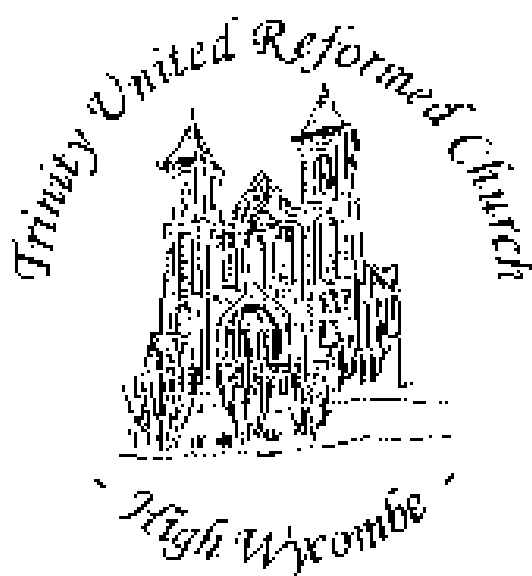


Speak out for those who cannot speak, for
the rights of all the destitute.
[Proverbs 31:8]



January 2008

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,

The Bible verse from Proverbs printed on the front cover this month is taken from the Commitment for Life introductory pack. As a reader of the Recorder you are familiar with Commitment for Life, which our editor features every month. Its strap-line is "The United Reformed Church working for justice, for hope and for the future". Trinity has a longstanding link with Zimbabwe through this programme. We will be celebrating that link, and supporting Commitment for Life's partners there, in our worship on January 13th. The materials supplied to help us worship God that day focus on the impact of Climate Change as the greatest justice issue of our times.

As I typed the verse ready to send in with this letter I realised that it has at least two other applications in our current work.

Audrey Bruton has invited us this Christmas to send greetings and encouragement to prisoners of conscience, as she does every year. Amnesty International facilitates this very worthwhile project, which runs until the end of this month. If you have not yet had the chance to read the stories of some of the individuals concerned and consider whether you can 'Speak out' for them please do so. The booklet and briefing sheets are on the table at the back of the church.

Closer to home, this month we are joining with many sister churches locally to launch a Night Shelter for people without a home, who otherwise would be sleeping out on the streets. The plan is to run the shelter for the coldest part of the year, January to March. Our part in this new venture is to host Monday nights. Thank you to all who have been donating food, toiletries and other specified items. Keep them coming. Janet Roake, our church co-ordinator, and John Standfield, our representative on the overall planning group, are doing a great job organising us for this project and mobilising us to volunteer and support it in all sorts of ways. If you are not yet involved please ask them how you can help.

New Year 2008. If actions speak louder than words, and they do, then I suspect that all of the above are worth more than a good many New Year resolutions. But if you are searching for a resolution, how about developing one for yourself from this [quoted in the Commitment for Life pack]:

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he thought he could do only a little." Edmund Burke (1727 – 1797)

Jesus said it first. The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed, the smallest of all the seeds ... The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in ... The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant finding one pearl ... Read the full versions in Matthew 13: 31 onwards.

Jesus also tells us how to handle the coming year, "Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness ... do not worry about tomorrow" [Matt. 6: 33, 34]. And for those of us who seem to have a 'worry gene' that we can't switch off he says, "Come to me ... and I will give you rest" [Matt. 11: 28].

It is on that basis that I wish you all a Happy New Year,



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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January Services

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

January Services

Jan 6th	Vocations Sunday with Holy Communion, & new member by transfer
Jan 13th	'Commitment for Life' Service
Jan 20th (10.30)	All age worship in Centenary Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
(6.30)	United Service at Wesley Methodist Church
Jan 27th	Morning worship

Rotas for January

Not included in this version

What's on in January



Monday 14th January - 8pm New Year Quiz
(Hostess: Pat W)

Monday 28th January - 8pm Yellowstone Park, USA
(Hostess: Marian M)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 8th Jan	Welcome to 2008. Faith Tea
Tuesday 15th Jan	Quiz
Tuesday 22nd Jan	John S - Australia 2
Tuesday 29th Jan	AGM. Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

January 4th and 18th . . .

Scrabble

No time to sit back - the New Year is well under way now
at 2pm

Diary Dates

7 January	Wycombe Night Shelter opens at Trinity
8 January	8pm Elders' Meeting
12 January	Coffee Morning
14 January	8pm Revive Committee Meeting
15 January	8pm Church Meeting
18 January	Week of Prayer For Christian Unity
26 January	Coffee Morning
26 January	2pm Quarterly pastoral Meeting for Elders & Pastoral Assistants
27 January	4pm Prayer Circle for Healing

See page 5 for dates of events later in the year

Not included in this version

More Diary Dates (for those who plan well ahead!!)

1 February	6pm – 8pm Bible First
5 February	8pm Elders' Meeting
6 February	Ash Wednesday
8 February	BARN DANCE
9 February	Coffee Morning
23 February	Coffee Morning
24 February	Service of remembering and giving thanks for those who have died
25 February	Fair Trade Fortnight
27 February	8pm Revive Committee Meeting
1 March	8.30am – 10.30am Bible First
2 March	Mothering Sunday
8 March	Fair Trade Fashion Show
16 March	Palm Sunday
18 March	8pm Church AGM
22 March	Easter Workshop
23 March	Easter Day
14 April	Christian Aid Evening
11 May	Christian Aid Week
8 June	Songs of Praise with Church of God & Polish Lutherans
15 June	Church Picnic
26 & 27 June	Churches Together BBQ
28 July	Lighthouse Week
19 – 21 September	Church Week-end at Wycliffe

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe

Churches in Zimbabwe's second largest city, Bulawayo, are launching emergency distributions of water and warning of 'disastrous' water shortages that could lead to diseases like cholera. "Many people in western areas have had virtually no water for a whole month. There are already cases of diarrhoea and we are facing a crisis," said Pastor Promise Manceda, one of the leaders of Churches in Bulawayo, a network of more than 70 congregations across the city.

The churches report that three of the five dams supplying the city's population of 700,000 have run out of water, with the fourth due to run dry later this month. "With people, especially the poorest, already suffering, it is too ghastly to contemplate what will happen when we are down to only one dam," said Promise. The churches' warning comes soon after Zimbabwe's main bread producer was quoted in state media as warning it had only two days' supply of flour. In a statement, Churches in Bulawayo declare: "The health hazards that loom in Bulawayo are very real and very serious. The vast population of Bulawayo has been exposed and left vulnerable to diseases such as cholera. Thousands of people have been forced into the degrading and inhuman situation of using ground around their homes as toilets under cover of darkness."

Churches say the catastrophic decline in water supplies is due to unregulated farm resettlements putting pressure on supplies, a dispute between national and local government over the city's water supply, vandalism and drought. They are appealing to local and national government, with little response. The Churches in Bulawayo statement adds:

"It saddens us deeply that, though we wrote to the minister responsible for water and to local government for two months about the looming disaster, there was neither acknowledgement nor any reply to our letters. Hearts sank when it was reported in the media during the past two weeks that the government will not intervene in the Bulawayo water crisis.... This has left a sense of hopelessness and desperation among the people." © Ekklesia

INFORMATION

Up in Smoke- Asia and the Pacific is the most extensive and concluding chapter of a unique, four-year long exercise by the 'Up in Smoke Coalition' - an alliance of the UK's major environment and development groups. Four years ago, the coalition set out to assess the impacts of climate change on efforts toward poverty reduction around the world from the point of view of practical, community-based organisations engaged in designing responses to a changing environment. The report says, there is not a moment to lose. Unless a decisive international agreement is reached, and soon, the lives of those living on the front line of climate change will go up in smoke. [ISBN 978 1 904882 25 1 price £15]

HIV/AIDS

8000 people die every day from AIDS-related illnesses. This is a preventable tragedy and injustice. HIV/AIDS is one of the biggest obstacles preventing people from overcoming poverty. Those who are infected are often too ill to go to work or are refused the chance to earn a living, and children caring for sick parents cannot go to school. World leaders, including the UK Government, promised to end the global AIDS crisis, but this promise is being broken.

TRAIDCRAFT

A big thank you to all who bought Traidcraft products in 2007. There are now more fairly traded products available in supermarkets and we seem to be buying some at our monthly stall at Trinity and some when we do our shopping.

This year at the monthly sales we took a total of **£1,044.23**

Via the Traidcraft catalogue we took a total of **£757.82**.
(We received a portion back for REVIVE – this was **£97.57**)

Therefore the total amount from Trinity this year was **£1,802.05**. This is our best total!!

Pat Wallace

FAIR TRADE FASHION SHOW

Don't forget that we are holding a Fair Trade Fashion Show at Trinity on March 8th at 7 pm. We are still looking for offers of help on the day. Please sign up on the sheets in the School Room. Tickets will also be able from January onwards. Contact Margaret Lewis. If you could display a poster advertising the Fashion Show please contact Pat Wallace.

CHURCH AGM

This year our Church AGM will be held on Tuesday 18 March. Sue Swill have completed six years as a serving elder and so will be stepping down. Alan Y has requested that he also step down due to other commitments. Our heartfelt thanks go to both these valued members of Trinity. Marian M will be coming to the end of her three year term as a serving elder but is happy to have her name put forward for re-election.

As we have only had eight serving elders this year and the above means we have at least three vacancies please give prayerful thought to our eldership as to who might be approached to fill these important roles in our church life together. If you would like to know more about the role of an elder please speak to Gwen.

*If you are responsible for preparing an annual report, start thinking about it **now!** See next month's Recorder for final dates for submission etc.*

MM



Dear Friends

Revive Update

Full ahead for Phase 2!

At the Revive Committee meeting on 3rd December 2007, the following matters were minuted:

1. Objectives, strategy and planning 2008-2010

We agreed we should co-ordinate mission strategy with property (REVIVE redevelopment)

We need an open exploratory phase to contact potential users/partners, but recognising that this will run in parallel to the redevelopment of the sanctuary.

In terms of carpet/wood/combo and underfloor/radiator heating, we need to map churches who have these onto a paper grid so we can visit/consult them about their experiences. We also need to identify whether either of these will limit or enhance possible bookings from users. We have learnt that our new blue carpet does not clean as well as we had expected. We need pros and cons for these aspects. We need a checklist of questions to ask so that we can do a robust comparison.

e.g.

- what is the building used for? (all, parts)
- how is it physically designed? (purpose-built, old, redeveloped)
- what are the acoustics like? What difference have their changes made?
- Is the heating economical?

What are the pros/cons of floor covering and heating type?

- How many people use the building/parts of the building on a daily/weekly basis?
- What does it look like aesthetically?
- What do the users say about it?
- How durable/easy to clean is it?
- How did you preserve the character of your building?

We agreed we should have a working group structure with the Elders having overall responsibility for REVIVE, with the following working groups to take aspects forward that fit within the whole REVIVE remit of development and mission:



See the "Family Tree" on the next page

2. Funds

A letter has been received with the minute from Synod Grants, Loans and Property Committee agreeing our application for £100,000 for the work planned for Phase II.

By the middle of next year we should have around £150-160,000 for REVIVE.

We agreed Ian's proposal about funding split, i.e. allocate 2/3rds of fundraising monies and unspecified donations, gifts and bequests to REVIVE, allocate 1/3rd of fundraising monies and unspecified donations, gifts and bequests to 'normal' church funds. This proposal has gone to elders and will be presented to the January Church meeting.

Much to do, but much to be grateful for.

Ian B

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS. (or the never ending turkey!)

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas came the people from next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried
But we were nice and warm inside – we had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died,
The children fought and bickered – we had turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love she did wince,
When she sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas the dog had run for shelter,
He'd seen the turkey pancakes and the glass of Alka Seltzer.

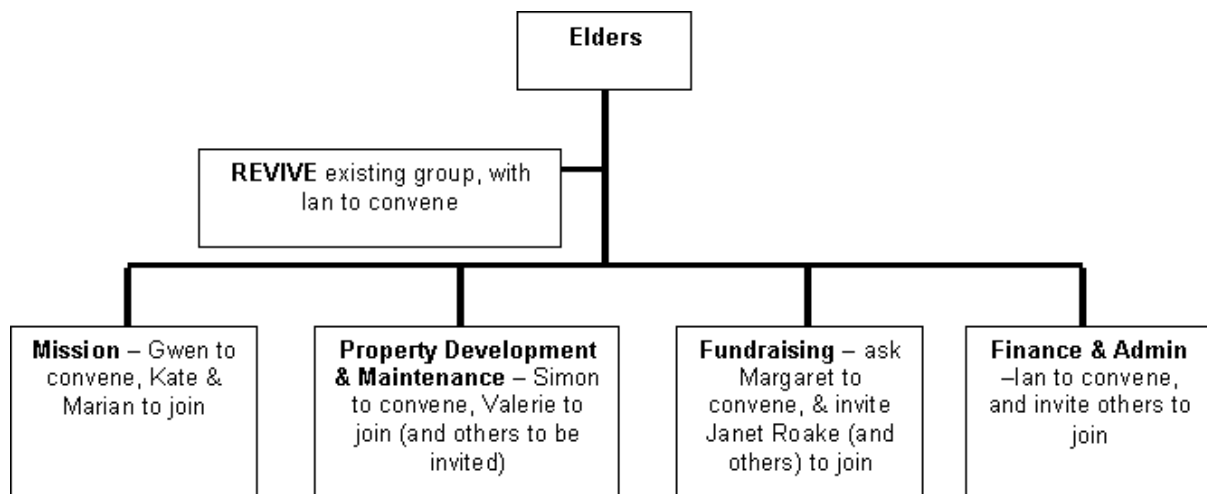
On the ninth day of Christmas by lunchtime Dad was blotto
He knew the bird was back again – this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home made brew
As if that wasn't bad enough, we were eating turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas tree was moulting
With chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smacks upon our lips,
The guests had gone, the turkey too – we dined on FISH AND CHIPS!!

[Poem sourced from the RNLI.]



Can you imagine yourself being the nun that is sitting at her desk grading these papers all the while trying to keep a straight face and maintain composure?

Pay special attention to the wording and spelling. If you know the bible even a little, you'll find this amusing! It comes from a catholic elementary school test. Kids were asked questions about both the old and new testaments.

The following statements about the bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in.

1. In the first book of the bible, guinnessis. God got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.
2. Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was joan of ark. Noah built and ark and the animas came on in pears.
3. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by ajezebel like delilah
5. Samson slayed the philistines with the axe of the apostles.
6. Moses led the jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
7. The egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, moses went up to mount cyanide to get the ten commandments.
8. The first commandments was when eve told adam to eat the apple.
9. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
10. Moses died before he ever reached canada. Then joshua led the hebrews in the battle of gerito!.
11. The greatest miricle in the bible is when joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
12. David was a hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
13. Solomon, one of davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
14. When mary heard she was the mother of jesus, she sang the magna carta.
15. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found jesus in the manager.
16. Jesus was born because mary had an immaculate contraption.
17. St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
18. Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
19. It was a miricle when jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
20. The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.
21. The epistels were the wives of the apostles.
22. One of the oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
23. St. Paul cavorted to christianity, he preached holy acrimony which is another name for marraige.
24. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

[With thanks to Margaret L for submitting this item]



Happy Birthday



We would like to wish

Linda C (12th)

A Very Happy Birthday
With love from all at Trinity.



BARN DANCE



Friday 8 February 2008
Starting at 7pm

Supper included, bring your own drinks

Come with all your family, bring your friends and join us for an evening of fun. Join in the dancing or just sit and watch.

In aid of Revive Development Fund

Tickets available soon from Margaret L, Kate Y and Marian M

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

Recorder Editor : e-mail : editor@trinity-urc.org.uk

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

prayer page

Christmas is still with us! We are in the period of the Twelve Days of Christmas, leading up to Epiphany on 6 January. May we hold the peace of the Christ-child in our hearts together with the joy of the Epiphany when the wise men brought their gifts to Jesus, tempered with the knowledge that this was shortly before Joseph and Mary had to flee to Egypt to protect their young son because of Herod's murders of young babies whom he saw as a threat to his kingship.

God our midwife ...
Contain in your hands
the breaking of waters,
the blood and din of your birth:
then, through our tears and joy, deliverer,
your wrinkled, infant kingdom may be born.
Amen.

(Gill Paterson, Christian Aid – from Bread of Tomorrow)

Blessed art thou,
O Christmas Christ,
that thy cradle was so low
that shepherds,
poorest and simplest of earthly folk,
could yet kneel beside it,
and look level-eyed into the face of God.

(Anon The Light Shines – Christian Aid 1985)

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2008



When the song of the angels is stilled
when the star in the sky is gone
when the kings and princes are home
when the shepherds are back with their flocks
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost
to heal the broken
to feed the hungry
to release the prisoner
to rebuild the nations
to bring peace among the people
to make music in the heart.

(Howard Thurman from Christmas Begins', Fellowship of Reconciliation, NY)

Weekly prayers through January:

Sunday	For all involved in the Wycombe Night Shelter project
Monday	For our police force and community support officers
Tuesday	For farmers and farmworkers, providing food for our tables
Wednesday	for the nursing staff and carers at our local hospices
Friday	For HOPE 2008 – a Christian project to involve churches in communities (http://www.hope08.com)
Saturday	For Café Days