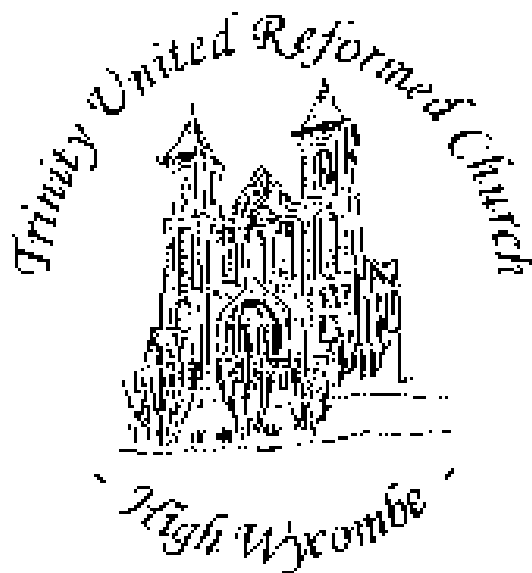


Blessed are the poor in spirit, for  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
*Matt. 5:3*



*February 2010*

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

**Trinity - A Family Church**

Worshipping together - Caring for one another - Sharing with others

Dear Friends,

Have you been following Michael Portillo's train journeys around Britain on BBC 2? Armed with a 19<sup>th</sup> century railway guide book by Bradshaw, he has been retracing journeys made as the industrial revolution was taking flight. Bradshaw gave detailed advice to the travellers of his day as they embarked on the new freedoms that railway travel offered. He praised good hotels. He drew attention to striking new Victorian buildings. He enthused about beautiful scenery. He identified particular towns with particular industries.

Michael Portillo's quest was to discover how much of Bradshaw's world remains, and what has changed. At each stop he met people who had interesting things to say about that place. If you were watching when he arrived in Scarborough you will have seen him talking to Alan Kirkaldy, just arrived on holiday to revisit the place where he and Suzanne met! It was the people that Michael met at each of his stops who brought the programme alive for me. His research team had clearly been before him identifying individuals who were enthusiasts for the work they did, or the architecture of their town, or the beauty of their surroundings. He learnt as much, if not more, from talking to these people as he did from the guidebook that he carried.

In our day people learn about Jesus that way too – by meeting individuals who are enthusiasts for Him. Enthusiastic doesn't necessarily mean exuberant or extrovert. Enthusiasm can be steady and quiet. It is evident in what those individuals do and how they live.

Marian has recently lent me a Lent study book that some of you studied years ago. It's called, 'Life Attitudes' and it is on the Beatitudes, Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5: 3-10. I'm struck by a comment on the first two Beatitudes, verses 3 and 4.

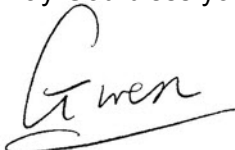
*"The first two beatitudes are about our attitude to ourselves, life and God. They point to a fundamental openness to God and the whole of life, in all its joys and pains. Celebration and grief are fundamentals of life and of Christian living. Living as creatures before the Creator, we are called to be open to both the richness of all creation and also the brokenness and disorder around us."*

Practicing 'a fundamental openness to God and the whole of life' suggests itself to me as a worthy spiritual discipline for Lent. I mean practicing in the sense of practicing to learn to play the piano, or practicing to learn to drive a car. Not being able to do it all at once, but regularly and persistently developing your skill through practice.

We are called to that openness not just as individuals but as a whole church too. As we move into "Revive post-phase 2" let's be open to both the richness of celebratory worship and friendship and also the brokenness of our own frailties and of all who suffer. Let's strive to keep our hearts and our doors open.

The Lent study book for this year's ecumenical house groups seems to me to be very apt for a year that has begun with the terrible tragedy of Haiti's earthquake. "When I survey ... Christ's cross and ours" will be dealing with deep issues of suffering. Yet, I'm sure it will also be celebratory because it always is richly creative to meet with other enthusiasts for Jesus and share our stumbling attempts to live in Him.

May God bless you in your Lenten journey,



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins  
e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk

Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole,  
e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

## February Services

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

Feb 7            Holy Communion  
Feb 14          Morning worship  
Feb 21          Thinking Day Parade Service and all age worship  
                    4.30 Evening Holy Communion  
Feb 28          Morning worship, preacher Catherine McFie

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### Rotas for February

Not included in this version

# What's on in February



Monday 8th Feb - Quiz (Hostess - Lesley Bogart)

Monday 22nd Feb - "Inheritance items" (Hostess - Marian Mole)

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 2nd Feb Candlemas

Tuesday 9th Feb Beetle

Tuesday 16th Feb Prayers, Poems & Pancakes

Tuesday 23rd Feb DVD. Bring & Buy



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*

## Diary Dates

- Feb 13** Coffee Morning
- 17** Ash Wednesday
- 22** Annual Reports to Angus Massie
- 22** Fairtrade Fortnight begins
- 23** Elders' Meeting
- 27** Coffee Morning

- Mar 5** Women's World Day of Prayer
- 7** Share Your Skills Stall
- 13** Coffee Morning
- 14** Mothering Sunday
- 16** Church AGM & Meeting 7.30pm
- 27** Orpheus Male Voice Choir Concert
- 28** Palm Sunday & British Summer Time begins
- 30** Elders' Meeting

- Apr 1** Maundy Thursday Service at Wesley Methodist Church 8pm
- 2** Good Friday Service at Trinity 10.15am followed by Walk of Witness
- 4** Easter Day

February 2010						
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

### **Traidcraft 2009**

A big thank you to everyone who supported Traidcraft throughout the year and also to all who made a point of buying fair trade goods over the last year. More and more items are available now in supermarkets and department stores and that is partly down to us, the consumer, saying that is what we want.

The total from the monthly sale of Traidcraft goods after Sunday Worship was.....£1,171.60

The Christmas catalogue orders totalled .....£ 679.80

The sum from this that went to Revive ..... £ 71.75

(ie £608.05 went from the Christmas catalogue to Traidcraft)

**Therefore the total that went to Traidcraft from Trinity for 2009 was £1,779.65**



**Fairtrade Fortnight 2010**

**22<sup>nd</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March**

We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.  
EPICTETUS (c 55-135 AD)

# Commitment for Life

## ZIMBABWE

With the IMF tentatively assessing Zimbabwe's future, civil society and politicians in that country are beginning to discuss the possibility of debt cancellation once the country is on a firmer footing. Already intense debate has begun as to the appropriateness of the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) scheme to Zimbabwe, with many in civil society and the Movement for Democratic Change pushing for debt audits and cancellation on the basis of illegitimacy.

At a recent international donor conference in Berlin in October 2009, several donors called for Zimbabwe to be classified as a HIPC but there are problems with this: HIPC takes a long time and is tied to a whole range of controversial conditions. Perhaps most important, there will somewhat ironically be a significant increase in the external debt service burden over the short-term as Zimbabwe is forced to clear its arrears to the multilaterals – an essential step to HIPC status. Sometimes donors fund this, but often with loans, leading to large amounts of new debt not covered by the debt cancellation process. Some political analysts in the country have argued that there are two possible routes for the country:

- 1) the HIPC Initiative
- 2) the 'look-East' option, i.e. to mortgage Zimbabwe's significant natural resources to emerging lenders which do not exert policy conditionalities on the country.

According to the IMF, Zimbabwe is already in "debt distress". As at the end of 2008 Zimbabwe's public and publicly guaranteed (PPG) external debt stood at \$5.1 billion. In relative terms, Zimbabwe's external debt is approximately 166 percent of the country's gross domestic product and 320 percent of annual export receipts.

## BANGLADESH

Bangladesh felt they were entitled to ask for at least 15 percent of any climate adaptation fund pledged by developed countries at Copenhagen. They see themselves as the most vulnerable country to climate change and know the world has already recognised that they need assistance for adaptation. At least 20 million Bangladeshis, of a total population about 150 million, would be displaced if sea levels rose by one metre. Many more would be affected if glaciers on the Himalayas melted due to global warming. During the Copenhagen meeting Bangladesh demanded that

the twenty nine developed countries mostly responsible for greenhouse gas emissions should contribute one point five per cent of their GDP to a climate adaptation fund. Another key demand of Bangladesh at the conference was the need for transfer of technology from the developed countries to those most vulnerable.

The prime minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina said 'An agreement has been agreed upon taking in most of all our concerns.' She was speaking hours after the world leaders hammered out a deal.

The Copenhagen Accord has been strongly condemned here as a back-door deal that excludes the poor and dooms the world to disastrous climate change. Hasina appealed to the wealthiest countries to cut carbon emissions, which are blamed for climate change, by 45 percent of 1990 levels by 2020, exceeding the pledges made by any of them.

## Student with us on Placement

Catherine McFie, an elder of Trinity URC Slough, is in her second year of the URC's Training for Learning and Service course [TLS]. One of the requirements of the course is to help lead worship in a church other than your own over at least four weeks. Catherine is coming to us for this placement. She will be with us on the following Sundays, and may be joined for some by members of her TLS support group:

Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>

Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>

March 7<sup>th</sup>

March 14<sup>th</sup>

Each week she will lead a different part of our worship, and on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March will lead the whole service.

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## Meet the People Tours – Traidcraft

If you're interested in fair trade and are looking for an opportunity to meet the people behind the products then these holidays are for you.

Traidcraft 'Meet the People Tours' offer small groups of people a unique and authentic insight into a country's people and culture.

Around a shared interest in fair trade you will experience life in local communities, spend time with people, and visit developments projects as well as take in the sights and sounds of the country's natural and cultural heritage.

Interested? Contact Paul or Lizzie at Traidcraft on 0191 265 1110 or e-mail [traidcraft@skedaddle.co.uk](mailto:traidcraft@skedaddle.co.uk), or visit [www.traidcraft-tours.com](http://www.traidcraft-tours.com)

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## **Forward planning:**

Annual reports for the AGM **MUST** be given to me to consolidate by no later than 22 February. Remember, the reports should cover the calendar year 2009. Don't leave them until the last minute! Any Reports not with me by the above date may well not be published, as I will be out of the country in the weeks preceding the AGM, and will not be picking up e-mails!!

Angus

Will regular contributors please note that the **April** edition of the Recorder will be published on Sunday 4th April - ie Easter Day (a week later than usual). Notices of any events etc happening up to and including Easter Day will therefore need to be included in the March edition, which means a deadline date of 19 February. **You have been warned!!**

# ***JOAN OF ARC***

## **A MUSICAL**

Anyone wishing to take part in this musical, to be performed in November at All Saints Parish Church, High Wycombe, or to help with costumes, props, etc. are invited to open auditions on 24 April 10.30am to 3.30pm in The Chilterns Shopping Centre outside Wilkinsons.

*The Final Auditions will take place on 1 May at St Andrew's Church, Hatters Lane and will be 'The Joan Factor'.*

**For more details or to contact please visit the website:  
[www.joanofarcamusical.com](http://www.joanofarcamusical.com)**

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### **Why Go To Church?**

A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!"

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### **How to stay safe in the world today:**

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or footpaths because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid travelling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in Hospitals.

So, ... above all else, avoid hospitals.

BUT, you will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!

See you on Sunday!!





# Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Matthew (5<sup>th</sup>) - Gwens's grandson

Nathan C (9<sup>th</sup>)

Matthew H (9<sup>th</sup>)

Jonathan L (23<sup>rd</sup>)

Adam T (29<sup>th</sup>)

a Very Happy Birthday  
with love from all at Trinity

## Women's World Day of Prayer

**5th March 2010**

10.30am Service at Trinity; Speaker Barbara Sparks.

1.30pm Service at St Michael's Hughenden: Speaker Anita Rush.

The service this year has been prepared by the Women of Cameroon and a creche will be available for the morning service at Trinity.

For further details please see Sue Saunders or Olive Shepherd.



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*The March edition of the Recorder will be published on 28th February.*

*Closing date for contributions is Friday 19th February*

**See page 7 for further details**

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

May the Lord bless you and take care of you;  
May the Lord be kind and gracious to you;  
May the Lord look on you with favour and give you peace.

*Numbers chapter 6*

f  
e  
b  
r  
u  
a  
r  
y

2010

If I had not suffered  
I would not have known the love of God.  
If many people had not suffered  
God's love would not have been passed on.  
If Jesus had not suffered  
God's love would not have been made visible.

*Mizun Genzo, Japan*

For teachers of young children

God, help us to recognise the importance of early years,  
when emotions may be coloured for life,  
when trust or fear may become dominant,  
when the pattern of relationship with others is shaped,  
and grant especial grace to those whom you have called to teach children  
during such truly tender years.

*Asking God © Oliver Tomkins*



Lord, we falter before your commands. We do not truly believe that you make whole, that your kingdom comes when brokenness is healed. Give to your Church, in all its parts and in all its ministries, a renewed faith in your healing power, that broken bones may rejoice!

*Asking God © Oliver Tomkins*

Teach us, Lord,  
to serve you as you deserve,  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labour and not to seek for any reward  
save that of knowing that we do your will.

*St Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)*

## Weekly prayers through February:

Sunday	Reflect afresh on the cross and what Jesus did for us
Monday	For volunteers and guests at Night Shelter tonight and tomorrow morning
Tuesday	For the Child Bereavement Charity in West Wycombe
Wednesday	For men and women in prison
Thursday	For peace between warring nations
Friday	For the Samaritans
Saturday	For Street Angels in Wycombe