

They made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. [Luke 2: 17b-18]



December 2011

The Recorder

Inside - this month . . .

Pastoral letter	2	Church family & Life	5 - 13
Services & Rotas	3	Commitment for Life	6
What's on?	4	Prayer Page	14

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,

Nicky Gumbel, the vicar behind the Alpha course, tells a couple of stories relating to Christmas that made me smile. The first one goes like this: A little girl wrote to her granny, "Thank you very much for the nice gloves you sent me for Christmas. They were something I wanted – but not very much."

It occurs to me that many people, if they were honest, feel like that about Jesus. "Thank you God for sending Jesus whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. Peace, joy, love, forgiveness and salvation are things I wanted – but not very much." Or perhaps it is truer to say that many people do want those things, but they do not actually expect to get them from or through Jesus. Isn't that sad? Somehow 21st century Brits have, by and large, lost that vital connection.

The great thing about Christmas is that it gives Christians opportunities to help friends, colleagues and neighbours see the connection between Christ and their own deepest longings and hopes. Not that it's easy to do that.

It has become a cliché to bemoan the fact that commerce has overtaken Christ as the centre of our experience of Christmas. Nevertheless Nicky Gumbel's second story gave me pause for thought. It goes like this: "A man wrote to *The Times*: 'Sir, Failing to find any religious books in the bookshop, I asked an assistant for help. She showed me an inconspicuous handful of Bibles and prayer books, saying, "We have had to move them down to the bottom shelf because of Christmas."

So, if we wish to have Christ at the centre of our Christmas we are up against stiff competition. Well – nothing new in that! When Jesus was born he was far from centre stage. The Roman Empire occupied that place of power and celebrity. It is a spiritual truth that God works in secret and hidden places in lives, and in society. Maybe He is not that bothered about being relegated to the bottom shelf?

Recorder readers will know that the beginning of Advent 2012 marks the end of our Vision4Life year of evangelism. I wonder what you've made of it?

It is also the end of the whole 3 year Vision4Life programme. Year one was year of the Bible; year two was year of prayer; and this last year, year of evangelism. We do not, of course, intend to stop reading the Bible, cease praying and refrain from sharing our faith with others from this point onwards! It is just that the 3 year denominational focus, that was aimed at building up our own confidence in our faith and feeling more able to share it with others, has come to an end.

I would like to encourage you this Christmas to do just that, to share your faith with others. It could be by joining in the Churches Together gift-wrapping outreach under the Guildhall; or by carol singing outside Frankies and Bennies, or in the Chiltern Centre. Or through a message written in a Christmas card; a loving action to help a friend in need; or by inviting someone to come to one of our Christmas services with you. Do it thoughtfully and with the recipient's tastes in mind – something the little girl's granny may not have been careful enough about when she gave her gloves.



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins

e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk

Church Secretary : Mrs Sue Saunders,

e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

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. 4		Holy Communion, on the 2 nd Sunday of Advent
Dec. 11		Festival Gift Service led by Junior Church. All age worship.
Dec. 14	2.00 pm	Chinese Christian Christmas celebration, hosted by Trinity and led by Oxford Chinese Christian Church.
Dec. 18	10.30 am	Morning worship, on the 4 th Sunday of Advent
	4.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight, followed by mulled wine & mince pies.
Dec. 24	11.30 pm	Christmas Eve Midnight Communion
Dec. 25	10.30-11.15am	Christmas Day family-friendly worship. You are welcome to bring a present you have received

Not included in this version

What's on in December



Dec 12th 7pm for 7.30pm Christmas Meal

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 6th Dec St Nicholas
 Tuesday 13th Dec Break up for Christmas. Mince pies

Both meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Next Meeting - 10 January 2012



Diary Dates

December 2nd Rainbow's Hospitality Evening
 10th Coffee Morning
 10th Wycombe Philharmonic Christmas Concert (see page 8)
 11th Junior Church Gift Service
 17th & 24th Carol Singing in the Chiltern Centre 2-4pm
 18th Carols by Candlelight 4pm

December 2011						
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

Brain stimulation!

In case you happen to have a spare hour or two over the festive season and are looking for something to think about, this edition of the Recorder comes with a FREE supplement - four pages of puzzles. Spare copies are available so that each member of the family can work independently. The answers will appear in the February edition (and not next month as stated) - to allow thinkers to devote some time over the New Year weekend to finish off their efforts if they have not already done so!

LEADING OUR PRAYERS FOR OTHERS IN SUNDAY WORSHIP

Would you like to lead prayers of intercession in our Sunday morning worship? Several people take a turn to do this, and the rest of us benefit greatly from the different perspectives they bring to our prayers. If you've never thought of offering your help in this way why not think about it now?



You could write the prayers yourself, or you can use prayers from a book. You could lead prayers on your own or with a friend or family member, sharing it between you.

There's no age limit – upper or lower. If you would like to take this further let me know.

Gwen

ZIMBABWE

First part of this article appeared last month. This is a more in depth article concerning Matsiloso who will be featured in our next partner update due in October.

During the 2008 elections run-off period, SCMZ member Matsiliso Moyo was arrested with her baby son in her arms and made to spend the night in appalling cell conditions, for her part in mobilising young people to vote.

'They said "we want to teach you a lesson, you are going to go into the cells with your baby". People were being killed; people just disappeared...people were being beaten up. I thought they were going to do whatever [they wanted] to my son and get away with it.'

Douglas recounts how, during a recent visit to the SCMZ offices, Matsiliso enquired when a second booklet would be produced, saying *"I have realised that if we are not careful our experiences can be a hindrance to achieving our goals and ambitions in life"*. Douglas recalls how Matsiliso stated that being involved in the project and sharing her story with her "younger brothers and sisters" had added meaning to her life.

Though the president is keen for elections in early 2012, Zimbabwe's elections may be postponed until late 2012 or early 2013 as the Zimbabwean government is come under significant pressure from SADC (South African Development Community) earlier this year (2011) to wait until the conditions in country are conducive to free and fair elections. The I-stories remain relevant and reaching out to young people as urgent as ever in promoting the peaceful political engagement of young Zimbabweans, as Zimbabwean politics remain tumultuous and African news sites report continued violent and disruptive behaviour by politically affiliated youth with little police intervention.

Christian Aid continues to support SCMZ's work nurturing a culture of peace among youth in Zimbabwe, aimed at building a critical mass of young people who are willing to actively engage in peace-building. 'It is an intensive campaign rooted in mobilising young people to desist from violence and act as agents of peace in their communities' says Douglas. 'It is informed by a situation where young people have been abused by politicians as machinery for violence during election times or as machinery to quell any dissent voice as political parties jostle for political superiority.'

Douglas sees the relevance of this booklet going beyond elections, saying 'it will forever point to the fundamental prescriptions of healing and confession. Zimbabwean elections have historically proved to be characterised by violence and intimidation. Therefore the booklet shall remain relevant as anyone can easily identify with the stories; what simply varies is time and context.'

BANGLADESH - Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB)

CCDB has worked in the Gopalganj district of south-central region in Bangladesh since 1984. One of the key areas of work is developing village forums. Village forums are made up of approximately 120 members and aim to raise the level of development within a community. CCDB is currently working with more than 5,000 individuals. The forums, largely made up of women, initially focus on small-scale livelihood development projects, for example duck rearing and floating gardens. As the forums grow and develop they move into a second phase, the micro-credit phase. CCDB provides the members with training in the process of credit and loaning. The members then donate funds on a weekly basis which are loaned to other forum members for development projects. These funds are then returned to the group with a set interest rate agreed in advance. This money is then put back in the pot so that it can be loaned to other members.

Changing peoples lives

The forums and the loaning process have dramatically changed the lives of people in the groups. It provides members with capital to invest in livelihood projects, education and much more. The groups have also raised significant funds which they use to buy assets, such as land, which they rent out for further profit. For the women in these groups it has also significantly changed their relationships with their husbands, and men and women in the community. Many of the women reported that initially their husbands did not want them to be involved in the groups. They did not want their wives to leave the home, as women in Bangladesh have traditionally not worked outside the home. These views have begun to change. Now many men encourage their wives to be involved in the groups as they gain skills through CCDB training and have access to loans which they can use on development projects.

'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:

Crisis Wycombe Homeless Connection

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

CAROLS BY CANDELIGHT - Sunday - 18th December



Thank you so much to those kind folk who have offered to supply "eats" for the above service, the list at the moment looks like this, but I will need more "volunteers" yet!!



12 mince pies from all the following people:- Marian , Marie , Joy , Kay , Janet , Iris and Audrey . A large bag of crisps (with little bags inside) Olive and 80 sausage rolls Rose . Large tin of chocolate biscuits, and mulled wine Anne , with Ellen Murray TBC.

Thanks you all again, and may I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy and peaceful New Year.

Blessings

Anne x



... and more singing . . . We have been invited to sing carols outside Frankie & Benny's in Crest Road on 20th December at 7pm. Please come and join us.

Meet outside at 6.50pm dressed warmly, (and maybe bring a torch). They will supply drinks and nibbles.

We have also been invited to join Union Baptist sing on Sat 17th & 24th Dec between 2-4pm in the Chiltern Shopping Centre, just turn up and join in.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the ladies who do the flowers each week.

Wishing everyone all the best for the festive season.

Ellen M

Recorder - December 2011



10 Nov 2011



Papua New Guinea looks at reviving church—state cooperation

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has praised churches for their work in delivering services to the people of Papua New Guinea, and has welcomed stronger partnership with the church in the future.

Mr O'Neill said this during a meeting with Catholic Archbishop Francisco Montecillo Padilla, an Apostolic Nuncio and dean of the diplomatic corps, the National reported.

Archbishop Montecillo paid a courtesy call on the prime minister at his Morauta Haus office to discuss improving and reviving the work of churches, especially inviting more foreign missionaries to come for outreach in PNG.

Mr O'Neill said churches had contributed enormously in the development of the country by delivering services to the most remote parts of the country where governments did not reach.

"I want to thank the churches for delivering much-needed services to our rural populace, especially in the areas of education and health. Churches remain at the forefront of service delivery and their contributions are huge and the government would be looking at reviving the government—church partnership to facilitate more work in this area."

The government's poor record of service delivery was underlined by the fact that despite a windfall of revenue in the last six years, there was very little to show for it on the ground, Mr O'Neil said.

Neighbourhood Watch update



This is a community message from Thames Valley Police and Bucks County Council
Calls are NOT from Transport for Buckinghamshire

A number of hoax calls have been received by residents in the county by callers claiming to be from Transport for Buckinghamshire. These people have been asking residents to vacate their properties for health and safety reasons so that road works can be carried out without causing any disruption. The calls offer to pay for temporary accommodation in local hotels whilst the work is undertaken.

Transport for Buckinghamshire inform residents of local works by official 'Notices to Frontages' delivered by hand through each residents door. They will never contact residents by phone via 'cold calling' and always carry identification whilst delivering these notices.

Peter Hardy, Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport said, "We would like to reassure residents that we use official notices to inform of works and I would encourage anyone who receives one of these calls to get in touch with the police using the non emergency number 101. If you are unsure whether works are scheduled in your area, check our Service Information Centre - www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport and visit the Roadworks page."

If you receive one of these calls, Transport for Buckinghamshire recommends politely terminating the call and reporting it to the police.

Neighbourhood Watch update – e-mail scam

This is a community message from Thames Valley Police regarding an email scam.

South Bucks Police has received several reports recently of e-mail accounts being hacked into and e-mails sent to all the names in the victim's address book alleging that they have been taken ill abroad and need money sent to them. If you receive any such e-mail please report it to Thames Valley Police via the 0845 505 505 number and do not under any circumstances send money. The Police will collate any reports and forward them to the victim's internet provider for them to investigate.

If you have responded to such a request in the belief it is genuine, please report this to Thames Valley Police and this will be investigated as a case of fraud.

These scams succeed because the offenders send out thousands of e-mails in the hope just a handful of people respond to make it worth their while.

Games Pastors

Last month the concept of a Games Pastor was introduced to readers. Further information is given below, but if anyone needs more guidance, please speak to Gwen. (Some of the details supplied have not been easy to convert to copyable text to include in the Recorder.)



MORE THAN
GOLD

Games Pastors will play a lead role in responding to the practical and spiritual needs of thousands of visitors coming for the Games.

Where people gather – from transport terminals to games venues – Games Pastors will be there. If you've heard of Street Pastors, Street Angels or Town Pastors you will get the picture.

More Than Gold is working with the transport hubs and the churches to make sure the right number of the right kind of people are where they are needed.

What will Games Pastors do?

Games Pastors will be wherever people gather in large numbers. They will be trained, equipped and supported to assist travellers, sightseers and spectators with practical advice and help. And all the while they will have an eye open for those who may be in special need.

Effectively, they will demonstrate the love of Christ on the streets and at transport terminals to those visiting London for the Games.

The minimum volunteer period for a Games Pastor is seven days, with one of those as a day off. A day will normally be two 4-hour shifts.

Each Games Pastor will be part of a small and mutually supportive team.

What training will be given?

To make the most of this opportunity –

Full and appropriate training will be given by Christian agencies with the experience and expertise needed – including Street Pastors, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, London City Mission and Christian Nightlife Initiatives

An opportunity to experience street ministry will be offered to go out on patrol as observers with their local night time projects.

This means just about anyone with a desire to serve people as a Games Pastor should be able to do so.

What costs are involved?

Games Pastors are responsible for finding their own funding in respect of their application training, travel, accommodation and meals.

Who can apply for the role?

Those applying will –

- already have a heart for serving people and be ready to face a wide variety of challenging situations
- be fit enough to cope with lots of walking and standing
- be a team player, flexible and servanthearted

Applicants will also require the full support of their church leader. And those with language or other diverse skills are particularly welcome.

What is the next step?

For full details including a job description and an application form go to www.morethangold.org.uk/gamespastors

AMITY TEACHERS' PROGRAMME

Do you have:

- A degree or recent teaching certificate?
- 2 years (with the option of more)?
- An appetite for teaching in less developed areas of China?

The Amity teaching programme places **Christian teachers of English** into Chinese teacher-training colleges. Recent Amity teachers have included young graduates, experienced teachers and professionals who have taken early retirement. Teachers are encouraged to contribute to in-service learning training for Chinese teachers, cooperating with the provincial Institutes of Education. Successful candidates have all their training, flights and insurance costs covered. Teachers also receive a Chinese salary and accommodation is provided by the college. Recruitment for the Teaching Programme starts in December with interviews in February and briefings in April for appointments beginning the following August.

Interested? Go to Christians Abroad: www.cabroad.org.uk

Are you dreaming of working in China?

This could be your opportunity

SUMMER ENGLISH PROGRAMME

Are you:

- Educated to college level?
- A native English speaker?
- Free for four weeks over July and August?

If you are interested in **teaching in China for a short-term period**, then you might like to consider joining an ecumenical team participating in the Amity Foundation's Summer English Programme(SEP). The SEP provides local Chinese teachers with a chance to upgrade their conversational skills through contact with native English speakers (preferably educated to college level),and encourages them to develop more interactive and stimulating classes for their own students. The programme is self-funded, lasts for four weeks over July and August, and recruiting starts in January. Introductory and briefing meetings are held before departure. Teams are usually made up of three or more people and are coordinated by Friends of the Church in China.

Interested? Go to Friends of the Church in China www.thefcc.org and choose Activities/ China Opportunities.

YOUNGADULT PROGRAMME

Have you:

- Completed your secondary education?
- Between 6 and 12 months to spend in China from August?

Amity's Young Adult Programme is designed for **young people to build bridges** and engage in cultural exchange with their Chinese counterparts. This includes teaching English in Middle Schools in less developed areas of China. It can also be combined with service in social welfare sectors.

Interested? Contact the CTBI China Desk: www.ctbi.org.uk

AITECE

Do you:

- Have a degree or teacher's certificate?
- Have a year (or more) to spend in China?

The Association for International Teaching, Educational and Curriculum Exchange (AITECE) is an independent, not-for-profit Catholic organisation which **sponsors foreign teachers and experts** wishing to work in China. Its goal is to enhance the English skills of young Chinese students and to promote international understanding and friendship between cultures. Teachers receive an allowance and accommodation from the university. Recruitment is in December for an end of August start and in September for a February start For full information, see the websites of AITECE (www.aitece.com) and Cultural Exchange with China (www.cecuk.org).

Interested? Contact: cec.uk@btconnect.com

SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMME

A chance for involvement with social service institutes or schools for children of migrant workers. Aimed at secondary school leavers and above(18+).Length of service is from one week to two months, and dates are flexible.

Interested? Contact the CTBI China Desk: www.ctbi.org.uk

STUDY VISITS

From time to time, Study Visits go from UK to China, often for 2 or 3 weeks. For information about these, or other resources about China, please visit the websites below:

www.thefcc.org

www.ctbi.org.uk

www.amityfoundation.org

www.cecuk.org

www.sccg.org.uk

Chiltern Area Newsletter - November 2011 (*edited*)

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Beaconsfield

Following Nigel Douglas' sponsored walk of the Ridgeway Long Distance Path, which raised £1,727 for Health Help International, Mr. Ron Prosser, the founder of HHI, delivered a sermon to a well-attended service. The church was crowded for a double christening one Sunday, with a good contingent of children going out for Junior Church.

A well-attended harvest service was followed by a sit-down lunch in the church hall. Produce donated at the service, which took the form of tinned and dry goods, was taken to the URC church in Newham.

There are plans to open the monthly men's breakfast to other Beaconsfield churches.

Speakers for these occasions have mostly come from either our own congregation or from other churches in the town.

Another newly launched activity, "Holy Curiosity", a gathering to discuss and learn about such subjects as Science and Religion, Islam, Post-modernism and Bible texts and Translations, attracts varying but growing numbers. Other activities, such as the weekly mother and toddlers group, the monthly cafe service and the various Bible study fellowships, continue unabated.

Burnham

The church is generally in good heart, although a number of friends have suffered from falls recently. Fortunately they are all now on the mend. Unfortunately the oldest member of the church family, Rex Rixon, passed away recently at the age of 97. Burnham still have 5 other attendees in the 90 plus age bracket, all of whom are in good health. They have been encouraged by the numbers attending regularly at the morning service, which is holding up at 25-30 each week. Over the Summer months a few visitors added to their number and a few of them have since returned.

Vis-a-vis the discussions with Deanway and Iver, Burnham will be hosting a "Getting to know you" afternoon led by Alan Yates. This will be open to all members of the congregations, not just members. Beryl expressed her gratitude to the Area Convenor for the time and effort he has invested in seeking to get this project "off the ground". Finally, of course, the church looks forward to a programme of services and events to celebrate Christmas and the incoming New Year.

Deanway - Chalfont St Giles

The fellowship is mourning the loss of Preben Andersen and his wife Margaret who moved in August after seven years at Deanway but is pleased that Chiltern Area Committee is helping them explore other possibilities for ministry in the future.

The Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes have been sent off having been contributed to by the Women's Fellowship and handicrafts group. They are looking forward to their Christmas fair, and gathering at Burnham on 27 November to explore the possibility of shared ministry.

Churches Together in Bucks Vision Day

We hosted this event in October, which is an annual gathering but required a larger venue this year. The speaker was Revd Dr David Cornick, General Secretary of Churches Together in England. David is a former Principal of Westminster College Cambridge and past General Secretary of the URC.

Further extracts from this newsletter will appear next month.

Some highlights from the last Synod meeting of 2011: held on 5 November 2011

1. Mission Initiatives Group (MIG) and Vision2020

Our Synod's Mission Initiatives Group (which has granted us funding towards our Night Shelter work) will be managing the grants within Thames North Synod that will be available from the national 'pot' as part of the Vision2020 grants for mission projects.

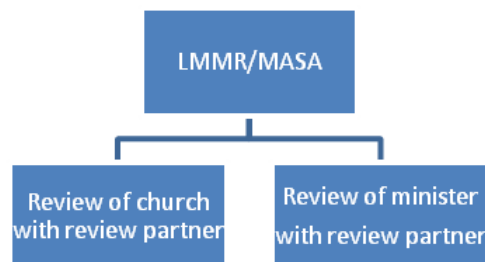
Criteria for applications are available; grants will be made on a first-come/first-served basis, and deadlines are 14 December 2011, 14 April 2012 and 14 August 2012.

2. Local Accreditation of Lay Preachers

Synod voted to accept a resolution to affirm the ministry of lay preachers, and to accept the criteria and processes for local recognition of local preachers, as per the paper "Local recognition of lay preaching".

3. LMMR update (Local Ministry & Mission Review)

Synod voted to accept a resolution to affirm the work done so far by a working group on the future process for churches and ministers to review their mission and ministry.



4. Move of Thames North Synod Office in 2013

The current lease at Ipalo House in Great Peter Street, London, expires in February 2013. The Synod office will be moving to Bayswater URC which is being redeveloped (subject to planning approval) to provide worship space, hall, kitchen, loos and basement space, together with Synod office space and two high quality flats which are being developed and sold to fund the work. The Synod office space will be rent-free and fully accessible.

5. Westminster College £7 million fundraising appeal

The URC's training college in Cambridge needs bringing up to date to be suitable for the 21st century including making the library accessible to all. General Assembly has pledged £1m and the College itself has pledged £2m, and the college is seeking funding from Synods and individual churches. The Synod agreed a vote to grant £500,000 towards this. However, following a statement by Gwen about the lack of theological resources available to the Church in Papua New Guinea and other countries, it was suggested that the Synod might consider making a grant to help another country in such need. We hope this will be discussed at the March Synod meeting.

6. Synod Budget 2012 (and the URC's 40th anniversary)

This was approved and includes a sum of money for each Area Committee to host a celebration to mark the URC's 40th anniversary in 2012. Watch this space!

7. West London United Reformed Asian Christian Fellowship

A proposal was made to request that General Assembly receives this fellowship (a mission project of the URC) as a local church of the URC. The vote was passed on this.

8. Deployment

Synod voted to accept the report of the Synod Development Group which seeks to develop a strategy for a fairer sharing of ordained stipendiary ministry across the churches in Thames North Synod, and to implement the recommendations for the way forward..



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Marian M (8th)

Barbara M - (19th)

Edna W - (21st)

Elaine S (26th)

A Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity

A Christmas Open Evening
Tuesday 6th December 2011
7.30pm – 9.00pm
at Kingfisher House,
109a West Wycombe Road



An opportunity to drop into Kingfisher House during the evening and meet the WYFC Team

and Trustees over mulled wine and mince pies.

Wycombe Youth For Christ

Kingfisher House, 109a West Wycombe Road, High
Wycombe HP12 3AB

Tel: 01494 522777 Email: office@wycombeyfc.org.uk

Website: www.wycombeyfc.org.uk

Wycombe Philharmonic Christmas Concert

Saturday 10th December

Crendon Hall

7:30PM - 9:30PM

To raise funds for Wycombe Homeless Connection and Chiltern Air Ambulance.

For more information contact <http://www.wycombephil.org.uk/>

Tickets available on the door

The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 1st January.

Please submit any items for publication as soon as possible. I will not be around for most of December, but will be able to make minor adjustments just before the publication date. [Ed]

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

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

prayer page

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2011

Looking forward to Christ's birth

Father God,
you are the creator of the expected and the unexpected.
As we celebrate the birth of your son Jesus, our Saviour,
whose birth had been prophesied centuries before,
we pray for women of all ages who have to cope with news of
unplanned pregnancy.
Give them courage to face what lies ahead.

We pray too for the women and men yearning for a child
who never arrives –
a birth hoped for but unfulfilled;
or a child who dies unexpectedly;
or a child who has disappeared

We pray for parents awaiting news of a prodigal son or daughter
temporarily lost –
a longed-for return
for relationships restored

Christ, our Messiah, come to us afresh this Christmas
as Emmanuel
– God with us – through the power and love of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Anon



Father,
We ask that the followers of Jesus everywhere will grow in the knowledge
and love of God and neighbour, and will shine as lights to all around.
Amen.

Christmas gift suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect."

Oren Arnold from www.faithandworship.com

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

cf Ephesians 3