

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God ... and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." [Luke 1: 26, 28.]



**December 2012**

# **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,

What a wonderful time of year this is in the church. The familiar and much loved round of services through Advent culminates, this year, in three consecutive days of worship – Carols by Candlelight, Midnight Communion, Christmas Day Christingle. I can hardly wait! Some of you will be away visiting your families or friends and enjoying the traditions that are local to them. Wherever you are, may you have a blessed and ‘real’ Christmas.

A ‘real’ Christmas, I hear you ask. What is that? A real Christmas is a Christmas during which you know that God is with you (Emmanuel). A real Christmas is a Christmas when the angels are not just cute performers at the school nativity, but bringers of the voice of God to you in the particular perplexities, sorrows, joys and challenges that you are facing, December 2012. A real Christmas is not an escape from reality, but a time in which reality is lifted from earth to heaven and back again – transformed.

William Barclay was a very popular 20<sup>th</sup> century Scot who wrote notes on the Bible that brought the meaning right into our living rooms. Here is something he wrote when reflecting on the fact that at every testing time in Jesus’ life the voice of God came to him:

What God did for Jesus, he does for everyone. When he sends us out upon a road, he does not send us without directions and guidance. When he gives us a task, he does not leave us to do it in the lonely weakness of our own strength. God is not silent, and ever and again, when the strain of life is too much for us, and the effort of his way is beyond our human resources, if we listen we will hear him speak, and we will go on with his strength surging through our frame. Our trouble is not that God does not speak, but that we do not listen.

I am reminded of one of my favourite Christmas Carols.

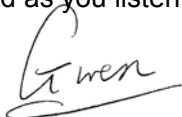
It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold ...  
Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world ...  
and man, at war with man, hears not the love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing.

Forgive the un-inclusive language! Normally I strongly support changing hymn words to be inclusive, but this one just doesn’t sound the same in the updated version!

This Christmas I hope that you will hear the angels. I hope too, that you will be an angel. I hope that you will be a bringer of messages of peace, goodwill, love and hope right into the middle of the reality in which God has placed you this December.

Action by Christians against Torture (ACAT) is another way to be an angel this Christmas, bringing hope and connection to people in prison and those fighting for their rights. You can read more about that in this Recorder.

And as you listen for the angels, and as you are one, may you have a blessed and ‘real’ Christmas,



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins  
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Church Secretary : Mrs Sue Saunders,  
e-mail: [secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto: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. 2		Holy Communion and Gift Day on Advent Sunday
Dec. 9		2nd Sunday of Advent, with Mark Tubby, Church Related Community Worker, to tell us about CRCW ministry in the URC
Dec. 16		Festival Gift Service led by Junior Church. All age worship.
Dec. 23	10.30 am 4.00 pm	Morning worship, on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 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, café style Christingle, and you are welcome to bring a present you have received.
Dec. 30		Morning worship led by Alan Yates.

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**Not included in this version**

# What's on in December



10th Dec Christmas Meal 7 for 7.30pm at  
21 Fremantle Road

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 4th Dec Hymns and readings for Advent  
Tuesday 11th Dec Mince pies and Carols

*Both meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*



## Diary Dates

Event	Time and date	Venue
Gift Day	Sunday 2nd 10.30am	Sanctuary
Vision 20/20 Prayer meeting	Wednesday 5th 9.30am	Sanctuary
Coffee Morning & decorating the Christmas Tree	Saturday 8th 10.30am	LSR & Sanctuary
Guest Preacher Mark Tubby CRCW	Sunday 9th 10.30am	Sanctuary
Traidcraft Stall	Sunday 9th	LSR
Housegroup	Tuesday 11th 10.30am	134 Brands Hill Ave
Crown House Christmas Concert	Thursday 13th TBA	Sanctuary
Junior Church Gift Service	Sunday 16th 10.30am	Sanctuary
Vision 20/20 Prayer meeting	Wednesday 19th 9.30am	Sanctuary
Town Centre Churches Christmas Outreach	Wednesday 19th 11am – 3.30pm	All Saints Parish Church
Carols by Candlelight	Sunday 23rd 4.00pm	Sanctuary
Christmas Eve Communion	Monday 24th 11.30pm	Sanctuary
Christmas Morning Worship	Tuesday 25th 10.30am	Sanctuary

December 2012						
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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

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Thank you so much to the kind folk below who have offered to bring refreshments to Carols by Candlelight this year. This is just a reminder incase you forgot to write it down:-

12 mince pies each from :-

Ellen , Lesley , Sarah , Joan , Barbara , Gwen , Audrey , Margaret , and 6 from Iris .

A tray of savoury small pastries Val

100 sausage rolls Rose

A platter of children's cakes Julia

A large tin of sweets John and Marianne

A large tin of chocolate biscuits Kate and Alan

Mulled Wine, candles etc.

Anne H

May I wish you all a very Merry and peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you again for your support,

Anne x



SPECIAL COFFEE MORNING  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 8th

10.30 am - 1.00 pm

Please come along and support Children in Need

Thank you

Rose

Give me a sense of humour, Lord,  
The Grace to see a joke.  
To get some happiness in Life  
And pass it on to other folk.

... now turn to page 10 to test your sense of humour!

## **ZIMBABWE**

Teresh Mumpand is 26 years old and lives with her husband and 6 year old daughter, Precious. On a typical morning she starts work in the field at 6am then she fetches 20 litres of water from 3 km away, feeds the chickens, grinds the grain and finally works in the garden again before preparing food for her family. She doesn't have much money for food and so mainly eats what she grows. This is millet, and if you ate it every day, I can guarantee you would moan! When I spoke to her though, she didn't dwell on how hard life was or how tasteless millet was, but instead she spoke of how much better life was now than before the work of Christian Aid's partner, Christian Care. Despite still having very little, as a result of a new savings and loans group set up by Christian Care, she can now afford to send her daughter to school and wants her to become a doctor. Miriam Webb, Christian Aid/FURY Intern (part of an F2 article)

## **BANGLADESH**

### **Shushilan**

Based in the coastal belt of Bangladesh, Shushilan continues to work on climate change adaptation and emergency response, relief and rehabilitation work.

Its project work aims to reduce disaster risks and increase the options for earning an income for communities most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and frequent disasters.

Key activities include:

- providing training in different income-generating activities, such as rearing crabs to sell
- distributing boats and nets to fishermen
- developing an ecologically sound demonstration farm where farmers can learn environmentally friendly ways to grow crops and learn environmentally friendly ways to farm.
- installing a mangrove nursery, which provide a habitat for fish and sea creatures
- developing saline-tolerant seeds in areas where frequent flooding means the soil has been contaminated with salt.

Christian Aid's work in Bangladesh has been debated in the House of Lords. Earlier in October, the Bishop of Derby, The Right Rev Dr Alastair Redfern, talked about the work of Christian Aid in a debate on human rights in Bangladesh. He talked about their work in supporting single women and women-headed households to build their livelihoods and play a full and active role in their communities.

### **Loans**

The IMF has approved a loan of \$987 million to Bangladesh and has already released the first tranche. Recently the IMF had a mission in Dhaka to review issues compliance on the eve of releasing the second tranche. The loan has attached different stringent conditions which include, import liberalization, automation of fuel price in withdrawing subsidy, privatisation of state enterprises and introduction of new VAT law. Bangladeshi progressive civil society is continually protesting about this. Bangladesh is also one of the countries which will be impacted worse in respect of climate changes.

Equity BD (Equity and Justice in Bangladesh), supported by Jubilee Debt Campaign UK and others, has initiated a mobilization. Demands:

- End the damaging IMF loan and tax conditions
- Bring in tax justice
- Audit the debt
- Say no to climate loans, yes to reparations

*The following is an edited extract from two e-mails sent from St Vincent by our absent musician - Andrew Winton. Those on his e-mail list will already have read this, but others will not.*

I have had a lovely welcome. People are not effusive, but very gentle, which makes it more sincere.

The house I am in is clean and very adequate. It is only 10 minutes from the cathedral and 15 minutes from the diocesan centre. Also, the Dean changed his car recently, but kept the old one for visitors to use, so I have wheels. (I pay the bills.)

Day 1 and a meeting with the Bishop and the Dean where I was given my first task; to assist the organist and choir director. (Two people)

How is this for timing? The organist went into hospital for an operation two days after I arrived – so it's all up to me for the next month or so. It's a busy cathedral with a spoken mass every weekday morning, and two Eucharist services on Sundays – 5.30am and 7.00am. There are lots of other special services where the organ is used. It's a nice mix of very high church format, but some of the hymns are the lovely modern ones.

The organ is quite new, and is a high spec electronic one, three keyboards plus pedals. Next Sunday is the Independence day celebration, so I have to learn the St Vincent national anthem.

My input to the schools will start soon. I have meetings with the principals shortly to discuss timetables and agree lesson content. There have been many opportunities for personal witness already when people ask why I am there.

It's sad to see a lot of poverty. This is a country with a struggling economy. The Anglican Churches are looking to help practically as well as spiritually and I hope I can be a part of that work.

Prayer request – that I understand quickly the different orders of service, and for my safety where I live.

The first four weeks have gone in quickly. The school programme is about to start, but up till now it has been good to have free time to tackle organisational items.

After a lot of rehearsing, I can now make the organ “speak” and it sounds pretty good. I just thank the Lord for an instrument that does not wheeze and squeak. For the first time, I played the whole of the sung mass last Sunday. 15 hymns, the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Lord's prayer, Agnus Dei, etc. A lot of singing!!

It's been good to be involved in the weekly bible studies, and attend early morning mass (6 am) in the Lady Chapel.

The organist is still waiting to have his operation. Bizarrely, he has to have 5 donors give blood to the bank, before they will operate. In the meantime I have started training him on the organ controls so he can use the organ more effectively.

We have recently had a confirmation service led by the Bishop, for about 25 young people. It was a very moving, meaningful and beautiful service. I have also played at an extra service in a daughter church. It was a children's celebration for harvest. The small children were so cute and remembered all their lines.

The archbishop for the West Indies will be coming here at the beginning of Advent to lead a combined service of Advent Mission. (2<sup>nd</sup> December). This will be held in a large sports arena near the airport. It will be a high mass. I will be involved in the training of the various choirs as they prepare anthems to sing together. This will mean travelling to the local churches for midweek rehearsals. So, lots happening, and not much time for myself.

Socially, I've been to one parishioner's home for Sunday lunch and it was lovely to be included in their family gathering. I was also taken to the Independence day parade, and there were sailors from a British RN ship in the celebrations.

There have been a lot of local break-ins to property, so please pray for my safety. I now have a safety box at the local bank, so my most important documents are secure.

It has been very humid and hot since I arrived, and it is very tiring, especially at my age!! Oh for some air-conditioning.

# ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE

## UK CHRISTMAS CARD GREETINGS LIST 2012

It is a tradition every year for ACAT members and churches to send greetings to prisoners at Christmas. Prisoners need our support all year but we can all tell them at this time of the year that they are not alone or forgotten. A card can mean such a lot to them. Please join us in bringing a little light into a prisoner's life.

DO NOT ADD YOUR ADDRESS UNLESS YOU ARE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO A CORRESPONDENCE WITH A PRISONER SHOULD HE/SHE WRITE TO YOU.

Human rights defenders and human rights groups are also in great need of support, prayer and encouragement. Let them know that you are thinking of them and praying for them. So often they and their families are at risk because of the work they do.

Please consider sending a card this Christmas. Details of human rights organisations and of individual prisoners will be available in the Lower School-room after church every Sunday in Advent.

### **THERE ARE CERTAIN GUIDELINES THAT WE WOULD ASK YOU TO FOLLOW WHEN WRITING TO A PRISONER AT CHRISTMAS**

1. Simple messages of goodwill are enough - PLEASE DO NOT ADVANCE YOUR POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS VIEWS

2. Some prisoners will not be Christian – so, where marked, please send an appropriate card, ie NOT a "Christmas" card.

3. Some of you may receive a reply from a prisoner but this should not be expected. If you do receive a reply, inform the office, giving the prisoner's name, prison address and country and initiate a correspondence. Letters from the world outside prison can be very important.

4. YOU MUST POST YOUR OWN CARDS, please **DO NOT** send them to us to post on.

A card is a small token but means so much to those prisoners who receive them. Even if they are not handed to the prisoners, they usually find out that cards have arrived for them. The prison authorities know that someone is thinking of them and their prison conditions are often improved as a result.

ACAT campaigns for the tortured, those under threat of torture, the disappeared, those subjected to death threats and to extrajudicial execution. It is a small ecumenical registered charity with no paid staff. It produces a bi-monthly Newsletter and also takes part in the International Prayer Vigil for the tortured at the end of June.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACAT UK - Terry and Eleanor Newland, 8 Southfield, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4LX Tel: 01752 843417 Email: [uk.acat@gmail.com](mailto:uk.acat@gmail.com) Registered Charity: 107262



Christmas dinner is over. Lots of little bits of everything left?

Don't panic - a tasty solution is at hand.

Put any turkey bones into a pan and cover with cold water. Cover, and boil well for 20 minutes - adding more water if necessary to keep the bones covered.

Leave to cool. Remove the bones, and return any remaining meat to the pan.

Now here is the good bit. Have faith!

Put **any** leftover vegetables into the pan - ie carrots, sprouts, potatoes (even roasted ones), together with other savoury things such as bread sauce.

Now process the mixture in a liquidiser or the like. Season to taste, and reheat immediately before serving.

*There is no pretence that this is a particularly clever idea, but you may be truly surprised at how well it is received by those who would be reluctant to eat any of the separate components of this healthy fare.*



Disposal of old communion table and lectern

Our new dais furniture will be dedicated next weekend at our "Church Weekend Not Away" and our old communion table and lectern will therefore be surplus to requirements.

Before making arrangements for their removal we would like to ensure that church members have the opportunity to say if they would like to provide a home for either piece.

PLEASE LET KATE YATES OR GWEN COLLINS KNOW BY TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2013 (our next church meeting) IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE OLD FURNITURE.

Thank you.

## CHILDREN'S ANSWERS IN MUSIC EDUCATION.

*These are stories and test questions accumulated by music teachers in the state of Missouri, circa 1989.*

I can't reach the brakes on this piano!

Just about any animal skin can be stretched over a frame to make a pleasant sound once the animal is removed.

It is easy to teach anyone to play the maracas. Just grip the neck and shake him in rhythm. My favourite instrument is the bassoon. It is so hard to play people seldom play it. That is why I like the bassoon best.

I would like for you to teach me to play the cello. Would tomorrow or Friday be best?

Music instrument has a plural known as orchestra.

Tubas are a bit too much.

A contra-bassoon is like a bassoon, only more so.

The most dangerous part about playing cymbals is near the nose.

Anyone who can read all the instrument notes at the same time gets to be the conductor.

The main trouble with a French horn is it's too tangled up.

For some reason, they always put a treble clef in front of every line of flute music. You just watch.

The concertmaster of an orchestra is always the person who sits in the first chair of the first violins. This means that when a person is elected concertmaster, he has to hurry up and learn how to play a violin real good.

Question: Is the saxophone a brass or a woodwind instrument?

Answer: Yes.

Last month I found out how a clarinet works by taking it apart. I both found out and got in trouble.

A bassoon looks like nothing I have ever heard.

Cymbals are round, metal CLANGS!

Question: What are kettle drums called?

Answer: Kettle drums.

When electric currents go through them, guitars start making sounds. So would anybody.

The double bass is also called the bass viol, string bass, and bass fiddle. It has so many names because it is so huge.

While trombones have tubes, trumpets prefer to wear valves.

A trumpet is an instrument when it is not an elephant sound.

Another name for kettle drums is timpani. But I think I will just stick with the first name and learn it good.

Instruments come in many sizes, shapes and orchestras.

You should always say 'celli when you mean there are two or more cellos.

A tuba is much larger than its name.

A harp is a nude piano.

My favourite composer is Opus.

## **Chiltern Area Newsletter - November 2012 (edited)**

### **News from the churches**

#### **Chesham**

“At the moment we are in a transitional time, on a pilgrimage towards the opening of our redeveloped buildings. We moved out of the church in September having spent a busy summer packing up and sorting, and we are currently worshipping in the hall of Trinity Baptist Church along the road. We are grateful for the help they have given us. We have had to close our Urchins Toddlers Group, our Afternoon Fellowship and our Coffee Shop during this time, but we have contact numbers and we hope they will be back even stronger when we return to the church buildings. The building work is progressing well and ahead of time! We hope to return at the beginning of March. We are planning an opening weekend on 18/19 May 2013 and hope people will join us to celebrate a new start. The Revd Roberta Rominger will be preaching on the Sunday.

We have been focusing on our vision for our new buildings and the Revd Anne Sardeson led a day for us in September. Tim Reith will be with us in December and then Anne is returning in January, so we are well supported by Synod expertise as we make our preparations. Three of our Elders also attended the Synod Day on Pioneer Ministry.

Our Pilots group remains strong and we have now several in their late teens. Two of the group did a training course in August, so we now have three trained young people. In October we shared lunch after the service and then several members talked from personal experience about their world stories. We heard of the situation in Pakistan and sang in Urdu, then had a peace song from Hungary, followed by the story of a Japanese wedding in Hawaii. We agreed to share stories again in the New Year as there were many more to tell.”

#### **Gerrards Cross**

“St Andrew's is in a positive mode and thriving under David Henry's leadership. We had a service to celebrate harvest on October 14th and all but two or three of the congregation stayed for lunch after the service.

We are planning various activities around Christmas including carol singing on the church steps on Saturday 22nd in aid of charity. We had a few extra worshippers on Back to Church Sunday and plan to make invitations to worship a regular feature of our outreach (e.g. quarterly). Springboard is still attracting over thirty men and women each Monday evening with growing success in finding jobs.”

### **Nominations for Area Committee representatives**

Nominations for two vacancies to serve for a three-year period as Area Committee representatives are being sought. If you would like to know more about what's involved a member of the committee would be happy to talk to you. Nominations have to be supported by a church meeting and sent to the Returning Officer by 5 pm on 15 December.

Before putting forward a nomination the person nominated must be approached to ensure that s/he is willing to stand, and understands that in the event of an election being necessary s/he will have to submit an election address of no more than 100 words.

### **Personnel**

The Revd Dr John Parry's induction as minister at Deanway United Church takes place on Sunday 11 November at 3 pm.

The Revd Ian Green's induction as minister at Amersham Free Church takes place on Saturday 17 November at 3.30 pm.

## **Some highlights from the Synod meeting of November 2012**

### Induction of Tim Reith as Synod Mission Enabler

#### Personalia

Various notices were given on retirements and ministerial changes, including notice of the death of The Revd Dorothy Havergal Shaw who died on 27 September.

#### Training for Learning and Service (TLS) Certificates

Hazel Richardson of Amersham Free Church received her Equipping for Service certificate for *Gateways into Pastoral Care*'

Mary Carpenter of Trinity Slough received her Educational Award certificate for *Gateways into Worship*.

#### Synod Reps

The Synod Clerk reminded the Synod meeting that if Synod Reps are unable to attend the Synod they cannot simply pass on their voting paper to someone else. A church meeting has to appoint a proxy beforehand.

#### Appointments

Mrs Tina Ashitey, (member of Palmers Green URC) was appointed as a member of Synod Executive.

#### Finance

The Audited Accounts for 2011 were presented, and the 2013 budget was discussed.

#### Deployment update

The quota of stipendiary ministers available in the Synod will be reducing year-by-year and each Area has to have a strategy to deal with this and provide ministry to the churches. The Synod Deployment Group will be considering deployment strategies from all Area Committees in order to implement the report agreed at the last Synod.

#### Partnership Forum

The partnership between Thames North Synod and Southern Synod to give mutual support in implementation of the London Strategic Development has been dissolved.

#### Summary news from Mission Council

- They met with the Methodist Council to explore barriers, similarities and differences in possible future co-operation. A theological conversation will continue.
- The Special Category Ministry scheme will continue, limited to 8% of the number of stipendiary ministers. This will probably allow up to 6 new SCM posts to be approved in January if there are applications.
- Strategic planning – there are various strands of work including the review of the Synod Moderator, and these will all be brought together in one big piece of work.
- General Assembly 2014 will be from Thursday 3 July to Sunday 6 July at St David's Hall, Cardiff. Representatives will arrange and pay for their own accommodation, meals and travel, but an allowance of £50 per day will be available towards these costs.
- Radical Welcome continues with a Toolkit now available to help churches engage with this.
- Work continues to produce new safeguarding policies for children and adults.
- Youth and Children's Work Committee have produced a sensible plan for developing their work with fewer staff because of a smaller budget.
- Moderator-elect John Ellis was reappointed as Honorary Treasurer. A Deputy Treasurer will be appointed.
- The Revd Ruth Whitehead has been appointed as South Western Synod Moderator.
- The 2013 budget was approved, incorporating the cuts agreed at Assembly.
- Appropriate staffing and management for Church House (in the light of budget cuts & restraints) needs to continue to be developed. A new head of HR will be recruited. The Deputy General Secretary gave notice that he will be returning to local church ministry after Mission Council in May 2013.
- Terms of Reference for the Human Sexuality Task Group were agreed, taking forward living with the 2007 Commitment.
- Multicultural, Intercultural, deferred from General Assembly, was warmly agreed.
- The Revd Susan Durber finishes as Principal of Westminster College next summer.

#### Local Ministry and Mission Review

Synod voted to agree the process for the Church Life Review part of LMMR.

#### Synod website

This is being revamped and you can see the new developing site at [www.thamesnorth.net](http://www.thamesnorth.net)

This month we would like to wish a



Happy Birthday



TO

Audrey R (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Marian M (8<sup>th</sup>)

Barbara M - (19<sup>th</sup>)

Edna W - (21<sup>th</sup>)

Elaine S (26<sup>th</sup>)

Anne H (30<sup>th</sup>)

Congratulations



and Best Wishes to

Margaret and Colin L (7<sup>th</sup>)

on celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

*With love from us all at Trinity*

*xxx*

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*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 30 December*  
**Please submit any items for publication as soon as possible.**  
*The FINAL deadline will be Christmas Eve [Ed]*

Recorder Editor : e-mail : [editor@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:editor@trinity-urc.org.uk)

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

## prayer page

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Lord, we hear the cry to prepare for your coming  
but sometimes we ignore it.  
Forgive us,

**And help us to act on what we hear.**

Lord, we hear the cry of the poor and the dispossessed  
but fail to act on their behalf.  
Forgive us,

**And help us to act on what we hear.**

Lord we hear the cry of the sick, the sad and the sorrowing  
but sometimes we dismiss it.  
Forgive us,

**And help us to act on what we hear.**

Lord we hear the cry of anguish from foreign lands  
but we do not let it touch us.  
Forgive us,

**And help us to act on what we hear.**

Lord in the busyness of our lives,  
in the misuse of our time,  
in the preparation for the festival that should be yours but has  
become all about us,  
we miss the cry to prepare for your coming,  
because we have missed all the cries of your people.  
Forgive us,

**And help us to hear your cry in our midst. Amen**

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### **Prayer for Migrants**

Almighty and merciful God,  
whose Son became a refugee  
and had no place to call his own;

look with mercy on those who today  
are fleeing from danger,  
homeless and hungry.

Bless those who work to bring them relief;  
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;  
and guide the nations of the world towards that day  
when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

from <http://www.prayer-and-prayers.info>



Jesus, Saviour, Healer, Friend –  
you were born into a working class family  
without privilege, without power, without wealth.  
You spent your life living in this way.  
Help us to put to death our worldly values and desires,  
and to follow your Way. Amen.