



*January 2006*

# *The Recorder*

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*An edited version of this magazine is now available on the Church Web-site.  
(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,

As the January Recorder is going to be published on January 1st 2006 it is most appropriate that I begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year.

As I am writing this, however, the newspapers, television and other media are busy looking back at 2005. I too am thinking of one of the pleasures of the end of that year - the BBC serialization of Charles Dickens' Bleak House.

I hope that some of you saw and enjoyed it too. Lovers of the book will have found things to criticize but as television drama it had comedy, romance, melodrama and tragedy. Human nature has not changed much since Dickens' day and its concerns are our concerns: the plight of the poor, the exploitation of the weak by the strong, the wide gap between the law and justice and the importance of human relationships to name those which most struck me.

This dramatization too brought out clearly the hold which the past can have over people. Some of the characters were able, with help from others, to accept the mistakes of the past and live useful and fulfilled lives. Others were broken by building on false hopes or dwelling on secrets from their past. We also have our own pasts: successes and failures, hopes and fears, joys and sorrows. They make us what we are. At this time of the year some of us look back at our past and make resolutions to do better in the future. Too often we fail to keep those resolutions.

What goes wrong? For myself, I think I look in the wrong direction, back down into myself for strength instead of looking up and out towards God for guidance it is remembering and accepting the all-embracing love of our God who neither slumbers nor sleeps which brings us peace and courage in the present and hope for the future.

I pray that the fellowship at Trinity and each person in it will indeed have a Happy New Year secure in that love whatever joys or sorrows, successes or failures, hopes and fears lie in wait in 2006.

*Olive S*

Minister :

Church Secretary:  
Mrs Margaret Lewis,

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

## January Services

### Morning worship at 10:30am

- Jan 1<sup>st</sup> - Revd Roberta Rominger (Synod Moderator)
- Jan 8<sup>th</sup> - Team from Amersham Free Church
- Jan 15<sup>th</sup> - All Age Worship - Mr Dave Pignon or a member of Kings Team
- Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> - Mrs Maureen Lampard From All Saints, High Wycombe
- Jan 29<sup>th</sup> - Mrs Anne Martin (URC General Office)

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***Not included in this version***

# What's on in January



Monday 9th January - New Year Quiz  
(Hostess: Ellen Murray)

Monday 23rd January -  
(Hostess: Lesley Bogart)

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 10th Jan

Welcome back & Faith tea

Tuesday 17th Jan

Women of the Old Testament (1)

Tuesday 24th Jan

Speaker: Marian Mole

Tuesday 31st Jan

Bring & Buy



Scrabble

It has been a long break -  
can you even remember how to play?

**January 6th & 20th**

## Space to let!

This spot is now available to anyone who has a regular feature to "advertise", such as those above. If anyone would like to take it over, please contact the editor - otherwise the page will be re-vamped!

*Not included in this version*

## A quick summary

For those who have little time, here is a potted version of the bible - in 50 words.

God Made

Adam bit

Noah arked

Abraham split

Jacob fooled

Joseph rules

Bush talked

Moses balked

Pharoh walked

Sea divided

Tablets guided

Promise landed

Saul freaked

David peeked

Prophets warn

Jesus born

God walked

Love talked

Anger crucified

Hope died

Love rose

Spirit flamed

Word spread

God remained

## TRAIDCRAFT

A big thank you to everyone who has supported TRAIDCRAFT over the last year. This is just one of the ways that we can help to Make Poverty History.

Over the year on our monthly Sundays we spent £959.42

The catalogue was suggested as a way of raising money for Trinity as well as TRAIDCRAFT with a percentage of sales being returned to me for the church. Christmas orders totalled £469.41. Of this £345.39 went to TRAIDCRAFT and £68.43 came to Trinity.

**Therefore the grand total for TRAIDCRAFT over the year was £1,304.81.** How about aiming for £1,500 next year!

*Pat W*

## Womens' Meeting

*- a resumé of the past few months from a member of the group*

At the start of the Autumn session we had two new members – Erica and Joan. We have enjoyed a varied and interesting program. Most of us joined the children at Priory Road and Hamilton School to celebrate Harvest. We had Hearing Dogs; two videos from John and Joy Standfield; a talk from a retired policeman; learned about St Francis; played Beetle; had a quiz and ended with a lovely Christmas Party, enjoyed by members and friends/guests.

Thanks to Olive for leading us and to all who help with transport. Thanks also to Win for her part in organising things and taking care of the finances.

*June*

## **The Pink Dress.**

There was this little girl sitting by herself in the park. Everyone passed by her and never stopped to see why she looked so sad. Dressed in a worn pink dress, barefoot and dirty, the girl just sat and watched the people go by. She never tried to speak. She never said a word. Many people passed by her, but no one would stop. The next day I decided to go back to the park in curiosity to see if the little girl would still be there. Yes, she was there, right in the very spot where she was yesterday, and still with the same sad look in her eyes.

Today I was to make my own move and walk over to the little girl, for as we all know, a park full of strange people is not a place for young children to play alone. As I got closer I could see the back of the little girl's dress and it was grotesquely shaped. I figured that was the reason people just passed by and made no effort to speak to her.

Deformities are a low blow to our society and, heaven forbid if you make a step toward assisting someone who is different.

As I got closer, the little girl lowered her eyes slightly to avoid my intent stare. As I approached her, I could see the shape of her back more clearly. She was grotesquely shaped in a humped over form.

I smiled to let her know it was OK; I was there to help, to talk. I sat down beside her and opened with a simple, "Hello."

The little girl acted shocked, and stammered a "hi", after a long stare into my eyes. I smiled and she shyly smiled back. We talked until darkness fell and the park was completely empty. I asked the girl why she was so sad. The little girl looked at me with a sad face said, "Because, I'm different."

I immediately said, "That you are!" and smiled.

The little girl acted even sadder and said, "I know."

"Little girl," I said, "you remind me of an angel, sweet and innocent."

She looked at me and smiled, then slowly she got to her feet and said, "Really?"

"Yes, you're like a little Guardian Angel sent to watch over all people walking by," I said.

She nodded her head yes, and smiled. With that she opened the back of her pink dress and allowed her wings to spread, then she said "I am." "I'm your Guardian Angel," with a twinkle in her eye. I was speechless -- sure I was seeing things.

She said, "For once you thought of someone other than yourself. My job here is done".

I got to my feet and said, "Wait, why did no one stop to help an Angel?"

She looked at me, smiled, and said, "You're the only one that could see me," and then she was gone. and with that, my life was changed dramatically.

So, when you think you're all you have, remember, your angel is always watching over you.

*[Submitted by Andrew W - from one of his "foreign correspondents"]*

£ £ £'s

## Treasurer's Report

At the November Church Meeting, the following matters were presented, discussed and agreed where relevant:

- Offertory to end October 2005 stood at £24774.57 and church funds at £42494.05.
- A sum of £234 has been forwarded to the Mayor's fund for Kashmir in aid of the earthquake victims.
- Crown House Lease is almost complete and simply requires the signature from the authorities at Thames North Synod.
- A sum of £4505 has been received in manse rent and one third has been transferred to the Manse Fund, with the remainder left in Income.
- All church funds, from the former Restoration Fund and the various legacies bequeathed by Lilian Richardson, Daisy Ward, Fran Burke, Alf & Stella Plumley, Doris Wright and Roy Smith have been consolidated into a new Property Development & Disabled Access Fund. The opening balance is £9124.23.
- The church has received notification of a legacy from a Ms Jean Thomson, a former deacon at Trinity. A sum of c. £7000 will be added to the Property Development & Disabled Access Fund on receipt.
- The proceeds from fund raising during 2005, of around £4000, will be transferred to the Property Development & Disabled Access Fund at the year end and this will result in a balance of £20000 going into the re-development project.
- Cleaners wages have been increased and a bonus will be paid at Christmas.
- The Church Meeting agreed that we should settle the remaining £7000 of the Synod loan, plus interest, pre Christmas.
- A grant cheque for £500 has been received for the Synod 2005 Money For Mission Grant.
- Church Meeting agreed that £100 donations should be made to the following charities in 2005: Lighthouse, Iain Rennie Hospice at Home, South Bucks Day Hospice, High Wycombe Central Aid, Wycliffe Bible Translators, BCUC Chaplaincy, Fresh Noise, Kabare and Historic Churches Preservation Trust, in addition to £100 already sent to the Niger Appeal.
- Increases in Premises Hire have been implemented of between 5 and 10%, except for Café Days and Polish Lutherans, which are special cases.
- A leaflet explaining how URC Ministry & Mission works is available at the back of the church.
- The 2005 year end estimate was presented forecasting a surplus for 2005 of £2396.
- The budget, which forecasts a surplus of £9450 for 2005 was also presented and approved (details available on request from Ian Buchanan).

Please feel free to discuss any of these points with me.

*Ian B*

## **Vision...hard facts...the fund raising challenge...and the prize!**

A personal view from the Treasurer

I was delighted when the Church Meeting in July unanimously voted to support the implementation of our vision in respect of the proposals for Property Development & Disabled Access. I believe that by the end of this decade we could well be enjoying the fruits of this decision, in buildings fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Arthur Winning has written to everyone at Trinity to explain where the money is expected to come from and at present there are three likely sources:

From Synod Grants or Loans	£100,000
From external fund raising and sponsorship	£100,000
From internal church fund raising	<u>£100,000</u>
TOTAL	£300,000

The plan is to raise this money over a three year period.

All the evidence from other development schemes in the URC suggests that we will at least need to match the Synod contributions £ for £, i.e. a minimum of £100,000.

*Where will this come from?*

We have already allocated around £13,000 from church funds and we have had an unexpected windfall in the form of a legacy, providing a start up fund of £20,000.

That leaves a minimum of £80,000 to find from the Fellowship!

I am very keen to endorse "normal" fund raising schemes (e.g. coffee mornings, special events, talent schemes), but the *first* hard fact is that this might raise £6000 (twice the norm) per annum or £18,000 over a three year period, leaving a shortfall of a minimum of £62,000.

£62,000 equates to an average, incremental contribution of £295 per member, per annum over the next three years. So, in my view, the *second* hard fact is that we will all have to put our hands in our pockets to raise the majority of the internal funding.

We will shortly be re-launching the "Restoration" envelope scheme in a new guise and one thing that each of us might like to consider is upweighting our normal weekly giving by at least 50%, for the next three years. In this way, the person who presently affords 50p per week would be asked to consider stretching their giving to 75 p per week (50 p in the normal offertory and 25p in the special offertory for the Property Development & Disabled Access Fund) and the person who presently affords £40 per month would be asked to consider stretching their giving to £60 per month (£40 in the normal offertory and £20 in the special offertory for the Property Development & Disabled Access Fund).

Alternatively, we may have reached a life stage where we feel able to make a sizeable donation (£500, £1000, £2500?).

And the Prize?

I have already referred to it in the first paragraph of this article and it has also been visualised in the Architect's drawings and written up in reports and minutes. But if you really want to visualise what it might mean for Trinity in the year 2010, take a car ride or short bus trip to Henley URC or Marlow URC, on one of their open days and see at first hand the embodiment of their vision in church buildings fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

*Ian B*

*P.S. I suspect that this article will, at the very least, have stimulated some thoughts. Why don't you write to the Editor of The Recorder with your views on how we should respond to the fund raising challenge and please let me know, either through these columns or face-to-face, if you disagree with the views I have expressed in the above article.*



As the year end approaches, it is vital that we make sure it is remembered in the right way, that we learn lessons from the incredible experience of the year, and that we keep up pressure on governments into the future.

The MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY Parliamentary group are organising an event for MPs in January, to reflect on the achievements of 2005 and to focus on what is still left to be achieved and how they can contribute to holding leaders to account.

## WHITE BAND DAY 3

10 December was the third international White Band Day. Around the world, it was being used as an opportunity to 'put the spotlight on trade injustice' in advance of the WTO ministerial only a few days later. In the UK, it was an important opportunity to remind the Government of the weight of public expectation on them to stand up for the rights of poor countries in negotiations at Hong Kong. On the 8 December, over 750, 000 Votes for Trade Justice were delivered to the Prime Minister at No 10 by a Santa on a sleigh pulled by real reindeer. His band of merry elves carried sacks stuffed full of votes. On the eve of Hong Kong, we sent a clear message to the Prime Minister to 'deliver trade justice'.

What can you do?

Vote for Trade Justice: a final push

We would like to have a million votes by the end of the WTO Ministerial. Please have a final push of the Vote for Trade Justice. Every single vote will help us reach our target.

Email Alan Johnson

<http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/mph/campaign.do?code=dti>

Alan Johnson's keynote speech to the MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY Assembly (24 November) is online here:

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/ministers/speeches/ajohnson241105.html>

## World Trade Organisation Ministerial, Hong Kong, 13-18 December

There were four key items on the agenda for Hong Kong:

- **Services** eg health, education, water provision.
- **Agriculture.**
- **Non-agricultural Market Access** (NAMA) eg industrial goods.
- **The development package** ie the call for 'special and differential treatment' for developing countries.

These, among other things, are all to be negotiated - and in theory agreed by consensus among member states. One such negotiation is that the European Union and United States are currently offering minor cuts in agricultural subsidies in return for developing countries further opening up their markets in services and industrial goods. WDM believes that this type of trade off is not acceptable, and will act in the favour of richer nations rather than developing countries. There is unlikely to be consensus on a number of these issues and WDM would prefer to see no deal derive from Hong Kong, rather than see poorer countries bullied into a bad deal. For more detail see <http://www.wdm.org.uk/>

## 2006 campaigning plans

Plans for trade justice campaigning on corporate responsibility in the first half of 2006 are now underway. Specifically, this means a focus on the Company Law Reform Bill as it makes its way through Parliament in the first half of the year. Pressure on the UK Government to turn its promises on trade justice in 2005 into action will be stepped up with this specific opportunity to make companies accountable for their environmental and social impacts so that trade is made to work for the benefit of people and the environment - one of the six key calls of MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY in 2005.

Activities will include a supporter postcard to MPs and the responsible Trade Minister Alun Michael, an EDM and local lobbies of MPs as the Bill passes through Parliament. Further details will be available from the TJM website shortly.

Another two poems on the theme of a “positive ‘NO’ “ The first is perhaps rather timely at this festive season!

### No Fun!

No fat and no sugar,  
No chocolate, no salt;  
No burgers, no chips and  
No cream.  
No to fizzy drinks,  
No to everything fried;  
No comfy puddings with suet inside.  
No roast potatoes  
No cakes, tarts or pies;  
No overindulgence, it wouldn't be wise!  
No snacking on peanuts,  
Leave crisps in their packs.  
No slacking or shirking –  
No slouching on couch,  
No more excuses for no exercise!  
No more overeating, becoming obese,  
Nothing attractive in being outside!  
No drinking, no smoking,  
No giving offence.  
Say “No” to your appetites –  
You (K)NO(W) it makes sense!

Joy S 31.10.05


### No Hope

No clean water,  
No daily meals;  
No cure for famine (despite the appeals).  
No shelter from the pouring rain;  
No respite from fear and pain.  
No ointment for the children's eyes,  
No escape from all those flies.  
No trees, no crops, no fertile land.  
No medicine for leperous hand.  
No comfy bed, no family.  
No Christmas presents round the tree.  
No hope, no future, no relief.  
No smiles, no laughter, no belief.  
No End?


Joy S 31.10.05

*The final contribution (unless you “no” different,) will be in next month's magazine!*

*Contributions can still be sent to the Editor - on this, or any other theme. What about a “negative YES”? Can anyone rise to this challenge?*



**A DAILY PRAYER FOR TRINITY**



God our Father, we pray for our church,  
for its elders, members, congregation and friends,

- ◇ that you will help us to be faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ and active in his service;
- ◇ that you will guide us in the appointment of a new minister to the man or woman of your choosing; and that you will be preparing that minister for the task.
- ◇ and that you will lead us in all the planning and fundraising for the redevelopment of the church premises to serve the needs of a new era.

We ask this for your glory's sake,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Attitude!

Michael was always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!" He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Michael was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

One day I went up to Michael and asked him, "You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?"

Michael replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or ... you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or...I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it.

"But it's not that easy," I protested. "Yes, it is," Michael said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live your life."

I reflected on what Michael said. Soon after, I left to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that Michael was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a communications tower. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Michael was released from the hospital with rods placed in his back.

I saw Michael about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied. "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Want to see my scars?"

I declined to see his wounds, but I did ask him what had gone through his mind as the accident took place. "The first thing that went through my mind was the baby my wife was carrying," Michael replied. "Then, as I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or... I could choose to die. I chose to live. The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read "he's a dead man. I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked.

"Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Michael. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. "Yes, I replied." The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, "Gravity."

Over their laughter, I told them, "I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead." Michael lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." After all today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

*[Submitted by Andrew Winton - from one of his "foreign correspondents"]*

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*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 29th January  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 20th January*

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**prayer page**  
(prepared by kate yates)

THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

So much of my time  
is spent in needless hurry;  
in saying, "Excuse me;  
can't stop, sorry  
– so much to do; mush rush."  
The joy of casual conversation  
is cut short,  
because somehow  
I think chatting is merely  
wasting time.  
My efficiency robs me of pleasure.  
Lord, teach me that time spent talking  
of books, of sport,  
of last night's television,  
is not time lost, but time enriched.

*Frank Topping*

Lord of the years,  
we ask your blessing on the year to come.  
Give us the resilience to bear its disappointments,  
energy to seize its opportunities and openness to  
accept the more abundant life which you have  
promised to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
*From More Everyday Prayers*

May God shield me.  
May God fill me.  
May God keep me.  
May God watch me,  
May God bring me  
To the land of peace,  
To the country of the King,  
To the peace of eternity.

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2006

Lord, we **thank you** for the great resources of healing that are available  
to those who are sick:  
For the skill of surgeons and the technical abilities of support staff in operating theatres,  
**thank you.**  
For medical knowledge and the healing power of drugs and medicines,  
for chemists and pharmacists, **thank you.**  
For nursing staff, for their professional skill and their capacity for caring and encouraging,  
**thank you.**  
For support teams of physiotherapists, occupational therapists, radiologists, hospital social  
workers and hospital chaplains, **thank you.**  
For administrative staff, ward orderlies, hospital porters and ambulance drivers, **thank you.**

*From Further Everyday Prayers.*

We live in a restless noisy world.  
The crash of waves on a small boat.  
The noise of gunfire and the explosion of bombs.  
The shouts of the market place  
and the wail of a hungry child.  
The dumb pleading of the addict's needle  
and the protests of the oppressed.  
The frustrated anger of the unemployed  
and the scream of the tortured.  
The restless noise of machines.  
The clamant knocking of the prisoner  
and the noisy silence of unforgiveness.  
Out of the depths of our noise we cry to you, O Lord  
the never ceasing prayer of your people,  
with your people, for your people,  
that the discordant clamour of your world  
may be turned into symphonies of peace, love and joy.  
May the voice of prayer be never silent ...  
God is not deafened by our noise,  
he opens his ears wider when we cry.

*Author unknown.*

O God, make the door of this house wide enough  
to receive all who need human love and fellowship,  
and a heavenly Father's care;  
and narrow enough to shut out all envy,  
pride and hate.  
Make its threshold smooth enough to be no tumbling  
block to children or to straying feet,  
but rugged enough to turn back the tempter's power;  
make it a gateway to thine eternal kingdom.

*Thomas Ken*

