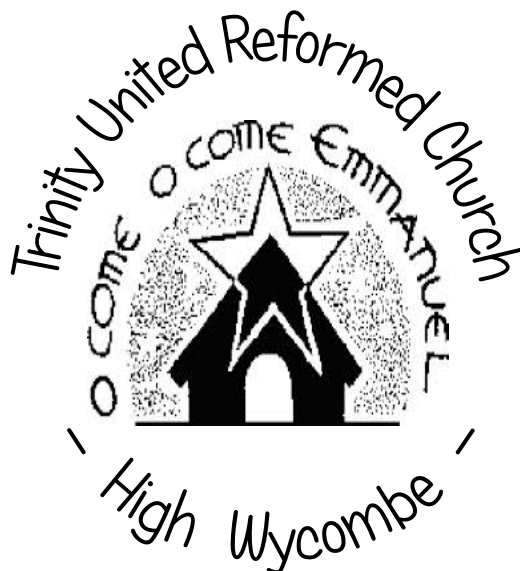


For unto you is born this day in the city of  
David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord  
[Luke 2:11]



**December 2014**

# ***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**

This really is a “hot off the press” letter so please do read on!

These days I often find myself thinking about how quickly time seems to disappear without my really noticing it. Maybe that’s an indication of increasing age or simply of increasing busy-ness. Nonetheless, I find it hard to believe that it is:-

- over a year since our former minister Gwen Collins retired
- eight months since I became church secretary after Sue Saunders’ move up to the Midlands
- just over three months since the vacancy committee learnt that the Revd Terry Hinks had expressed interest in our joint pastorate with Cores End
- just over a month since the vacancy committee met with Terry for an interview and decided we would like to ask him to preach with a view
- just over a week since Terry came to visit us and Cores End to preach with a view, giving us an opportunity to meet him and his wife Elizabeth over lunch
- just over a week since we and Cores End both had our church meetings to vote on the call, and both had a 100% vote in favour – God is clearly at work!!

**We are delighted that Terry has decided to accept the call to be our minister and look forward to welcoming him and Elizabeth here, which will probably be some time after Easter.**

There will be a lot for both churches to sort out in readiness – concurrence by Area Committee to the call, agreeing Terms of Settlement, getting the Cores End manse ready, and working out how we can best help them settle in quickly and get to know us. And of course, there will be a lot of preparation for Terry and Elizabeth in lots of ways, having been at their current churches for 16 years. Do hold them all in your prayers at this huge time of change.

Sharing a minister will be a new experience for Trinity and will bring us opportunities to get to know the Cores End congregation better and to work more collaboratively. It will also bring us challenges in how we try to meet the needs that God brings to us in our worshipping and neighbourhood communities.

It was a real encouragement to me to chair our church meeting voting on the call and have such a positive outcome. We have a sense of anticipation, hope and excitement for our future and look forward to working with Terry.



Minister :

Church Secretary : Kate Yates

☎ 01494 672799

e-mail: [secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk)

Church contact numbers:

☎ 01494 520365 (answer phone) ☎ 07853 854623 (mobile)

## December Services & Rotas

### Morning Worship at 10.30am unless otherwise stated

- Dec. 7 Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Dr John Parry -  
Minister of Deanway United Church, Chalfont St Giles
- Dec.14 Junior Church Gift Service
- Dec. 21 10.30am Morning Worship - Revd Peter Willetts  
4.00pm Carols by Candlelight with Church of God Worldwide Mission  
International, followed by mulled wine & mince pies
- Dec. 24 11.30pm Midnight Communion led by Alan Yates
- Dec. 25 10.30-11.15am Christmas Day Family Friendly Service led by The Trinity Christmas  
Worship Team
- Dec. 28 Morning Worship led by Ann Maree Campbell from Gerrards Cross

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in December



15th Dec Christmas Lunch - 12 noon (for 12:30) -

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 2nd Dec St Andrew

Tuesday 9th Dec Carols, Christmas Readings and Mince pies

*Both meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*

We are now on holiday until 6th January 2015.  
Happy Christmas to everyone



## Diary Dates

Event	Day	Date	Time	Venue
Housegroup	Monday	1st	8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Drake's house
Vision 2020 prayer	Wed	3rd	9:30 am - 10:00 am	Sanctuary
Trinity Elders' meeting	Wed	3rd	8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	LSR
Trinity Choir Practice	Thurs	4th	8:00 pm - 9:00 pm	LSR
Saturday Café	Saturday	6th	11.30 am-1.00pm	LSR
Trinity Choir Practice	Thurs	11th	8:00 pm - 9:00 pm	LSR
Coffee Morning	Saturday	13th	10:30 am - noon	LSR
Churches Together Christmas stall	Saturday	13th	11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Town centre:
Prayer ministry	Sunday	14th	Noon - 12:30 pm	Vestry
Housegroup	Monday	15th	8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Drake's house
Vision 2020 prayer	Wed	17th	9:30 am - 10:00 am	Sanctuary
Trinity Choir Practice	Thurs	18th	8:00 pm - 9:00 pm	LSR
Saturday Café	Saturday	20th	11.00am -1.00pm	LSR
Coffee Morning	Saturday	27th	10:30 am - noon	LSR

December 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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			

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## **Greetings from the Buchanans**

We are visiting family in Australia over Christmas and fly out on Saturday 29th November. We would like to wish everyone in the fellowship at Trinity a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a good new year in 2015.

Best wishes

Ian and Maureen

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## **Carols By Candlelight**

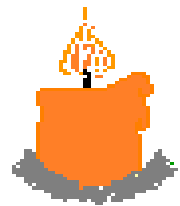
Thank you so much for offering food for the above service this is the complete list just to jog your memory of what you agreed to:-

100 Sausage rolls Rose  
12 mince pies Barbara  
Anne H  
Ellen M  
Janet R  
Harry B  
Joy S  
Joan S  
Audrey R  
Large bag of mixed flavoured crisps - Olive S  
Savoury bits cheese straws etc. - Julia Ss  
Pizza bits and savoury tarts - Anne H

May I wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and happy new year.

Yours in Christ

Anne x



## Brief summary of church meeting minutes – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2014

1. Matters arising from last minutes: Churches Together Angel Trail – cancelled because of conflict of interest with Swan Theatre.
1. 2015 budget – Sue T presented the budget and there was discussion about this. A vote was taken to agree to offer Cores End 55% net net of our manse rental income (i.e. the rental income less management fees and less our costs incurred e.g. redecorating in between tenants etc.) This arrangement would cease if the manse were not let out. We will explain our offer to Cores End and be clear that it will leave us with a larger deficit budget but that we considered it the right thing to do. It was agreed to accept the 2015 budget with a £6,192.00 deficit for the year.
2. Spirituality & Prayer:
  - (a) Request for transfer of membership for Catriona S– unanimously agreed.
  - (b) Request from Sue Saunders to move her to non-active members' list – unanimously agreed.
  - (c) Agreed annual giving to charities - proposals for £100 each to:
    - Embrace the Middle East – Gaza appeal
    - Funds via Gwen & Bernie for students who are struggling to pay for their studies
    - Crisis for Christmas
    - Christian Aid
    - Wycombe Homeless Connection *Note: This is in addition to the £100 we give to Lighthouse, the £100 to Love Wycombe and the £100 to Wycombe Youth For Christ.* It was also agreed that our Carols by Candlelight offertory goes to Sight Savers – giving hope and sight to those who currently can't see the light.

*Compassion* – sponsor a child – Sue suggested that Trinity members collectively sponsor a child with *Compassion*. Junior Church want to contribute through the Gift Service. Agreed – those who would like to contribute will do so through Sue. The cost is about £300 a year plus £20 p.a. for Christmas and birthday presents.
3. Vacancy – minister to preach with a view next Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November  
Kate summarised the itinerary for the weekend. Church meeting agreed she may vote as well as chair the church meeting on 24<sup>th</sup>.
4. Vote on using hoped-for funds from sale of manse garden for CRCW  
The sale may not proceed and we don't know if we would be permitted to use the funds for a CRCW. However, Synod officers have asked us to take a vote on this. Proposal as follows:  
To request the Thames North Trust that if we so choose we may use any funds from the sale of the manse garden for a CRCW. Agreed.
5. Vote on expenditure on organ cleaning & repair - discussion on quote of £3600 plus VAT (cleaning & adjusting the action £1841 plus VAT and estimated cost of re-leathering swell stop machine £1799 plus VAT). We have £3440 in our organ cleaning funds which would mean £928 overspend. Majority vote agreed to this. We should be able to reclaim the VAT from Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.
6. Quinquennial repairs – due to be completed end November/early December depending on weather. Additional glazing works required at £1273.20 including VAT, approved by Simon & Kate as per July church meeting authorisation. The total estimate to date is £40,917.60 including VAT, well within the funds we have.

AOB - Night Shelter Church Co-ordinator: Muriel R will be our church co-ordinator for 2015, having met Janet and Kate and Sheena D of Wycombe Homeless Connection.

Thank you for sending us the £175 from your Harvest auction. The students and staff here at the School of Theology and Mission were really pleased to receive this gift and to know that you were concerned about the damage to their food gardens when the volcano erupted. The loss of this food from gardens has meant that people have had to buy food they would normally have grown. This has put a strain on people's finances. Your gift has relieved a little of this pressure.

We have shared the money between the 8 pastoral groups. Each pastoral group is led by a member of staff, and has about 20 - 30 members (students and their families). One of the traditions of the college is that pastoral groups meet to share a meal at the end of the academic year (which for us is October/November). It is a time of celebration of friendship and support through the year just ending, and a time to say goodbye to those who are leaving to take up their new posts as ministers. Your gift is going towards buying the food for these meals.

We had our pastoral group 'close up' last night. It was a lovely occasion with a good spread and several heartfelt speeches, especially from the two students who are leaving. Bernie made the link in his speech between the proceeds from your Harvest auction helping us to farewell these young men; and the Jesus' call to 'ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest'. (Matthew 9:38).

Gwen



Trinity Bookworms meet on Wednesday 3rd December at 2pm at 11 St Bernard's Court - hostess Joan S. We shall be discussing "The Forgotten Garden" by Kate Morton.

### **An idea to help Homeless People this Christmas**

As the weather turns much colder, we feel more strongly about those in our midst who have no warm, safe home. We help approximately 300 local people every year in this situation - right here in High Wycombe.



**This year would you consider sending a donation to Wycombe Homeless Connection rather than spending money buying and posting Christmas cards? You might send Christmas greetings in an email instead, mentioning that you have supported us.**

Please look at our website to find out how to donate, or simply text your gift to 70070 (eg WYHC08£10)

Now is the time to sign up as a night shelter volunteer, please look at our website for details ([www.wyhoc.org.uk](http://www.wyhoc.org.uk))

### **Synod Rep**

I have been your Synod rep for several years now, attending the two or three Saturday meetings a year (three meetings in a General Assembly year), reporting back to the church on what has taken place.

It's time for me to relinquish this and for someone else to take over so I am looking for a volunteer when we come to review our postholders' list at the March AGM.

There have been some very important discussions during my time as your rep which have been interesting to participate in, and it's also good meeting people from the other churches in the Synod and finding out what is going on. And the worship that threads through the Synod meeting makes a real difference to proceedings.

You can reclaim travel expenses so you won't be out of pocket.

Thanks



## ZIMBABWE

*This is the second part of the article following on from last month.*

On our first Sunday, we visited a Presbyterian Church in Gweru. This church is set in a deprived area of the town, and the church members witness daily how the children from their neighbourhood cannot access education. The church have now found a small house on a local estate for their minister and are using the manse on their premises as a Secondary School. They have some 100 children crowded into living rooms and bedrooms, but everybody is pleased with the opportunity to learn, and the church has great plans for building extension blocks for the school on their premises.

On our final Sunday, we worshipped at the Presbyterian Church in Mhangura, a mining town where the Copper mine closed down some 10 years ago. Since then, the only income came from occasional agricultural jobs at surrounding farms. We witnessed desperate poverty – and incredible generosity when these people gave us, a group of some 20 people, a Sunday lunch fit for a king. The only comment from them – the Lord provides!

Through common British friends, we made contact with a Zimbabwean family, Weston and Liz Muronzi, who had set up a feeding programme for Aids orphans in their rural home north of Harare. The orphans stay in their villages with their extended families, but come daily to the Muronzi home for a meal, for education and for training in useful skills like growing food, carpentry and sewing. There are now some 200 children attending the programme, and they walk from villages up to 10 km away. There are plans to build a health centre and a primary school in the near future ([www.letsgivethemhope.org](http://www.letsgivethemhope.org)).

And we were able to visit the Christian Aid Offices in Harare, where we were given a great welcome and in-depth information about current programmes Christian Aid are involved with. Unfortunately, all the programmes supported by Commitment for Life Programmes are taking place in the South-West of the country (Matabeleland), where there are particular problems with drought caused by climate change. They gave us details of their current programme of planting crops for drought conditions and the impressive results. Helped by support from Commitment for Life these methods have now found their way into the curriculum of national agricultural colleges.

Another need that struck me was the country's need to rebuild its tourist industry. When we visited tourist attractions and craft markets, we were pretty much the only visitors and were keenly aware of artisans offering fantastic goods for sale at really good prices, but of course we couldn't buy everything. When we spent a night in a safari lodge, we came across the same phenomenon: great service, excellent facilities and no other customers in sight.

*Franziska Herring, Trinity Church, Stafford.*

## CENTRAL AMERICA – NICARAGUA

As the Nicaraguan government opened its doors to the first International Mining Congress, over 1,000 people from communities affected by mining projects were barred by police from traveling to the capital city to participate in a march organised by Christian Aid partner Centro Humboldt in defense of the environment. Partner organisation, Movimiento Comunal, member of the Matagalpa Strategic Mining Alliance, declared that "the government has violated articles of the constitution which permit free mobilisation and expression in defense of public goods." \*Centro Humboldt promotes environmental development and management. Their strategic objectives include influencing public environmental policies and promoting efficient environmental management. They empower different sectors of civil society to provide information, to help build capacity and to carry out monitoring and research on environmental impact.

PRAYER: May it come soon to the hungry, to the weeping, to those who thirst for your justice, to those who have waited centuries for a truly human life. Grant us the patience to smooth the way on which your Kingdom comes to us. Grant us hope, that we may not weary in proclaiming and working for it. Grant us a clear vision, that in this hour of our history, we may see the horizon and know the way on which your Kingdom comes to us. Amen.



## Summary report from Synod – Saturday 15th Nov 2014

### **Re-visioning the Synod – how this will affect our churches**

The Moderator talked about his paper proposing restructuring the Synod's committees and for churches to be grouped with ministers working in teams. What we have had since dissolution of District Councils no longer serves us well. We need to go for growth, growing discipleship, growing church, growing kingdom. We need to be guided by the Spirit and develop a structure that supports growth – we have to plant and nurture but it is God who grows things.

Current Synod structure has: 135 local churches, 6 Area Committees involving 79 people and 49 meetings per year; 10 Synod committees involving 125 people and 41 meetings per year; plus task groups, networks involving 100+ people and 100+ meetings.

Areas are too big for a creative and supportive relationship to develop, but within church-groups it is possible. Our Area system is not manageable as it stands and the structure of the synod needs to be reworked.

### **Proposed new committee structure:**

- **Discipleship** – faith nurturing growth activities; lay & ordained leadership formation; children, youth and 20-40 age group; new patterns of mission/ministry supporting relevant networking. There will have to be some pruning from current committees and work.
- **Pastoral Committee** – pastoral matters; deployment of ministers and lay leaders; Special Category Ministry (SCM) & Church Related Community Worker (CRCW) posts; oversight and support to the Church Groups; Local Ministry & Mission Reviews (includes Church Life Reviews)
- **Resources** – financial strategy, policy & internal controls; investments, sells, lettings overview of salaries & expenditure, management of Ministry & Mission Fund; building legislation and control; major grants; releasing funds in trust
- **Management sub-group** – staffing and HR matters; Synod office management; equipment & facilities; communication – media, IT, website
- **Executive Committee** – managing Trustees of the Synod employer of Synod staff; relate with General Assembly on matters affecting Synod; act for Synod between Synod meetings; ensure implementation of Synod decisions; approve annual budget and accounts; oversight of synod committees; support Moderator and Synod Officers.
- **Others such as Nominations Committee, Listed Buildings Advisory Committee**

What about the churches?

- Area committee system has served us for 7 years but Area boundaries are unnecessary
- churches are not fully represented six variations in one synod – duplication
- lots of volunteers in Synod committees are too stretched – need to simplify where we can

This plan is an outworking of 2011 Synod when it was agreed that churches would work in groups and teams:

- no area boundaries (groupings across)
- flexible: 8-15 churches in a group
- purpose: mutual support, basic pastoral care, deployment and resources sharing
- ministry in the group is organised by the group
- each church is represented in the group
- representation on Pastoral Committee
- Pastoral and M&M advocates in each group

### **WAY FORWARD**

- Presentation at November 2014 Synod
- Revisions' consultations; detail work
- Joined-up action by the committees
- Churches work towards groupings
- Progress report to March 2015 Synod
- Transition/implementation (in phases) to be complete by March 2016

*[continued overleaf]*

*[continued from page 9]*

PROPOSAL: Synod agrees to take forward the principles and content as outlined in the paper "Re-visioning the Synod's Future" for implementation, taking account of the comments from Synod and Children's Synod, and asks the Synod Moderator to continue further work as may be necessary and report progress to the March 2015 Synod Meeting. DECISION: motion carried.

### **Finance – 2015 budget**

- 2013 accounts were presented and approved.
- 2014 forecast is almost spot-on budget with deficit of just over £1m. There was £395k forecast for Mission Fund but this will end up with an actual of about £380k.
- 2015 budget was proposed and adopted.
- Ministry & Mission Fund – Synod needs to look at this in light of Mission Fund and other grants, especially where churches are applying for grants where they are not paying their M&M. The committee has looked at whether the formula needs adjusting – they don't think it does. Synod Exec, MIG and Finance Committee are considering a wider consultation across the Synod sending the formula out to churches with a brief explanations of how it's worked out, what's in there and why. Local churches can look at this and respond to Finance Committee if they think it should be amended, how and why. £2.3m still needs to be raised through the Synod as agents for national church who collect the money and deal with it in accordance with M&M rules. The formula is based on income, with M&M commitment being the first "charge" on the church's income.

### **MIG (Mission Initiatives Group) report**

The Revd Ann Jack reported that in November 2012 Synod meeting approved the establishment of the Mission Fund for three years. In 2013 on behalf of Synod Exec MIG took responsibility for final approval of applications in a two-stage process which included representatives from Area Committees and staff/officers.

In total over 2 years there have been 21 applications with 12 approved. Five of the applications were referred back to the churches for further work and one was subsequently approved. Three were referred back because of difficulties with the approval process, e.g. not undermining URC procedures.

We are approaching the third and final year of existing arrangements with a closing date of 31st March 2015 for applications.

### **LMMR (Local Ministry & Mission Review) update**

Two sections – Church Life Review and ministers' self-appraisal.

### **Safeguarding – electronic Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) application system**

- Known as E-bulk this has gone live online – church secretaries need to be aware of this. Churches Agency for Safeguarding have said this will speed things up, getting disclosures completed within a couple of weeks.
- Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) update service available for "portable" DBS checks for other organisations.
- New safeguarding two-hour training course available through Simon Rudiger, CYDO – covers all safeguarding not just child protection.

### **TLS (Training for Learning and Serving) Certificates**

Several certificates were given out, including to Janet Reid and Margaret Howard, both of Amersham Free Church in the Chiltern Area.

**Joint Properties Group Workshops** – URC & Methodist Church workshops countrywide. Contact David Skipp for info.

*If anyone would like any more information, please ask Kate.*

## **THAMES VALLEY POLICE SCAM WARNING - FRAUDULENT PHONE CALLS**

Thames Valley Police are reissuing a warning to residents to be on their guard from fraudulent phone calls purporting to be from banks or police officers and requesting bank and card details or asking people to withdraw large amounts of cash.

On Tuesday (28/10) the victim, an elderly man, was contacted by a man claiming to be a police officer from London. The victim was advised to withdraw £7000 from his bank as his bank was suspected of handling counterfeit money and being investigated by both the police and the FBI.

The victim was instructed not to discuss the reason for the withdrawal with the bank.

The victim having completed the withdrawal returned home to await collection of the money by a courier.

The bank being suspicious of the withdrawal contacted Thames Valley Police, who were able to respond and intercept the package prior to it being handed over to a taxi in Oxford.

Instructions by the criminals to the taxi firm had initially been to collect a passenger, before it was changed to a package which was to be delivered to an Oxford address. The instruction again changed and the driver was offered £500 to take the package to London.

Det Ch Insp Andy Bird, leading investigations into courier fraud, said: "We continue to work hard to prevent and detect offences of courier fraud across the Thames Valley. Offenders are very plausible and target honest upstanding members of the community who are more likely to believe the lies they are told. I urge everyone to remain vigilant. Please read our advice so you are aware of the tactics being used by criminals, so you can prevent yourself and other people you know from becoming a victim of these types of scams."

The scam, which often targets the elderly and vulnerable, sees the victim receive a phone call from fraudsters who say they are from their bank or the police. They tell the victim that they are calling because there has been suspicious activity on their account and advise them to call the bank from the number on the back of their card to confirm details.

The victim disconnects the phone and dials their bank or police straight away, however the fraudster has kept the telephone line open so even though a number is dialed, it is not connected and the victim is still on the phone to the fraudster, who then gains their trust and asks them to either say or key in their PIN, before telling them their card will be collected and a replacement delivered.

Once the fraudster has all the information they need, a courier is sent to collect the card from the victim. The offender has obtained the person's name, address, full bank details, the card itself and the PIN. The bank cards are then used fraudulently without the victim's knowledge.

The fraudsters who carry out this type of crime are very skilled in portraying themselves as authentic bank employees or police detectives, and make the scam seem genuine by asking the victim to ring their bank. Our advice is that, if you receive such a call, end it immediately.

**Remember, your bank will never attend your home; and neither the bank nor the police will ever collect your bank card or ask for your PIN.**

There are a number of variations to the scam, including:

- Fraudster asking the victims to withdraw large amounts of cash from their bank, take it home and wait for a courier to arrive. The fraudster claims that the money is fake and they are helping the police with their investigation and would get the monies withdrawn back the next day. They are told not to tell the bank staff what the money is for and to make an excuse such as it is required to buy a new car.
- Fraudsters call the customer pretending to be from the police or a bank and ask them to transfer funds via online banking. Again, they ask the customer to call their bank but keep the line open
- Fraudsters pretending to be from the police cold-calling members of the public and telling them that their bank account has been compromised by criminals. The fraudster suggests that the person should transfer their bank balance into a 'safe' police bank account

If you receive this type of call, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or via their website. In an emergency, dial 999.

## Items needed by Bucks New University for students

When I was at the Autumn term Multi-faith Chaplaincy meeting at Bucks New Uni, representatives from the different denominations were asked if anyone had spare items that could be passed on to students such as:

- electrical items
- bedding
- cutlery
- crockery
- pots and pans

If you have such items that you don't need, let me know and I can arrange to get them there.

Kate

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### **THOUGHTS AT CHRISTMAS**

What does Christmas mean to you?  
Christmas Carols old and new?  
The First Noel and Silent Night  
Set the scene of angels bright;  
A baby snuggled in the hay  
On that distant Christmas day

What does Christmas mean to us?  
Lots to do, Oh what a fuss!  
Planning, shopping, sorting, wrapping -  
All too much, our nerves are snapping.  
Christmas shouldn't be like this.  
Where oh where's the Heavenly bliss?

What does Christmas mean to them,  
Those who live in Bethlehem?  
Not much peace there to be found  
Noise and discord all around.  
Still no room there at the "inn"  
To let the homeless children in!

What should Christmas mean to you?  
Does the message still ring true?  
"Peace on earth, good will to men."  
Let angels sing their song again-  
Ringing out around the earth,  
As we remember Jesus' birth.

May love and hope and joy remain  
'Til Christmas comes around again.

Joy S  
(Written December 2013)

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### **Junior Church Gift Service**

This is Cristian. He was born in October 2009 so is just 5 years old. He lives in Bolivia with his parents and two siblings. He likes playing with toy cars and his friends.

At the last church meeting as a congregation we discussed that some members may like to donate towards sponsoring a child as many of us are unable to make the financial commitment alone. Junior Church are asking for donations to help sponsor Cristian at our Gift Service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December as an opportunity to participate in this scheme. Envelopes will be able for your donation.

Thank you.



Happy Birthday

**Not included in this version**

Congratulations



**Not included in this version**

With love from us all at Trinity

xxx

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*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 28th December*  
***Please submit any items for publication as soon as possible.***  
*The FINAL deadline will be 22nd 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

Lord of the seasons, we thank you for hospitals and emergency services preparing for the winter with its storms, cold, frost, snow, and flooding. We pray that measures taken after the disasters of last year will be sufficient to minimise difficulties arising in this. We thank you for good neighbours who check on the welfare of those around them and go to their assistance if needed. May we be alert to the needs of others.

We pray that the leaders of the nations really mean to take climate change seriously and put into practice measures to control it if possible so that the weather throughout the world may be less unpredictable and violent.

*Amen*

On all hurried and tired Christmas shoppers  
Lord have mercy  
On all who have no money to shop with  
Lord have mercy  
On all who have no-one to shop for  
Lord have mercy  
On all who have a houseful of family and friends  
Christ have mercy  
On all who have an empty place at the table this year  
Christ have mercy  
On all who sit alone  
Christ have mercy  
On all who spend Christmas in hospital  
Lord have mercy  
On all who are ill at home  
Lord have mercy  
On all doctors, nurses, and carers  
Lord have mercy.

Listen for the angel's song  
Run with the shepherds to Bethlehem  
Follow the star with the wise men  
And worship the baby in the manger  
Emmanuel, God with us.  
Gloria.



December 2014

### **The Feast of St. Stephen - Dec 26th**

Holy Father, thank you for the life and death of Stephen as recorded in the book of Acts. We remember all those who will; known and unknown, have suffered persecution and death because of their faith. Strengthen we pray those who are even now facing threats to their lives and comfort the families who have already lost loved ones. In Jesus' name we pray.

*Amen*

### **The Feast of St John the Divine - Dec 27th**

Father God we thank you for your word in the Bible and for the stories in the Gospels. Grant that we may read it more often, with growing understanding and be inspired by the deeds and words of Jesus and his followers of whom John was one.

*Amen*

### **The Feast of the Holy Innocents - Dec 28th**

Lord Jesus, we remember the boys of Bethlehem killed by Herod as he sought your life. Today we pray for all children who are abused by those whom they should be able to trust, who are orphaned by war or disease, who are taught to see violence as the only way of life whether in street gangs or war and all who live in fear of being bullied and unloved.

*Amen*

### **The Feast of Thomas Becket - Dec 29th**

Lord Jesus, as we remember Thomas who was killed in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170, we confess that this world is still overshadowed with misunderstanding, violence and war. We, therefore, beseech you that your light will shine through your church and not be overcome in the darkness around. You are the Light of the World and we pray in your name.

*Amen*