

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. *Mark 12:30*



February 2009

The Recorder

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An edited version of this magazine is available on the Church Website.
(Personal details are NOT included)

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

Trinity - A Family Church

Worshipping together - Caring for one another - Sharing with others

Dear Friends,

Last week I finally found a moment to go to the new Christian bookshop in Castle St. It is the Wycombe branch of the St Andrew's bookshop of Great Missenden. I was looking for a study Bible for a nephew who is turning 18 this month and I was impressed with the range they had available and with the helpful advice and guidance from the sales assistant. The café that has been in the same premises for some time continues. And they told me that they soon hope to start serving lunches. If you've not yet been, I recommend a visit. And read on to hear about a book that you might like to buy there.

What happens when we die? The Christian answer to that question is explored fully and helpfully in Tom Wright's book, "Surprised by Hope". It is a demanding read, but gripping, and well worth the effort. This book is my choice for this term's 'Read and discuss'. Tom Wright is an expert on the New Testament as well as being Bishop of Durham. He combines a scholar's insight with a strong concern that Christians, and others, should know what the Bible actually teaches about resurrection and life after death. Those of us who want to discuss it will meet together on the Saturday morning of Palm Sunday weekend, Saturday the 4th April. I am mentioning it in my letter now so that there is plenty of time for those who want to read the whole book to do so. But even if you have not managed to read through the whole book you are most welcome to join in that discussion. It seems an appropriate prelude to Holy Week to have an honest and informed discussion on this topic.

I have not got to the end of the book myself yet. But already it is clear that, like the Christian Aid slogan says, Tom Wright believes in *life before death*, as well as after.

In March we are going to have a chance to think about how we, as a church, can build on our work with others in our local communities to make life better here and now. On March 21st Peter Twilley of the URC will come to lead us in a day's workshop on Community Work. He says, "The workshop will be interactive and participative with the expectation that everyone who comes along gets involved in activities and discussions. The workshops will include a number of tools to help you plan and reflect that will be useful for the future." It will run from 10.00 to 4.00, and is for everyone of whatever age who wants to be part of using our 'new' premises to make a difference in people's lives. It will be a fun day too!

All this is part of how we love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength. Every day brings new opportunities to do that in so many different ways. What an adventure!

May February be for you a month when faith, love and hope grow and flourish as you look to Jesus, the resurrection and the life.



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins
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Church Secretary : Mrs Marian Mole,
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February Services

Morning Worship at 10:30am - led by the Minister unless otherwise stated

February Services

Feb 1 Holy Communion

Feb 8 Morning worship on Education Sunday

Feb 15 - 10.30 Morning worship

5.50 Evening Holy Communion

Feb 22 -10.30 Thinking Day Parade Service and all age worship

4.00 Prayer Circle

Please note that all age worship is on the **4th Sunday** as this is Thinking Day

Rotas for February

Not included in this version

What's on in February



Monday 9th Feb - What does Lent mean to You?
(Hostess - Daphne M)

Monday 23rd Feb - USA holiday. Speaker - Ellen M
(Hostess - Ellen M)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 3rd Feb

Quiz - The 1980's

Tuesday 10th Feb

Pilgrims Progress - Journey's End

Tuesday 17th Feb

Footprints DVD

Tuesday 24th Feb

Shrove Tuesday



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Scrabble

Words fail me!
Lets hope the affliction does not reach the Scrabblers!

6th & 20th February

at 2pm

Diary Dates

Jan 31 Fifth Brigade 9.30 –12 noon

Anyone who can help in anyway welcome

Feb 2 REVIVE Committee Meeting 8pm

4 Vision4Life Bible Study 8pm at The Manse

12 REVIVE Committee Meeting 8pm

14 Coffee Morning 10.30am

18 Vision4Life Bible Study 8pm at The Manse

22 Prayer Circle For Healing 4pm

Last day to send Annual Reports to Angus Massie

23 – 8 March Fairtrade Fortnight

24 Elders' Meeting 8pm

25 Vision4Life Bible Study 8pm at The Manse

28 Coffee Morning 10.30am

February 2009						
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

Not included in this version

For some unknown reason we are a bit light on material this month. The bad news is that this means the editor has to find snippets from the emergency stash to fill up blank spaces, as you will have discovered on pages 8 and 10. You can avoid this by putting pen to paper and sending something in for publication - either interesting, amusing, or even controversial.

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe: 2009

- i) Cholera epidemic - spreading and little health care.
- ii) Hardly any government schools are open and government hospitals too are virtually closed because of lack of staff and equipment. Millions are without medical care or drugs.
- iii) Severe power cuts and water shortages. Raw sewage is everywhere hence the cholera. Some people have not had running water for years.
- iv) US dollar is now in wide circulation and goods are priced at grossly inflated prices. Therefore you pay 5 times as much for a product in Zim as outside, even in US dollars. How do normal people access US dollars? You can only withdraw from bank in one day enough to buy say 2 bread rolls. You can queue all day and get nothing.
- v) Very few mobile or main phone lines are working. This is bad for us as we cannot communicate with our field workers properly and makes the work even more frustrating. It is dangerous for workers if driving alone.
- vi) Very high levels of starvation. A doctor in Mutare says he has never seen anything like it in 32 years. Half the population will need food aid by January. This is because all food aid banned during the June elections season.
- vii) World Food Programme is down on finance as is Tearfund and this will affect AIDS orphans feeding and support scheme if things don't change. War veterans/youth militia are obstructing the delivery of food.
- viii) People in rural areas living on rats and wild fruits.
- ix) Power sharing is a mess. There is still no government in Zimbabwe since the March elections. Mugabe has no intention of sharing. He will just try to frustrate and outwit MDC.
- x) Still terrible political violence- Abductions and torture. The whereabouts of 12 MDC activists currently unknown. The scale of the June violence was unbelievable. There is a torture base in every community. People suffered horrendous injuries. Some areas were sealed off. Many orphaned girls raped and some now pregnant with HIV. 9,000 recorded incidents of severe torture were recorded by Amnesty International in the June period.
- xi) The world lets Mugabe address the UN and the African bodies fail to reign him in.

These notes was received, by email, from a non government organisation in Zimbabwe. The final line asks for prayers for Jean, the leader. Please do what you can by lobbying and telling their story.

Success

UK government withdraws support for GCM's mining project in Bangladesh - 19 December 2008

Minister backtracks on previous statements over controversial mine project following campaign by the World Development Movement. UK company Global Coal Management Resources' (GCM) plans to build an open-cast coal mine in Phulbari, north-west Bangladesh appeared in jeopardy after a UK government minister withdrew official support for the project. If built the mine would take away the land of more than 40,000 people, and compromise the water supply of a further 100,000.

Since the start of 2008, the Asian Development Bank, Barclays and RBS have all withdrawn from investing in the project. However in April 2008 a parliamentary answer revealed UK government support for the project. Gareth Thomas, Chairman of the Cooperative Party and UK Minister for International Development and Minister for Business said:

"We have provided support to Global Coal Management Resources PLC, through the British high commission in Dhaka. They have lobbied to ensure that the Government of Bangladesh take the company's interests into consideration and do not prohibit opencast mining. The British high commission will continue to remain in touch with the company and will represent their interests as appropriate."

Since September 2008, WDM supporters have been emailing Gareth Thomas about the mine. In a bizarre game of 'ping pong' these emails have been bounced between both BERR and DfID. With responses from both departments requesting that the other be contacted.

On the 18th of November 2008, WDM finally received a response from Gareth Thomas, revealing a different approach to the mine:

"UKTI is not currently actively supporting GCM's proposed project in Bangladesh." He goes on to mention that "The British Government is committed to encouraging businesses to operate responsibly".

NEWS FROM CHILTERN AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 18 DECEMBER 2008

1. **Ministry**

- a. **Revd Alan Kirkcaldy** is retiring from Wendover on 12 April 2009 and standing down as Interim Moderator of Beaconsfield.
- b. **Revd David Simpson**, retired minister, will be Interim Moderator of Beaconsfield from 1 February 2009

2. **Vacancies**

- a. **Trinity Slough / St Andrew's Iver**
Discussions with a prospective minister have sadly not been fruitful and the churches are still looking for a minister.
- b. **Beaconsfield / Holtspur**
Discussions with a prospective minister have sadly not been fruitful and these churches are also still looking for a minister.

3. **Area elders' day on "the challenges of church leadership in an era of reducing stipendiary ministry" – Saturday 30 May 2009, 10 am to 4 pm**

This will be of significant importance to all our churches. The Moderator will be there and ministers, elders, and those in similar positions of leadership are urged to attend. Venue to be confirmed. The day will now be **from 10 am to 4 pm** to do justice to the topic and enable everyone to fully participate and contribute. More details to church secretaries in January 09.

4. **Vacancies for appointments to Synod Committees**

- a. Ministry & Mission Fund Committee.
- b. Nominations Committee
- c. Leadership Development Group
- d. Synod Disability Coordinator (& also Disability Area Advocate)
- e. Synod Disciplinary Panel (not a committee)
 - i. This is new to our list. If anyone would like to know more, please ask!
- f. Ecumenical Officer

5. **Communication with churches in our area**

Area Committee is keen to keep churches in the information loop. Please give us feedback, update us on your news via your rep, and let us know if we can serve you better with information.

The new Moderator, the Revd Dr Andrew Prasad, wants to visit all churches in the Synod. Obviously this will take some time and will be easier if he can visit two or three around the same time! However, if your church has a particular event planned and would like to see if Andrew might be available to join you, please contact Sue Russell, his PA at Synod office, tel 020 7799 5000. Please continue to bear this in mind throughout the year.

6. **News from the churches**

News updates were given from Colnbrook and Poyle, and Trinity Slough. If you would like the details please ask your rep.

7. **Building projects**

- a. Trinity High Wycombe sanctuary redevelopment – progressing
- b. Amersham Free Church redevelopment – progressing

8. **Date of next meeting – 19 February 2008**

For those who like to plan ahead - **next** months Diary dates:-

- March 1** Worship in Crendon Hall
- 6** Women's World Day of Prayer
- 9** Builders commence Revive Phase 2
- 14** Coffee Morning 10.30am in Crendon Hall
- 17** AGM & Church Meeting 7.30pm in Crendon Hall
- 21** Community Workshop 10am –3pm
- 22** Share Your Skills Stall
- 24** Elders' Meeting 8pm
- 28** Coffee Morning 10.30am in Crendon Hall
- 29** British Summer Time begins

... more reasons to be wary of kids - they have all the answers!

KIDS IN CHURCH

3-year-old Reese:

"Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name . . . "

~~~~~  
A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it - I'm having a real good time like I am"

~~~~~  
I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime.

She would repeat after me the lines from the prayer

Finally, she decided to go solo

I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer:

"Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us from E-mail

~~~~~  
One particular four-year-old prayed,

"And forgive us our trash baskets, as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

~~~~~  
A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

~~~~~  
A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"

One child answered, "Mary"

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

A little kid said, "Verge"

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

The kid said, "Well, you know, they are always talking about Verge n' Mary"



# Revive report



## SANCTUARY INVENTORY

Thanks to those who responded to the inventory in November's *Recorder* and the reminder in the January edition. This has been helpful to us as we plan for disposal, removal or storage of items.

## PEWS

A notice went out at January services asking anyone interested in a pew or two (with funds to Revive, of course!) to contact me by the end of the month so by the time this article appears in the *Recorder* we should know what we will be doing with them. At the time of writing we hope a reclamation company will purchase them. Church members wanting a pew will need to liaise with Revive committee for collection, which would have to be between 22 February and 9 March. (Collection before 22 Feb might be possible).

## GRAND PIANO AND ORGAN

The grand piano will be moved and the organ will be sealed prior to work starting.

## RAMP

Valerie and Norman Lockhart will be dismantling the ramp on 13 February. Thanks go to them both for their work on its installation and now its removal.

## FUNDS

At the end of January 2009 our funds were as follows:

|                                           |                 |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Fund                                      |                 |
| At end 2007                               | 42,000          |
| Ronald Boxall's bequest                   | 50,000          |
| Giving 2008                               | 16,000          |
| Loans                                     | 12,500          |
| Gift aid and interest                     | 7,800           |
| Costs this year(fees)                     | -26,000         |
| BALANCE/TRINITY FUNDS                     | 102,300         |
| Grant from Synod                          | 100,000         |
| Loan from Synod                           | 40,000          |
| Paid to George Brownlee Quantity Surveyor | -1175           |
| Giving January 2009                       | 1000            |
| <b>Available funds</b>                    | <b>£242,125</b> |

## GRANTS

We have had an initial response from one of the smaller trusts we approached to say they may consider our application but that we need to contact them when the building work is underway.

## START OF WORK AND AFFECTED AREAS

- Work is due to start on 9 March.
- The sanctuary, Lower School Room, and toilets will be out of use during the works.
- The kitchen will be out of action periodically so we are requesting anyone wishing to use it to check with us first.
- Hirers and users have been informed of the disruption and timescales.

Thank you for your prayers and support,

## **A few reasons not to mess with children.**

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him".

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mum?"

Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Mummy, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture.

"Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, He's a doctor.'

A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher, she's dead."

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, "Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face."

"Yes," the class said.

"Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?"

A little fellow shouted, "Cause your feet ain't empty."



# Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Nathan Curley (9th)  
Matthew Hobbs (9th)  
Jonathan Long (23rd)

A Very Happy Birthday  
With love from all at Trinity



Guarantees  
a **better deal**  
for Third World  
Producers

**Fairtrade Fortnight 2009**

**23<sup>rd</sup> February to 8<sup>th</sup> March**

## Women's World Day of Prayer

**6th March 2009**



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*The March edition of the Recorder will be published on 22nd February.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 13th February*

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

# prayer page

## PREPARING FOR LENT

The season of Lent is a classic time within the church's year for self-examination, when we can reflect on the direction of our lives and our faith's journey, and our place of prayer and action in the world today.

For our incapacity to feel the sufferings of others  
and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,  
**God forgive us.**



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For the self-righteousness which denies guilt,  
and the self-interest which strangles compassion,  
**God forgive us.**

For those who lives their lives in careless unconcern,  
who cry "Peace, peace" when there is no peace,  
**We ask your mercy.**

For our failings in community,  
our lack of understanding,  
**We ask your mercy.**

For our lack of forgiveness, openness, sensitivity,  
**God forgive us.**

For the times we were too eager to be better than others,  
when we are too rushed to care,  
when we are too tired to bother,  
when we don't really listen,  
when we are too quick to act from motives other than love,  
**God forgive us.**

*From Bread for Tomorrow © SPCK/Christian Aid*

### Peace

God, strengthen those who work at the details of co-existence in a torn world, who have sat for years round the same conference tables and seen few results; let them share in your endless patience, and in your inflexible will, for Christ's sake.

*Oliver Tomkins – Asking God*

\*\*\*\*\*

We pray for Christians working in places of power and influence who make decisions which may affect many people. We pray for Christians in politics, the media, advertising and the financial markets, that they may know how to act and what to say, in order to be true to Christ. We pray too that we may examine our own power over others, at home or work, and use it responsibly, by offering it to the One who laid aside his power and took the form of a servant.

*John Pritchard – The Intercessions Handbook*

### Weekly prayers through February:

|           |                                                                     |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | For Pastor Dawn McDowall and the Church of God of Worldwide Mission |
| Monday    | Pray for Crown House School, staff and pupils                       |
| Tuesday   | For our local MP                                                    |
| Wednesday | For preparations in hand for July's <i>Lighthouse</i> week          |
| Thursday  | For Roberta Rominger, the URC's General Secretary                   |
| Friday    | For Andrew Prasad, our Synod Moderator                              |
| Saturday  | For Gwen and the chaplaincy team at the university                  |