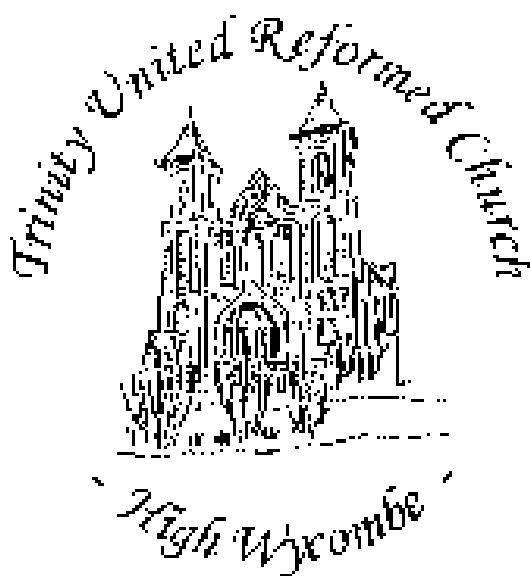


Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep ... I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
[John 10: 7, 10b]



January 2009

The Recorder

Inside - this month . . .

Pastoral letter	2	Church family & Life	5, 7, 12
Services & Rotas	3	Re-development Project	8 - 9
What's on?	4, 11	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,

Is your Christmas Tree still up as you read this? I wonder if you, like me, want to keep it there till the last possible moment, and eventually, on Jan.6th, reluctantly take it down.

It is an extraordinary tradition that we follow – to put trees in our houses, churches, schools, work-places, shops and town squares. Why do we do it? Well I can only speak for myself and I do it because i) it's a tradition that I grew up with ii) it is one of the most beautiful and magical things iii) it has a great feel-good factor. I think it is something of a family joke in the Collins household that every year I say, and mean, "You know, I think this year's tree is yet the most beautiful we have ever had!"

So I hope that you have a Christmas Tree be it small or large, live or man-made, to take you into the New Year. That is another extraordinary tradition that we follow – to divide time into weeks and months and years, to number them and to regard as very significant the night that divides what we call the 31st December from what we call the 1st January. I suppose it strikes me as extraordinary because I have lived in a remote mountain valley in Papua New Guinea where such a division of time was unknown and unnoticed by the vast majority of the population. Why do we do it? Well, mainly because complex human society absolutely needs a framework to identify dates. Can you imagine trying to organise schools, businesses or even extended family relationships without the benefit of calendars and diaries?

But also, I think, we celebrate the New Year because, like Christmas Trees, i) it's a tradition that we grew up with ii) it is one of the most beautiful and magical things iii) it has a great feel-good factor. That is true especially if we have Scottish links and revel in Hogmanay, but not only then.

We are now entering the second month of our Bible Year. December saw us, 'Living with the Bible through Advent', and January will see other opportunities to deepen our understanding of our Holy Book [see list of dates]. I would like to set you, Reader, a challenge for 2009 to read the whole New Testament this year. Once a fortnight, read one NT book right through in a sitting [or two sittings if it is one of the longer ones]. This will help you to put the familiar passages in context and will give you the chance to read sections that are rarely if ever read out loud in church. I recommend alternating longer and shorter books, as that will also give you a balance of style and content. If you begin at the end of Dec. 08 or on Jan 1st, by the end of 2009 you will have read every book. Keep a note of questions that occur to you, and later in the year we will have an "Any Questions?" session.

The Bible does not tell us to put Christmas Trees in our houses, nor does it tell us to celebrate New Year, but Jesus does say that He came so that we might have life, and have it abundantly – and that certainly includes celebrations. In Biblical times there were different cultural festivals that served the same function. It is interesting to note, though, that there is one celebration, and only one, that springs directly from New Testament command. In an upper room at Festival time in Jerusalem the Bethlehem baby now become a man shared bread and wine with his friends and said "Do this in memory of me." He knew that they faced enormous uncertainties and difficulties and that, above all, they needed to continually re-connect with Him, their ever-living Lord and Saviour, Friend and Brother. So do we.



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

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

January Services

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

Jan 4	Holy Communion, and a focus on the Wise Men's story
Jan 11	Morning worship: a new perspective on Gospel stories
Jan 18 - 10.30	All age worship
- 4.00	Service For Healing & Wholeness, with the Prayer Circle for Healing.
Jan 25 - 10.30	Morning worship on World Leprosy Day
- 6.30	United Service at All Saints in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Rotas for January

Not included in this version



What's on in January



Monday 12th January - 8pm New Year Quiz
(Hostess: Pat Wallace)

Monday 26th January - 8pm Musical Evening led by Margaret Riglesford
(Hostess: José Barber)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 8th Jan

Welcome Back. Bring & Share Tea

Tuesday 15th Jan

Marian Mole - Walking the Coleridge Way

Tuesday 22nd Jan

Pilgrims Progress: Christian and Hopeful.

Tuesday 29th Jan

AGM. Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Scrabble

Start the year as you mean to continue.

January 9th and 23rd

at 2pm

Diary Dates

Jan

- 5 Night Shelter opens at Quakers' Meeting House
- 7 8pm - Vision4Life Big Bible Story
- 10 10.30am - Coffee Morning
- 13 8pm - Church Meeting
- 18 4pm - Service For Healing & Wholeness 4pm
- 19 Week of Prayer For Christian Unity
- 21 8pm - Vision4Life Bible Study
- 24 10.30am - Coffee Morning
- 25 6.30pm - Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, All Saints.
- 27 8pm - Elders' Meeting
- 31 9.30 - 12 noon - Fifth Brigade

January 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Not included in this version

Coming up - SOON!

On page 10 - no don't go there yet! - you will find four poems, written by Olive S, describing each of the four gospel writers. She has used the traditional symbols of each gospel writer and the traditional author of each, ignoring modern scholarship. To explain this a bit more, Gwen has offered the following:-

Each of the four Gospel writers is traditionally represented by the following symbols, which originate from the four "living creatures" of the Book of Ezekiel (Chapter 1) and the Book of Revelation (4.6-9 and following).

These appear in Mediaeval illustrations, such as in the Book of Kells. The figures are always winged.

Matthew is symbolised by a human (not an angel as sometimes thought);

Mark by a lion;

Luke by an ox bull or calf;

John by an eagle

Now - try to resist the temptation to jump to page 10 before reading the next four pages!!.

Commitment for Life

Zimbabwe: A nation in crisis

Christian Aid partner organisations in Zimbabwe are responding to the cholera outbreak which is now affecting the entire country. According to the World Health Organisation more than 12,000 cases have been reported and 565 people have died.

In Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second largest city, the Dabane Trust, a Christian Aid partner which specialises in drought recovery programmes, is providing an emergency response in both the city and in the outlying rural areas.

'The sewage system has just completely broken down,' says Stephen Hussey, the programme coordinator for Dabane Trust. 'There are pools of sewage in town. In addition to the clear danger of cholera and other water-borne disease, it just smells foul; it is disgusting.'

Dabane donated 2,000 litres of fuel to the city council of Bulawayo so its sanitation teams could go out to the suburbs. It has also cleaned four large water containers which are on standby for distribution of clean water. Dabane also responded quickly to the anthrax outbreak in Lupane district.

'We provided a tractor and trailer to get the vaccination teams out to the affected area quickly. At the same time we took out 18,000 purification tablets,' says Mr Hussey.

Dabane also has a pilot scheme to build sand water filters for some 30 homes in the rural areas. It is training local builders to make these filters which operate through the medium of sand.

'The problems of the sanitation services here are huge; there are no chemicals to treat the water at source' says Mr Hussey. 'But in the short-term we need many more purification tablets. Yesterday the water coming out of the tap was like orange juice. It is ludicrous that we are reduced to buying bottled water in Botswana.'

Dumisani Nkomo of Habakkuk Trust, another Christian Aid partner in Bulawayo, says that collapse of the sewage system has compounded the dire health risks posed by weeks of uncollected rubbish.

'There is uncollected rubbish all over the place and now we have untreated sewage in the street; the health risks are huge.'

'We are working with service providers to facilitate the provision of water. More importantly, we are organising meetings with our community leaders and the city council so that it knows exactly what the situation is.'

Partner organisations in the capital Harare are also responding. Christian Care is working with the UNICEF initiative to distribute purification tablets.

Christian Aid is also now coordinating some small scale distribution of oral rehydration salts from UNICEF to other development agencies and charities.

Here's wishing you more happiness
Than all the words can tell
Not just for New Year's Eve alone
But for all the year as well.

Festival of Praise

Coventry Cathedral

Combined Choirs/Singers: 400+ voices
accompanied by organ & orchestra

U could join in on Saturday 17 October '09

The **Free Church Choir Union** hold this biennial event in a cathedral.

The Festival Conductor is Peter Williams from Ickenham URC and our former member Audrey B is already one of the choir members.

We could make this a day out for the Trinity Church family. What do you think? Would you be interested?

For more details visit the website: www.freechurchchoirunion.org.uk

How True!

1) **Lorenz's Law of Mechanical Repair :**

As your hands become coated in grease, so your nose will start to itch...

2) **Anthony's Law of the Workshop :**

Accidentally drop any tool and it will roll into the least accessible corner...

3) **Kovac's Conundrum :**

Dial a wrong telephone number and you will never get the engaged tone...

4) **Cannon's Karmic Law :**

Use a flat tyre as an excuse for being late at work and next morning you will get one...

5) **O'Brien's Variation Law :**

Change queues and the one you've just left will start to move faster than the one you've joined...

6) **Bell's Theorem :**

As soon as your body has become immersed in bath water, the telephone will ring...

7) **Ruby's Principle Of Close Encounters :**

The probability of meeting someone you know increases significantly when accompanied by anyone you'd rather not be seen with...

8) **Willoughby's Law :**

Attempt to prove to someone that a particular mechanical item doesn't work and it surely will...

9) **Zadra's Law Of Biomechanics :**

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach required to scratch it...

10) **Breda's Rule :**

In any auditorium, people with seats furthest from the aisle will always be the last to arrive...

11) **Owen's Law :**

Sit down with a cup of hot coffee and your boss will demand you do something that will take until it has gone cold...

12) Not forgetting good ole **Murphys' Law :**

Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong...



Having been on holiday for the whole of November, a lot of work has been going on with Gwen and Simon especially taking the lead, for which I am very grateful.

At the Church Meeting on 2 December, Gwen and Simon updated members on funds, costs and contractors as follows:

Fund	<u>Value (£,000)</u>
At end 2007	42,000
Ronald Boxall's bequest	50,000
Giving 2008	16,000
Loans	12,500
Gift aid and interest	7,800
Costs this year(fees)	-26,000
BALANCE/TRINITY FUNDS	102,300
Grant from Synod	100,000
Loan from Synod	40,000
Available funds	242,300

We have applied to several grant making organisations but it will be the New Year before we hear the outcome (Veolia for £30,000; Garfield Weston Foundation for £5,000 and Beatrice Laing Trust for £5,000). There is also the potential income of £70,000 from the sale of the manse garden if this goes through.

Costs from potential contractors were too high and have been brought down by reducing the scope of the work, challenging pricing by getting suggestions for other ways of constructing, or alternate fittings, and challenging the companies to provide us 'best value'.

Out of the two contractors with the best prices, we have decided to go with Farr & Roberts, a Maidenhead-based company established since 1965, and JBKS are taking up references. It would take around 22 weeks to complete the work.

Their costs will come to around £198,000, and we also have to pay for a fire alarm at £2,500, and chairs budgeted around £12,000, plus professional fees and VAT of around £29,000. The total costs come to £241,500, and our available funds are £242,300.

Works to be completed are:

- Removal of pulpit, pews, flooring
- Heating
- Flexible Lighting
- Decoration
- Dais, ramp, screen & cross
- Floor including carpet
- Electrical work
- Decoration
- Replace ceiling and re-plaster current entrance
- Moving doors at north end
- Preparation and protection of organ

Work not being done includes:

- External ground works and ramp (20k inc. fees)
- New south doors and storage (43k inc fees)
- furniture for dais and sound desk (7k inc fees)
- Coffee bar area (9k inc fees)

Work being reduced in scale includes:

Lighting from 40k down to 15k. This will comprise two systems for (1) Ordinary use, simple to operate and cheap to run, and (2) Worship, performance system, warm effective lighting. It will have a single computerised lighting control giving flexibility with simplicity.

Outstanding questions:

That the heating system will be sufficient to heat the sanctuary and other areas even on a cold day. Trinity have asked Delford (Heating consultants) to provide a clear answer

Possibilities for changing to funding

- Should funds allow, the London Road doors and storage could be added with minimal disruption.
- Some carpet would be wasted
- There would be some dust.
- The heating would NOT be affected
- The ramp and outside work would not affect the internal work at all

Possibilities to changing costs

- Should funds allow (e.g. all grant applications come good and a good price for the manse garden) we could have more money when the work starts
- Internal work or external work could be commissioned, even if the agreed work had started.
- GLPC Permission lasts until May 2011

PROPOSAL

To instruct JBKS architects to issue a letter of intent to Farr and Roberts Ltd to start work on site on 9 March 2009 with a value of £198,784 as specified in their tender. This would include drawing down on the loan approved by GLPC after funds already in hand had been used, unless other funding was by then available.

Church Meeting vote

At the Church Meeting the proposal was voted on with all in favour (3 abstentions).

GLPC loan

The loan of £40,000 was approved and we may draw upon this if we need to. The loan would be 1% below base rate. The loan would have to be paid off in five years; some Churches have negotiated 10 years. If the loan is agreed we would only draw it down if we need to. We would use our available funds first.

INVENTORY (AND DISPOSAL) OF ITEMS IN THE SANCTUARY

In the October edition of The Recorder we published an extensive list of removable items in the sanctuary, asking anyone with an opinion on whether these needed to be kept or not to let us know. The deadline was 15 December and we have only had one response. Because the start date of work is a little later than planned, we can extend the deadline but there is a lot of preparation to do before March so we need to move forward with this. IF ANY CHURCH MEMBERS OR ADHERENTS HAVE STRONG VIEWS ON ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED PLEASE LET KATE, GWEN OR MARIAN KNOW BY 5 JANUARY. If you would like a copy of the inventory listing please let us know as soon as possible.



The Bible style guide

At a time when religion increasingly dominates the news agenda, Bible Society has released a new reference tool to help journalists and broadcasters get up to speed on biblical issues.

The Bible Style Guide is an 80-page downloadable resource packed with facts, figures, explanations and overviews to help media professionals report Bible stories with confidence.

It answers basic journalistic questions such as how the biblical canon (the books of the Bible) was agreed, and how Christians deal with violent texts in the Bible.

It also contains a 20 page glossary of biblical terms. It tackles controversial issues and includes terms that are often misunderstood.

This is a resource that could be useful to us in the church as well!

If you have internet access and would like to have a look, visit www.biblesociety.org.uk/pressreleases and download *The Bible Style Guide*.

MATTHEW

Matthew the man
With wings,
But not an angel,
Reformed tax collector,
Used to lists,
Organizing material,
Teaching cause and effect,
Particularly the effect,
The inevitable hard consequences
Of stepping into sin,
Weeping and wailing,
Gnashing of teeth,
Fires of damnation
For foolish virgins and goats.
Starts his gospel with the man
Joseph, not Mary,
Joseph's genealogy.
Joseph's decision,
The visit of the Magi,
The slaughter of the innocents,
The flight into Egypt,
Tough stuff.
Matthew gives us warning
He is not an easy read.
The good news of Jesus
Has its hard edges.

MARK

Mark, the first of the gospel writers,
Starts his good news as he means to go on,
States his intent at the beginning,
To show Jesus Christ as God's own son.
The winged lion makes straight for the desert,
John the Baptist is preaching there,
Baptises Jesus who goes to be tempted,
Then attended by angels' care.
Mark always brief, clear of purpose.
Friend of Peter, who told him facts,
Makes his point with many stories
Of Jesus' words and healing acts.
Mark alone adds vivid detail -
Other ships are on the lake
When the great storm alarms the disciples
So that they call for Jesus to wake.
Only in Mark do the five thousand
Sit themselves on grass that is green,
Not poor shrivelled drought-ridden stuff
But a living symbol that seems to mean
The tired and weary famished crowd
Are about to be amazed and fed
By five little loaves and two tiny fish,
Blessed for them by the living Bread.
So St. Mark in writing his gospel
Reveals to the reader holy things
As his lion prowls upon the earth
And rises to heaven upheld by strong wings.

LUKE

Luke, the sacrificial, winged bull,
Starts in the Temple with incense rising.
Luke the Greek, the beloved physician,
Careful historian, checking his facts
Concerned for the poor, the sick, the outcast
Like his master; recording his acts.
Healing the leper, the woman bent double,
The centurion's servant, the paralysed man,
Raising from death Jairus's daughter.
Restoring to life the widow's one son.
He shows Jesus teaching and preaching and telling
Compassionate tales of the strayed and the lost
The coin and the sheep and the father's young son,
The joy that abounded when they were found;
The lonely traveller set on by thieves
Befriended and tended with love and with care
Of the stranger who could not let him lie there
Wounded and bleeding ignored by the priest.
Luke tells of betrayal, the cross and the tomb,
The road to Emmaus where two sunk in gloom
Are joined by their Lord raised up from the dead
At last to be known in the breaking of bread.
Luke ends in the Temple with praising the Lord,
The bull opens his wings and flies heavenward.

JOHN

JOHN, the eagle
On the mountain top,
Looking at the sun
Unblinded by God's glory,
Holy evangelist.
Yet John is a man,
Looking at Jesus;
Seeing another man
Making friends
Enjoying a wedding feast,
Turning traders out of the Temple,
Sought out by night,
For secret talks;
Seeking the despised,
Healing the sick, feeding the hungry,
Raising the three-day dead
(A difficult one that)
A man of compassion.
The eagle swoops for food,
Feeds its young;
John lights on Jesus' words
To feed the believer.
Jesus is:
The bread of life,
The light of the world,
The good shepherd,
The true vine,
The way, the truth, the life.
Words from the Word
That John saw made flesh
And living among us.

Diary dates for the rest of the year

(Subject to change, but a useful indication of what you may expect!)

February

- 4 8pm - Vision4Life Bible Study
- 15 5.30pm - Service of Holy Communion
- 18 8pm - Vision4Life Bible Study
- 21 Thinking Day Parade Service
- 22 4pm - Prayer Circle For Healing
- 23 Fairtrade Fortnight begins
- 24 8pm - Elders' Meeting
- 25 8pm - Ash Wednesday & Vision4Life Bible Study

March

- 6 Women's World Day of Prayer
- 9 Builders commence work on Phase 2 of REVIVE
- 17 **7.30pm** - Church Meeting & AGM
- 22 Mothering Sunday
- 24 8pm Elders' Meeting

April

- 5 Palm Sunday
- 9 8pm Maundy Thursday Communion at Trinity
- 10 Good Friday Service at Union Baptist & March of Witness
- 12 Easter Day
- 13-15 Gwen away
- 19 5.30pm - Service of Holy Communion
- 20 - 24 " "
- 28 Elders' Meeting

May

- 10 Christian Aid Week
- 19 Church Meeting
- 26 Elders' Meeting
- 30 Fifth Brigade
- 30 Chiltern Area Elders' Day
- 31 Pentecost

June

- 21 Church Picnic on The Rye
- 21 5.30pm - service of Holy Communion
- 24-27 Gwen away
- Churches Together Barbeques

July

- 4 CWR Seminar
- 7 Elders' Meeting
- 20 Lighthouse Week
- 21 Church Meeting

August

- 7 - 24? Gwen away
- 28-31 Greenbelt Festival
- 29 Fifth Brigade

September

- 1 Elders' Meeting
- 15 Church Meeting
- 20 Harvest Thanksgiving
- 29 Elders' Meeting

October

- 3 SV2G celebrate Black History Month & Trinity Autumn Fayre
- 5-11 Gwen away
- 17 Festival of Praise, Coventry Cathedral
- 18 Service of Holy Communion
- 27 Elders' Meeting
- 31 Fifth Brigade

November

- 17 Church Meeting
- 24 Elders' Meeting

December

- 15 Elders' Meeting
- Gift Service
- Carol service
- 24 Christmas Eve Communion
- 25 Christmas Day Family Worship
- 26-29 Gwen away

Annual reports for the AGM should be given to me to consolidate by no later than 22 February. Remember, the reports should cover the calendar year 2008, so can be prepared NOW!! Don't leave them until the last minute!
Angus

NEWS FROM CHILTERN AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 20 OCTOBER 2008

1. **Ministry**
 - a. **Mr Alan Woodhouse, St Mark's Aylesbury** – service of recognition as local leader on Sunday 26 October.
 - b. **Revd Preben Andersen, Deanway** has accepted a two year extension with his appointment running until end August 2011.
2. **Ordained minister looking to lead more services!**

The Revd Daphne Williams, an NSM who works as a part-time hospital chaplain, has offered to lead services, especially communion and baptisms. Tel. 01296 711722 or e-mail daphnewilliams@waitrose.com
3. **Vacancies**
 - a. **Trinity Slough / St Andrew's Iver**
A minister is interested in the two churches
 - b. **Beaconsfield / Holtspur**
A minister is interested in the two churches
4. **New PA for the Moderator**

Good news! Following Mandy Adam's move to URC Church House at the beginning of September, Mrs Sue Russell has moved from her old role at Synod to the role of PA to the Moderator and Synod Clerk as from 13 October.
5. **30 May 2009, 11 am to 3 pm – Area elders' day on "the challenges of church leadership in an era of reducing stipendiary ministry"**

This will be of significant importance to all our churches. The Moderator will be there and elders are urged to attend. More details on venue etc. to be confirmed.
6. **Vacancies for appointments to Synod Committees**
 - a. Ministry & Mission Fund Committee.
 - b. Nominations Committee
 - c. Leadership Development Group
 - d. Synod Disability Coordinator (& also Disability Area Advocate)
 - e. Synod Disciplinary Panel (not a committee)

* This is new to our list. If anyone would like to know more, please ask!
7. **Communication with churches in our area**

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

News updates were given from St Andrew's, Gerrards Cross, and Burnham. If you would like the details please ask your rep.
9. **Building projects**
 - a. Trinity High Wycombe sanctuary redevelopment – progressing
 - b. Amersham Free Church redevelopment – progressing
10. **Date of next meeting – 18 December 2008**

This report may seem a little out of date, but space constraints last month meant something had to give. Since it is purely informative, it is hoped that nothing has been lost by deferring it until this month.



Happy Birthday



We would like to wish
Linda Curley (12th)
A Very Happy Birthday
With love from all at Trinity.

energy4Life

The United Reformed Church
Inter-assembly celebration

2009

Saturday 11th July
Sunday 12th July
Loughborough University

***Come and be
energised for
mission in
today's Church***

Cost: £30 adult
£15 child

***Including evening meal,
refreshments, workshops and entertainment.***
Overnight accommodation to be arranged separately

www.energy4life.urc.org.uk

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 25th January.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 16th January*

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

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

prayer page

Disturb us Lord, when we are too pleased with ourselves.
When our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little.
When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us Lord, when, with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the waters of life. Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity. And in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us Lord, to dare more boldly.
To venture on wider seas.
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where, losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future, in strength, courage, hope and love.



The prayer of Sir Francis Drake:

J
a
n
u
a
r
y

2009

Dwell among us, Lord, this week.
May we never be able to escape your dazzling presence.
Dwell among us as we work, where we usually don't think of you,
but need you all the same.
Dwell among us at home, when emotions run high and we are angry or hurt.
Dwell among us in church, when we are tempted to consult everyone, except you.
Dwell among us in our closest relationships,
where yours is the bond of peace and joy.
Dwell among us this week.

from "The Intercessions Handbook" by John Pritchard

Lord, I have never been really hungry,
only just hungry enough to realise how good it can be to taste food
Let us never forget those whose physical hunger gnaws continually,
so that we who have plenty may be instruments of the blessing to them
of being satisfied, according to your will.

Oliver Tomkins – "Asking God"

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 prison
to rebuild the nations
to bring peace among the people
to make music in the heart

Howard Thurman from "Bread of Tomorrow"

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.
I believe in love even when I cannot feel it.
I believe in God, even when he is silent.

written on a wall by a Jewish prisoner in Cologne

Weekly prayers through January:

Sunday	For our youth groups, 'That Lot' and 'That Other Lot', and their leaders
Monday	For staff at the Citizens' Advice Bureau
Tuesday	For staff at Wycombe District Council
Wednesday	For the Priory Centre
Thursday	For the Wycombe Winter Night Shelter
Friday	For the St Vincent and Grenadines 2 nd Generation Steel Orchestra
Saturday	For the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo