

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30)



*January 2013*

# *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

What might 2013 hold for us? There are some things we can be fairly certain about, but much is totally unknown. Standing at this vantage point, looking ahead to a whole new year, Moses came to mind. Do you recall the episode when, at the end of his life God tells him to climb Mount Nebo and view the land of Canaan? You can read it in Deuteronomy 32:49.

Moses was not going to be able to go with them into this new country, because, as he says rather sadly in 31:2, "I am now one hundred and twenty years old. I am no longer able to get about, and the Lord has told me, 'You shall not cross over this Jordan.'" So Moses was not going to go himself, but he drew on all his hard earned wisdom and experience of God to prepare the people he loved for the challenges ahead. Perhaps he has something to say to us as we prepare to step into the, as yet, unspoilt and uncharted future.

What he says, in a nutshell, is this, "Choose life."

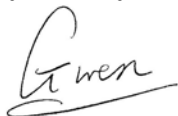
Moses set before the people two alternative paths. One path would be forged by loving God, walking in his ways and doing his will. That path, Moses said, would lead the community to thrive and prosper, to multiply and be secure for generations to come. The other path would be shaped by turning away from God, being led astray and serving other gods, and would lead them to death and adversity, with no long-term future for their community.

Ten years ago I happened to be using some daily notes which commented on this passage. The words must have rung true and raised some interesting questions for me, because I noted them down in the frontispiece to my Bible and have just rediscovered them. The commentator was a man called John Morrow, and he wrote his comments under the heading, 'Clear Choice'.

*Our first reaction to this passage might be that it is simplistic: 'Trust God and ... enjoy long life and prosperity; turn away... and perish.' Jesus lived a life based on love of God and his neighbour and ended up on a cross at thirty years old! But there is a sense in which it is not that different from Jesus' parable of the two houses. The way of truth, integrity and love may indeed be the way of the cross but it is also the way to life and purpose and fulfilment for both individuals and communities. It is the only way to build right relationships and peace.*

*This is a special moment in the history of the people of Israel where a clear choice is required of them. What is especially interesting in this passage is that it speaks about a decision which a whole community has to make. Of course that is made up of many personal decisions, but it is also about a corporate discernment, which requires the shared insights of many to be pooled together as well as an openness to the Spirit of God."*

My hope and prayer for our church in 2013 is that we will rightly discern Christ's path for us and follow it unafraid. Let Moses have the last word (32:47), "This is no trifling matter for you, but rather your very life ..."



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## January Services

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

Theme for January: Beyond the Boundaries

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| Jan 6  | Holy Communion, led by Revd Mike Wallace  |
| 3.30   | Prayer circle   |
| Jan 13 | Morning worship   |
| Jan 20 | All age worship   |
| 6.30   | United Service at St James, Downley, for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity |
| Jan 27 | World Leprosy Day Service led by Bill Hewis of The Leprosy Mission              |
| 4.00   | Praise service  |

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### Rotas for January

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in January



Monday 28th January 7 for 7.30pm  
New Year Party

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 8th Jan New Year Party  
 Tuesday 15th Jan Quiz  
 Tuesday 22nd Jan Favourite Hymns  
 Tuesday 29th Jan AGM. Bring & Buy



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*

## Diary Dates

Event	Date and Time	Venue
Vision 20/20 prayer meeting	Wednesday 2nd 9.30am	Sanctuary
Prayer Circle for Healing	Sunday 6th 3.30pm	Lower School Room (LSR)
Wycombe Homeless Connections starts	Monday 7th	Sanctuary
Church meeting	Tuesday 15th 8.00pm	LSR
Service for the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity"	Sunday 20th 6.30pm	St. James' Church, Downley
Elders' meeting	Tuesday 29th 8.00pm	LSR

January 2013						
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		

*See page 7 for advance information for February to June*

## Not included in this version

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### Womens' Meeting

The Women's meeting members recently decided to make a donation to the South Bucks Hospice Butterfly appeal for the building of their new hospice and so have purchased a 'paver' in the butterfly walk which will be at their new hospice when they move from Pusey House on Amersham Hill. The inscription on the paver will read GOD IS LOVE TRINITY URC and a copy of the certificate is on the notice board just inside the west entrance

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### Gift Aid Changes

1. Gift Aid is a Government scheme, whereby, if you pay at least Basic Rate Tax, on any income from which you give to the Church, the Government will return that tax, increasing the giving by 25%. The Government provides about £5,000 of the church's annual income (on giving of about £20,000), in this way.
2. 32 members of the congregation give in this way, having signed Gift Aid forms. One of the changes, from April 2013, is to that only the new specified form (making the qualification clearer) will be valid. Would those members please sign and return, to me, the new form.
3. Perhaps, newer members of the congregation, reading this and the wording of the new form, will realise that they, too, would qualify and wish the Church to benefit, in this way. If so, please sign the form and return it, to me. [Details as to how that £5,000 is achieved is known only to me; and it is obviously important to maintain this source by encouraging additional contributors, as older members cease to qualify. One can quit the scheme, at any time, or, simply, stop giving.] Please join us, if you can.
4. Tax is also reclaimed on occasional giving, in suitably worded envelopes. The other change is that that wording will no longer be required.

*Tony H*

Gift Aid Secretary

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### Reports for Church AGM

Another year has passed - so once again the AGM approaches. Everyone leading a Trinity group is asked to prepare a report of their activities to be incorporated into the book of reports. Please get them to me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. [[editor@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:editor@trinity-urc.org.uk) or on paper] Do not leave it until the last minute!! I must have them no later than 3rd March, so that we can publish them in advance of the AGM.

*Angus*

## ZIMBABWE

What's your name? Pardon. Sorry, what is your name, PARDON!!!! My name is Pardon. Pardon likes his name, his mother liked the word too but did not know what it meant. It has got him into a few tricky situations. With the self confidence he has gained recently he can usually defuse any awkward moments.

Planing wood is a skill that was new to Pardon who has received training as part of Christian Aid partner, Silveira House's overall goal of reducing poverty through the creation of self-employment. By giving practical skills to young people and the unemployed they can become self reliant and play a full part in wider society.

The carpentry training gave practical training and initial start up tools and materials. By selling the pieces he has made, he can buy more wood to expand the business.

Pardon has a daughter Melissa and wants the best future for her, as fathers do. With the profit from his carpentry skills he has been able to open a flea stall in the local market in Nyamapanda, a growth town on the Zimbabwe/Mozambique border. He and Melissa's Mum live above a tuck shop in the rapidly expanding area and she looks after the stall while he planes and hammers away.

With other members of the group he has attended HIV training. When asked what he had learnt from the course he said that he now realizes how wrong it was to stigmatise HIV positive family members or fellow workers. By completing the training he understood much more about the virus and how medication means those infected can live long lives. The programme's objective is to mitigate the effects of HIV and AIDS through the promotion of good nutrition as well as sound health and hygiene practices.

Pardon's energy and commitment to the groups was infectious. As Chairperson of the carpentry group he is forever looking for new ideas and training. The dedication of the Silveria House trainers means that this project is making a real difference and allowing Nyamapanda to grow economically, which must be good for its inhabitants.

## JAMAICA

### **A prayer from Jamaica (slightly adapted)**

Gracious and compassionate God,  
faithful to all your promises,  
supplier of our needs,  
may we rejoice in you, and never underestimate  
the value of all that you afford us;  
nor the usefulness of the endowments you give  
for the realization of your purposes.  
May we never so take for granted  
the gifts your bounteous grace provides  
as to become victims of the callousness  
that produces an abundance of waste.  
And save us, we ask you, from becoming  
purveyors of the careless and irresponsible disposal of the waste we produce.

*author unknown*

## Diary Dates - February to June

Event	Date and Time	Venue
<b>February</b>		
Anne Sardeson – “What happens when the minister retires”?	Saturday 23rd 10.00am	Sanctuary
Elders Meeting	Tuesday 26th 8.00pm	LSR
<b>March</b>		
Women’s World Day of Prayer Service	Friday 1st 10.30am	Salvation Army Citadel, The Avenue, Castlefield
AGM & Church meeting	Tuesday 19th 8.00pm	Sanctuary
Elders meeting	Tuesday 26th 8.00pm	LSR
5th Brigade	Saturday 30th 9.30am	Church buildings
Easter Sunday	Sunday 31st 10.30am	Sanctuary
<b>April</b>		
Elders Meeting	Tuesday 30th 8.00pm	LSR
<b>May</b>		
Simon Fairnington’s presentation of John’s Gospel.	Saturday 4th 6.00pm	Sanctuary
Pentecost Service	Sunday 19th TBA	HW Town Centre
Christian Aid Week	Sunday 12th to Sat 18th	
Church Meeting	Tuesday 21st 8.00pm	LSR
Rebecca Harding & Neil Cooper’s Wedding	Saturday 25th TBA	Sanctuary
Elders’ meeting	Tuesday 28th 8.00pm	LSR
<b>June</b>		
Songs of Praise on the Rye	Sunday 23rd 3.30pm	The Rye, High Wycombe
Elders Meeting	Tuesday 25th 8.00pm	LSR
5th Brigade	Saturday 29th 9.30am	Church Buildings



Are you ready for Fairtrade Fortnight?

**25 February  
to  
10 March 2013**

## CALLING ALL MEMBERS: OLD ... AND NEW

As we begin this New Year the elders would like to ask everyone who is part of Trinity to commit to doing your best to help our church move forward strongly. Each one of you is needed. Everyone has a part to play.

There are two vital things in particular that we hope to strengthen through greater participation: Church Meeting and Sunday Worship.

### CHURCH MEETING

Most of you are aware that we now only have just under a year left until Gwen retires. Our membership is such that we will not be fully scoped for our next minister. We will have to share a minister with another church and even this could take some time. We, Elders are quite concerned that this will require full and frank discussions at our church meetings which as most of you will know are not well attended for a number of reasons. On some occasions we have barely been quorate (i.e. 20% of church membership present).

To that end we would like to consider changing the time and day of our church meetings if only for a trial period. The Elders feel that having a church meeting after morning worship may be the way forward. Many other churches have their meetings after the service to encourage better attendance. After all, when we all became members attendance at church meeting was a promise we all undertook. This will be discussed at our church meeting on Tuesday 15th January 2013, so we ask that you do your utmost to attend, if you are able. If you cannot attend but have an idea of how we can increase our numbers at church meeting please let me or your Elder know. Please consider your church meeting, prayerfully.


We also want to invite those of you who are not formally members of the United Reformed Church but are, or are becoming, very much part of our church at Trinity to think and pray seriously about taking the formal step of membership. This important step confirms you in your Christian faith and gives you the right to speak and vote at Church Meetings. We believe that the more who participate in this way the better the Holy Spirit can guide our decisions. Gwen or your Elder will be happy to answer any questions you have about membership. If you believe God is leading you to look into this, please do so.

Our church constitution says this: *Key expectations of membership are:*

1. *A confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour;*
2. *A resolution to live day by day according to Christ's teaching;*
3. *Regular attendance at Sunday worship, Communion service and the Church Meeting;*
4. *A willingness to uphold the honour, discipline, work and worship of the Church by giving gifts of time, talent and means.*

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

Faithful and regular attendance at Sunday worship is one of the promises we make as members. We realise that these days many people are often away visiting relatives or having a holiday; whilst others are not well enough to attend. We simply wish to encourage members and all who are part of the church to give the highest priority to joining worship when health permits and when you are at home. This is an important part of honouring God in our lives. The encouragement your presence gives to others cannot be overstated, and each of us gains ourselves from regular, habitual participation in worship.

 on behalf of the Elders.

A date for your diary: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2013 with Anne Sardeson: Training Officer for Thames North Synod: to discuss leadership in a faith community as the numbers of Ministers decreases.





# Happy Birthday



We would like to wish

Win G (4<sup>th</sup>)  
Barbara R (9<sup>th</sup>)  
Linda C (12<sup>th</sup>)  
Joan S (16<sup>th</sup>)  
Seraya (31<sup>st</sup>)  
Xavier (31<sup>st</sup>)

a Very Happy Birthday  
with love from all at Trinity.

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## Kitchens

1. A messy kitchen is a happy kitchen and this kitchen is delirious.
2. No husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes.
3. A husband is someone who takes out the trash and gives the impression he just cleaned the whole house.
4. If we are what we eat, then I'm easy, fast, and cheap.
5. A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.
6. Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.
7. Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.
8. A clean house is a sign of a misspent life.
9. Help keep the kitchen clean - eat out.
10. Countless number of people have eaten in this kitchen and gone on to lead normal lives.

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

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

# prayer page

At the beginning of this New Year, you are invited to use this prayer page of images rather than words, as God leads you. May you be blessed through your prayers and in turn be a blessing to others.

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