

We are ambassadors for Christ  
[2 Corinthians 5:20a]



*January 2011*

# *The Recorder*

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

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

(Personal details are NOT included)

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

**Trinity - A Family Church**

**Worshipping together - Caring for one another - Sharing with others**

Dear Friends,

We have a lot to look forward to at Trinity in 2011.

**WoRM** Junior Church are excited about starting a new way of learning. It's called WoRM! [Workshop Rotation Model], and regular readers will know all about it from last month's Recorder. To work at its best this needs the whole church behind it. We adults often say how much we appreciate both the children and their leaders' contribution to the life of our church. So here is the chance for us to put those sentiments into action, by volunteering to help with an occasional workshop, by praying and asking how it's going, or by collecting materials when asked. From all of the rest of the Trinity family, we say to Junior Church, "Well done for being ready to try something new. ENJOY it!"

**CWM** We are going on a world tour this year! We have relatives in East and South Asia, in Southern Africa, in the Caribbean, in the Pacific and around us in the UK and across the Channel. These relatives are not quite 'long-lost', but we certainly don't know them as well as we could. This year we are going to put that right. The URC is one of 31 denominations in the Council for World Mission. If you like family history research you might like to look into how all these denominations are related. Let me give you a clue: Congregationalism and Presbyterianism. Our focus in worship once a month till July, though, won't be on history but on present experience. What contemporary issues are our brothers and sisters grappling with, and what can we learn from their experience of God as they respond with His love? If you have connections with any of these regions of the world talk to me or to Barbara Macleod.

**Ad. Campaign** The URC is taking the initiative in the UK in preparing a ground-breaking advertising campaign, funded by a grant from CWM.

- It is to reach those who have no church connections but are curious.
- It will say, in effect, "We will not turn you away, and we will not turn you off – whoever you are."
- We can 'opt in' to be a listed church on the Ad. Campaign web-site.

It will probably be launched toward the latter end of 2011. We will need to decide in Church Meeting quite soon if we want to 'opt in'. There will be more news at Synod in March. We will keep you posted.

All of the above is relevant to **Vision4Life Evangelism Year at Trinity**, which we launched last month as part of the wider Vision4Life Evangelism Year of the URC [see p5]. A healthy church is a growing and sharing church. So we ask ourselves these questions: Who will God send us in the coming year? How can we be ready? We have plans in hand, with more details in future Recorders. For example:

**'Everybody Welcome'** a resource to help us to be truly welcoming so that newcomers will find it easy to stay with us, to feel they belong and to find God here. We shall use it January – Easter in all sorts of ways. We have ordered the attractive, short 'Members' Manual' for everyone. Look out for your copy.

**'Life Streams'** a course with practical relevance for those interested in spiritual things who wonder if Christianity has anything to offer, and also for Trinity people who want to take a 'next step' in their own spiritual journey. [See p 11 for more details]

So, there is much to look forward to in our life together reaching out to others.

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

- Jan 2 Holy Communion to begin the New Year  
Jan 9 Morning worship  
Jan 16 All age worship, including a presentation by Ben Lockhart on a recent school visit to Imani orphanage in Kenya  
3.30 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service for town churches, at Trinity, led by Minister and Pastor Dawn McDowall.  
Jan 23 Morning worship  
4.00 Service for Healing and Wholeness led by the Prayer Circle  
Jan 30 Theme: The Leprosy Mission, with the Revd. Bill Hewis

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### Rotas for January

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in January



Monday 10th January

New Year Quiz (Hostess: Pat W)

Monday 24th January

Childhood Winters (Hostess: José B)

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 11th Jan

New Year Party

Tuesday 18th Jan

Winter Quiz

Tuesday 25th Jan

AGM. Bring & Buy



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*

## Diary Dates

- January**
- 4 Wycombe Winter Night Shelter opens
  - 5 Move WWNS resources & Briefing for volunteers 4-6pm
  - 8 Coffee Morning 10.30am
  - 10 Night Shelter at Trinity
  - 11 Elders' & pastoral Assistants' Training session 8pm
  - 15 Haywood Trio Concert
  - 16-22 Week of Prayer For Christian Unity
  - 18 Church Meeting 8pm
  - 22 Coffee Morning 10.30am
  - 25 Elders' Meeting 8pm
  - 29 Fifth Brigade 9.30am –12noon
- February**
- 12 Biblefresh Workshops 10am-4pm (see separate article)
  - 12 Coffee Morning 10.30am
  - 22 Elders' Meeting 8pm
  - 25 & 26 Pantomime
  - 25 Coffee Morning

January 2011						
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30	31					

**Not included in this version**



It's about US this month. We are part of CWM too.

## **URC begins evangelism year**

16 Dec 2010

On Advent Sunday the United Reformed Church began the evangelism year of its Vision4Life initiative. It's the third and final year of Vision4life – following on from Bible year and prayer year – and its aim is to help churches in the UK be transformed by evangelism.

Rev Janet Lees, Vision4Life co-ordinator, said: "Evangelism excites some and terrifies others. With our Vision4life approach we hope churches will feel supported in unpacking evangelism and discovering anew what it might really mean for them."

Evangelism year is well supported with a booklet and web based resources covering four categories: teaching and motivation, getting on with it, theological reflection and worship.

It is hoped that a series of local "thinking ahead" events will be held across the synods, allowing local congregations to swap ideas and resources to help them link evangelism opportunities to the major festivals of the Christian year.

Vision4life is the URC's most successful campaign ever with 680 churches signing up to take part. The booklet is available from the Vision4Life website.

## **MEN'S DAY – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2011**

We have received fliers for this event to be held at Christ Church, Flackwell Heath, led by Christian Vision for Men [www.cvm.org.uk](http://www.cvm.org.uk)

It sounds similar to the seminar for women that we hosted last year. So, men, here is your chance! The flier says, "We will network, worship, pray, get inspired, get to grips with God's plan for our lives and get some tools to live life well for God."

The fliers are on the display shelf in the Lower Schoolroom. Please help yourself.

# Commitment for Life

## ZIMBABWE

The Lomagundi Church is a Presbyterian congregation based in Chinhoyi. There are three outreach programmes currently running at the church - a medical clinic, a tutorials programme and a sports ministry. This story is told by the Church's administrator, Stanley, whose work we have featured in previous Stories for Change.

### ALL IN A DAY'S WORK?

Mr Nervous Matope, (his second/family name can be translated to mean "the mire or sticky mud"), has just turned sixty-five. Such a long span of life by Zimbabwean standards! It becomes more impressive because it has been punctuated by illness and disease. Our first contact is by chance really. The cooker at my workplace is taking forever to boil enough water for a cup of tea. See, the church does not have an electric kettle or these modern electric gadgets like coffee-makers and the like. I ask one of my fellow workers to look for anybody who can fix the device. He brings along this frail looking old man.

My first guess is that he could be past seventy- five. He is actually sixty-four. He knows his job..... but the cooker packs up a few weeks later. I personally hunt him down. He has a lot of explaining to do. But when I eventually locate him, there is nothing much left besides a bag of bones and flesh that are all refusing to co-habitate. I don't get the much needed explanation. I end up advising his son to take him to hospital. The following day I see them at our little church run clinic. I thought I had advised them to go to the HOSPITAL not to come here! The son tells me how they have traversed the country looking for proper medication for the old man in vain. Our nursing staff takes a chance with him. Our doctor conducts a series of tests on his resigned body. Then he disappears after admission into the hospital. When he finally resurfaces, I could hardly recognise him. He is all smiles and his handshake is quite firm. But he is not here to shake my hand. He says he is grateful and would opt to repair the cooker for free to express his gratitude to the clinic. Sadly, the gadget is already fixed. But thanks anyway.....

## BANGLADESH

### **Who put the Sluice gate in the wrong place?**

Joyanta Adhikari, Director of Christian Aid partner, The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) recently visited Commitment for Life Churches. He told this story of how a People's Forum (PF), formed as part of their Comprehensive Poverty Reduction Programme, had really transformed people's lives

PFs are community groups formed in areas of great need. Through education, training and trust building CCDB are able to inform the group on a wide range of issues from small business plans to the giving of loans and health care education.

A PF had received training on their rights, how to speak to local government and officials, lobbying and working with other PFs. When the local government built a sluice gate in a place which caused water logging and made the land uncultivable, they knew they needed to do something or they would have no food. So the PF got together and talked to the local government officials about the lack of consultation with the village. They even called a press conference for the local press who thought it was a good story and published it. Working with other PFs in the area the demand to have the sluice gate moved grew and grew and got into the national news. Eventually the local government agreed and came and moved it to the right place as directed by the community. This time it did what it was supposed to do and they were able to sow their next rice crop.

This has had a profound effect on all the PFs in the area as they saw that, with training and working together, great results can be achieved. Commitment for Life is arranging a visit to CCDB and other Christian Aid partners in Autumn 2011. If you are interested, please contact Linda Mead on lmeadcforl@gmail.com

# Understanding the Scriptures

## A series of evening classes for Biblefresh 2011 with Wycliffe Bible Translators

This course is the ideal way for lay preachers, homegroup leaders, Sunday school teachers and congregation members to increase their Biblical knowledge and understanding.

Taught by experienced staff from Wycliffe Bible Translators, the **Biblefresh Evening Classes** cover important topics which will help in your own personal study of Scripture, as well as providing the fundamental skills for training others at all levels.

Teaching takes place on one **Wednesday** evening per month for 10 months, with a summer break. Each hour long session starts at 19:30 with coffee, the formal sessions begin at 20:00.

19 January	<i>The Bible is His Story</i> - Overview of the Bible and its Message
16 February	<i>How not to do Word Studies</i> - Discovering Biblical Concepts
16 March	<i>Does the Old Testament have something to say to Today's Church?</i> The Place of the Old Testament
13 April	<i>Can we rely on the Text of the Bible?</i> Key Issues relating to the texts used in Translation
18 May	<i>So Many to Chose From!</i> English Bibles and Study Resources
15 June	<i>Holding the Tension</i> - An Exploration of the Dualities of Scripture
14 Sept	<i>Reading the Bible with the World</i> - Insights from the Worldwide Church
12 October	<i>How to Understand the Meaning of a Passage</i> - Principles of Hermeneutics
9 November	<i>Does the Bible Mean What it Says?</i> Irony and Metaphor
7 December	<i>Why the Bible is the Story Everybody Needs</i> - Applying the Bible to All of Life

**Cost:** £5 per session payable on the door, or register in advance to qualify for a discount. Delegates who attend all 10 sessions will receive a certificate acknowledging their participation.

Ask Gwen for a booking form, or download from [wycliffe.org.uk/eveningclasses](http://wycliffe.org.uk/eveningclasses)



## Traidcraft

A big thank you to every one who supported Traidcraft this year. Our monthly sales were up and also our buying from the Traidcraft Christmas catalogue. [Full financial details will be in next month's Recorder.]

I am hoping to move away in March and am on holiday in February. Now is your chance to take over the Traidcraft stall for Trinity - either as a family or on a rota. I am happy to show you the ropes in January!

*Pat W*



Are **you** ready for Fairtrade Fortnight?

**28 February  
to  
13 March 2011**

## **NEWS FROM CHILTERN AREA COMMITTEE MEETING - DECEMBER 2010 (edited)**

### **1. News from the churches**

#### **Colnbrook & Poyle**

Membership currently stands at 14 with Sunday attendance between 10-21. Unfortunately there are no children attending regularly. The church is used for two days a week by *SureStart* and after eight months it is just starting to take off. They appear to be becoming a more multi-national congregational church with regulars from Jamaica, Ghana, Pakistan, Malaysia and Kurdistan. Sadly several of their members have serious health problems for which prayer would be gratefully received.

#### **Gerrards Cross**

The ministry of Dr David Henry has been welcomed by the members with increased numbers attending morning worship. Frequently have visitors, two of whom have requested information about membership. Dr Henry visits members and adherents and is available in the church for an hour on Friday mornings for pastoral care if needed. They are disappointed with the lack of children at Junior Church and are looking at ways to attract more children and teenagers. They have a strong and enthusiastic Eldership who meet monthly under the chairmanship of Dr Henry.

#### **Wendover**

Coffee drop-in on Tuesday mornings – people attend from the local community, so is a chance to get to know people informally and a gentle gospel outreach. Morning prayer is held jointly with other churches, meeting four times a week to pray for the local community, and for Wendover, street by street. Study groups, women's events, a dance group and a children's group in the holidays also take place at Wendover Free Church.

Wendover Free Church is a partner in the newly-formed Wendover Support Group, seeking to help those affected by the current recession, for example through losing their job or experiencing a reduction in their take-home pay. It is a great way to bless the community in a practical way, showing the relevance of Christianity in the modern world. Free and confidential support is offered on a one-to-one basis, in small groups, or attending occasional open meetings. The group meets every Wednesday from 2-3.30 pm in the Christian Centre. They help identify existing available support including free access to computers and the internet.

Churches Together in Wendover recently celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of a covenant between the three churches. This included a walk around the town, a meal and celebration service with a talk on 'working together' and some reflections from Ruth Bottoms, a previous WFC minister.

### **2. Chiltern Area Elders' Day in 2011**

We are planning a day for elders and ministers in 2011, probably Saturday 4 or Saturday 18 June, date to be confirmed. The venue will be Amersham Free Church. More information will follow in due course. The content of the day will be different from the Synod Elders' event.

### **3. Ecumenical news**

The Revd Alan Kirkcaldy has agreed to be the URC representative on the Churches Together in Bucks Enabling Group.

### **4. Building projects**

#### **a) Amersham Free Church**

Amersham Free Church had a community open day on Saturday 4 December preceded by a service led by Val Morrison, Moderator of General Assembly following the opening of the redeveloped Alfred Ellis Hall. The work has made a significant difference to the look and feel of the building, and people from the street can now see inside the hall.

#### **b) Chesham**

Fundraising and scoping of the work that can be done within the budget is progressing.





Dear Gwen

### Donation to BibleLands

I am writing to thank you for the generous donation of £100 which Trinity URC has given today towards the work of BibleLands.

It was a joy and pleasure for me to preach at Trinity this morning, and I greatly appreciated the very warm welcome which you and your congregation afforded to Sally and me.

I have taken the liberty of allocating Trinity's kind gift to our General Fund. This vital resource enables us to help our partners with their general running costs, and without it some of them would be in danger of having to close. We also use the fund to respond quickly and effectively to additional requests for support.

Recently, thanks to generous donations, we have been able to assist refugees in Lebanon and Gaza. We are sending £10,000 to provide sports facilities that will improve health and psychological welfare at Dbayeh refugee camp near Beirut, and £20,000 to support a Christian-led vocational training programme in the Gaza Strip.

This offers unemployed young people the opportunity to learn skills such as carpentry and furniture making, welding, dressmaking and IT, helping them to generate an independent income.

Please thank everyone at Trinity URC for their support and generosity.

Yours in Christ

Jeremy Moodey

Chief Executive

## Reports for Church AGM

The editor of the Recorder has very kindly offered to collate all the reports to go in the Annual Church Report ready for our AGM on 15 March. Everyone leading a Trinity group is asked to get their report to him [[editor@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:editor@trinity-urc.org.uk)] by 14 February, at the latest

Many thanks

MM

### *Editor's note*

Please start to think about these reports NOW, and get them to me **as soon as possible**. The final date may seem early, but there are always reports reaching me after the deadline and they then get in the way of Recorder production. We normally want to get the Reports out to the members in advance of the AGM (probably 6th March) and as I will be out of the country for just over a fortnight from the end of February, there is absolutely no room for slippage. **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!**

# **BIBLEFRESH!**

This is to be an inspirational day of workshops, activities and worship on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February** for local churches in High Wycombe and is being arranged as an ecumenical event in which we are all encouraged to participate. It will run from **10am to 4pm** and children accompanied by adults will be welcome at the workshops. There will be a crèche.

Proposed timetable:

10.00	Refreshments at All Saints Church
10.30	Opening Worship (All Saints)
11.00-11.45	Workshops (All Saints, Wesley, Oakley Hall)
12.00-12.45	Workshops (All Saints, Wesley, Oakley Hall)
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-14.45	Workshops (All Saints, Wesley, Oakley Hall)
15.00	Closing Worship at All Saints
15.45	Refreshments (All Saints)

## **Workshops:**

Storytelling  
Godly Play  
Alternative Bible Study  
Song Writing: Words & Music  
Playmobile Bible  
Disciple Course

## **Activities:**

Labyrinth  
IT writing Psalm 119  
Display boards  
Hand Written Bible  
Banner making  
Bible changed my life

You don't need to book, just turn up at whatever appeals to you. If you would like to help with any of the workshops or activities those organising the day would welcome you and it would be great if some of us could represent Trinity by doing this as well as attending. Please let Gwen or Marian know if you think you're able to help.

## **A new Church Directory**

I'm sure that you will all agree that we very much need a new Church Directory. This I am hoping to complete by our Church AGM on 15 March. To comply with Data Protection we require your permission to publish your details and I will take it that unless you notify me otherwise the current information held on the Church Database will be entered into the new directory. If your details have changed or you DO **NOT** wish to be included in the new directory please inform me by 31 January at the latest.

Many thanks  
MM  
[marian@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:marian@trinity-urc.org.uk)

## **Things you wish YOU had said . . . .!**

It is always the best policy to tell the truth, unless of course you are an exceptionally good liar.

I've had a wonderful evening - but this wasn't it.

Those are my principals, if you don't like them, . . . I have others."

Always acknowledge a fault frankly. This will throw those in authority off guard and allow you opportunity to commit more.

*[more at the bottom of the next page]*

# Vision4Life Evangelism Year at Trinity

## 'Life Streams'

"For anyone asking 'What will help me to grow spiritually?' Life Streams provides practical ways to transform your life and community from the inside out, with a fresh perspective on Christian faith and practice."

It was this quote in a review of this 8 week course that caused me to order a copy. Some of you have suggested that we run a course as part of our Year of Evangelism, and, building on that idea, I was on the lookout for a course that helps deepen spirituality in practical ways. When I read it through I was impressed by its down to earth and practical approach.

Each week there are 'spiritual exercises' to do – you choose from a list and commit yourself to do your chosen exercise and report back next week as to how you got on. The exercises are challenging but sensible – for example one in the session on holiness is, "Go a day without saying anything negative" with guidance on how to do it!

The course itself is designed for people committed to following Jesus Christ. However I intend to adapt it so that it is suitable both for committed Christians, and for others who are asking spiritual questions and would welcome the chance to look seriously at what Jesus says about things like prayer, love, making the world a better place. But, and this is its strength, its not just about looking seriously at what Jesus says. It is about trying his teaching out in our daily lives and evaluating with others how we are getting on.

When and how shall we use Life Streams?

- Between Easter and summer holidays
- As a special course at times to suit those who sign up,
- In groups of no less than 2 and no more than 7, and with as many groups as necessary.
- With yummy cakes and coffee!

If you are interested in signing up for this let me know.

If you have a family member, friend, or colleague who you know is interested in spiritual matters and so you would like to invite them to consider this course a flyer will be coming out soon that you can give them.



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*[more things you wish YOU had said]*

I don't want to belong to any club that will accept me as a member

All the things I really like are either immoral, illegal or fattening.

When you have to kill a man it costs nothing to be polite.

Denial ain't just a river in Egypt.

## WHY GOD CREATED CHILDREN (and, in consequence, Grandchildren)

To those of us who have children in our lives, whether they are our own, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or students... here is something to make you chuckle.

Whenever your children are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to His own children.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve.

And the first thing he said was "DON'T!"

"Don't what?" Adam replied.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit." God said.

"Forbidden fruit ? We have forbidden fruit? Hey Eve, we have forbidden fruit!

"No Way ! "

"Yes way! "

"Do NOT eat the fruit! " said God.

"Why? "

"Because I am your Father and I said so! " God replied, wondering why He hadn't stopped creation after making the elephants.

A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break and He was annoyed!

"Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit? " God asked.

"Uh huh," Adam replied.

"Then why did you? " said the Father.

"I don't know," said Eve.

"She started it! " Adam said.

"Did not! "

"Did too! "

"DID NOT! "

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed.

**BUT THERE IS REASSURANCE IN THE STORY!**

If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself. If God had trouble raising children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.
2. Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.
3. Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young.
4. Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
5. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.
6. We childproofed our homes, but they are still getting in.

**ADVICE FOR THE DAY:** Be nice to your kids. They will choose your nursing home one day.

### AND FINALLY:

If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: "Take two aspirin" and "keep away from children"!!!!!!



# Happy Birthday



We would like to wish

Win G (4<sup>th</sup>)

Linda C (12<sup>th</sup>)

Joan S (16<sup>th</sup>)

Se (31<sup>st</sup>)

X (31<sup>st</sup>)

a Very Happy Birthday  
with love from all at Trinity.



The editor would like to make it clear that the sentiment expressed aside in no way reflects a personal opinion of the attributes of the excellent Scottish breakfast dish referred to therein!!

The precise origins of this cartoon are not known so it is hoped that any copyright infringement will be accepted as unintentional.

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 30th January.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 21st January*

Recorder Editor : e-mail : [editor@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:editor@trinity-urc.org.uk)

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

## prayer page

Welcome to the Evangelism Year of

**Vision4Life**  
Transforming the church

an initiative of



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2011

Almighty God, we are so good at talking,  
we excel at holding meetings and taking minutes.  
Forgive our tendency for endless words.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,  
turn our words into actions,  
serving others as you also served.

Forgive us when we sit back in the armchairs of our comfortable world,  
watching others in crisis and pain.

Lord, help us to engage our faith,  
to be involved,  
not standing at a distance,  
but in participation with our neighbours,  
that we may truly be your Church,  
kneeling before our communities with humility and compassion:  
supporting the vulnerable,  
seeking the lost,  
searching out the lonely,  
welcoming the stranger,  
with your transforming love. Amen

*Eunice Attwood, Vice President of the British Methodist Conference 2010/11  
from The Methodist Prayer Book*

### Wisdom and folly

God, give me grace to suffer fools gladly, but not folly;  
give a sharp edge to my mind, but not to my tongue;  
let me cut quickly through the undergrowth of verbiage but hurt no life on the way;  
let me be quick to seize an argument, but slow to expose an opponent;  
for Christ's sake, who alone is both truth and love.

© Oliver Tomkins – Asking God

Father God, at the start of this new year ...  
give us the courage to make life-enhancing resolutions and to keep them;  
give us the perseverance to love those we find difficult;  
give us the awareness to welcome and include those we don't yet know well;  
and strengthen our commitment to follow Jesus, our Saviour, in whom all  
things are possible. Amen.

