

Once you were not a people, but now
you are God's people; *1 Peter 2:10*



September 2011

The Recorder

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An edited version of this magazine is available on the Church Website.

(Personal details are NOT included)

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

Trinity - A Family Church

Worshipping together - Caring for one another - Sharing with others

Dear Friends,

Thank you for such a loving and supportive 'send off' on 14th August, with special items from the choir, a prayer from Alan, and Sue's idea of a journal with a cover to remind me of home, as well as many hugs and heart-warming personal words of encouragement. If you are reading this on the day of the September Recorder's publication, 28th August, I should have already written 8 entries in my journal, and Bernie and I should have arrived in Mendi, Southern Highlands Province, and be joining old and new friends there for worship.


We will think of you gathering at Trinity for morning worship and for the afternoon Praise Service. We will also be thinking of the Sparks, Evans and Rogers at Greenbelt, maybe with others too. And I have no doubt that as September unfolds we will continue to think of you – back to school, and midweek groups and Junior Church restarting, then celebrating harvest and everything else that is planned for early autumn. Some of you are also travelling during this period. May God be with you all.

Our connections together as Christ's church are tremendously important. They matter. Being church in the world today is as crucial as it has ever been. In fact, I believe that we face the greatest communication challenge that any generation of Christians has faced because the rate of change in society is faster than ever, and accelerating. I thank God that we have churches that are right out there at the forefront of the latest trends, churches that are able to speak meaningfully to the unchurched young. I thank God too that we have churches like Trinity witnessing to the rock solid values of genuine care, and faith that has stood the test of severe personal trials.

Looking at the website of the United Church in Papua New Guinea in getting ready for our visit I was struck by a section headed 'Core values'. Here is part of what it says this:

1. *We are a people who believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.*
2. *We are a people who are sinful, believe that by the death on the Calvary Cross, Jesus Christ has paid the penalty of our sins, and believe in his resurrection, and his second coming.*
3. *We are a people who believe in the power of the Holy Spirit and his supernatural abilities to empower us to live a wholesome life.*
4. *We are a people who believe in the unity of the believers working together in harmony for the benefit of each other, seeking to serve each other out of compassion and genuine concern for each other.*
5. *We are a people that are aware of the diversity of PNG cultures and seek to collectively work together through constructive dialogue, consultation, and teamwork for the common good of our people, community and country.*
6. *We are a people that realise that in sharing our resources, actively seek to share the love of God.*
7. *We are people who recognise leadership and authority, and those who are in position of authority, rule with diligence for the good of those they lead.*
8. *We are a people that recognise the importance of good stewardship of resources at our disposal.*
9. *We are a people that value and celebrate life through songs, dances, and hospitality.*
10. *We are a people that support good governance and leadership and will promote servant leadership to enable the community and the people to prosper.*

I like the way each one starts, 'We are a people ...' 'Being church' is being a people with distinctive values, beliefs and calling. I especially warm to number 9. It is very Pacific in flavour! I offer them all to you for reflection.



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| Church Secretary : Mrs Sue Saunders, 46 Warren Wood Drive, High Wycombe, HP11 1DZ ☎ 01494 526782 e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk |
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September Services

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

4 Sept. Holy Communion, led by Revd Kate Pryde
 11 Sept. Morning worship, led by Revd Alan Kirkcaldy
 18 Sept. Harvest and all age worship, led by Mr Alan Yates.
 25 Sept. Morning worship, led by the Worship Planning Group.
 4.00pm Praise service, theme: God's Provision, God's Faithfulness

Rotas for September



| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Sept 4th | Lesley Bogart & Sue Thorne |
| Sept 11th | Rose Cornwall & Marian Mole |
| Sept 18th | Margaret Lewis & Iris Hook |
| Sept 25th | Janet Roake & Joan Smith |

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Sept 4th | Janet Roake |
| Sept 11th | Elsje Hatton |
| Sept 18th | Nancy Hawes |
| Sept 25th | Rose Cornwall |



| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| Sept 4th | Margaret Lewis |
| Sept 11th | Kate Yates |
| Sept 18th | Marian Mole |
| Sept 25th | Kay Evans |

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Sept 4th | Arthur Winning & Lesley Bogart |
| Sept 11th | Barbara Raleigh & Ian Bogart |
| Sept 18th | Sparks family |
| Sept 25th | Janet Roake & Iris Hook |



| | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| Sept 4th | Marian Mole |
| Sept 11th | Janet Roake |
| Sept 18th | Joy and John Standfield |
| Sept 25th | Linda Curley |

What's on in September



The Nightbirds will be visiting Pat & Bruce Wallace at the beginning of September which will be in place of their meeting this month.

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 6th Sept Welcome back. Bring & Share Tea
 Tuesday 13th Sept Buckinghamshire (1) Maps, places, names . . .
 Tuesday 20th Sept Speaker - David Tester - Mission Aviation Fellowship
 Tuesday 27th Sept Harvest. Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30pm in the Lower Schoolroom

Diary Dates

September 18th Harvest Thanksgiving Service
 20th Church Meeting
 24th Coffee Morning (in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support)
 25th Praise Service 4pm
 27th Elder's Meeting

| September 2011 | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|-----------|----|----|----|-----------|
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| 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 | |

News of the Family

We send our best wishes to all those who are starting new schools or exam courses and all those going off to university. We think of **Gwen and Bernie** in PNG, and pray for their safe-keeping.

We also think of **David Poole**, who is recovering slowly.

Members of our congregation who continue to suffer with ill health, pain, disability and may be undergoing treatment are: **Win Garred, Elaine Smith, Erica Hoskings, Rose Cornwall, Gwenda Dicker, Marianne Hillson, Robin Garden, Abigail Lokko, Arthalia Pope, Olivia Price, Joan Standage, Pauline Starck and Pastor Dawn McDowell.**

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the above, their families, friends and carers.

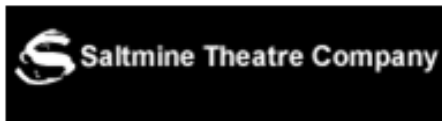
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UK Tour 2011

Coming to Cambridge, Reading & Bristol

For every Christian parent, church leader and youthworker

Featuring talks and live performances from...



International speaker and best-selling author **Rob Parsons**

Join us on tour

Gateshead Tues 01.11.11 The Sage

Glasgow Weds 02.11.11 The Clyde Auditorium

Belfast Thurs 03.11.11 The Waterfront Hall

Cambridge Tues 22.11.11 The Corn Exchange

Reading Weds 23.11.11 The Hexagon

Bristol Thurs 24.11.11 Colston Hall

Events start at 7.30pm

For more information or to book:

www.gyktc.org.uk or call 029 2081 0800

Care for the Family – A Christian response to a world of need. Care for the Family is a charity registered in England and Wales (no.1066905) and in Scotland

[\[Careforthefamily.org.uk\]](http://Careforthefamily.org.uk)

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe Project Trust

ZPT's work in monitoring, recording and publicising politically motivated human rights and food-related violations has remained of paramount importance over the last few months.

Below is an extract of the narrative report recounting some of the increase in disturbing politicisation of food aid during the months when the poorest families tend to run short of food in Zimbabwe. Evidence is also gathered statistically.

'During the period under review, food and other forms of aid are reported to continue to be manipulated as punitive measures against those found not supporting the views of ZANU PF. The bulk of the denials of aid were for farming inputs such as fertilizers and such denials are reported to be carried out by traditional leaders, with the help of soldiers, who deliberately omit or delete from the beneficiaries list, names of all those suspected to be MDC-T supporters.

The victims are forced to denounce their political party, or are forced to produce party membership cards in order to access food and other forms of aid. The month of February recorded a total of 274 cases showing a decrease from the 305 reported in January 2011. Of the 274 cases, 157 are acts of discrimination, 115 harassments and 2 are violence.'

Extract from CA report to CforL Reference group May 2011

Being a grandparent

Alexander had four sons and a daughter. Today he finds himself and his wife with sole responsibility for two small grandchildren. His son and daughter in law have both died and Alexander had taken responsibility for Tadiwanashe and Mhembe since birth. With one in ten children dying before their fifth birthday, Tadi's health is of particular concern to them and the nurse they see at the clinic run by Mashambanzou. Mashambanzou is a charity that works with people affected and infected by HIV. They run a ward for terminally ill patients, a clinic for those who are mobile and they visit the housebound as part of their home care package.

Alexander has been going to the clinic, held in a rundown hall in Highfield, Harare, since Tadi was born and found to be HIV+. Today 1 in 7 Zimbabweans live with HIV*. He says that the waiting is hard when you have small children but knows that he couldn't afford care or medicine from the large hospitals. Each meeting starts with prayer and then every person is seen by a nurse and given access to medicine and counselling.

Alexander's other grandson, Mhembe, looks much heavier and more aware which seems to highlight the difference between the two. Like so many parents and grandparents Alexander wants a good education for his grandsons because he sees it as the only way out of poverty. "Parents used to try to get their children taught in Zimbabwe as our schools were good. Now it is not so good."

"Mashambanzou are helping me with Tadi. I know God loves us and we must use everything we can to make a better life for ourselves. I pray to God that the children will have a better life. God will take care of them."

**National Aids Council 2009*

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

Coffee Morning

Lets make it the biggest ever!

Saturday 24th September 2011

10:30am to 1pm

At the Trinity United Reformed Church

London Road, High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire HP11 1BJ.
(Near the Law Courts)

For more information please call Rose Cornwall on 01494 436177



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604)

UK riots: where is God?

URC Co-Moderator Val Morrison reflects on the outbreaks of violence which have hit many of England's major cities in five nights of rioting.

The front page of the newspaper showed a hooded figure backed by flames and the headline 'Mob Rule'. By the end of the day there were interviews with people armed with nothing more threatening than brooms and shovels clearing up the mess, helping businesses to re-open. What are we Christians to make of this sudden eruption of violence and looting on the streets of our cities? What are any of us to make of it?

Is it just mindless violence perpetrated by a few bored teenagers with access to social networks enabling them to gather groups from a wide area, making small groups into large crowds, or is there something deeper going on?

While we would not condone the violence of recent days, to dismiss it without looking further into the communities from which it comes, is to miss something about the nature of the society in which we live. Our Christian message is one of hope but how hollow a message that must sound, when the reality of life does not offer hope. Our Christian way of being is life in community, but for many of those rioting this week there is no sense of community.

There are glimmers of hope, some provided by churches in these communities. The project run by High Cross United Reformed Church, Tottenham, 'Peaceful Solutions for Conflict Resolution' helps young people to deal with conflict in peaceful ways. There is hope in the voices from communities heard over the past couple of days showing determination to 'clear up the mess and get on with life'. We have heard, too, from community leaders exasperated but basically proud of the communities in which they work and the progress which has been made there. We need to hear more of the good stories.

Whether we live in the areas affected or not, we have questions to ask ourselves. We might ask: 'Where is God in all this?' At one level we can reply by pointing to the glimmers of hope outlined above, but at another level there are difficult questions about the structure of our society, the political decisions and the willingness each of us demonstrates to share the good things which God has given us.

Of course our prayers are for the family and friends of Mark Duggan, who tried to demonstrate peacefully and are horrified by the violence, for others killed and injured, and for the police men and women involved. Of course our prayers must be for the communities, and those working to offer hope and restore trust. But our prayers must also be for ourselves, Christians in communities, Christians in society, Christians with responsibilities because we are part of God's world.

Traidcraft annual review

This has been a year of continuing economic challenges in the UK, but here are some items of good news!



Iraini Tea Factory in Kenya – one of their newest tea suppliers have also become beekeepers and are planting passion fruit – providing extra income for them and nectar for the bees – and rearing rabbits!

Mauritius Sugar Syndicate (MSS) – working with Traidcraft and the Dutch fair trade organisation, MSS has succeeded in getting 32 sugar-producing co-ops certified – with more to come.



Crisil (Bolivia) – have been providing Traidcraft with recycled glass products since 2005. They have a new kiln which has enabled them to produce much better quality products and achieve more sales as a result. The heat from the kiln is piped back in for the next firing, saving them around US\$900 per month in gas bills. And this has also had a big impact on conditions in the workshop where it was previously unbearably hot!



Apicoop (Chile) – 4 years ago, helped by a grant from Traidcraft and a loan from Shared Interest, Apicoop planted 56,000 blueberry bushes to reduce the dependence of the 600-member co-op on their traditional exports of honey. This year their fresh blueberries went on sale in 600 Co-op stores around the UK – they are paid about 50% above the local rate and Apicoop has used the fair trade premium from the sale to provide nursery care for their children and a catering area to supply them with free lunches.

Cotton campaign – the US currently gives unfair and illegal subsidies to its cotton farmers, despite being ruled illegal by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), thus denying justice to Africa's 10 million cotton farmers. Traidcraft are promoting a campaign to raise the profile of this issue and helping to give cotton the position it warrants on the international agenda. The US Farm Bill is currently being renegotiated and the next WTO meeting is in December – both are opportunities for President Obama to show his support for trade justice.

And in the UK, Traidcraft's pioneering role in social accounting was given special mention in a House of Lords debate on corporate governance and accountability. Baroness Sherlock, a Labour Peer, told the House of Lords: *"There is good practice out there. I discovered recently that the first plc in Britain to produce an audited social report was not a corporate giant but Traidcraft. I encourage the Minister to comment on it and to share some of the methodology with larger companies."*



There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program.. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

Who Does The Land of Israel Belong To?

An Israeli with an excellent sense of humour, presented an ingenious example of speech and politics to the United Nations Assembly He set the record straight, and made the world community smile.

The representative from Israel began: *'Before beginning my talk I want to tell you something about Moses:*

When he struck the rock and it brought forth water, he thought, 'What a good opportunity to have a bath!'

Moses removed his clothes, put them aside on the rock and entered the water.. When he got out and wanted to dress, his clothes had vanished.

A Palestinian had stolen them!

The Palestinian representative at the UN jumped up furiously and shouted, *'What are you talking about? The Palestinians weren't there then.'*

The Israeli representative smiled and said, *'And now that we have made that clear, I will begin my speech...'*

THE STORY OF SCOTLAND

In the beginning when God was creating the world, he was sitting on Cloud Nine, telling his pal the Angel Gabriel what he had planned for Scotland. "Gabby" says he I'm going to give this place high majestic mountains, purple heather laden glens, streams overflowing with salmon, fields of barley from which a golden coloured nectar called whisky can be made, coal in the ground, oil and gas under their seas . . ."

"Hold on, hold on" interjected the bold Gabriel, "Are you not being too generous to these Scots?" Back came the Almighty's reply, "Not really, wait until you see the neighbours I'm giving them."

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments!! " answered the lady.

There are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord ," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Sarah Hobbs (3rd)
James Forster (8th)
Simon Evans (14th)
Iris Hook (18th)
Denzel Johnson (22nd)
Saskia Forster (24th)
Valerie Lockhart

A Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.

Forward planning:-

The January 2012 edition of **The Recorder** will be published on New Year's Day. The closing date for contributions will be the beginning of December, as I will be out of the country over Christmas. Please give thought to any notices etc you may wish to include and let me have them as soon as you like! The magazine will actually go to print on Saturday 31st December and I should be able to make last minute alterations on the Friday, but there can be no certainty that additional items could be included at that stage.

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

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prayer page
harvest

A DAILY PRAYER FOR TRINITY

We thank you, God, for Trinity –
both the people and the building.
Help us to be warm and welcoming,
flexible and friendly,
both as people and as a building.

Use us fully in your service
every day of the week,
both people and building;
part of your world-wide church,
growing communities in faith, hope and love,
and caring for the earth.
Amen

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2011



God, you heap your love upon us
like a mother providing for her family's needs,
embracing her child with tenderness.

Forgive us
when, like spoilt children,
we treat your generosity as our right,
or hug it possessively to ourselves.

Give us enough trust to live secure in your love
and to share it freely with others
in open-handed confidence
that your grace will never run out. **Amen.**

© Jan Berry, 1990 from *Bread of Tomorrow*

God, we thank you for those whose industry on the land enables us all to be fed. Keep them close to the mystery of creation, so that they may not abuse their power for easy profits. Give to the rest of us such respect for true husbandry that we do not put them under pressure to sin against their Creator and ours.

© Oliver Tomkin from *Asking God*

God of grace and glory,
we are so grateful for the leadership of extraordinary people,
shining light into the darkness of climate disaster,
transforming a curse into a blessing,
the gift of salt into a new harvest of hope.
Make us like that, Lord,
so that our faith is not in our words but in our lives,
not in what we say, but in what we do;
passing on your love like the salt that blesses,
like a city on a hill, like a lamp on a stand,
light for life, your light for the world.
Amen

© Christian Aid 2011

Lord, send workers for the harvest of food, we pray.
But we pray as much for you to send workers for the harvest of people's souls and lives.
Amen.