600,000 farms in 12,000 communities in Ghana alone. So the task of checking up on each farm would be mammoth. The approach that is being adopted now is essentially a sampling approach to gain some sense of the extent of the problem rather than a definitive cataloguing. However in some ways a focus on quantifying the problem is beside the point. We know that there is a problem with child labour in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. It is perhaps more important to engage in programmes which encourage the movement of children from labour into full-time education. This is something that the ICI programme is doing, currently on a small scale but with significant potential to make a much greater impact.

How much of a guarantee is Fairtrade that no child or forced labour has been used in the production of cocoa to make chocolate bars sold in the UK?

Fairtrade has the expectation that their suppliers comply with all of the ILO Conventions, including those against forced and child labour. Fairtrade also ensures a premium on the prices paid to suppliers, so it helps break one of the key factors causing slavery, which is poverty.

Are there any mainstream industry brands which you believe are taking a lead on tackling the issue of child labour in the cocoa producing areas of West Africa?

Cadbury sources the majority of their cocoa from Ghana where there does not appear to be any issue of child trafficking in the cocoa sector. They have recently announced a considerable investment in community development in Ghana, in the region of £44 million over 10 years. So they are demonstrating a considerable commitment to sustainably resolving the causes of, among other things, child labour on cocoa farms in Ghana. Other big brands including Mars, Nestlé, Hershey, as well as Cadbury, are funders of the International Cocoa Initiative which works to address the issue of child labour in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. I think this is a moment of truth for some of these businesses. Now that ICI has proven the effectiveness of its work, will they invest in scaling up their commitment to its programme and other anti-child labour interventions? This would also mean a more focussed and systematic response to the risk of trafficking than currently exists as well as increased investment in moving children from the fields and into the schools.

What would you encourage consumers to do now? What further action can people take to make a difference?

I think that the brands take notice when consumers write to them and ask what they are doing. Ordinary consumers writing to big brands such as Mars, Nestlé and Hershey indicating an appreciation of what they have done to date and encouraging greater commitment to allow for significant progress in the struggle against child labour, would be very positive.

To learn more about the Cocoa Industry in West Africa, you can download Anti-Slavery International's 2004 report: [The Cocoa Industry in West Africa: A history of exploitation](#)

Article by Aidan McQuade, Anti-Slavery International, reproduced with permission.
For more information visit www.antislavery.org



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.**

A Date for your Diary

The Christian/Muslim Forum Council for High Wycombe
will be holding an event entitled

Building Community Cohesion in an Age of Uncertainty

On Wednesday 12th November, 2-5pm
at Bucks New University

The key speakers will be Hazel Blears, Secretary of State for Communities and
Local Government and Shadow Minister for Community Cohesion Baroness Warsi

Further details will follow or see Glyn E.

*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

Encourage and strengthen us, O Father, for the days which lie ahead. Teach us to be humble, forgiving one another, even as Christ secured our forgiveness. Teach us to bear one another's burdens to fulfil his will. Teach us to learn from the devotion of those who have gone before how to spend and be spent in thy service. Day by day, may we grow in thy grace, and in the knowledge of each other: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anon

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2008

Happy, crying, dirty, clean or sad,
they are our tomorrow and yours.
And that kid with the club foot, what will he be?
Teacher, doctor (for I can still see him)
Or outcast because he is different.
For you were once a different child, an outcast.
Grant us to see our responsibility to you, in them,
Your tomorrow and ours. Amen.
Roger Bush, Prayers for Pagans



All through this day, O Lord, in your mercy, hear our
prayer.
by the power of thy quickening Spirit,
let me touch the lives of others for good,
whether through the word I speak, the prayer I speak
or the life I live.
Author unknown

O God, whose word is fruitless
when the mighty are not put down,
the humble remain humiliated,
the hungry are not filled,
and the rich are:
make good your word,
and begin with us.
Open our hearts and unblock our ears
to hear the voices of the poor
and share their struggle;
and send us away empty
with longing for your promises to come true
in Jesus Christ, **Amen.**
Janet Morley, Tell Out My Soul, 1990

We give thanks to you, Father, for Lighthouse
2008.

We thank you for all those who led and helped.
We pray for your blessing on all the children
who attended –
may what they have learned about you stay
with them.

May the seeds sown be nurtured and fed,
and may they also become the light of Christ in
the world.

Sunday
Monday

Pray for Revd Magdalena Müller and the Polish Lutheran Church

Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday

Pray for children and young people starting school –
for the first time, or in a new year or new school

Give thanks for the National Health Service

Pray for Revd Dr Andrew Prasad, our new Synod Moderator

Friday
Saturday

Pray for stamina and wisdom for our Area Committee,

combining much of the work of the former District Council and Pastoral Committee
Give thanks for our church fellowship

For Revd Dr Janet Hopewell, the new minister at Burnham and Cores End
being inducted and ordained on 27 September