

The star that they had seen at its rising ...
stopped over the place where the child was.
When they saw that the star had stopped they
were overwhelmed with joy.

Matthew 2:9-10



January 2010

The Recorder

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An edited version of this magazine is available on the Church Website.

(Personal details are NOT included)

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

Trinity - A Family Church

Worshipping together - Caring for one another - Sharing with others

Dear Friends,

Wise men, St Matthew tells us, came from the East to Jerusalem. Their wisdom in understanding the heavens took them that far, but then they had to learn more to reach their goal. They sought counsel [possibly demonstrating their political naivety in the process] and were directed to Bethlehem. On January 6th, in the festival of Epiphany, the Christian Church remembers their journey and celebrates their meeting with the baby who is the Christ.

Wise men, women and children are paying great attention in our day to the scientific community's united voice that our climate is warming too fast and that almost certainly it is human activity that is causing this acceleration. It was an achievement to get world leaders together in Copenhagen in December to negotiate a way forward, but it was also a huge disappointment that they were not able to agree more far reaching carbon cuts. Much remains to be done.

Wise women 90 years ago founded Trinity Guides and wise women ever since have kept it going. How much poorer hundreds of girls lives would have been had those women back then not acted. In the intervening years it has expanded to include the full age-range from Rainbows to Rangers, not forgetting the Trefoil Guild of course. To be born a girl 90 years ago meant far fewer life-options being open to you than it does today, but still girls and women benefit greatly from the encouragement of meeting together – and having fun as well as learning and growing in self-confidence.

Wise friends are a great blessing. The Revd Geoffrey Bending has been a wise friend to Trinity, serving twice [or three times?] as interim moderator when the church was 'between' ministers. Individuals in the church too have appreciated his friendship.

Wise churches look to God for healing and wholeness in their life together, and in regard to each person's individual and family needs. We are in the second month of our Vision4Life Prayer Year at Trinity. We want to build on and deepen the ways in which we support each other in prayer, and look, too, beyond our own needs to those around us.

Wise decisions can usually only be seen as such in hindsight. The decision we made in May 2007 to re-create our sanctuary as a warm, welcoming and flexible space for enhancing worship and being available through the week for community building purposes, was a decision made in faith and hope. But was it wise? Time will tell, we say, don't we? What time has told us so far, one month into our opening season, is that people are feeling at ease here in a way that was less possible for them with the 19th century lay-out. A family at a funeral, Council officers invited to a Christmas meal, visitors in worship, all of these have been enthusiastic beyond the call of politeness about what they have experienced and seen.

If, having read this letter, you look at the list of services for January you should see a connection between the two! If you are able, do come and join in worship and in Church Meetings many times during 2010. On earth 2000 years ago Jesus was noted for his wisdom. As His people we seek to grow in wisdom together under His direction.

What are **you** going to do in 2010 that is wise?

Happy New Year



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins

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Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole

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January Services

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

- Jan 3 Theme: Wise men; a service of Holy Communion.
Jan 10 Theme: The Climate Challenge
Jan 17 Celebrating 90 years of Trinity Guides; All Age Worship
Jan 24 Morning worship led by the Revd. Geoffrey Bending
 4.00pm Service for Healing and Wholeness led by the Prayer Circle
Jan 31 Opening Season Celebration, with the Revd. John Marsh,
 Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church

Rotas for January

Not included in this version

What's on in January



Monday 11th January - 8pm New Year Quiz
(Hostess: José Barber)

Monday 25th January - 8pm Burns' Night
(Hostess: Barbara Macleod)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 5th Jan	New Year Party
Tuesday 12th Jan	Quiz
Tuesday 19th Jan	DVD.
Tuesday 26th Jan	AGM. Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Diary Dates

- Jan 3** Share Your Skills following Morning Worship
- 4** Wycombe Winter Night Shelter opens at Trinity every Monday
- 5** REVIVE Committee Meeting 8pm
- 8** Opening Season Group meeting 10.30am
- 9** Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12noon
- 16** Haywood Trio Concert 7.30pm
- 17** Trinity Guides 90th Anniversary Celebrations
- 19** Church Meeting 8pm
- 23** Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12noon
- 23** Users' & Hirers' Meeting 11am
- 24** Service For Healing & Wholeness 4pm
- 26** Elders' Meeting 8pm
- 30** Fifth Brigade 9.30am – 12 noon
- 31** Service with Revd John Marsh, Moderator of General Assembly

- Feb 13** Coffee Morning
- 21** Thinking Day Parade Service for Guides Centenary
- 21** Evening Communion Service
- 22** Annual Reports to Angus Massie
- 23** Elders' Meeting
- 27** Coffee Morning

January 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Not included in this version



THE LEPROSY
MISSION

News for church representatives from your local area co-ordinator
Helping maintain joy for some of the happiest people in the world!

When I wrote in February I was preparing to visit Bangladesh. An uprising within the Bangladesh military (which was quickly quelled) meant the visit became somewhat uncertain until a week before. Now I look back on what was an exciting, informative, moving and emotive two weeks.

Bangladesh is home to some 153 million people and poverty there is deep and widespread – yet apparently Bangladeshis are amongst the happiest people in the world!

So what did I find? It was wonderful to see firsthand how vital and effective the work of The Leprosy Mission is to the lives of so many people. At our hospital in Nilphamari, surgical reconstructions, leprosy control programmes and other specialised services are carried out. There I was given the ‘privilege’ of sitting in on two surgical procedures.

In Chittagong district, we saw a network of community volunteers being trained to identify leprosy, clinics working in incredible conditions and staff providing leprosy control, disability prevention and rehabilitation services.

We also had the privilege of meeting Parach Chakma, one of The Leprosy Mission’s project managers for the Hill Tracts region. He himself has had leprosy and is ideally suited to working among people affected by the disease.

In the Mirpur region of Dhaka 300,000 people live in slum conditions that must be seen to be believed. Here we witnessed the very effective partnership programme between The Leprosy Mission and The Salvation Army. Health among the slum dwellers is precarious, so disease control, health education, urban development, provision of medical help and skills and support for people to regain their independence are essential.

The Mirpur region of Dhaka is the focus project for the Mid Central area over the next three years. If you require more information, or would like to be involved in supporting this project, or have ideas about how funds can be raised, please do get in touch with me.

[Rev Bill Hewis – billh@timew.org.uk]

January 31st is World Leprosy Day

Commitment for Life

ZIMBABWE November 2009

Prayer and spiritual awareness in the United Congregational church in South Africa (UCCSA) in Zimbabwe is alive and kicking according to one member I met recently. After a difficult time, churches are again seeing growth, both in numbers and faith.

Although the law stopping gatherings is still in force the churches are getting permission for meetings. However churches that have opposed the government can often find themselves restricted and forced to cancel meetings.

Divisions within the churches continue as they discuss their role as a prophetic voice, seeking justice for those who have suffered violence. Many see speaking out as a key role for the churches to play and one that, as people of faith, they should be pursuing. This member felt they were dealing with the effects of the restrictions, violence and bad governance rather than tackling the root causes of the problem. Most local churches are involved in many aid projects helping orphans and widows. These projects are often linked with international agencies such as UNICEF. Self sufficiency is the key skill being taught by the Non Governmental Agencies.

Potholed and dangerous roads bear testimony to the fact that money has not been spent on infrastructure. Communication in rural areas is virtually non existent. The only time they hear news is during election time when crowds come out in the countryside to tell them how to vote.

The two main tribes, Ndebeli, in southern areas and historically not with the government, and Shona, mainly north and the stronger, are now experiencing heightened tensions. Shona tribes' people have been known to be shipped into Ndebeli areas to do menial jobs thus stopping local people from earning a wage. Recent news of leaflet dropping using highly racist language has not helped unity within the nation.

Zimbabwe is coping, just, but fervent prayers are needed over the coming months.

President Barack Obama has given an award to a leading women's rights activist in Zimbabwe, labelling Robert Mugabe a "dictator" in the process. Obama presented Magodonga Mahlangu and her organization Women of Zimbabwe Arise (Woza) with the 2009 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award in a White House ceremony. "Each time they see Magodonga beaten back, beaten black and blue during one protest only to get right back up and lead another, singing freedom songs at the top of her lungs in full view of security forces, the threat of a policeman's baton loses some of its power," he said. Woza has united tens of thousands of Zimbabwean women in a campaign of non-violent struggle against rapes and other rights violations under Mugabe's regime, enduring brutal repression and repeated arrests. "By her example, Magodonga has shown the women of Woza and the people of Zimbabwe that they can undermine their oppressors' power with their own power, that they can sap a dictator's strength with their own," Obama said.

ACTION

On the 26th November, the Republic of Liberia was taken to the High Court in London by two Vulture Funds seeking to make large profits on a debt dating back to the 1970s. Liberia lost, and the two Vulture Funds - both based in offshore tax havens - were awarded over \$20 million.

Also a handful of MPs were chosen to bring forward legislation in parliament in the Private Members' Ballot. The top 7 of these MPs now have the power to introduce a bill outlawing Vulture Funds before the general election. If one of them chooses to do so, Jubilee Debt Campaign very much hopes they'll get support from the Government, which failed to put a strong vulture's law in the recent Queen's Speech.

On a lighter note . . .

Political correctness / Equal opportunities / Health & Safety - gone mad?

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep,
do not stir;
We will lend a coat of fur,
We will rock you, rock you,
rock you,
We will rock you, rock you,
rock you:

Fur is no longer appropriate wear for small infants, both due to risk of allergy to animal fur, and for ethical reasons. Therefore faux fur, a nice cellular blanket or perhaps micro-fleece material should be considered a suitable alternative.

Please note, only persons who have been subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check and have enhanced clearance will be permitted to rock baby Jesus. Persons must carry their CRB disclosure with them at all times and be prepared to provide three forms of identification before rocking commences.

Dashing through the snow
In a one horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way

A risk assessment must be submitted before an open sleigh is considered safe for members of the public to travel on. The risk assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly if passengers are of larger proportions. Please note, permission must be gained from landowners before entering their fields. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

While shepherds watched
Their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came
down
And glory shone around

The union of Shepherd's has complained that it breaches health and safety regulations to insist that shepherds watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided, therefore benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available. Shepherds have also requested that due to the inclement weather conditions at this time of year that they should watch their flocks via cctv cameras from centrally heated shepherd observation huts.

Please note, the angel of the lord is reminded that before shining his / her glory all around she / he must ascertain that all shepherds have been issued with glasses capable of filtering out the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and Glory.

Little donkey, little donkey
on the dusty road
Got to keep on plodding
onwards with your precious
load.

The RSPCA have issued strict guidelines with regard to how heavy a load that a donkey of small stature is permitted to carry, also included in the guidelines is guidance regarding how often to feed the donkey and how many rest breaks are required over a four hour plodding period. Please note that due to the increased risk of pollution from the dusty road, Mary and Joseph are required to wear face masks to prevent inhalation of any airborne particles. The donkey has expressed his discomfort at being labelled 'little' and would prefer just to be simply referred to as Mr. Donkey. To comment upon his height or lack thereof may be considered an infringement of his equine rights.

We three kings of Orient
are
Bearing gifts we traverse
afar
Field and fountain, moor
and mountain
Following yonder star

Whilst the gift of gold is still considered acceptable - as it may be redeemed at a later date through such organisations as 'cash for gold' etc, gifts of frankincense and myrrh are not appropriate due to the potential risk of oils and fragrances causing allergic reactions. A suggested gift alternative would be to make a donation to a worthy cause in the recipients name or perhaps give a gift voucher.

We would not advise that the traversing kings rely on navigation by stars in order to reach their destinations and suggest the use of RAC routefinder or satellite navigation, which will provide the quickest route and advice regarding fuel consumption. Please note as per the guidelines from the RSPCA for Mr Donkey, the camels carrying the three kings of Orient will require regular food and rest breaks. Facemasks for the three kings are also advisable due to the likelihood of dust from the camels hooves.

Rudolph, the red-nosed
reindeer
had a very shiny nose.
And if you ever saw him,
you would even say it
glows.

You are advised that under the Equal Opportunities for All policy, it is inappropriate for persons to make comment with regard to the ruddiness of any part of Mr R Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr R Reindeer from the Reindeer Games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence. A full investigation will be implemented and sanctions - including suspension on full pay - will be considered whilst this investigation takes place.

[Blame Tim S for bringing this to the editor's attention!]



Budget

We are awaiting the last few invoices and should then be able to advise what the project balance is for Phase 2.

2009 and into the future

The thanksgiving and dedication service was a truly memorable event – huge thanks go to all who put in so much work on the organising, the setting up, the catering, the participating ... the list goes on! Let's hope we have other events and services where the gallery is used.

Thank you!

The Revive team would like to say a big thank you for your support over what has been a roller-coaster year of immense change for us all. I know that some have welcomed it with open arms and some have been less keen, but we do believe that God's guidance has been evident in so many ways. It's a real encouragement that we are getting a number of enquiries from people interested in hiring the sanctuary and other rooms, both for community use and concerts. We'll keep you updated of developments.

Please continue to pray – not just for potential community partnerships but also that we as a church may grow and be the people that Christ has called us to be, and that we may draw new people into the kingdom as well as the building. The words 'be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you' come to mind as we enter 2010, this new decade.

Finally, I would like to say a personal thank you for your generosity to me. And thank you for your patience, forbearance and prayer which have carried all of us through 2009. As Chair of Revive I couldn't have fulfilled my responsibilities without the hard work, dedication, commitment, vision and long hours put in by the rest of the Revive team (Gwen, Simon, Marian, Margaret, Valerie), along with so many others both inside and outside the church. Tim in particular has provided back-up to Simon over these last months by looking after a lot of the premises side of things as the refurbishment has progressed, including taking care of the organ.

The Lord your God is with you. Happy New Year!

Blessings,

Faith & Feathers - 3

Another residential retreat taking in the birds of Holy Island with fellow Christians.

May 28th to 30th 2010

Led by David Peel and John Proctor

Particularly suitable for those who have been to F&F 1 and 2, but open to all.

Great quality at reasonable prices

For more information, speak to Marian Mole, or contact centre@holysisland-stcuthbert.org

NEWS FROM CHILTERN AREA COMMITTEE MEETING - NOVEMBER 2009 *(edited)*

1. News from the churches

AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH:

There is a very buoyant feeling at Amersham at present. Our stipendiary minister Andrew Busby has come through the treatment which he has had over the last year for secondary cancer extremely well, and gives every impression of having bounced back to full strength, although it is apparent to those who are close to him that there are times when he is having to drive himself somewhat harder than he once did in order to maintain his usual energetic lifestyle. Our NSM Erna Stevenson did terrific work to cover for Andrew while he was on sick-leave and is greatly loved and respected by the congregation. In addition we are now privileged to have had Sue McCoan attached to us for a year as a Minister in Training although she is performing in such a way as would indicate that she is already more than qualified to be inducted somewhere. Finally we have a new "Time for God" volunteer from Germany who is playing a full part in the various activities of the Church.

Planning permission for the redevelopment of the main hall, kitchen and entrance vestibules has been obtained and it is anticipated that building work will commence in April and will take six months to complete. Among the many weekday activities taking place in various parts of the church building the LunchBreak sessions every Tuesday are providing a means of outreach to an increasing number of people in the community each week.

KINGSWAY SLOUGH:

The Church has agreed to some new building work to update the office facilities hopefully to be completed before Christmas; and is trying to obtain funding for solar panels on roof.

HOLTSPUR:

The church was full on Remembrance Sunday. With no regular organist they are making use of a CD player to play hymns through the speaker address system. Congregation numbers are keeping up well despite having no minister, and they are holding together as a team.

2. Vacancies

Beaconsfield/Holtspur – the Moderator reported that almost every month a minister requests the profile and then chooses not to follow it up, which is a concern. The Moderator had investigated why; it's not the profile but personal reasons, e.g. wanting to be nearer family in London.

St Andrew's Gerrards Cross – vacancy only recently declared. The Revd David Simpson (retired) has just been appointed Interim Moderator there in addition to being Interim Moderator at Beaconsfield.

Chesham – the Revd Bridget Powell is moving from non-stipendiary to stipendiary ministry She has submitted her resignation as NSM at Chesham from the end of the year, as per URC procedures, and is undergoing some additional training and placements before completing the move to stipendiary ministry.

3. Vacancy on Area Committee

There are two vacancies on Area Committee from next March. John Hoar and David Bailey are both up for re-election for a further three-year term. Outgoing members may stand again if they wish, and other churches in the area are encouraged to nominate people to serve on this committee which performs a lot of the work that the former District Council and Pastoral Committee carried out. John is willing to stand again (if nominated) but David would prefer not to at this time. If anyone would like a copy of the Area Committee's Terms of Reference and remit, please contact Kate Yates.

4. Pastoral consultation visits

These are progressing at Deanway United, Trinity High Wycombe, Chesham, and Aylesbury St Mark's.

More pastoral consultation visits are planned for 2010. If you would be willing to consider serving on one of the consultation teams and would like to know more about what's involved, please contact Kate Yates (yates.kathryn@gmail.com or 01494 672799).

5. Building projects

a Trinity High Wycombe – redevelopment of the sanctuary (stage 1) complete. Opening service of thanksgiving and dedication to take place on Sunday 29 November.

b. Amersham Free Church – Planning permission granted end September, and all happily straightforward. Timetable being followed, with site works scheduled to start mid April 2010. Redemption of pledges on track with £120,000 banked at end of September. Grant applications have been made to 4 organisations and 80% of funds needed are in hand or promised.

c. Chesham - Early stages but progressing.

Surprise: Trinity URC High Wycombe building speaks again on 5th December 2009

Nothing changed for years; I went to sleep
Except on Sundays - I had a watch to keep.
And then one day I found myself deserted
By all my friends. Had they been converted
Or had they found a better place to meet?
Then next I heard the sound of heavy feet.
Ah workmen, that was better. Now I'd see
What joys the future held - but not for me.
It all was for that horrid little room
Next door to me, no bigger than a broom-
Cupboard, a place not fit for hymn or prayer,
I'm sure no-one could truly worship there.
Oh, yes, there was a brand-new western door
And soon my friends came back and more and more
Came in that way and down a little slope.
It wasn't much - enough to give me hope
For more. They had a joyous celebration.
I could not share their sense of exultation,
It seemed to me it wasn't really fair
Although I still received their loving care.

And then one day they came again the men...

It wasn't what I had expected
Scaffolding was soon erected
My pews and pulpit disappeared
My floor chewed up, a space was cleared
For heating new and then for afters
They sandblasted all my rafters
My organ pipes and pillars too
As well as walls were painted new
All was chaos, all was dust
I really can't remember just
What happened or the where and when
It felt like being built again.

At last it eased, my friends came in,
Admired me and then I saw
How gleaming white my pillars are,
How green my carpet, red my chairs,
A long and easy ramp to climb
To a larger dais where
At the second celebration
All had room to move around
While the gorgeous organ sound
And the congregation's singing
Truly set my rafters ringing.
Oh I was so very proud
I was the finest church in town.

But pride comes before a fall.
I listened to the prayers and readings
And knew that I must make confession:
I've broken half the Ten Commandments,
Have not loved my lowly neighbour,
Thought I was the lord and master

Forgot my purpose is to serve
To welcome all who come within me.
I hope my friends will all forgive me
For my wicked vanity
And I promise once again
To shelter them in joy and pain
And to help them to embrace
All who come into this place.

Olive S

29th NOVEMBER

Our day of Thanksgiving and Dedication was a wonderful occasion. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it so, not least the editor and production team of this magazine for the special issue with colour photos.

On that day we also issued a new collection of Olive's poems. All those printed for the day were snatched up at a suggested minimum donation of £5 a copy for Revive. More can be printed if required – just let me know.



Whether or not this is a true story, it is worth taking on board

A proper decision by the courts . . . for a change.

FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY

In Florida , an atheist created a case against the upcoming Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring,"Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honor, How can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays.."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fools Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned."

You gotta love a Judge that knows his scripture!

To commemorate her birthday, actress/vocalist, Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan 's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP. One of the musical numbers she performed was 'My Favourite Things' from the legendary movie 'Sound Of Music'.

Here are the lyrics she used:

Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up with string,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favourite things.

When the pipes leak, When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favourite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.

When the joints ache, When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Forward planning:

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 2009, so can be prepared NOW!! Don't leave them until the last minute!

Angus

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

Cluster bombs -

have killed and injured tens of thousands of civilians – and YOUR bank could be complicit

One third of all recorded cluster bomb casualties are children. Yet despite efforts to ban these indiscriminate weapons, 138 banks and other financial institutions continue to invest over US\$20 billion in companies that produce them.

Cluster bombs are large explosive weapons that scatter dozens or hundreds of smaller submunitions over a wide area. They cannot distinguish between military targets and civilians. Many submunitions fail to detonate on impact and, like landmines, continue to kill and maim people long after the conflict has ended.

The good

The global campaign to eradicate cluster bombs, spearheaded by the Cluster Munitions Coalition, reached a major breakthrough in 2008 when governments negotiated an international treaty to ban them. So far, 103 countries have joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions, including the UK.

The bad

Although the UK government has signed the ban and stopped production of cluster bombs, UK banks still invest in cluster bomb producers in countries that have not yet outlawed them. A ban simply can't be effective if there is still funding for the production of these weapons.

The downright ugly

A recent report* finds that UK high street banks are lending or providing investment banking services to cluster bomb producers to the tune of:

- Barclays: US\$274 million
- HSBC: US\$657 million
- Royal Bank of Scotland (includes NatWest): US\$64 million

That could be YOUR cash. And if there's one thing banks can't do without, it's customers: [tell your bank to stop this shameful practice once and for all](#). If you're not a customer of these banks you can still contact them to let them know that you find their investment in producers of cluster bombs totally unacceptable.

If you're an internet user, you can visit http://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions_details.asp?ActionID=667 to take action.

Control Arms Campaign/Amnesty International

*On 29 October 2009, KV Pax Christi (Netherlands) and Netwerk Vlaanderen (Belgium) launched the report '**Worldwide Investments in Cluster Munitions: A shared responsibility**'. Find out more at stopexplosiveinvestments.org

Men's Christian magazine vies with *Nuts* and *Loaded*

Christian magazine **Sorted** will line up in UK newsagents next to secular 'lads' mags'. Marking a great step forward for the magazine, launched only two years ago, the move was described as 'a real answer to prayer' by editor Steve Legg. The bi-monthly will be sold in 1,500 newsagents, realising evangelist Steve's dream for a Christian alternative to secular men's magazines to be available on the high street. Steve says that **Sorted** has won praise from the *Daily Telegraph* and that earlier this year the magazine completely sold out, requiring an extra print run to meet demand. He is also hoping to sell copies in W H Smith in June, for Father's Day.



Happy Birthday



We would like to wish

Win G (4th)

Linda C (12th)

Joan S (16th)

a Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.

SHOULD WE CHANGE THE NAMES?

It has been suggested by several people that we should change the names of some of our rooms especially now that we have more groups using these areas. The suggestions so far are:

Lower School Room to become 'Church Lounge'

Vestry to become 'Church Office'

Sanctuary to become 'Worship Area'

What do you think & have you any other suggestions? Comments to Marian M by 31 January please.

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 31st January.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 22nd January*

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

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

prayer page

Vision4Life – year of prayer

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2010

2010 is the URC's year of prayer as part of Vision4Life. You may like to meditate slowly on this different translation of the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, help us to honour your name.
Come and set up your kingdom,
so that everyone on earth will obey you, as you are obeyed in heaven.
Give us our food for today.
Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others.
Keep us from being tempted and protect us from evil.

(Contemporary English Version © United Bible Societies

A New Year's Prayer *Anonymous*

Dear Lord, please give me...
A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;
A work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;
A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;
An understanding heart;
A sense of humour;
Time for quiet, silent meditation;
A feeling of the presence of God;
The patience to wait for the coming of these things,
With the wisdom to recognise them when they come. Amen.

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain, but by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy, but by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you, but by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine, but by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant, but by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

(Anon)

A New Year's Poem for Christians

Instead of making a New Year's resolution
Consider committing to a biblical solution
Your promises are easily broken
Empty words, though earnestly spoken
But God's Word transforms the soul
By His Holy Spirit making you whole
As you spend time alone with Him
He will change you from within

-- Mary Fairchild



Weekly prayers through January:

- Sunday that Trinity as a church may grow and thrive
- Monday for teachers who have such demanding jobs
- Tuesday that we may keep our New Year resolutions
- Wednesday for all users and hirers of our premises
- Thursday for the future leadership of Zimbabwe
- Friday give thanks for those who clean up our rubbish and streets
- Saturday for our politicians as they prepare for a General Election this year