

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. *Luke 2:10-11*



December 2010

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,

The Christmas story tells us a great deal about the character of God.

It tells us, for example, that God is not proud. In the same basic, unhygienic conditions in which far too many babies are still born, God became man in a stable at Bethlehem. An ordinary young woman gives birth far from home. There are no special facilities laid on. What is good enough for the masses is good enough for Him.

It tells us too that God is not distant or strangely different. The Christmas story is a story of intimacy. God comes to us in a human being. He wants to be known.

And the story also tells us that God is the joy-giver. The overwhelming emotion flooding through the story as it touches Mary, the shepherds and the wise men is that of great joy.

God is the joy-giver. God can and does deal with the pain and darkness of human experience, bringing joy. This baby has come for a purpose and the purpose is salvation. This is the truth conveyed by the angel in the deeply beautiful words of Luke chapter 2, verses 10 and 11. God is the joy-giver, because God, and only God, can bring about a rescue that is totally liberating.

So take time this Christmas to be open to God the joy-giver; God the liberator.

Janet Lees says something similar in her poem, 'As With Madness'. Janet and I were at Mansfield College, Oxford together in the early '90's training for ministry. She is a speech therapist as well as a minister, and is co-ordinating the URC's Vision4Life programme. Here's her poem:

As with madness we prepare
For this festive time of year,
As we rush and count the days,
Advent passes in a haze,
So may our feet take us to
Places where we will meet you.

As with madness we collapse
In our armchairs to have naps,
As we eat too much and then
Fill our plates right up again,
So may we enjoy this feast,
Prompted now to share, at least.

As with madness we keep on
Trying to ignore your son,
Timely God now takes a risk,
Bawling babe now shakes a fist,
So may each of us now see
Christ has come to set us free.

May our joy-giving God, who is neither proud nor distant nor strangely different, bring you great joy and freedom in Christ whatever your circumstances are this Christmas.



As With Madness © Janet Lees, from *Shine On, Star of Bethlehem*,
compiled Geoff Duncan, published Canterbury Press.

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December Services & Rotas

Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m. and led by the Minister unless otherwise stated, as we move through Advent into our Christmas Celebrations.

- Dec. 5 Holy Communion & launch of Vision4Life year of evangelism.
- Dec. 12 Festival Gift Service led by Junior Church. All age worship.
- Dec. 15 2.00 pm Chinese Christian Christmas celebration, hosted by Trinity and led by Oxford Chinese Christian Church.
- Dec. 19 10.30 am Morning worship, on the 4th Sunday of Advent
4.30 pm Carols by Candlelight, followed by mulled wine & mince pies.
- Dec. 24 11.30 pm Christmas Eve Midnight Communion
- Dec. 25 10.30-11.15 am Christmas Day family-friendly worship. You are welcome to bring a present you have received.
- Dec. 26 Morning worship at Trinity, with Wesley Methodist, led by David and Barbara Sparks

Not included in this version

What's on in December



Dec 13th Christmas Meal

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 7th Dec Talking about Christmas Cards

Tuesday 14th Dec Mince pies & Carols

Both meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Next Meeting - 11 January 2011



Diary Dates

November 30 – December 2 Gwen, Kate & Andrew at Windermere Centre

- December**
- 5** Launch of URC's Vision4Life Evangelism Year
 - 10** Movers & Shakers' (Caribbean) Christmas Meal
 - 11** Coffee Morning
 - 11** (2-4pm) Carol Singing in The Chilterns Shopping Centre
 - 11** **Drama For Life Concert**
 - 14** Elders' Meeting
 - 15** (2pm)(Chinese) Christmas Service
 - 18** (2-4pm) Carol Singing in The Chilterns Shopping Centre

December 2010						
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	31	

Not included in this version

Long term Diary Dates

JANUARY

- 15 Haywood Trio Concert
- 16 United service for the Week of Prayer For Christian Unity
- 18 Church Meeting
- 23 Service for Healing
- 29 5th Brigade

FEBRUARY

- 13 CWM Service
- 20 Thinking Day Parade & Evening Holy Communion
- 25 & 26 Pantomime

MARCH

- 13 CWM Service
- 15 Church AGM

APRIL

- 3 Mothering Sunday
- 10 CWM Service
- 21 Maundy Thursday Communion Service (Wesley Church will join us)
- 22 Good Friday Service at Union Baptist Church followed by Walk of Witness
- 24 Easter Day
- 30 5th Brigade

MAY

- 8 CWM Service
- 17 Church Meeting

JUNE

- 12 CWM Service
- 19 Trinity Sunday & Evening Holy Communion

JULY

- 10 CWM Service, Church Picnic & Songs of Praise on The Rye
- 19 Church Meeting
- 25-29 Lighthouse Week
- 30 5th Brigade

Jesus as the Centre of Christmas

On Thursdays 2nd and 16th December from 11am to 4pm there will be Christmas activities underneath Wycombe Guildhall in the High Street. The idea is to highlight Jesus as the centre of Christmas. There will be a prayer Tree, face painting, the Church of England School Choir, wrapping of Christmas presents, mulled wine, mince pies and more.

Debbie Orriss, Town Centre Evangelist, is organising the event and asking for volunteers to help for a short while during the day. If you can, please contact her on: 07757 171612

Parking in the town centre will be free of charge on both these days.

MM

Christmas Carol Singing

We have been invited to join with Union Baptist Church singing Christmas Carols in the **Chilterns Shopping Centre on Saturdays 11th & 18th December 2-4pm**. Please let Marian Mole know if you would like to join them.

Christians desert the Middle East

Christian minorities in Middle Eastern countries are shrinking as they flee persecution and as Islamic populations outbreed them. *The Independent* called the Christian flight an exodus 'of almost biblical proportions'. Nearly half of Iraq's Christians have left, mostly since 2004. Once Christians were in the majority in Lebanon, but now more than half live abroad. Egypt's Copts now form less than ten per cent of the population, Christianity is banned in Saudi Arabia and Christian Arabs in the Holy Land have been caught in the middle of the Palestinian conflict – harassed by both sides. The crisis prompted the Pope to arrange a meeting of the different churches of the region in Rome last week, at which he called on Islamic countries to guarantee freedom of religion.

Sources: *The Independent* (26/10); *Reuters* (24/10)

Editor's note: Readers will recall the recent murder of up to 50 Catholics at a Mass in Iraq, (which occurred after the above articles were written,) prompting many to consider leaving the country.

Commitment for Life

Regular readers of page 6 may be looking for this month's report from Commitment for Life. Worry not - there is no report this month. (Something seems to have gone awry in the system as nothing has been received.) However, we have plenty other news and information to fill our pages for this Christmas edition. Hopefully we will be back to normal next month.

Post bag

"Greetings from Alnwick. Wishing everyone at Trinity a very happy and blessed Christmas. Hope to see you sometime in the new year. Much love to you all. Ian & Maureen B"

'THE EMPTY PLATE'

What will you be tucking into on Christmas Day?

Spare a thought, a prayer and some of your money for those who have no home, for those who do not know where their next meal will come from, for those who have been abused, and for those who are not expecting any Christmas presents this year.

As is our usual practice each Christmas 'The Empty Plate' will be on the grand piano in the sanctuary throughout Advent for you to make your donations. We will be supporting the following charities:

**Christian Aid
Crisis
Women's Refuge
The Old Tea Warehouse, High Wycombe**

If you are a taxpayer and would like to Gift Aid your donation please use & complete a blue envelope.
Thank You.

This list is just a reminder to those kindly folk who offered to provide some nibbles for the Carols by Candlelight on 19th December.

Mince Pies:-

Ellen 12
Marie 12
Audrey 12
Barbara 12
Sarah 12
Sue 24
Anne 24 + large tin of chocolate biscuits

Marian 24 small bags of crisps

Rose 100 sausage rolls

Thank you so much for your kindness and I wish you a very Happy Christmas and peaceful and healthy New Year.

Blessings Anne x



May I take this opportunity to thank my wonderful band of regular providers of milk and biscuits for the coffee rota. You are unstinting in your loyalty, and the congregation really appreciate their cuppas. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and peaceful, healthy New Year.
God's blessings to you all Anne x



CWM welcomes Aung San Suu Kyi release

Thursday, 18 November 2010 13:02

The Council for World Mission (CWM) has welcomed the release of Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi after seven years of house arrest.

CWM general secretary Rev Dr van der Water said he hoped the move marked the beginning of a new future for the country, particularly for the people of the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar - a CWM member church.

"We believe the decision by the military generals is long overdue and, we hope, will mark the beginning of a genuine move toward political freedom and democracy for the people of Myanmar and the country as a whole," Dr van der Water said.

"We look forward to the ban on the National League for Democracy being overturned, and the imposition of all sanctions lifted immediately to allow much needed food, services and products to reach the people of Myanmar.

"We call for transparency, honesty and justice in all future negotiations over the coming months, and will continue to pray for the men, women and children of Myanmar and its long-term development as a democratic, prosperous and peaceful country."

Aung San Suu Kyi was freed on Saturday after Myanmar's military junta on Friday signed an order authorising her release.

She has been detained for 15 of the past 21 years. Her last spell of 18-month house arrest expired on Saturday.

In July 2009, a court sentenced Ms Suu Kyi to 18 months for breaking the conditions of her house arrest by allowing an American citizen to stay in her house after he swam across a lake uninvited.

Ms Suu Kyi, 65, is the daughter of Burma's independence hero, General Aung San.

(On September 17, 1994, Alabama's Heather Whitestone was selected as Miss America 1995.)

Question: If you could live forever, would you and why?

Answer: "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever,"

--Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss USA contest.

Note - She won !!



Volunteering for The Stroke Association

Get involved with The Stroke Association by ...volunteering

Have you got a couple of hours to spare each week and would like to be involved in something worthwhile, then we would love to hear from you.

We provide support to people who have had a stroke and their families and carers and during the last 12 months have set up two support groups in Amersham and High Wycombe and are now looking for volunteers to help run and support these groups.

Chairperson/Organiser - would ensure the smooth running of the group, acting as a key contact for The Stroke Association and members and volunteers of the group. We are looking for someone with good leadership and organisational skills and the ability to motivate others and involve them in decision making.

Support Group Volunteer - would involve spending time listening to and supporting members during meetings, helping make teas and coffee. We are looking for someone with excellent communication skills and who is friendly and sociable. If you would like to know more about these opportunities then please contact Debbie Bullard 01296 633351 or debbie.bullard@stroke.org.uk

Useful references:-

Stroke Helpline **0303 3033 100**

www.stroke.org.uk

Lettings arrangements

We now have a new leaflet promoting Trinity's rooms for hire. Copies will be available in the Lower School Room and on the noticeboards.

The Revive team and Lettings Management Group have looked at the current 'default' layouts for our rooms based on the main hirers who use them, and have agreed that these will be as follows:

- Lower School Room to have three tables with four chairs each
- Sanctuary to have all chairs stacked away facing the wall
- Lionel Jowett Room – all chairs stacked away facing the wall
- Crendon Hall to have no chairs out

An image of the default layout will be displayed in the rooms

For Trinity, this means that we will simply need to move tables and chairs in the Lower School Room around for coffee after our services, and then replace them afterwards. Most of the Lower School Room users have it in a café style set-up.



WoRM



Workshop Rotation Model

In Junior Church we are launching a new way of teaching in January. Currently we have been using Scripture Union's Light material but we have a number of issues which are affecting us in Junior Church:

- We only have 3 leaders
- There is a wide age range from 5 – 16
- Many children are not regularly attending so we cannot guarantee who we are planning for and how many we will have in our class leading to putting the classes together on a regular basis
- We are no longer inspired by the Light material
- Many weeks we are doing something different eg planning Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Harvest.

The Light syllabus takes one topic over a four week period and follows the story concurrently so if one week is missed there is a gap in the story. We always miss one week with All Age worship which we value as a way to worship all together. This means that a child never fully understands the topic and its message.

WoRM is a way of teaching which has been tried and proved very successful by St Andrew's Church in Leeds. They are currently on their second five year rotation and have very kindly sent us all their teaching material. The way WoRM works is:

- Takes one topic a month
- Looks at this topic every week but in a different way, eg through science, drama, craft, computing.
- Children will gain an understanding of the topic even if they only attend one week.
- The scheme fits very well with all age worship
- We can teach all the children together and easily include any visiting children.

We have planned January to April next year. With three teaching weeks every month each leader is taking responsibility for one week a month. This spreads the planning without increasing our time commitment. What we would like is the second adult each week to be someone from the congregation who can come and join us and share their talents and enthusiasm. If there is a topic or activity that you would like to help with or learn more about please come and help us. We are not asking for a regular commitment just once every now and then for something which interests you. If no one from the congregation is available one of the three leaders will fill the gap. If you would like to volunteer or find out more please speak to Sarah who has the rota. We already have some volunteers so if your talent area has already been taken don't worry there will be more opportunities! The leaders and children are very excited and hope you will be too.

The syllabus:-

January - CREATION

- 9th Weaving
- 16th ALL AGE WORSHIP
- 23rd Cooking - cookies
- 30th Drama - Masks

February - ZACCHAEUS

- 6th Sewing - money purses
- 13th Computing
- 20th ALL AGE WORSHIP
- 27th Craft - Pop up Zacchaeus

March - MOSES

- 6th Science - float/sink
- 13th Music - instruments
- 20th ALL AGE WORSHIP
- 27th Cooking - Babies in baskets

April - EASTER

- 3rd Temple – symbols/mosaic
- 10th Cooking - Hot X Buns
- 17th ALL AGE WORSHIP
- 24th Plate gardens



Lighthouse News

High Wycombe Lighthouse is to move to new premises in 2011. This news was shared with local ministers at a recent meeting. Lighthouse High Wycombe will meet at Highcrest Community School and also at Cressex Community School. Lighthouse trustees have looked at where the children come from and they hope that meeting nearer to their homes might make it easier for children to link up with local churches after Lighthouse. At the moment many children and young people take a step of faith at Lighthouse but do not then make a connection with church. It will also be easier logistically if fewer coaches are needed. The trustees thanked local churches warmly for all their help. In turn the clergy present thanked Lighthouse for the opportunities given to our own young people to enjoy being with other young Christians and growing in their own faith. Letters will come to volunteers in the New Year, as usual, with details of all the opportunities to make Lighthouse a success in the new venues, as well as continuing the excellent work at Lighthouse Hazlemere.

Neighbourhood Watch News

Apparently, several energy supply companies, such as EON and British Gas, have a password security system. This also applies to many water companies.

The system is available to domestic customers who can register a password against their account. Anyone then calling at your door, claiming to be from your energy company, reading meters etc, can then be asked for this password to confirm they are genuine. If they aren't able to give you the password, do not allow them access to your property.

This system could be valuable for people who are more likely to become victims of distraction burglars. Please contact your individual companies to find out if they operate such a system - the numbers will be available from your utility bills.

BEWARE THE INFORMATION YOU GIVE IN QUESTIONNAIRES!

Police and Neighbourhood Watch would like to make people aware of the following report on BBC's "Watchdog" programme featured on 4 November 2010 about the following survey that is soon to be sent to over 1 million homes.

N-Power, Unilever and Talk Talk are among the many companies sponsoring a survey that is to be sent out by TNT. They request you fill in a questionnaire detailing your personal information and to leave it on your doorstep in an unsealed paper bag for collection the following day.

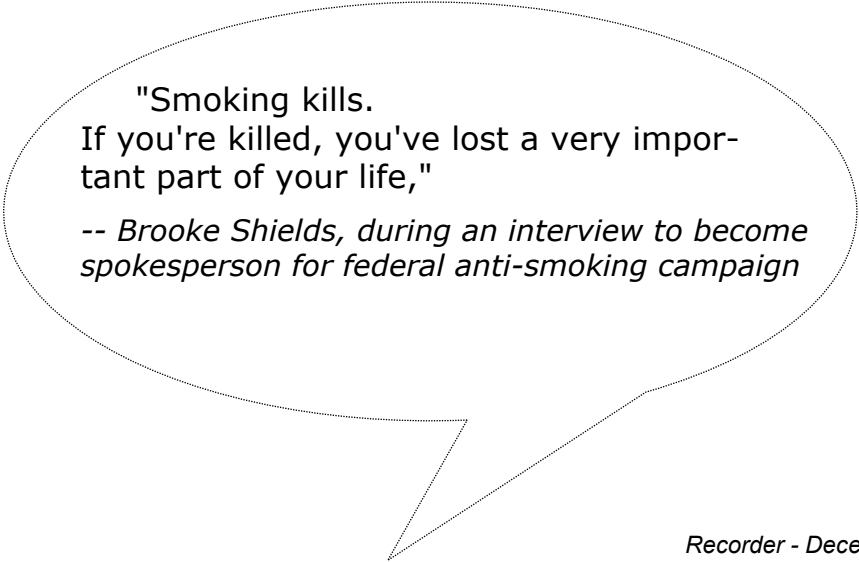
The questionnaire is five pages long and contains one hundred and eighty six questions about your personal circumstances.

The Information Commissioner's Office has stated that;

"These surveys usually require people to provide a large amount of personal information - ranging from whether they have any outstanding medical conditions, to details of their household income. Anyone approached to fill in one of these surveys should think twice before leaving information like this on their doorstep. They should be aware that anyone could potentially pick it up, opening the way to identity theft. People completing these forms should also understand who will have access to their information and what it will be used for."

More advice and information is available from the Watchdog website at:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/watchdog/2010/11/tnt_survey.html



"Smoking kills.
If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life,"
-- Brooke Shields, during an interview to become spokesperson for federal anti-smoking campaign



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Marion M (8th)

Barbara M - (19th)

Edna W - (21th)

Elaine S (26th)

A Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity



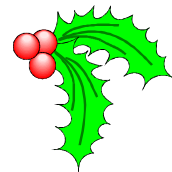
If you look for me at Christmas
You won't need a special star.
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem
I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of me
Amid the celebrations
You'll have to look beyond the stores
And all the decorations.

But if you take a moment
From your list of things to do
And listen in your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with,
You're the reason that I came
And you'll find me in the stillness
As I'm whispering your name.

Author unknown



The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 2nd January.
Closing date for contributions is Monday 27th December

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

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

prayer page

A Hymn of Praise

I will proclaim your greatness, my God and king;
I will thank you for ever and ever.
Every day I will thank you;
I will praise you for ever and ever.
The Lord is great and is to be highly praised;
His greatness is beyond understanding.

What you have done will be praised from one generation to the next;
they will proclaim your mighty acts.
They will speak of your glory and majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful deeds.
People will speak of your mighty deeds, and I will proclaim your greatness.
They will tell about all your goodness and sing about your kindness.
The Lord is loving and merciful, slow to become angry and full of constant love.
He is good to everyone and has compassion on all he made.

Psalm 145 1-9 Good News Bible © United Bible Societies

Advent Prayer

Father, in the wilderness of the Jordan you sent a messenger to prepare
people's hearts for the coming of your Son.
Help me to hear his words and repent of my sins, so that I may clearly see
the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him,
our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen*

Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
born in David's city of Bethlehem,
born like him to be a king:
Be born in our hearts at Christmas,
be king of our lives today. *Amen.*



Struggling at Christmas

We pray for all who will struggle this Christmas ...

- with being bereaved
- with poverty
- with loneliness or singleness
- with difficult family situations
- with inadequate food or heat
- without celebrations or presents
- without a vibrant, meaningful faith

Bring your peace, love and people together, in the name of the baby in the manger. *Amen.*

Weekly prayers through December:

Sunday	For your godchildren, or other children you know well
Monday	For people you know who are in need
Tuesday	For our local Council, struggling to meet needs with less funding
Wednesday	For those who care for family members with health problems
Thursday	For those who have lost their way of faith, that Advent may bring hope
Friday	For the work of Amnesty International
Saturday	For those who are refugees and asylum seekers, like Jesus and his parents were.