

Jesus saw Matthew, sitting in his office. He said to him, "Follow me".  
*from Matthew 9:9*



**February 2011**

# **The Recorder**

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

Pastoral letter	2	Church family & Life	5
Services & Rotas	3	The wider church	8 - 11
What's on?	4, 7	Prayer Page	14
Commitment for Life	6		

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,

In my letter this month I want to issue an invitation. If you are reading this and are not yet formally a 'Member' of Trinity, my invitation is to you, and it is this:

You are invited  
to talk to me  
about joining our church  
as a full member.

We are on an exciting journey, spiritually and in community service. To become a member in URC terms means to throw your weight in with us. It means that your voice, your gifts and your insights become fully part of shaping our direction and future.

Some of you who are reading this letter are part of our worshipping and serving fellowship, for whom it has never yet seemed right to come into formal membership. You are appreciated. You are valued. You will not be loved any more than you already are by the rest of us if you become a member, but we will be touched, thrilled and encouraged if you say that you would like to look into taking that step.

Trinity, like all United Reformed Churches, conducts its life in terms of a document known as 'The Basis of Union'. We express those principles in our own way in our constitution. In it we ask four things of our members:

- a confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
- a resolution to live day by day according to Christ's teaching.
- regular attendance at worship, including Communion, and the Church Meeting.
- a willingness to uphold the honour, discipline, work and worship of the church by giving gifts of time, talent and means.

I believe that few of us who are in membership would feel that we achieve all that is implicit in these expectations. We are not full of faith all the time! Our resolve to live like Christ is aspirational, and lends dynamic challenge to daily life. Family commitments or the opportunity for holidays and travel means that 'regular in worship' does not necessarily translate into 'every week'. Our giving of time, talent and means can vary according to our stage of life, demands of work and family, but it is the willingness to do what is possible that matters.

I believe too that many of you who are not in membership could say exactly the same things. So why not accept my invitation? Let's talk about it.

If you are someone who has never got to the point of making a decision to walk Christ's way why not take time now to consider if all the above resonates with an inner sense that could be God speaking to you on this matter.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all,



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk
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Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole, e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk
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## February Services

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

- Feb 6 Homelessness Sunday, with Holy Communion
- Feb 13 Theme: Learning from our partner churches in CWM Europe
- Feb 20 Thinking Day Parade Service and all age worship  
4.30 Service of Holy Communion
- Feb 27 Theme: Everybody Welcome – Making the premises more inviting

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### Rotas for February

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in February



- Monday 14th Feb - Puddings Evening (Hostess - Joan Smith)
- Monday 28th Feb - Vision4Life (Hostess - Marian Mole) Everybody welcome

Both meetings start at 8pm

## WOMEN'S MEETING

- Tuesday 1st Feb Aunts
- Tuesday 8th Feb Introduction to CWM
- Tuesday 15th Feb Wonders of the Universe
- Tuesday 22nd Feb Why a King James Bible? Bring & Buy



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*

## Diary Dates

- February** 2 Worship Planning Meeting 2pm
- 11 Mission Strategy Group 10.30am
- 12 **Biblefresh Workshops** 10am-4pm (details available in Lower School Room)
- 12 Coffee Morning 10.30am
- 14 Closing date for Annual reports to Angus Massie
- 22 Elders' Meeting 8pm
- 26 Coffee Morning
- 28 – 13 March Fairtrade Fortnight
- March** 4 **Women's World Day of Prayer**
- 7 – 9 Gwen away at a conference
- 15 **Church AGM followed by Church Meeting 7.30pm**
- 21 –27 **Climate Week**
- 27 British Summer Time begins

February 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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**



Just a brief note to show my appreciation to all those who gave so generously, following my Imani presentation. We managed to raise £136 which will go straight to the orphanage and will help significantly.

If you would like to learn more about the Imani Orphanage please visit their website. <http://www.imanikids.org/>

Thanks  
Ben L

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**TRAIDCRAFT 2010**

Financial details for 2010:-

**Christmas catalogue**

Sold goods	£509.98
Money back to Traidcraft	£439.91
Percentage to Revive	£70.07

**Sale on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month** £1,251.29

**Christmas catalogue money** £439.91

**TOTAL** £1,691.20

**Contribution to REVIVE as percentage from the catalogue sale = £ 70.07**



*Pat W*



**Fairtrade Fortnight 2011**

**28 February to 13 March**

# Commitment for Life

## ZIMBABWE

### Lovemore House

For a few boys, Lovemore House in Harare, Zimbabwe is an answer to prayer. Financed and run by the Uniting Church in South Africa, Presbytery of Zimbabwe, it provides a 'home' for fourteen young boys who would otherwise be living on the street.

When they have a space, the social welfare usually let them know of someone who is in need. The boys are looked after by seven staff with Helen (Social Welfare) and Loveness (administrator) working five days and a gentleman, training to be a minister, is there overnight and the weekend. Monday is his day off. The gardener and the cook are married and live on site. All realise that this situation is not ideal but is much better than what they had before.

Many of the boys originally came from Mozambique and ended up living on the streets because they were orphaned through AIDS, run away from home or abandoned because the family just couldn't cope. Small children are often trained to beg at traffic lights or tourist destinations and that is how they would have lived day to day. Over half of the boys are HIV+ and come into the home with both mental and physical scars as well as sexually transmitted diseases. Helen described them as "bleeding inside with trauma."

The boys attend a local school with the opportunity to go on to boarding school and university. When they move to boarding school this opens up places for new boys. Two boys, Truest and Quinton, are now at the David Livingstone Memorial School and doing extremely well. The boys have a breakfast of porridge and then go to the local school which is situated in the nearby army camp. They come home for a morning break of tea and bread and return for lunch. This works well as there has been problems of the boys taking other children's lunches. The teachers understand the children's trauma and work closely with the home when there are problems. However, the boys also support each other, with the oldest looking after the younger ones. Tynashe is six years old and the youngest at the home. He goes to Cadets and wants to go into the army but he has ill health and this may stop him achieving his dream. However, for now, Cadets is teaching him many useful new skills. The boys love football and one lad is particularly fond of reading. They all appeared happy and eager to show visitors their rooms and the house.

Each bedroom has four beds with its own cupboard and shelf space. They have an upstairs room for television and reading. Gardening is encouraged and each of the boys has their own plot. The rest of the land is worked to supplement the kitchen. There was great excitement when a new freezer/fridge arrived donated by UNICEF. As they cook for the boys with electricity, the regular electricity cuts cause a real problem, so UNICEF are also helping the home by providing a generator and barbeque. Until this happens the cook has to prepare meals outside in the garage with an open fire during the cuts. A new chicken run, made by the boys, is ready for new chickens, both broilers and egg layers that are expected very soon.

The home relies mainly on donations from the churches in the Presbytery. With the monthly cost for each child at approximately US\$350 it is obvious how much of a struggle this is for congregations, especially since the collapse of the Zimbabwe dollar.

And when one hears that the two boys at David Livingstone Memorial School came first in their year, it is evident that all the effort and sacrifice has been worth it. The UPCSA is in partnership with eastern Synod through the Belonging to the World church Programme.

### Prayer Support in 2011.

*Please do pray for the countries of Jamaica, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe as we enter another year. May this be the year that progress is made in giving those who struggle, a chance of a future through their own work. Commitment for Life produce a leaflet called 'Prayer Partners' on justice and poverty. Find it at [www.cforl.org.uk](http://www.cforl.org.uk)*



## Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 4th March 2011

prepared by the women of Chile; the theme, "How many loaves have you?".

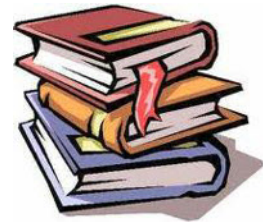
10.30am - Union Baptist - guest speaker Rev. Yvonne Murray  
of St Mary and St George, Sands. (with Creche)

7pm - St. Francis of Assisi, Terriers - guest speaker  
Sister Debbie Orriss of the Church Army.

If you would like any other details please speak to Sue Saunders or Olive Shepherd.

### BOOK REVIEW

A regular Recorder reader has asked for some book reviews to be included in our magazine. I would like to offer this as the first, and look to other readers to send the editor reviews of books they would recommend for future issues.



Two Scottish twin sisters, ardent Presbyterians, set the world of Biblical scholarship alight in 1893 by discovering an ancient manuscript of the Four Gospels in a dark corner of St Catherine's Monastery, Sinai. How did they come to be there? How was it that they were able to recognise this Syriac manuscript for what it was?

If you enjoy reading adventure stories of intrepid travellers, and appreciate books that give you a real insight into the lives of previous generations this book is for you.

We, in the United Reformed Church, can claim Agnes Lewis and Margaret Gibson as our spiritual forbears and benefactors. One of the many good things they did with their inherited fortune was to pay for a Presbyterian College to be built in Cambridge. The opening of Westminster College took place on 17 October 1899. It belongs now to the URC and we use it to train ministers and others.

Janet Soskice, "Sisters of Sinai" pub. Chatto & Windus 2009, £18.99, or borrow my copy for free! (£12.34 at W H Smith - but needs to be ordered. *Ed*)

*Gwen*

### **EVERYONE'S INVITED TO THE AGM!**

Everyone, not just church members, with any interest in Trinity URC is invited to attend the Church AGM on Tuesday 15 March at 7.30pm to be held in the church sanctuary. Pick up your copy of Annual Reports due out on 6 March and read all about last year. Come to the AGM and hear about our hopes for the coming one. Who will be doing what? Where do you fit in? Would you like to help with something new? We value each member of our church family whatever their age. Everyone has something to offer, and everyone is needed!

Marian M, having completed six years as a serving elder, will be stepping down for a sabbatical and Andrew W and Janet R come to the end of their three years of office but, if willing, can be re-elected. Please give prayerful thought to our Eldership team. Nomination forms are available from Marian Mand should have the agreement of the nominee and seconded by two Church Members.

Nominations for the Eldership should be with Marian M or Gwen by 10.20am on Sunday 6 March. If you'd like to know more about becoming an elder please speak to Gwen.

The AGM will be followed by our bi-monthly Church Meeting but we still aim to finish by 10pm.

# Gap year with a difference

Dec 2010



Twenty-year-old Carly Rogers from Wales has joined six others at the Mission House in Amsterdam.

Carly Rogers (far left) is one of seven volunteers to join the Mission House in Amsterdam

A new year has begun at the CWM-Europe run Mission House in Amsterdam - and another seven youths have upped sticks and moved into the city to volunteer at projects by day and come home to a shared flat each night.

It's an initiative "where word and action meet" and Carly Rogers from Neath will spend her year in Amsterdam working with people on the margins of Dutch society experiencing work that most people will never get the chance to do.

For her and her six housemates, it's the idea of giving something back that attracted them to the opportunity, PCW's Network magazine reported.

*I get so much happiness helping others and doing voluntary work*

"The main reason I applied was because my life had got to a point where it's not set out for me any more," says Carly, who left school in 2009. "I'd been thinking about missionary work as it's always been in my heart to help others, so when reading up on the Mission House I decided it was exactly what I want to do."

Although challenging, with long hours and a lot of soul-searching, the 10-month placement is an experience all the current Mission House volunteers take away a lot from.

On their arrival at the Mission House in September, the volunteers visit different projects in the city and choose up to five to work in. They include various projects for homeless people for minority-ethnic young people, migrant women, drug users, asylum seekers, disabled or terminally ill people and people with mental health issues.



*The Mission House*

The group also has intense Dutch lessons during the first few weeks.

"I get so much happiness helping others and doing voluntary work," Carly says. "This was an opportunity to be among others who have the same passions as me. I want to take part in the Mission House to give back to the church and God because I have had so much from my faith and in this way I can give back a bit."

Although the volunteers don't have to be Christians, they are encouraged to explore their faith and to work as Christ's hands and feet during the year. The placement can lead volunteers to pursue a career in ministry, missionary or volunteer work for the future.

A former member of the house, Gwenno Teifi, is now a youth worker for the Presbyterian Church of Wales in western Gwynedd and north Wales.



## News from High Wycombe Central Aid Society

High Wycombe Central Aid Society is now at West Richardson Street, High Wycombe, HP11 2SB, tel. 01494 535890

I have received a newsletter from the Secretary. 2010 was a year of great change for the Society and here are the main points from them:

The landlords, Wycombe District Council, increased the rent and it was decided to make a move. In July 2010 the Society received a donation from John Lewis Partnership. They were given a member of their staff for six months to help with a number of projects.

On 30 April 2010 they closed their door at the main office in High Wycombe for the last time. The Society had been in central Wycombe for many years and gave clients ready access to their services. They now have to travel to the outskirts of Wycombe which is inconvenient for the elderly and those with limited mobility.



The new office has been created within the Furniture Warehouse at West Richardson Street. They found moving office not an easy undertaking after 20 years! The move was completed in May 2010, and will achieve their main aim – to save money.

- Just about this time they had the opportunity to open a charity shop in the old Tourist Information office. Now they need a band of volunteers to help run it. It will be open three days a week and it is planned to concentrate on bric-a-brac rather than clothes, and aims to undercut other charity shops. They are now looking for donations to achieve a good turnaround of stock. The shop was opened by Colin Baker, well-known local celebrity. Initial sales look promising.
- The move has enabled the Society to extend the hours the Furniture Project is open and is now trading on EBay.
- 50 Plus Pop-In goes from strength to strength and provides a varied menu at good value prices. It is now running at a small profit.
- Market stall – this has been discontinued.
- New trustees are needed for the Management Committee. Commitment is a once-a-month meeting. Volunteers are always needed to help with new and existing projects.

*Olivia P*

### **More quotes from Epictetus:-**

It's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters.

Keep silence for the most part, and speak only when you must, and then briefly.

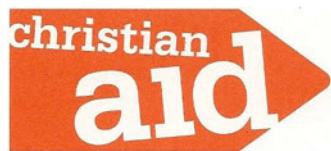
Know, first, who you are, and then adorn yourself accordingly.

Make the best use of what is in your power, and take the rest as it happens.

No great thing is created suddenly

Difficulties are things that show a person what they are.

First learn the meaning of what you say, and then speak.



**Trinity URC , High Wycombe:  
Wednesday 16th Feb., 6.30-8pm**  
(so hopefully you can go on to anything else planned for  
that evening afterwards)

special guest speaker

## **Loretta Minghella, Director of Christian Aid**

"Come and hear about her experiences so far - she joined April 2010 - and how with your help CA is moving forward"

This meeting is open to all - church representatives, collectors, potential collectors, church leaders, friends, or anyone else who may be interested - so please come along yourselves and invite others.

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## **Results of Thames North Synod Elections**

### **Mission Council**

Four nominations for two vacancies: David Lawrence, Elizabeth Lawson, Edward Sanniez and Keith Webster.

They will now be asked for their Election Addresses which will be circulated with the Agenda for the March 2011 Synod Meeting. The voting Papers will be distributed and counted at the March 2011 Synod Meeting.

### **Synod Executive Committee**

Four nominations received for two vacancies – David Bradburn, Sue Chapman, Andrew Jack and David Lawrence. They will now be asked for their Election Addresses which will be circulated with the Agenda for the March 2011 Synod. Voting papers will be handed out to Voting Synod members at that meeting.

### **Chiltern Area Committee**

There was one nomination for two vacancies. Bridget Powell was duly nominated and elected.

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Kate Y".

Kate Y – Synod Rep

## **AGM Reports**

If you need to make a report and have not yet done so, you have two weeks (or less) to submit it! All reports **MUST** be received by 14 February at the latest if they are to be included in the Annual Report package!!

## "EVERYBODY WELCOME"

"Is there a place for me?"

In November 2010 I attended a Christian Resource day, entitled "Is there a place for me?" It was a resource day open to clergy, other church leaders, family, friends, carers and people with learning disabilities. The sub-title being "Including people with learning disabilities in the life of the Church". I was both moved and shocked at some of the stories I heard, of welcome and rejection. As Christians, are we not supposed to welcome/include everyone, just as our Lord did? I heard testimonies from people with learning disabilities and from parents and carers. I attended two workshops mainly with a view to helping children with disabilities find a place in the church, which I enjoyed and found extremely helpful but the testimonies of rejection will stay with me for sometime. Below, is a testimony from one parent who was unable to attend, which so moved me I wanted to share it with you. Could the church mentioned have been Trinity? I hope you will read it and remember it when a stranger walks into our church, however they are dressed, whatever their creed or their disability.

Sue S

### CAMBRIDGE ON A SUNDAY

The familiar sound of subdued voices echoing in a church. Older voices. About thirty people, mostly pensioners, sat waiting for the service to begin.

Incongruously, a baby gurgled. This little one, the reason for our visit, was about to be dedicated. Our eldest son, aged nine, was reading the lesson. Our younger son, aged seven, would not be reading anything. He cannot speak. He was making incongruous sounds too, blowing raspberries and happily humming to himself.

People were very polite - nobody stared. But as the service began and the murmuring chorus evaporated, our son's raspberries soared like a solo through the building, expanding into the silence.

The usual array of "quiet toys" and sultanas appeared, but after ten minutes we had had enough, so I took Michael out. As I reached the door, already checking the time and working out how far I could walk with him before the service ended, an elderly lady met me, and asked if we'd like to go into the church hall. No enforced walk, no hanging about outside the church in the cold, listening for the last hymn. Luxury. I thanked her profusely, and she showed us the way to the hall.

"Would you like some tea or coffee, and would your son like some juice?" she asked. The words shocked me. A strange reaction, I know. Hers was such an ordinary offer - a kind extension of hospitality to a stranger. But to me it was quite extraordinary. No-one had ever offered me a drink before when I'd taken Michael out of a meeting or event. I collected myself, and readily accepted. We had been travelling for a couple of hours that morning; the offer of tea was like nectar.

Michael had already started exploring the hall, running around and feeling the surfaces of walls and windows and furniture, making as much noise as he fancied. Soon, this thoughtful stranger reappeared with a cup of tea and one of juice.

As she gave me the tea she said, "Would you like to take communion later? I could bring it in to you here, or I could watch your son while you go into church and take it." I took the tea from her hands, thinking for a horrible moment that I was going to cry. It felt as if she had reached out and touched a wound, not to hurt it, but to bind it. I hadn't realised that wound was so bad, until she touched it. I knew it was there, of course. Every time we left an event and walked around outside the building it re-opened ..... the wound of exclusion, of being left outside. It never had time to heal. Here was a total stranger bringing us in. Offering me and my son shelter, offering us something to drink, welcoming us as members of Jesus' family. '

Once again I pulled myself together and rapidly thought through

my answer. I knew I couldn't leave Michael with her - he was too active. I also knew that if she gave me some bread, and said "the body of Christ" to me, I would break down and sob like a child. But something else held me back, too - something indefinable.

So, holding the tears back, I thanked her for the kind and thoughtful offer, but declined it. She checked I had everything I needed, and returned to the service. I relaxed. The room blurred and distorted. Tears spilled over and ran slowly down my cheeks.

I held the hot cup of tea closely, staring with unseeing eyes at the brown liquid, feeling the steam on my face. The warmth comforted me. Wiping the tears away I saw the cup clearly. Then I realised why I didn't need to take communion. I was holding it in my hands.

Sally Hodges, 2003

*Recorder - February 2011*

## Something to make you ponder . . .

### Plurals

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,  
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.  
One fowl is a goose but two are called geese,  
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.  
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,  
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,  
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?  
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,  
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?  
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,  
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,  
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.  
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,  
But though we say mother, we never say methren.  
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,  
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.  
There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger;  
Neither apple nor pine in pineapple.  
English muffins weren't invented in England .  
We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes, we find that:  
    quicksand can work slowly,  
    boxing rings are square,  
    and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing,  
grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?  
Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend.  
If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?  
If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?  
Sometimes I think all the folks who grew up speaking English should be committed to an asylum  
for the verbally insane.

In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a recital?  
We ship by truck but send cargo by ship...  
We have noses that run and feet that smell.  
We park in a driveway and drive in a parkway.  
And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same,  
While a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn  
up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and in which an alarm  
goes off by going on.  
And, in closing, if Father is Pop, how come Mother's not Mop?



# 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

Gwen S writes from Horsham to report that she is keeping quite well, apart from a few minor ailments which tend to afflict the 'not-so-young'. Her church has been without a Minister for over 12 months now, but they are blessed with having several retired Ministers in the area who help to keep things ticking over.

She extends her best wishes to us all for the forthcoming year.

#### **THE SENILITY PRAYER:**

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway,  
the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

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*The March edition of the Recorder will be published on 27th February.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 18th February*

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

## prayer page

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2011

Heavenly Father, it is good to know that our place is to serve,  
and that this is our usefulness.  
You do not ask us to worry over motives or results,  
but quietly, unpretentiously, to do our job in trusting obedience.  
Thank you for inviting the church to play its life in this minor key,  
and yet to enjoy the full music of your rule.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

*From 'More Contemporary Prayers', SCM Press*

The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook  
*A person's wisdom gives patience; it is to our glory to overlook an offence.*

Good words are worth much and cost little.

*Pleasant words are a honeycomb,  
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*

God is not a good habit, a useful Sunday exercise,  
one interest among others,  
a fascinating hobby.  
God is life itself ...  
He is Someone not to be analysed, examined, proved,  
but to be met  
And when that happens  
Life unfolds,  
meanings matter,  
love is deeper.  
Be still. Relax. Unwind.  
Open those inner doors.

© Howard Booth



Holy God, mysterious and wonderful,  
challenging, disturbing, affirming and cherishing,  
we adore you and give you praise.  
Transcendent God, far beyond our imaginings,  
yet closer to us than the skin that clothes us,  
we adore you and give you praise.  
Inhabiting God, making your dwelling within and outside us,  
providing refuge and safety and exposure and risk,  
we adore you and give you praise.

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