

# men@trinity

## Newsletter

October 2006

### In this issue

Bike it for buffalo

From the (French) Potting shed

### Bike it for Buffalo

Imagine a dry dusty plain on the outskirts of a city. In the hot sun men, women and children are going about the process of making bricks. The men are up before light to mix the clay soil with water to produce a mixture, which is then hand shaped in wooden moulds by the rest of the family. These are then left to dry in the sun. After a few days these are taken to be stacked, covered with earth and fired in a huge kiln, the tall chimney's of which symbolise the brick makers of Lahore. These people are bonded labourers. The kiln owners lend money to the workers, who then repay the loans by producing bricks. The workers are mainly illiterate and have no way of knowing how much of the loans are paid off as they work. Whole families struggle to live on the loan

money and more is borrowed as needed. Debts run through generations and of course there are no schooling or health facilities. There are many different poverty situations in and around the city. In this culture the poorest people are mainly Christian or other minorities.



As a registered charity, 'Aqueduct' seeks to break the poverty cycle by providing education and income generation projects leading towards independence. We operate through a local church, the pastors of which are dedicated followers of The Lord. To date we have paid for teachers for adult education, children's education and a women's sewing class, plus associated equipment. We spend what we receive, and The Lord has blessed the work greatly. As trustees we meet about once a month for discussion and prayer.

Buffalo can supply one means of income generation. Loans are offered to buy buffaloes for rearing. This provides milk as they grow and income, as on maturity they can be sold at around 4-5 times the amount. They can also be used for pulling carts to start businesses so families can support themselves.

Recently a sponsored bike ride was suggested and organised by a local house group to raise money to buy buffalo for income generation. This escalated to become the recent 'Bike it for Buffalo' cycle ride from E.Grinstead to Groombridge and back. Almost 50 riders and walkers signed up for the event. We were blessed with wonderful weather and were flagged off at the start by the Mayor and his wife. Apart from a pedal coming off and someone taking a muddy tumble, there were no casualties and everyone managed to complete the journey. We all finished up at Hartfield in the parish hall for refreshments, though from there most seemed to gravitate to the pub next door. Tables were put together in the garden for the longest pub lunch table I've ever seen. All agreed it was a wonderful event, and something we now want to improve on and do annually. God works in **amazing** ways—we originally sought to raise £200, but to date over £1800 has come in through sponsorship of this event.

Thanks also goes to: Future Cycles (Forest Row), Elite Printing Services, The Print Room and Sackville School for their help and support.

Most people taking part were from New-Life, but maybe it could be a lovely way of joining brothers and sisters in Christ together, next time round.

# **Running the Race - Who will pick up the baton?**



**An evening with  
Jim Graham.**

**With music from  
Phil Jones.**

**At Trinity Methodist Church  
11th November 2006 at 7.00pm  
Doors open at 6.30pm**



If you have any articles you would like to contribute to  
[men@trinity](mailto:men@trinity) newsletter, please email to  
[men@trinitymethodist.org.uk](mailto:men@trinitymethodist.org.uk), or drop into pigeon  
hole B for the attention of Mike Bartrop.

## FROM THE POTTING SHED

Greetings



Your intrepid reporter is back with you once more having explored foreign parts to bring you exclusive news of what our European neighbours are up to in their gardens.

This month I'm going to report on a trip to Monet's garden at Giverny between Paris and Rouen. The house and garden were donated by his son in 1966 and after restoration the Fondation Claude Monet was established in 1980 to administer them. The gardens have been restored to their original style as designed and planted by Monet; and the style of the main garden in front of the house is very unusual to English eyes. There are a series of long rectangular beds sub-divided into smaller beds by typically continental pale gravel paths. The planting in each long bed is colour themed and there is a lot of repetition of plants. Although I was there at the end of August, there was plenty of flowers and colour; predominantly the daisy family such as Rudbeckia, Helenium and Echinacea as well as Dahlias and Marigolds. Some of the roses were still flowering but the early treats had long since finished such as irises and Wisteria.

Through an underpass under the main road was the famous water garden with its much painted Japanese bridge and water lily pond, all overhung with weeping willows and surrounded by huge bamboo. This part of the garden was a shady retreat even if you had to dodge the ubiquitous painters.

The house had also been restored to how it had been in Monet's day and in each room was an original photo showing Monet in them as they had been, although the large man with a huge white beard was not in the rooms today.

If you're ever over that way its well worth a visit as it is very interesting and beautiful.

Happy gardening and God bless.