

And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.  
She wrapped him in cloths and placed  
him in a manger, because there was no  
room for them in the inn. [Luke 2:7]



**December 2013**

# **The Recorder**

## **Inside - this month . . .**

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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**

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**Gwen Collins**

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Dear Friends,

I am writing this in the early hours of the morning of Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November. A few hours ago, in the Lower Schoolroom, one of you shared a piece of advice - if you can't sleep you should get up and do something!

This is a 'time between times'. Two days ago many of us shared in worship in what were my last two services at Trinity. In four days time you will be throwing a leaving party for me. My years as your minister will have come to an end.

What can I say? 'Thank you' seems inadequate somehow. But of course that is what I want to say. Thank you for being who you are, and for inviting me to come and share your lives. I have loved being your minister. I hope that that has been evident. I am not sure that I am entirely reconciled to moving on, but God is good and wise, and I trust that what He called me to you to accomplish we have together achieved.

Please forgive what I have said, done, or failed to do, that has hurt you in anyway. Accept my gratitude from the heart. You are sending me off with a treasure trove of rich and good memories. Church based ministry has stretched 'muscles' I didn't know I had! That can be painful sometimes, such as on the occasional Saturday afternoons when despite efforts earlier in the week a sermon has not yet 'come'. But exercise, including spiritual and intellectual exercise, makes us stronger, and that has been my experience.

So, no, I probably won't miss having to write a sermon every week, even though I recognise what a privilege and honour that has been. What I will miss, is you. That includes all of you - Trinity members and friends, those of you in our sister churches, and those of you who are community group members here, as well as many people in the wider community. Thank you again for all that we have lived together.

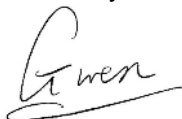
People matter, don't they? It is because people matter so much that God came to us in Jesus to share our common humanity in all its joys and sorrows. This is what we will be celebrating soon at Christmas. The worship planning group have already planned the Carol Service for the 22<sup>nd</sup>, as well as the Advent Candle liturgy for each Sunday morning between now and Christmas Day. Enjoy worshipping our wonderful God, who understands and loves us, and who cares enough to come amongst us and disturb our peace in order to bring about real peace.

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

Wherever we each spend this Christmas or future Christmases, we will be united in Christ even though we may be physically thousands of miles apart.

May 2014 bring you many good things by God's grace. Remember Immanuel, God is with us, in hard times as well as in the celebrations.

Bernie and I expect and hope to return to Papua New Guinea early in the New Year. We are still waiting for the final go ahead on that, but when it eventuates we will send you news from there. Please hold Christ's body there in prayer, as we shall be holding you. With love,



Minister :

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. unless otherwise stated.

Dec. 1		Holy Communion on Advent Sunday led by Revd Dr John Parry
Dec. 8		Morning worship led by Amersham Free Church Worship Team
Dec. 15		Festival Gift Service led by Junior Church. All age worship.
Dec. 22	10.30 am	Morning worship led by Revd Angela Singleton
	4.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight, led by Pastor Dawn McDowall, Church of God of Worldwide Mission International; followed by mulled wine & mince pies.
Dec. 24	11.30 pm	Christmas Eve Midnight Communion led by Revd Mike Wallace
Dec. 25	10.30-11.15am	Christmas Day family-friendly worship led by Barbara and David Sparks
Dec. 29		Morning worship led by Revd Mike Birmingham

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**Not included in this version**

# What's on in December



16th Dec Christmas Lunch - 12 noon - at Barbara Mac's

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 3rd Dec Hymns and readings for Advent

Tuesday 10th Dec Carols and Mince pies

*Both meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*

We are on holiday until 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014.  
Happy Christmas to everyone



## Diary Dates

December 2013

Event	Day	Date	Time	Venue
1st Sunday of Advent led by Revd. Dr. John Parry	Sunday	1st	10.30am	Sanctuary
Vision 20/20 Prayer meeting	Wednesday	4th	9.30am	Sanctuary
Chiltern Area "Making it work" deployment strategy discussion	Wednesday	11th	7.30pm	Sanctuary
Coffee Morning	Saturday	14th	10.30am	LSR
Gift Service	Sunday	15th	10.30am	Sanctuary
Vision 20/20	Wednesday	18th	9.30am	Sanctuary
Carols by Candlelight	Sunday	22nd	4.30pm	Sanctuary
Midnight Communion Service	Tuesday	24th	11.30pm	Sanctuary
Christmas Day Celebration Service	Wednesday	25th	10.30am	Sanctuary
Morning Worship	Sunday	29th	10.30am	Sanctuary

December 2013						
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**

*Shed*

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## Carols By Candlelight

Thank you so much for your generosity in offering to bring food for the Carols service. I have made a list just to jog memories as we all live such busy lives,

12 mince pies from:-

Kay and Glyn

Audrey R

Norma

Ellen

Kate and Alan

Linda

Marion M

Marie and Arthur

Children's cakes - Julia, Tim, Rebekah and Matthew

Tin of chocolate biscuits - Marian and Martin

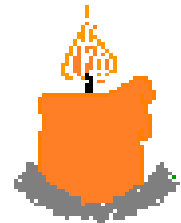
100 sausage rolls - Rose

I will sort the mulled wine.

Thank you again for your support, and let's hope the weather is not too bad on the night and we all have a lovely evening.

Blessings and Merry Christmas to you all

Anne xxx





## GREETINGS FROM BARBADOS.

It has been a very hot October, but the upside was the sea temperature was higher too, and very pleasant.

I made my trip to St Vincent, and it was very successful. I met most of the groups I worked with, and saw progress in many of them. The welcome was overwhelming. Especially the choir and the organist, were delighted to see me, and had me play three tricky hymns on the Sunday service.

I squeezed in a two hour tutorial for the organist to help him with a difficult accompaniment to an Advent choir piece.

Back now in Barbados, and preparing for Yan coming out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Also I'm preparing for some classes for the Theological College (part of the university), which will happen when the students finish their exams. (early December).

Amongst other things, I have completed the draft to a new hymn called "Proclamation" and am working on the music.

I'm really missing the fellowship of Trinity, especially at this time of special services. It sounds as if it has been a very blessed time.

With love and blessings to everyone,

*Andrew*

25<sup>th</sup> November 2013



Trinity Bookworms meet on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm - hostess Joan Smith. We shall be discussing "Brick Lane" by Monica Ali.

Out of the gloom a voice said unto me - "Smile  
and be happy. Things could be worse"  
So I smiled and was happy - and behold, things  
did get worse!

## **Wycombe Homeless Connection's Ground Floor opening**

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November, Wycombe Homeless Connection (WHC) opened "The Ground Floor", its new advice and support centre in Castle Street, occupying space previously used by St Andrew's Bookshop and Coffee Shop.



This new space will make the charity's services more visible and easier to access, so that individuals will be able to get advice sooner and stand a better chance of avoiding prolonged homelessness.

Wycombe Homeless Connection believes that every individual has worth and deserves a fresh start, no matter what their situation. They meet every homeless person with dignity and respect, and go the second mile to provide support.

## **Wycombe Homeless Connection and its services**

Wycombe Homeless Connection is a registered charity founded in 2007 as a community project of local churches.

- Support workers provide **advice and support** to about 300 people in housing crisis each year to find or keep a roof over their heads and achieve a stable lifestyle.
- Volunteers provide **day sessions** where clients make initial contact. As the weather gets colder and darker, more people come to the charity's drop-in sessions – 78 individuals came in October alone.
- Volunteers also provide the **Wycombe Winter Night Shelter**, which is expected to provide over 900 bed-nights between January and March.

In the last ten months, there have been hundreds of attendances at the charity's motivational sessions, the **"Inspire" programme**, where individuals are encouraged to rekindle their life's dreams and take steps to make them happen.

## **Future developments**

By the end of the year WHC plans to offer a new **tenancy support service** to all clients resettled into independent living accommodation or with friends or family. Trained volunteers will help them adapt, stay in accommodation and achieve independence and stability.

Using the Ground Floor, the charity will soon begin to **help people to seek work** by offering internet facilities, CV review and interview coaching.

## **WHC's staffing and funding**

Wycombe Homeless Connection's services cost about £150,000 each year to run, mainly to employ staff. Alongside them, 300 committed volunteers contribute well over 10,000 hours of work annually. Over 80% of the charity's income comes from local voluntary sources.

## **Community support**

Wycombe Homeless Connection was recently named **Community Group of the Year** in the Wycombe Partnership's Community Champions Awards. Several local companies have supported the charity – most recently, AGL Building Ltd helped to convert the Ground Floor for its new use.

Wycombe Homeless Connection relies on community support for both volunteer manpower and funding, and the Ground Floor is also a place where people can come any weekday morning and find out how they can help.

Visit **[www.wyhoc.org.uk](http://www.wyhoc.org.uk)** for more information on the work of Wycombe Homeless Connection



## ZIMBABWE - Situation update: Elections

Zimbabwe held presidential and parliamentary polls in July, resulting in a landslide victory for Mugabe, who was re-elected as president for the seventh time. His party Zanu-PF gained a two-thirds majority in the parliamentary poll, which resulted in the power-sharing coalition with Morgan Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change party being ditched. Mugabe denied Tsvangirai's claims that the polls were rigged in his favour.

The elections were largely peaceful. However, many people, including Christian Aid staff in Zimbabwe, believe many young people (who were more likely to vote for the MDC party) were deliberately disenfranchised. One of Christian Aid's Zimbabwe country managers wrote this blog about her experiences. [www.christianaid.org.uk/pressoffice/blog/urban-youth-vote-zimbabwe-elections-2013.aspx](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/pressoffice/blog/urban-youth-vote-zimbabwe-elections-2013.aspx)

The United States and European Union questioned the election, but observers from the 15-nation Southern African Development Community (Sadc) said the vote had reflected the "will of the people".

### **Economy**

Ordinary Zimbabweans, however, are more concerned with the impact of the election on the country's frail economy than the politics behind it. One of Mugabe's key campaign issues in the election was indigenisation (forcing foreign companies to give at stake of at least 51 per cent to black Zimbabweans) which has made investors nervous. Analysts have cut growth estimates for the country from 5 per cent to 3.4 per cent.

The funding situation for development organisations, including CA partners, remains unclear following the election results. Most stakeholders look at how the economy performs, at service delivery and at human rights issues when weighing up funding grants. However, the current political calm has been welcomed.

### **Drought and a looming food crisis**

Erratic rains and unusual mid-season droughts over the past year have triggered critical levels of crop failure in Zimbabwe, leaving more than two million people in need of urgent food assistance in the coming lean months, according to the World Food Programme (WFP).

The meagre maize and cereal harvest combined with rapidly tumbling grain stocks and subsequent inflated prices have also forced President Mugabe's government to depend upon expensive food imports, mainly from neighbouring Zambia and South Africa.

'The food security situation in Zimbabwe is dire, especially in the arid and marginalised Matabeleland provinces where Christian Aid and our local partner organisations work', warns Miriam Machaya, country programme manager for Christian Aid Zimbabwe.

In Insiza district particularly, partner Zimpro reports that the hunger situation is precarious, with only three out of 23 wards recording any surplus food.

## **CENTRAL AMERICA - Nicaragua**

**Training cocoa taste buds.** In October Christian Aid supported a national cocoa forum in Nicaragua, with their partner SOPPEXCCA, bringing together various stakeholders in order to improve the quality of cocoa produced by the communities. The event also included Nicaragua's first national cocoa competition with professional cocoa tasters from Germany. By forming professional cocoa tasters in the country, the producer cooperatives that CA supports will soon be able to demand a better deal from often unscrupulous buyers who reduce the prices they pay, often claiming poor quality.



## Future Shapes of Christian Leadership



CWM seeks to be responsive to the mission needs of the member churches and one example of this was a consultation held in Bangor in June which considered “future shapes of Christian leadership.” The Presbyterian Church of Wales (PCW) has focused on this issue in its own Mission Support Programme and to support the PCW a consultation was held to deepen learning and outcomes. Whilst focusing on the PCW as a context the consultation was intended for all the member churches of the European Region.

The consultation drew on helpful bible studies by CWM Programme Secretaries Tan Yak-Hwee and Philip Woods. In addition, Helen Cameron from Queens College Birmingham and Peter Hurter from Wessex Synod of the URC, helped the consultation think about the relationships between Christian and missional leadership. Many aspects of the consultation were helpful but particular insights were around how a Christian leader’s context should reflect their training and that whilst mission is contextual so is ministry. These two insights have significant impact for theological formation, use of resources and deployment, particularly when we consider how we shape leaders for our current and changing missional context.

Participants agreed to take the insights from the consultation to their member churches. CWM are planning a consultation in 2014 to bring together representatives from theological institutions, courses and member churches to consider the place of mission in theological education. A further development would be to bring the two considerations together for interaction and exchange.

## Exploration Programme

The 2013 CWM Europe Exploration Programme took place in August and hosted 11 young people from the European region and 4 from the East Asia region of CWM.

The Exploration programme was structured around planning and running a children’s holiday club working with the staff and volunteers at Noddfa Community Church in Caernafon, Wales.

The participants performed admirably throughout the 10 days we were together and brought a huge amount of enthusiasm and energy to the children’s holiday club. Each day was focussed on a different theme which was then the link between games and craft activities and a message; for example, water games and fish related craft and Jesus calming the storm.

Noddfa Community Church runs programmes in one of the most economically deprived parts of Wales and works to tackle the associated social problems that the people living there face every day. Our young people were able to witness and join with people who live out their faith in practical and purposeful ways, learning and reflecting through led Bible studies each evening about mission as living faith and witness of love to a hurt community.

CWM Europe offers an enormous thanks to Noddfa Church for all their hard work and support as well as to all the young people that took part for the enthusiasm and joy that they brought to the project.

## Summary of Thames North Synod meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013

Key issues discussed were:

1. **Church Growth: Making a Difference** - Synod voted to approve a new plan for church growth (see [www.urcthamesnorth.org.uk/church-growth](http://www.urcthamesnorth.org.uk/church-growth)). The plan consists of three strands:
  - a. local churches and wider Synod committees/groups praying for growth and making it a core priority in their decisions and actions
  - b. consolidation of Synod resources around church growth, particularly with staff time, financial investments, and priorities
  - c. focusing the Synod Mission Fund on church growth
  
2. **Deployment** - each of the six Area Committees is working out how best to look at how to allocate the number of stipendiary ministers they will have in future, and how to group their churches as appropriate.  
Chiltern Area has a "Making it Work" session here at Trinity on the evening of Wednesday 11th December (7.30-9.30 pm) led by the Revd Anne Sardeson & Tim Reith our Synod Mission Enabler, with input from Chiltern Area Committee. This will look at the theological, pastoral and leadership aspects of churches working in teams, and how to make healthy teams. Chiltern Area Committee will also talk about its deployment strategy (how to allocate the number of ministers we are allowed).
  
3. Synod approved its "**Multicultural Church, Inter-cultural Habit Charter**" produced by the Racial Justice Advocates - a copy will go on the corridor noticeboard.
  
4. The retirement of several ministers in the Synod was noted, including Gwen & Bernie Collins, combining about 278 years of ministry!
  
5. **Synod Mission Project Fund** - this has a £300,000 allocation for 2014, plus a £95,000 underspend from 2013. There will only be one meeting in 2014 and 2015 to discuss applications and the deadline is 1 May 2014 and 31 March 2015. Application and guidance forms will be slightly amended and available from December 2013. The sub-committee for this fund (made up of a rep from each Area Committee, relevant Synod staff member, e.g. Property, Mission, Children & Youth) discusses applications and makes recommendations to Mission Initiatives Group (MIG), but MIG makes the final decision.
  
6. The roles of Youth Work Secretary and Children's Work Secretary have been changed and Synod agreed to create three roles of Children's and Youth Work Advocate. Victoria Paulding was voted in as Convenor of Thames North Synod's Children's & Youth Work Committee and as a member of Synod.
  
7. **Children's Synod** took place in parallel to the adults' Synod.
  
8. **Safeguarding** - we had an interactive session on safeguarding (child protection, vulnerable adults, general safeguarding) and were reminded that churches must have a safeguarding officer and policies on child protection and protection of vulnerable adults.  
We hope there will be some Synod "templates" that can be used for churches needing help with such policies.
  
9. Synod accepted the 2014 budget.
  
10. The name of the American Church in London is now the American International Church.
  
11. A resolution was passed to close St John's URC, Kenton.

Kate Y  
Synod Delegate

## **News from Mission Council November 2013**

### **Faith and order conversations with the Methodist Church**

Following the joint meeting of Mission Council with the Methodist Council last autumn, Mission Council agreed, as the Methodist Council already had, to set up theological conversations between the two churches. Many in LEPs will know that the differing theologies of ministry between the two churches is a source of tension, as is the commonality of practice across the church expected by the Methodism and the flexibility at local level beloved of the URC. There is no intention that these talks will lead to a union of the two denominations, but rather to developing greater mutual understanding.

### **Developing Resource Sharing**

Synods vary greatly in their resources, for a variety of reasons. For many years there has been a programme of sharing resources between synods, to help those with the least resources. However, a weakness in the current system is that the amounts of money involved can vary significantly from one year to another, which means the synods most heavily dependent upon gifts from other synods cannot easily budget effectively over a period of years if they have no idea what they might receive. Mission Council agreed to develop a smoothed system of guided giving.

### **A united church in Wales?**

The covenanted churches of Wales have been presented with a unity scheme for consideration, and the National Synod of Wales shared their proposed response to the first draft, and as a national synod they will continue to respond directly until the final proposals are ready. Our hopes and prayers are with them as this venture proceeds.

### **Theological thinking still continuing...**

Again Mission Council was able to spend time thinking about the future of the church generally, and specifically about Church Meeting, which is vital to our theology, but in practice needs revitalising in many places. The process had neither a particular agenda, nor a specific outcome in mind, the idea being that we listened for the Holy Spirit, and sought where God might be leading us. We await what the Faith and Order Committee makes of Mission Council's thoughts.

### **And in other news...**

- The Equal Opportunities Committee was re-named the Equalities Committee, to better reflect current thinking in a variety of contexts. • Discussion on how the URC might respond to same-sex marriage will begin at General Assembly 2014, facilitated by the Human Sexuality Task Group, and decisions will follow depending upon the outcome of the conversations at the General Assembly. • Flowing from the human sexuality discussion, an ambiguity in our structure became apparent over the extent to which the National Synods of Scotland and Wales were authorised to speak for the whole United Reformed Church in their nations, and a Task Group was set up to explore this thoroughly so that the correct places for decision-making can be definitively agreed.
- The nomination process for the next General Secretary is outlined in the December *Reform*, and the recruitment process for the three Deputy General Secretaries will begin such that the new General Secretary can be involved in that process.
- Mission Council approved the principle that Safer Sacred Space training will be compulsory for Ministers and CRCWs, and the Education and Learning Committee will return with more detailed proposals on how this will be organised and funded.
- The budget for 2014 is reasonably balanced, but by 2016 there is a potential deficit of £300,000, which will not be affordable. If every church could increase their giving to the Ministry and Mission fund by just 1% per annum, then by 2016 we would have £1 million more than we need to fund the current budget.
- The URC Trust had investigated an offer from the Baptist Union to share office space in Didcot, however this was impractical for a variety of reasons and will not be taken forward. The pressure to cut costs remains, meaning that the URC Trust will continue to explore options for the location of the General Assembly's offices.

This is neither an exhaustive nor an official report, but some headlines. The minutes and approved papers will be posted on the URC website in due course, which will provide a more comprehensive record.

***Our thanks to Wessex Synod for providing this summary and permitting us to use it.***

## A Poem to give you Goosebumps...

A drunk man in an Oldsmobile  
They said had run the light  
That caused the six-car pileup  
On 109 that night.

When broken bodies lay about  
And blood was everywhere,  
The sirens screamed out eulogies,  
For death was in the air.

A mother, trapped inside her car,  
Was heard above the noise;  
Her plaintive plea near split the air:  
"Oh, God, please spare my boys!"

She fought to loose her pinned hands;  
She struggled to get free,  
But mangled metal held her fast  
In grim captivity.

Her frightened eyes then focused  
On where the back seat once had been,  
But all she saw was broken glass and  
Two children's seats crushed in.

Her twins were nowhere to be seen;  
She did not hear them cry,  
And then she prayed they'd been thrown free,  
"Oh, God, don't let them die! "

Then firemen came and cut her loose,  
But when they searched the back,  
They found therein no little boys,  
But the seat belts were intact.

They thought the woman had gone mad  
And was traveling alone,  
But when they turned to question her,  
They discovered she was gone.

Policemen saw her running wild  
And screaming above the noise  
In beseeching supplication,  
"Please help me find my boys!

"They're four years old and wear blue shirts;  
"Their jeans are blue to match."  
"One cop spoke up, "They're in my car,  
"And they don't have a scratch.

"They said their daddy put them there!  
"And gave them each a cone,  
"Then told them both to wait for Mom  
"To come and take them home.

"I've searched around here high and low,  
"But I can't find their dad.  
"He must have fled the scene, I guess,  
"And that is very bad."

The mother hugged the twins and said,  
While wiping at a tear,  
"He could not flee the scene, you see,  
"For he's been dead a year."

The cop just looked confused and asked,  
"Now, how can that be true? "  
The boys said, "Mommy, Daddy came  
"And left a kiss for you."

"He told us not to worry  
"And that you would be all right,  
"And then he put us in this car with  
"The pretty, flashing light.

"We wanted him to stay with us,  
"Because we miss him so,  
"But Mommy, he just hugged us tight  
"And said he had to go.

"He said someday we'd understand  
"And told us not to fuss,  
"And he said to tell you, Mommy,  
"He's watching over us."

The mother knew without a doubt  
That what they spoke was true,  
For she recalled their dad's last words,  
"I will watch over you."

The firemen's notes could not explain  
The twisted, mangled car,  
And how the three of them escaped  
Without a single scar.

But on the cop's report was scribed,  
In print so very fine,  
***An angel walked the beat tonight  
On Highway 109.***

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>)

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

and a Very Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday to

Diane H (1<sup>st</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 29th December*  
***Please submit any items for publication as soon as possible.***  
*The FINAL deadline will be 23rd December. [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

Thank you, Lord, for the patriarchs and prophets, for John the Baptist and Mary whom we remember at this time of Advent as they waited for the coming of the promised Messiah.

We too wait for the birth of Jesus with awe and expectation, knowing that He is already with us in his risen power ready to hear our every prayer and be our friend and brother.

*Amen*



For the angels who crowded that air at Jesus' birth -  
God be praised.

For the shepherds who hurried to the stable and then shared what they had seen with others -  
God be praised.

For the wise men led by a star to offer their gifts -  
God be praised.

For Mary, who bore Jesus and nursed Him as His mother -  
God be praised.

For Joseph who guarded Him and took the family to Egypt away from Herod's anger -  
God be praised.

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2013

At this Christmas time let us pray for:

All who are enjoying being with family and friends

All who are finding the family gathering a difficult time

All who have an empty place at the table this year

All who are alone and lonely

All who have to work over the Christmas holiday

All who are sick at home or in hospital

All who face death

All who cannot celebrate Christ's birth freely

All who are homeless because of war, natural disaster or economic crisis.

Lord Jesus, Immanuel, God with us, we commend all these and others in our hearts to your ever present care.

*Amen*

Jesus, Light of the world, shine in its dark places this Christmastide and into the hearts of your followers so that they joyfully join the angels' song of praise "**Glory to the newborn King**"

*Amen*