

If we have food and clothing we will be content with these. [1 Timothy 6:8]



January 2012

The Recorder

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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,

Happy New Year

A heartfelt and sincere greeting – but is it a realistic hope and expectation for 2012? We live in a period of economic constraints and many of us are feeling the pinch in one way or another. Pensions do not go as far as they used to. Investment income has taken a knock. Unemployment or job insecurity is part of our own and our families' experience. If we think that our happiness is proportional to our income then we may be genuinely pessimistic about what this new year holds for us and for others. Even if we wouldn't make such a direct connection, we may feel, despite ourselves, that life cannot be as happy or satisfying when 'need' is lurking at our doors.

Such thinking prompted me to turn to our enormous 'Analytical Concordance to the Bible' which was presented to Bernie by the United Society for Christian Literature when he was in ministerial training in the early 1970's. It has about 311,000 references, 1,400 pages and is a hard back book of large proportions. The flyleaf tells me that it cost £4.95! That in itself says it all in terms of price rises and what you might get for your £, then and now. The price may be way out of date, but the contents are not. And it was that that I was looking up: 'content'. Not as in the contents of the book, but as in, 'Am I content with what I have?'

There are six different Greek and Hebrew phrases that are generally translated into English as 'To be content'. Two of these relate to the issues outlined in my first paragraph. All of them are in the New Testament. The Biblical references are: Luke chapter 3, verse 14; Philippians chapter 4, verse 11; 1 Timothy chapter 6, verse 8 and Hebrews chapter 13, verse 5. I suggest that you look them up and read them for yourselves. They are remarkably consistent in the wisdom they offer. It is wise advice, although if it had always been taken literally we might never have had Trade Unions and all the good they have done in getting fair pay for working people, which is not to say that all their actions have been or are good. But that's another letter for another time!

So, good advice from John, Paul and the writer to the Hebrews. But as often is the case, it is Christ's words in the Gospels that most encourage and guide me as to how to shape my own reactions to life-situations, such as being concerned about how much money is going to be coming in. He does not tell us to 'be content'. But he does tell us to have faith, and not to worry.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds ... consider the lilies of the field ... will God not much more clothe you – you of little faith? ... your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Read the whole passage in Matthew chapter 6, verses 25 – 34. Is Jesus hopelessly romantic and unrealistic? No, and again, no. He knows that true happiness comes from putting God's concerns first and trusting Him to give us what we really need.

So do that, and have a Happy New Year come what may, rich in God's blessings,



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January Services

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

Jan 1		New Year's Day celebration with Holy Communion
Jan 8		Morning worship
	3.30	Prayer circle, at 20 Knights Templar Way
Jan 15		All age worship
Jan 22		Morning worship
	6.30	United Service at All Saints, Choral Evensong for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Jan 29		Morning worship
	4.00	Praise service

Rotas for January

Not included in this version

What's on in January



Monday 16th January 8pm Quiz Evening. Hostess: Barbara Macleod

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 10th Jan	New Year Party
Tuesday 17th Jan	Around Britain
Tuesday 24th Jan	David (1) Shepherd boy and Courtier
Tuesday 31st Jan	AGM. Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Diary Dates - January to March

Event	Time and date	Venue
<u>January</u>		
Prayer Circle for Healing	Sunday 8th 3.30pm	20 Knights Templar Way
Women's' Meeting Christmas Party	Tuesday 10th 2.30pm	
Coffee Morning	Saturday 14th	
Church meeting	8 pm, Tuesday 17th	Sanctuary
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	18th – 25th	
Coffee Morning	Saturday 28th	
Elders' meeting	8 pm, Tuesday 31st	Lower School Room
<u>February</u>		
John Danso – Racial Justice Advocate	Morning Worship Sunday 12th	
Elders Meeting	8pm Tuesday 28th	Lower School Room
Pantomime	Fri 10th (time to be advised)	Sanctuary
Pantomime	Sat 11th (time to be advised)	Sanctuary
<u>March</u>		
Women's World Day of Prayer Service	2.30pm Friday 2nd	All Saints Parish Church
Service for Healing	4pm Sunday 4th	Sanctuary
A.G.M & Church meeting	8 pm, Tuesday 13th	Lower School Room
Elders' meeting	8 pm, Tuesday 27th	Lower School Room
5th Brigade	9.30 – 12midday Sat 31st	

Not included in this version

1 Dec 2011

Churches in Cumbria to share ministers and buildings



Sharing ministers, some services and buildings, but not necessarily the sacrament, is the goal of a new agreement between three churches in Cumbria, UK, the BBC reported.

Methodist, United Reformed and Anglican leaders have described it as "historic", creating what they hope will be the first ecumenically united county.

The Bishop of Carlisle, Rt Rev James Newcome, said a "huge amount" of work would be needed.

He believes the county is best placed for such an agreement because it has distinct boundaries - unlike many other parts of the country - which are the same for each of the three churches involved.

The Declaration of Intent is supported by the other five main Christian denominations in Cumbria - Roman Catholic, Salvation Army, Baptist, Quaker and Church of Scotland - who will be at the signing ceremony.

Rev Richard Church, Moderator of the North West Synod of the United Reformed Church, said: "We have always been passionate about the visible unity of the church. We are so encouraged that in Cumbria this dream is being brought closer to accomplished reality."



Are you ready for Fairtrade Fortnight?

**27 February
to
11 March 2012**

ZIMBABWE

Severe water shortages in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare, have left local communities scavenging for water and in fear of disease.

Most of the city's suburbs have run dry, leaving residents that have gone months without water trying to get what they can from unprotected wells, Zimbabwe's newspapers have reported.

Harare communities fear water shortages could spark a fresh cholera outbreak. Council chiefs say the water crisis is a result of aged infrastructure, pipe leakages and demand that has out-stripped supply. CWM's contact living in Harare, Lucky, said people are worried there could be another cholera epidemic if conditions don't improve.

"We are having serious water shortages. We have had to borrow water from the neighbours, but we haven't had electricity on a daily basis since last week either so we cannot pump the water when the power is not on. Since last Wednesday we haven't had running water from the tap until now. The government is saying there are not enough chemicals left to purify the water. We are not sure what is happening."

Wells, costing up to US\$400 to dig, have now become popular in most suburbs, but those without access to a neighbour's well are often forced to find unprotected wells for their supply. Unprotected wells are wells that have not been properly fenced off and covered to ensure they are not contaminated by rain water or flooding.

Lucky added: "We have heard that in some areas, people are not having gatherings because they are worried that diseases like cholera could spread. Some people are not even attending things like weddings or funerals because of this. Those going to funerals are going on the last day when the body has been buried because they are concerned about the spread of disease. They fear there may be outbreaks."

Zimbabwe news website, Newsday, said the water crisis has created a cholera scare reminiscent of the 2008 era when an estimated 6,000 people contracted the disease, with hundreds succumbing to the pandemic. Water director Christopher Zvobgo, in a document entitled "Inadequate Supply of Water in Harare", said demand has outstripped supply. © CWM

Salaam. Shalom. Peace

Especially this year with the world reeling from the demonstrations, revolutions, economic turmoil and natural disasters let us return to the meaning of Christmas and be determined to bring life in all its fullness to everyone in God's world.

When the song of the angels is stilled
and the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home
and 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 proclaim liberty to the oppressed,
to bring peace to the people.
Salaam. Shalom. Peace

[author unknown]

But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed!

[1 Corinthians 15:51 NLT]

World Leprosy Day is celebrated in over 100 countries on the last Sunday in January. This year, on **29 January 2012**, Ernesto and his family feature in our campaign as The Leprosy Mission focuses attention on leprosy and the consequences it has on the lives of those affected. We are concentrating our efforts this year on Cabo Delgado province in Mozambique, which has one of the highest prevalences of leprosy in Africa. It was leprosy that brought Ernesto and Fatema together, resulting in marriage and the birth of their beautiful daughter, Aurora. They met at a self-care group in Cabo Delgado, where they both received help and advice about leprosy, as they knew very little about the disease. Ernesto now has a job operating milling equipment and has joined a Government run school for adults where he is training to be a teacher.



Teaching people self-care enables them to prevent further disabilities caused by leprosy. The disease is cured with multidrug therapy - a combination of drugs administered for up to one year. Patients still need to be carefully monitored, as complications can arise. We feel called to work with those who face social exclusion and for whom the loss of home, work, spouse or marriage prospects is a daily reality. These are tragedies that The Leprosy Mission sees time and again in its life-changing work and projects.

Please join us in helping to transform lives in Mozambique through prayer and by raising funds for The Leprosy Mission's work. Details are available from your church representative or online at www.worldleprosyday.org.uk

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Some of us have problems hearing in church. We have come up with 10 commandments. The first 8 are for everyone and anyone who ever speaks, prays, reads the Bible, gives notices, does a drama or does anything else in worship that involves speaking and needing to be heard. The last 2 are for those of us who are hard of hearing

1. SPEAK CLEARLY
2. DON'T DROP YOUR VOICE AT THE END OF A SENTENCE
3. SPEAK SLOWER THAN YOU WOULD IN NORMAL CONVERSATION (but not artificially slow)
4. USE THE MICROPHONE
5. SPEAK STRAIGHT INTO THE MICROPHONE
6. SPEAK NORMALLY INTO THE MICROPHONE, THERE IS NO NEED TO RAISE YOUR VOICE TO REACH PEOPLE AT THE BACK
7. DON'T SPEAK TO YOUR TOES
8. BE CONFIDENT THAT WE ALL REALLY WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, and please don't be offended if we give you feedback that we could not hear you.
9. TELL THE SOUND DESK WHEN THE LOOP IS NOT WORKING
10. BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO TELL SOMEONE THAT YOU COULD NOT HEAR THEM, and suggest what would make it better next time.

The United Reformed Church ends 19-year boycott of Nestlé

On Friday afternoon – 25 November 2011 – the United Reformed Church (URC) ended its 19-year boycott of Nestlé products when its Mission Council voted to end the ban. The decision was a result of Nestlé's listing on the FTSE4Good Index under their breast milk substitute (BMS) category in March this year. The URC has actively supported the campaign to boycott Nestlé products over the past 19 years, due to concerns for the health of babies and the unethical way in which Nestlé has marketed its breast-milk substitutes in poorer countries.

Commenting on this historic decision, Ms Melanie Smith, past-convener of the Nestlé working group of the URC said: "The URC believes that our boycott has been effective in getting Nestlé to rethink its marketing strategies of breast-milk substitutes in poorer countries. Its listing on the FTSE4Good Index demonstrates good faith and is, we hope, a first step on its journey to becoming fully compliant with the International Code on the marketing of breast-milk substitutes."

Mr Richard Nunn, convenor of the URC Investment Committee said: "We're pleased that, as the first company listed under FTSE's new breast-milk substitute category, Nestlé has signalled its willingness to become more open and transparent about its reporting and management systems related to its marketing practices in higher risk countries. He added: "This sets a good precedent for other companies in this sector, and the URC looks forward to working with the FTSE and other agencies to review the outcome of the verification assessment of Nestlé's management practices in India and Zambia and to monitor Nestlé's compliance with FTSE BMS criteria in other regions of the world next year.

In agreeing to rescind the boycott of Nestlé products, Mission Council noted that Nestlé's listing on the FTSE4Good index only represents the first step in the process of assessing the company's compliance with FTSE criteria and the International Code. The Mission Committee of the URC has therefore been tasked with monitoring Nestlé's verification process and reporting back to the Mission Council in 2012. Should Nestlé be delisted from the FTSE4Good Index, then Mission Council has the authority to reinstate the boycott.

However, Mike Brady, Campaigns and Networking Coordinator at Baby Milk Action, the campaigning group which has drawn attention to the effects of Nestlé's practice of marketing its baby formula in developing countries, said 'Nestlé's ongoing violations of the international baby food marketing requirements mean that it would not pass the relevant criteria for inclusion in FTSE4Good at the time this was referenced by the Assembly Resolution in July 2010. Unfortunately, the criteria were weakened in September 2010 by FTSE with the express purpose of bringing baby food companies into the Index even while violations continue.'

The Methodist Church took a similar step in 2006 to that now taken by the URC. The Ethical Investment Advisory Group of the Church of England continues to engage with Nestlé amongst other firms.

Reports for Church AGM

Once again the AGM is approaching. Everyone leading a Trinity group is asked to prepare a report of their activities to be incorporated into the book of reports. At the time of writing I am not aware that anyone has volunteered to take on the task of compiling these reports, so I assume I will be doing them as usual!! Please get them to me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. [\[editor@trinity-urc.org.uk\]](mailto:editor@trinity-urc.org.uk) Do not leave it until the last minute!! I must have them no later than 12 February, so that we can publish them in advance of the AGM and not get bogged down with Recorder preparation at the same time.

Angus



Happy Birthday



We would like to wish

Win G (4th)

Linda C (12th)

Joan S (16th)

Seraya (31st)

Xavier (31st)

a Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.

Chiltern Area Newsletter - November 2011 *(edited - continued from last month)*

Celebrating the URC's 40th anniversary in 2012

We hope to hold an Area-wide event in the latter part of 2012 to involve all our 16 URC and LEP churches. More information will follow in the Spring.

Joint Working – Burnham, Iver, Deanway United (Chalfont St Giles)

Exploration of a possible joint sharing arrangement is continuing.

Deployment – a fairer share of stipendiary ministers across the Synod

The November Synod endorsed the work done so far by a Synod working party to review how stipendiary ministry may be more fairly shared across the Synod and in our six Areas. The next stage is for each Area Committee and the Synod working party to do some work on this, and ministers and churches will soon be consulted.

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

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

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

prayer page

Persistent God,
thankfully the signs of life are all around me,
contributing to my growth and well-being.
Now I am being lifted up,
Whatever the waste land, there's always something growing.
Like a scrawny shrub I cling to God, the Rock,
and will not be shaken.

URC Prayer Handbook 2000-2001

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2012



The time is now

Now is the time:
not for suspicion but for acceptance,
not for envy but for sharing,
not for isolation but for welcoming,
not for destruction but for regeneration,
not for hurt but for healing,
not for death but for life.

Timeless One,
may our numbered days
keep pace with our neighbours,
creating relevant and caring communities
ripe with justice and hope.

Janet Lees – URC Prayer Handbook 2008

Prayer for Spiritual Revival

Disturb us, Lord, when
we are too well pleased with ourselves,
when our dreams have come true
because we have 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.

Sir Francis Drake (1540 - 1596)