

But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”
[John 4:14]



September 2014

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 place to belong

Spirituality - Prayer – Community – Welcome

Dear Friends

September? One of those months of the year that has always been a funny time for me. When I was somewhat younger (yes I was once!) it was the start of school year again. At Primary School we all had an intelligence test on the first day to work out our I.Q. I don't know how much the teachers learnt from that but I know I used to enjoy it. Later it dawned on me this was the start of the academic year when we used to change classes – meet new teachers, make new friends and change lifestyle. Some of us here will be changing classes, changing school, changing jobs and changing all sorts of things in our lives. Summer will be over and we must change many things, but there is one thing in our lives that never changes, that is the love of God for us, and how we should try to attend church regularly to thank God for all that he has done for us.

Moving on from all the discussion above I have been thinking about our interregnum. All I am writing now are my personal musings, my own thoughts, not “Evans” thoughts, not “Elders” thoughts, not “Trinity” thoughts, not “URC” thoughts, just mine. How can we make two separate churches easier to manage? Can we make one larger congregation? How can we make the job easier by not having to find a different person come and lead our worship each week, or after we find a new minister approximately every other week?

What if we make Trinity URC and Cores End URC into one church using alternate buildings? I know some people will not want to move from their basic building. Some people will not be physically able to attend both buildings but most of us now come by our own car and it would not be impossible to arrange a “Pool” of car owners who would be willing to provide lifts on those Sundays as required. I am not suggesting that this should start next week, just that it is one idea I have had. Does anybody have any other ideas? If you do please talk to your Elder. These could be discussed at Church Meetings or Elders Meetings.

We have to move forward by having one minister to cover two churches. Do we have any other suggestions that we may move forward from our end?

Please shoot my ideas down in flames, alter them, agree with them or pray and produce other plans. We need them and this is how the URC works. It is your church and we need your help!

I know my letter may sound disjointed but I am my not my own editor.

Until such time I hope you all had a pleasant time during the hot and dry period during July and August and that your batteries are recharged to come and listen to the people who come and lead our services each week. Let us move forward in Christ.

Yours in Christ

Glyn

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September Services

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

Sept 7	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Bridget Powell (Minister of Chesham URC)
Sept 14	Commitment for Life Service led by Angus Massie
Sept 21	All Age Worship – Celebration of Brownies 100th Birthday
Sept 28 4.00pm	Morning Worship led by Revd Dr Michael Jagessar (see page 7) Praise Service

Rotas for September

Not included in this version

What's on in September



Tuesday 2nd September - 10.30 am at Norma's.

Planning for the coming year and choosing the Charity.

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday September 9th

Welcome Back. Bring and Share Tea

Tuesday September 16th

Quiz

Tuesday September 23rd

Things our mothers used to say

Tuesday September 30th

Harvest



All meetings start at 2.30pm in the Lower Schoolroom

Diary Dates

Event	Day	Date	Time	Venue
Elders' meeting	Wednesday	3rd	8pm	Lower School Room
Vision 2020 prayer meeting	Wednesday	3rd	9.30-10 am	Sanctuary
Housegroup	Wednesday	10th	8pm	at the Drakes' house
Coffee morning	Saturday	13th	10.30 am	Lower School Room
Ride & Stride – Historic Churches Bike Ride	Saturday	13th		
Church Meeting	Tuesday	16th	8pm	Lower School Room
Vision 2020 prayer meeting	Wednesday	17th	9.30-10 am	Sanctuary
Coffee morning	Saturday	27th	10.30 am	Lower School Room

OCTOBER

Vision 2020 prayer meeting	Wednesday	1st	9.30-10 am	Sanctuary
Elders' meeting	Wednesday	1st	8pm	Lower School Room
Coffee morning	Saturday	11th	10.30 am	Lower School Room
Harvest service – Andrew Winton and auction of gifts	Sunday	12th	10.30 am	Sanctuary
Vision 2020 prayer meeting	Wednesday	15th	9.30-10 am	Sanctuary

September 2014						
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

Presiding at Communion – training for serving and non-serving Elders:

Many of our local churches are struggling to find ordained ministers to preside at communion services, particularly during a time of vacancy.

The Synod Training & Development Officer, the Revd Anne Sardeson, is offering a training session for Elders in order to equip them to preside at communion services if necessary. A session is being held at Trinity as follows:

Saturday 1 November 2014 -

Exploring the whys, hows and whats around communion

9.30 am to 12.30 pm: an introduction for those who haven't been to any training yet

1.30 to 3.30 pm: digging deeper, for those who have been to training before and would like to dig deeper and maybe have a go at writing some liturgies.

If you plan to stay for both the morning and the afternoon session, please bring a packed lunch. Drinks will be available at the church.

Both training sessions will be led by the Revd Anne Sardeson, the Synod Training Officer

*For the Communion training **please book in advance** through bookings@urcthamesnorth.org.uk*

Trinity Bookworms

We meet on Wednesday September 3rd - venue to be decided.

We shall be discussing "The Photograph" by Penelope Lively.



The variety of groups meeting regularly at Trinity throughout the week:

Sundays

- **Trinity Worship** 10:30 am (Sanctuary)
- **Church of God of Worldwide Mission** 1:00 pm (Sanctuary)
- **Polish Lutheran Church** 3:00-4:00 pm on 2nd Sunday of the month (Sanctuary)
- **Church of Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith** 6:00 pm (Lower School Room)

Mondays

- **Movers and Shakers VIP style** 10:30 (Sanctuary, Lower School Room). Gentle exercise, social chatting and healthy food options. Open to all but particularly suited to people with a learning disability.
- **High Wycombe Wing Chun and Kali** group (Lionel Jowett Room), 6:45 pm - 9:15 pm
- **B-Natural Choir** 7:45 pm (Lower School Room) – a small singing group (*small charge*)

Tuesdays

- **Movers and Shakers Chinese Style** 10:00-1:00 pm (Lower School Room, Sanctuary) - a time of exercise followed by an hour of activity and health information. The morning ends with a lunch prepared by volunteers within the group. (*There is a small charge to cover costs*)
- **Women's Meeting** 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm (Lower School Room) –open to all women, interesting topics in a friendly setting, beginning with prayer and ending with tea and chat.
- **High Wycombe Wing Chun and Kali** group (Lionel Jowett Room), 6:45 pm - 9:15 pm

Wednesdays

- **Talkback 2** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (Lower School Room) - support for people with a learning disability offering lunch clubs, activities, seeing friends, time to talk
- **Yoga** 7:15 pm - 8:15 pm (Sanctuary) – *there is a charge by the person who runs this non-church group*
- **Pilates** (Sanctuary), 8:15 pm - 9:15 pm – *there is a charge by the person who runs this non-church group*

Thursdays

- **Talkback 2** 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm (Lower School Room) - support for people with a learning disability offering lunch clubs, activities, seeing friends, time to talk
- **Trinity Choir Practice** 8:00 pm (Lower School Room)

Fridays

- **Movers and Shakers, Caribbean style** 10:00-1:00 pm (Sanctuary, Lower School Room) - a time of exercise followed by an hour of activity and health information. The morning ends with a lunch prepared by volunteers within the group. (*There is a small charge to cover costs*)

Saturdays

- **WeightWatchers** (Crendon Hall) 10:00-11:00
- **Saturday Café** 11:00-1:30 (Lower School Room) 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month
- **Trinity coffee morning** 10:30 am - 12:00 pm (LSR) 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month

The **High Wycombe Bee Keeping Association** and the **Wycombe Wildlife Group** are also regular hirers.

Our uniformed organisations Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers also meet at Trinity.

For further information please visit our website www.trinity-urc.org.uk

Situations vacant !!

Bucks New University – Friends of Multi-faith Chaplaincy

The Revd Alan Kirkcaldy has stepped down as the URC representative on the Bucks New Uni (BNU) Multi-faith Chaplaincy Group and I have agreed to provide temporary cover until a new URC rep can be found – hopefully our new minister or CRCW in due course!

The URC is a covenant partner for chaplaincy at the university so we do want to keep this commitment if at all possible.

Karen Johnstone, the Coordinating Chaplain for Multi-faith Chaplaincy at BNU has asked if there may be anyone from Trinity who would like to volunteer with them, as they now have a growing list of Friends of Multi-faith Chaplaincy (FO MFC) who have added their name to a contact list if they need some help.

Such volunteering would include things like staffing stalls, washing up at the Uni, serving tea and coffee, baking cakes).

If you are interested please come and talk to me.

PS Karen has kindly said that if we have events happening at Trinity which we would like BNU to advertise I can e-mail her the details, and she will put these up at the university and add them to their Facebook page.

Kate Y

Do you have the gift of administration? - Area Secretary vacancy

In March next year I have to stand down as elected representative on the Chiltern Area Committee, and also therefore as Secretary.

If you have the **gift of administration, are computer literate, and would be willing to serve** the local churches, Area and Synod in this role, I would be very happy to talk to you about what is involved, particularly the time commitment. This does vary depending on current issues at the time but I would estimate that I spend about 2 hours a week on routine matters, plus 2 hours every 2 months at the committee meetings, and about 2 hours on the post-meeting documentation (minutes, newsletter to churches, and Report to Synod). I do have a more detailed "Role description" I've developed to reflect what I do if anyone is interested.

Kate Y

Sunday 28th September – service led by the Revd Dr Michael Jagessar, former Moderator of General Assembly

We hope you will be able to join us for this service when Michael Jagessar will be leading our worship. Michael was Moderator of General Assembly 2012-14.

Michael is Secretary for Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry at Church House and he is passionate about our intercultural life together. His work is about energising and enabling the United Reformed Church to live out what it means to be a multicultural church across all parts of the denomination's life together. Whether it is the mission team, racial justice networks, synods or congregations – growing and deepening habits where all are mutually inconvenienced for the sake of good news of God in Christ sums up his work.

Moderator of General Assembly 2016-2018 – The journey so far.

When I consider the position I have just accepted the lives of two leaders come to mind, Moses and Marx. Firstly, Moses – and please don't stretch the similarity too much – it's the start of his public career I'm talking about. Like Moses (and probably you) I'm a bit surprised I've been chosen for the role; but more of that later. Now for Marx: no not Karl, Groucho! He was famous for saying "would I want to be a member of a club that accepts me as a member?"

Despite any personal misgivings I have for the role I do feel I was called by God to do this. Before I explain the series of co-incidences let me remind you of one of William Temple's famous sayings: "When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don't, they don't."

My journey really started more than a year ago when there was an urgent call for nominations for the MoGA (Moderator of General Assembly) for 2013 onwards and the elected moderator, Mr Lawrence Moore, resigned. I looked at the ad and pondered. A little voice in the back of my head said 'you could do that'. I listened to that voice a few times over the next day or so until I decided to shut it up! Without discussing this role with anyone, not even Kate, I agreed with the little voice that I would give it a go, but I was not confident I could do it. I was also not confident that the little voice was God; I thought it could have been my ego. So, I laid down my fleece. I said to the little voice that I was prepared to do it, but that I would not tell anyone about it and I would not put my name forward – if God wanted me to do it he would have to get someone else to do that.

Within a week the first coincidence occurred: Gwen asked me would I allow my name to go forward (forward to our Elders' Meeting, the Church Meeting, and if the Church backed me then to Synod). That was the proof I was looking for ... so I agreed. But the plot did not end then. As you know my name did go forward to Synod, but the Synod Executive decided not to put my name forward to 2012 General Assembly. It was a mixture of relief but also anger, I was sure I was called by God, so why had Synod Executive not put my name forward!

When the call came for nominations for the MoGA for 2016 to 2018 Sue asked me if I would be prepared to let my name go forward again. I still felt obliged to my 'little voice' so I agreed, although I did not expect anything to come of it. To my surprise Synod did put my name forward as their only nomination for the lay Moderator. That was OK, but there could be 12 other Synods putting names forward so still little chance of having to do the role. The real shock came when Ann Barton, from the Assembly Office, rang to invite me to the final day of the Assembly as I would probably have to make an acceptance speech ... as my jaw fell she told me that I was the only nomination! Here is the second coincidence. If God had truly asked me to do this role why would he waste time and effort in getting other nominations?

It did not really sink in until Sunday, 6th July; I had been voted in and there was I standing in front of hundreds of earnest URCers giving my acceptance speech. I concluded my acceptance speech with "And so, it is my honour to accept this role with God's grace, your prayers and a bucketful of forgiveness. I promise to exercise this role with energy, diligence and humour." And here is the third coincidence. If I had been elected last year I would have struggled to meet both work and church commitments. The MoGA 2016 to 2018 officially begins on 7th July, 2016. My retirement date, my last day working with IBM will be 6th July, 2016 ... coincidence? Now, before we leave the topic of God's leadings it seems to me that my initial disappointment at not being put forward by Synod the first time was a big lesson to me that we do God's will in HIS timescales not ours. God did not let me down, I just didn't understand the timing – he had already chosen a great man for the 2012 role (John Ellis). I will have difficulty filling his shoes, and not only because he is over six foot tall!

Now, you might be saying what does a MoGA do anyway. Well, here is the official description from the URC. 'The moderators of General Assembly are the national figureheads for the denomination, representing the United Reformed Church both internally and within the wider world; they chair major meetings, visit churches at home and abroad, and seek to provide worship, teaching and pastoral care.'

Let me finish this part of my journey by thanking you all for your confidence in me and asking for your prayers as I seek further to do God's will.

Alan Y

News from “Down Under”

NEWS UPDATE FROM

GWEN & BERNIE COLLINS at the School of Theology and Mission – Rarongo
United Church College of Higher Education

17th August 2014

Thank you your interest in the people and situations we described last month in our news of arrival and settling. The Moderator of the United Church, Rev. Bernard Siai, led the service in the chapel on 20th July and assured us of the welcome and support of the whole church. We have enjoyed getting to know people in classes and through a pastoral group, daily mid-morning devotions, and weekly Bible studies, sports and men’s fellowship. When asked to speak to the whole school about ‘our home church’, we were glad to be able to describe a range of features from High Wycombe and Ickenham where we ministered in the last 6-7 years, and the four churches in Southampton, Hamble, Christchurch and New Malden, where we worshipped frequently since retiring.

In Rarongo chapel most Sundays this month the 2pm worship is led by a second-year Diploma student, for evaluation by a staff member. When it was my turn, the preacher was Helena Waking, from New Ireland. It has become a custom in these assessed services for the preacher to be escorted into the chapel with singing, dancing, drums and costume features from their region’s culture. A banner was unfurled when Helena introduced her theme. She suggested that ministerial staff, students and lay people can see themselves as architects, builders and labourers with responsibilities to work well in faith building.

The mountains of New Ireland are near Mount Tavorvur. East New Britain Radio is called Mouth of Tavorvur, recalling the eruption 20 years ago when most of Rabaul was covered with ash. Radio news this week speaks of 2,000 people displaced from their homes by a volcano in Bougainville.

Between New Ireland and New Britain are the Duke of York Islands, where a Methodist team from Fiji and Samoa led by George Brown made their base in 1875 for mission to the New Guinea Islands. Margaret Reeson, a friend and former colleague, now in Australia, has recently published a book on George Brown. Material she supplied was movingly used by Rev. Kelly Pala (Church History lecturer at STM) when he spoke at this weekend’s anniversary celebrations at George Brown High School.

Gwen and Bernie



I would just like to thank everyone who helps me complete the coffee rota every Sunday, we could not do it without you. Also, to say that there appeared to be quite a considerable under-spend on coffee etc. so I have returned £60 to general funds, and bought two new teapots with £30 hopefully these will not drip like the old ones! Thank you again and have a lovely restful summer, (or what is left of it!)

Blessings, Anne x

CHILTERN AREA COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER - JULY 2014 (Edited)

1. News from the churches

Amersham Free Church (AFC)

Phase 2 of the Vision4theFuture project recently completed on time, moving some small rooms and installing a **new Ambulant Toilet**. The main hall Vestibule now has more open space and a **new Drinks Servery** has been provided for people meeting in the side-rooms. Major restoration work has also been done on **the organ** which became "playable" again during May, and is now "running in" (hopefully fully functioning for a recital and concert early in September).

The very successful **LunchBreak community outreach** continues every Tuesday with often well over 100 people coming in to share a simple lunch and attend music, a talk or something else in the Sanctuary. Many are regular visitors even if not seen at Sunday services.

Other instances of church-run activities are **Tea at Three** (an invitation to have a cup of tea and a piece of homemade cake every Tuesday afternoon) and open-house for coffee on Friday mornings. These coupled with the church website and minister's blog are other means of outreach which reflect AFC's resolve to be "a community for the community".

The **building is in constant use and much in demand from hirers**: while Sycamore Club runs in a side room on Thursdays each week there are 2 toddlers/mother and baby classes being run in the Hall by a hirer. AFC also has a bridge club and a number of U3A groups etc using the premises on a regular basis. There is also the AFC monthly Men's Luncheon Club and quarterly Men's Breakfast, with matching Ladies Suppers.

David Eldridge

Deanway

A Christian Aid lunch was held in May at the Manse on a sunny warm Saturday with all proceeds for Christian Aid. Earlier in the year the village was pleased to welcome the **Revd Ian Brown as new Rector Designate** to the village parish church. Ian was licensed and inducted during Holy Week with five village churches represented at this service. On Pentecost Sunday a **well-attended United Service** was held on the village green on a hot sunny day. All the church leaders took part in the service and our minister, Revd John Parry, was delighted to welcome Ian, being pleased that he was no longer the "new boy" in the village.

Our **fortnightly Bible Study and Prayer Group** meeting at the Manse has just finished for this year and will recommence in September.

The highlight in our church calendar has been our Minister's course of talks entitled "**Four Faiths, Four Influential People**", exploring the lives of charismatic religious leaders (Muslim cleric Ibn Taymiyyah; Rabbi Moses Maimonides; Guru Nanak - the founder of Sikhism - and Gandhi), and explaining how their backgrounds and experiences shaped their beliefs and significance to subsequent believers. People of many faiths came to hear these talks every week, preceded by coffee and a chat at Deanway. And lastly, a coffee morning sale and lunch in the church secretary's garden took place on 19th July.

Ann Bird

2. New joint pastorate – Slough and Iver

The congregations of Trinity Slough, Kingsway and St Andrew's Iver have agreed to become a joint pastorate (**Joint Pastorate of Slough and Iver**) and share a minister when the Revd Linda Hillier (Kingsway & Iver) leaves on 30th September and the Revd John Danso (Trinity) leaves on 12th October. The **vacancy will be formally declared in due course**. In the meantime the churches are developing their Church Life Reviews and their pastorate profile.



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Sarah H (3 rd)	Becky C (15 th)
Sue S (5 th)	Iris H (18 th)
Simon E (14 th)	Martin D (20 th)
Lexi-Rae G (14 th)	Valerie Lo (27 th)
Michael M (28 th)	

a very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.

Congratulations



and Best Wishes to

Lesley & Ian (18th)
Joy & John (19th)
Kay & Glyn (30th)

on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 28th September.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 20th September*

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

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

prayer page

At this time of the year we remember all the children going back to school.

Lord Jesus, you welcomed and blest the children, so we ask your blessing on:

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2014

all children going to nursery or school for the first time;
all children moving to new classes;
all children moving schools and perhaps missing their friends;
all children starting new courses, particularly for outside examinations;
all children who have received examination results and who have to make decisions about their future.



We especially remember children known to us and name them before you.

Amen

We bring before you, Lord, our Christian brothers and sisters who are facing persecution and homelessness along with other minorities. Grant that they experience comfort and courage from feeling your arms around them.

We pray that the leaders of the nations and the peacemakers and negotiators may think and act with understanding and wisdom, patience and persistence as they seek to bring about the cessation of hostilities and to lay the foundation for a more stable and compassionate world.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen

A 'Thank You' Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for all who look after our countryside, including farmers, forestry workers and conservationists.

Thank you for all who look after our parks and open spaces.

Thank you for all horticulturalists and gardeners.

Thank you for all who keep our streets tidy, picking up litter, cutting grass and hedges.

Thank you for all who help to make the place in which we live a pleasant and welcoming one where people, plants and wildlife can be at home and flourish.

Amen

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.