

"All things are possible to the person
who believes"

[Mark 9: 23]



January 2014

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 place to belong

Spirituality - Prayer - Community - Welcome

One of my favourite quotes is from a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins, which is usually read on New Year's Eve. I have found it to be of great help in the darkest times of my life and I feel strongly a need to share it with you.

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God, that shall be better to you than any light, and safer than a known way".

Gwen phoned me this morning as they were driving away from the manse on the road to Southampton and pastures new. We will miss her. I think Gwen has been one of the most valued and liked ministers we have had in my 32 years at Trinity. I know that we are all very wary of the next steps to be taken, but if you can stand back and look at all that we have achieved, and not just in the last seven years, you will see, as I do, a very attractive prospect for those ministers seeking a new calling. Just sit and read our Church Life Review again if you are unsure.

We must now go forward into the new year in faith. Gwen has nurtured and prepared us well for the next steps and we must go forward in respect of all we achieved so far. We have enjoyed several different ministers at Trinity, each one expanding and challenging us. So will the next one.

As most of you will know by now I am hoping to move from High Wycombe in the new year to start another chapter of my life. I know the timing isn't great but this has been on my mind for a few years now and with the arrival of my grandson, James, I feel the timing is right for me.

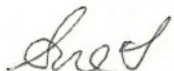
Trinity will always be home and all other churches will be measured by it. You have nurtured, loved and protected me through all the good and bad times in my life. I truly believe these are all qualities that will stand you in good stead for what lies ahead.

You all have different talents, gifts and skills just as all our past ministers have, which make and mould us in to the family that is Trinity URC, High Wycombe. I hope you will consider prayerfully what your next role at Trinity will be. We need more Elders, not just to relieve the burden of five people doing the job that eight people should be doing, but because it is an honour and joy to minister to your Christian family. The rewards are numerous.

So, step out, into the New Year in faith. Put your hand not only into Gods hands but also into those of your dear friends at Trinity.

Although it will be challenging, I wish you all a very exciting and wonderful new year.

God bless



Minister :

Church Secretary : Mrs Sue Saunders,

e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

January Services

Morning Worship at 10:30am

- Jan. 5 Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Mike Wallace
- Jan. 12 All Age Worship led by Alan Yates
- Jan. 19 Morning Worship led by Pete Montague
- Jan. 26 Morning Worship led by Habib Nader who will explain the Mission of the Anglican Church that Andrew Winton was a part of when he was on a six months placement in St Vincent

(Please note All Age Worship is on the second Sunday this month)

Rotas for January

Not included in this version

World Leprosy Day is on 26th January. See page 13 for a short article on this



What's on in January



Monday 20th January at 10.30am

New Year Quiz (*Hostess - Lesley Bogart*)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 7th Jan

New Year Party

Tuesday 14th Jan

Something to Celebrate: The calling of Matthew

Tuesday 21st Jan

The River Thames (3)

Tuesday 28th Jan

AGM. Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Diary Dates

Event	Day	Date	Time	Venue
Communion Service led by Revd. Mike Wallace	Sunday	5th	10:30	Sanctuary
Churches Together in HW meeting	Tuesday	7th	19:30	St Augustines
Elders meeting	Wednesday	8th	20:00	LSR
Coffee Morning	Saturday	11th	10:30	LSR
All Age Worship + Traidcraft stall after the service	Sunday	12th	10:30	Sanctuary
Vision 20/20 Prayer meeting	Wednesday	15th	09:30	Sanctuary
Morning Worship followed by Church Meeting	Sunday	19th	10:30	Sanctuary
Service for the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity"	Sunday	19th	TBC	TBC
Coffee Morning	Saturday	25th	10:30	LSR
Morning Worship	Sunday	26th	10:30	Sanctuary

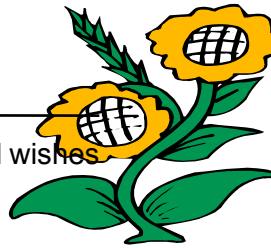
January 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Not included in this version

Bill Frame (now retired) sends his greetings to all who remember him. He and Jane Anne will be remaining in Yorkshire in retirement.

Ladies who do the flower rota - you know who you are. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year. Thank you for all your support.

Ellen xx



The Winning wishes to express her thanks to all who help on the coffee rota, and wishes all a Happy New Year.

Trinity Bookworms meet on Wednesday 15th January at 2pm [Hostess - Joan S]
We shall be discussing "The Remains of the Day" by Kazuo Ishiguro

In a very short extra-ordinary church meeting after morning worship on 15th December it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Church Life Review that Mission Strategy Group (mainly Kate, many thanks to her) have been working on for some time. It was also agreed to have a special church meeting on Tuesday 18th February 2014 at 8.00pm to give time for a thorough debate on the calling of a CRCW and the required budget. [See pages 6 & 7 for more information on this topic.] There will still be a church meeting on Sunday 19th January 2014 after morning worship which will include a review of when to hold our church meetings. Please try to attend. They are *your* church meetings, where *your* voice is heard and you are made aware of what is going on.

Thank you.

Reports for Church AGM

Those who have the unenviable task of preparing an Annual Report for the AGM should consider starting to think about it NOW. Watch this space next month for final details - but by then there will not be a lot of time left!!

**Background for February's extraordinary church meeting to discuss
Church-Related Community Worker (CRCW) and budget**

Why a CRCW?

This specialist ministry complements and is equal to Minister of Word & Sacrament in the URC. To achieve anything worthwhile the post is for five years initially. CRCWs undergo three years' training in theology and community work. They have experience in this work.

There is a limit to how much community development work a Minister can realistically do without neglecting the pastorate's needs! Gwen fulfilled lots of a CRCW's role in her work and a shared minister won't have the time (or possibly the skills?). Building relationships with those outside our church community is a vital part of our mission.

A vibrant, busy church where relationships are built between the congregation and those using it (and others in our neighbourhood who don't yet know us) is ripe for a CRCW to develop this further – we want to grow as a church! A CRCW could help us live out our agreed Vision2020 priorities more fully: (1) spirituality and prayer; (2) hospitality & diversity; and (3) community partnerships.

What would a CRCW do?

- Help us deepen and extend our community partnerships - meeting people's needs for belonging and hope.
- Help us earth our spirituality as a congregation – making it real and relevant to our context.
- Help us embrace our diversity - enriching all involved as we grow in appreciation of difference.

What has led us to this point?

1. Community Workshop led by Pete Twilley of the URC – 21 March 2009

Open workshop to explore community mission opportunities following redevelopment of sanctuary (in process at that time). Far too early to consider CRCW.

2. Follow-up Community Workshop led by Pete Twilley – 15 May 2010

Reviewed new community activities and partnerships since sanctuary redevelopment – building is beginning to be used every day of the week. Still too early to consider a CRCW.

3. Visit to CRCW project in Birmingham – 16 March 2012

Gwen, Valerie, Sue S and Kate visited the CRCW project at Weoley Castle URC, Birmingham, where a full-time CRCW works alongside a half-time minister.

4. Church meeting: 15 January 2013 - Mark Tubby, CRCW in Weoley Castle URC, Birmingham, told us about his work. A CRCW is paid centrally on a stipend. The church provides the house. A CRCW could help Trinity become an example of really good practice in community partnerships and prove our credentials of being serious about bridging the gap between Church and Community. A vote was taken to register an interest in seeking accreditation as a Church in Community, which would enable us to call a CRCW. Vote: 24 for, no abstentions. (1 member had left the meeting before this vote.)

5. Church meeting: 17 March 2013 - Mission Strategy Group reported that the CRCW Programme Sub-Committee encouraged us to make a full application. We had to provide evidence that we are seriously engaged with people in our community and want to develop that. Church meeting asked about housing and funding, and Gwen said that if we could not afford to continue we would withdraw. Church meeting was asked if they were happy to develop the application and everyone said yes.

6. Visit by CRCW Programme Sub-Committee members: 15 April 2013

Suzanne Adofo and John Campbell met with Mission Strategy members and Pastor Dawn McDowall of Church of Worldwide Mission at Trinity – we were greatly encouraged by their supportive comments.

7. Church meeting: 21 May 2013 - A completed application and supporting DVD had been submitted. The two members of the CRCW Programme Sub-Committee were very encouraging. The application was offered to anyone wanting to see it. We need to apply for funding to help pay for a CRCW and need to provide a manse.

8. **Church meeting: 16 July 2013** - Reported that we had been given permission to call a CRCW subject to providing both housing and running costs.
9. **Church meeting: 17 September 2013** - In June we were granted accreditation as a Church-in-Community and can call a CRCW once housing and funding are in place. Shortfall funding is still being sought. However, there was concern in one of the Synod committees that a third CRCW in the Synod might not be allowed (since resolved). As we will now share a minister with Cores End housing should not be a problem. Cores End would be interested in sharing the CRCW at a later stage.
10. **Church meeting: 17 November 2013** - We had been given to understand that Thames North Synod may have a third CRCW. We still need to sort out the shortfall funding but anticipate the CRCW will live in the manse (unless a minister is called first and decides to live there rather than at Cores End). The Elders had revisited the 2014 church budget and it became clear that there was some double-counting of items in the budget we drew up for our application for a CRCW.

The CRCW **running costs** for us for five years should be about **£35,375.09** (plus removal costs of about £1,000 in the first year only). *The URC centrally pays salary, NI etc. of £30,000 p.a. and we pay for housing (e.g. manse available).*

With an annual inflation rate of 2.5% the breakdown works out per year as expenses of:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total for five years
£6,730	£6,898	£7,070	£7,247	£7,428	£35,375

So how do we plan to pay for this?

(Note: these figures are included in the 2014 draft church budget, to be reviewed in March 2014)

INCOME	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total for five years
Church contribution <i>(to show as CRCW expenditure in budget)</i>	£2,900.00	£2,972.50	£3,046.81	£3,122.98	£3,201.06	£15,243.35
Grant funding sought <i>(to show as CRCW anticipated funding in budget)</i>	£3,830.00	£3,925.75	£4,023.89	£4,124.49	£4,227.60	£20,131.74
Total income	£6,730.00	£6,898.25	£7,070.71	£7,247.47	£7,428.66	£35,375.09

1. We anticipate sharing the CRCW with Cores End after an appropriate period & would expect proportion of expenses from them for that allocation of the CRCW's time. That could be from year 3.
2. Reduction in hire income would result in reduction of M&M contribution.
3. Funding enquiries are in hand.

A show of hands was made to ask Kate to carry on working on seeking funding.

Vote: All in favour. No abstentions.

It was proposed and agreed that we should give an hour to full discussion of the timing and cost of a CRCW at our next Church Meeting. A vote was taken to approve this budget to take us through the first few months of the year and then have a revised budget at AGM. Agreed, with one abstention.

If you have any queries about the above please talk to Kate Yates.

Copies of CRCW Handbook, Covenant, Trinity's application, draft budget are available to see



ZIMBABWE - Dabane Trust

Farmers in and around Dambashoko in southern Zimbabwe (where Dabane Trust works) have had a very tough year. Flash floods and hailstorms in January damaged crops, buildings and roads. After that, when they needed rain to nurture their crops, it dried up: rains in the past few months have been erratic or not come at all, leaving river levels low and some smaller boreholes dry.

However, this is exactly why Dabane Trust has been working with communities in the drought-prone area of Matabeleland South to adapt to increasingly dry conditions, including building dams, pumps and water tanks to ensure a constant supply of water.

Despite the drought, ten cooperative gardens in Dambashoko, where the organisation helped the community to build a surface water dam, managed to produce crops, including tomatoes, sugar beans and garden peas.

In addition, the Matshetshe Processing Centre (MPC), which Dabane helped the community to set up, has been a great success. Local communities use the centre to professionally process, preserve and package their produce, adding value to the crop and allowing them to access more lucrative markets.

Thelma Ntini, Dabane Trust's food production unit manager, reports that members at the centre have been baking buns, making and selling popcorn and peanut butter as well as drying mixed vegetables, tomatoes and onion for sale – and making a profit from their work. The cooperative gardens supply produce, but members of the centre are also going further afield for crops as there is high demand for processing.

The processing centre is also about to be registered with Zimbabwe's Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises. The ministry has been providing members with additional training in enterprise development and entrepreneurship.

CENTRAL AMERICA – Honduras: Elections offer chance of turning point for country with world's highest murder rate. Amnesty International issued a stark warning to the presidential candidates in the Honduran elections – commit to human rights now or risk deepening the country's humanitarian crisis.

According to the United Nations, Honduras has the world's highest homicide rate of 92 per 100,000. The country is also plagued by escalating levels of violence, insecurity and impunity. Human rights defenders are among those most at risk. Amnesty wrote to all eight presidential candidates ahead of elections in November detailing the human rights crisis in the country and urging them to set out their commitment to human rights. The letter asked them to commit to: comprehensive protection of human rights defenders; strengthening the justice system and the rule of law; eradicating impunity for human rights abuses; and ensuring justice and reparation for victims of human rights violations, in particular for those individuals and groups who are particularly vulnerable.

Before the elections, Amnesty's Americas Deputy Programme Director, Guadalupe Marengo, said:

“The human rights situation in Honduras is dire and the future of the country hangs in the balance.

“These elections could mark a turning point, and the presidential candidates must commit to concrete changes to stop the widespread human rights abuses and violations perpetrated against the people of Honduras.

“Those defending human rights face terrifying risks every day to carry out their vital work, in a society blighted by high levels of inequality, insecurity and impunity.

“We are looking forward to seeing plans and proposals that prioritise the protection of human rights and those who defend them.

“The Honduran people have a right to live their lives free from fear and threats and to count on state institutions to uphold their human rights. We hope that the presidential candidates will respond with the urgency that this situation merits. Human rights must be at the core of these elections and reflected in the plans proposed by all eight presidential candidates.” Amnesty International UK Press Release

Juan Orlando Hernández, of the ruling National party, was declared the winner with 37% of the votes, compared to 29% for Xiomara Castro of the new left wing party.

Regular readers and worshippers will be aware that the building in which we gather each week has, from time to time, expressed itself in verse. It has felt the need to do so again at the end of last November. We are grateful to Olive S who has translated the words of the building into common English for our understanding.

The Building speaks - November 2013

Four years ago I stood here newly dressed,
In pristine green and red, the very best
Building in the town and so I sought
To rest upon my laurels, for I thought
That once the upset of the change had ended
My friends would keep me safe. I'd be well tended,
And once more do my work one day in seven,
A great relief; peace at last, what heaven!

But no. What's this? People kept on coming,
The doors kept opening; my space was humming.
I'm old; I need my leisure. Can't you see,
This exercise and dancing isn't me?

Or is it? I don't know. It's rather fun.
I really feel quite sad when they've all gone,
The doors are shut, the lights go out, day ends.
I have to say goodbye to my new friends
But know that some will come again next day
To brighten up my life with song and play
Or serious talk, or feast or pantomime -
I like to see them have a happy time.

But most of all I like a winter night,
When outside in the cold the moon shines bright
And I am warm and privileged to keep
My watch upon the guests, who lie asleep.

Oh dear, I'll never learn, I must not boast,
All I can do is stand a silent host,
I hope I know my rightful place,
My walls enclose this open space
Where some come in with expectation,
And others come in trepidation.

The whole of human life meets here,
With all its joy and all its fear,
The very young, the very old,
The weak, the strong, the shy, the bold
Are welcomed in this place where prayer
Sustains the greeters in their care,
For on the first day of each week
They meet again to humbly seek
The blessing of their God, and sing
Praise to make my rafters ring.

And in it all I hear one voice
That calls upon them to rejoice,
A voice that through the week is heard
Speak many a wise and loving word
And heads all turn and smile - when
They hear that voice - for it is Gwen.

Gwen you've brought new life to me,
Brought me a new community.
To you and to friends old and new,
I promise I'll stand firm and true
Through summer sun and winter snow.
And though I'm sad to see you go,
I know that you must journey on,
I'll not forget what you have done
And may God's blessing go with you -
And stay with you, your whole life through.

[Words translated from stonespeak by Olive S]

The Last Word . . . *The following is the text of the last sermon delivered by Gwen prior to her retirement - published here at the request of some members.*

REAL GOODNESS AND REAL MERCY

INTRODUCTION

If you had to pick a story to illustrate Jesus' goodness and mercy, which would you choose?

You'd be spoilt for choice, wouldn't you? There are so many.

Jesus embodied goodness.

Jesus personified mercy.

When I first thought about this these were some of the incidents that came to my mind:

- the women caught in adultery, and how Jesus shamed her accusers and sent her away free saying, 'Nor do I condemn you. Go, and sin no more.'
- or the way he healed blind Bartimaeus or the paralysed man or had mercy on Jairus and his daughter.
- or maybe his goodness and mercy is seen most clearly in how he restored Peter after his cowardly betrayal, or how he gave Mary Magdalene a new life.

Umm - a hard choice to make.

We'll come back to that. But first - the 23rd Psalm.

PSALM 23: 5b - 6

It's the last Sunday in November and we have come to the last few lines of this lovely psalm, which begins 'The Lord is my Shepherd.'

Verses 5b-6: "you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

In our house we have a little book inherited from Bernie's Mum. It is quite old. The writer had been visited in his home by a man from Syria who spoke about the life of a shepherd in the mountains of his youth, and how their practices had changed little over the thousands of years since David watched over his flocks. About anointing the head with oil, and the cup running over, he said this:

At the end of the day the shepherd stands in the doorway of the fold and with his rod holds back the flock so that he can examine the sheep one by one. He has oil at hand, and cedar-tar for cuts and scratches. Those with injuries are treated. "And here comes one who is not bruised, but is simply worn and exhausted; he bathes its face and head with the refreshing olive oil, and he takes the large two-handled cup and dips it brimming full from the vessels of water provided for that purpose, and he lets the weary sheep drink. There is nothing in the psalm finer than this. God's care is not for the wounded only, but for the worn and weary also."

If you are feeling worn and weary please take that to heart.

How poignant it is, though, to hear those words now, when the descendants of that Syrian guest are suffering so much injury and exhaustion. May God have mercy on them.

Another commentary on this psalm has a lovely image relating to verse 6, in the context of the whole psalm. The good shepherd goes ahead through the dark valley, which has to be travelled, and in which beasts of prey are lurking to catch stragglers. The shepherd has his rod/club and staff/crook and faces the danger - and any sheep that looks up will see this and know there is protection and help. And at the rear of the flock are the shepherd's assistants, or dogs, 'goodness and mercy'.

Does that give you, as it gave me, cause to smile in amusement, but also in grateful recognition?

Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life - like faithful sheepdogs bringing up the rear, as I follow the shepherd leading out at the front.

[continued on next page]

What does goodness look like in our day? We bank with the Co-op! Like many others we chose this bank years ago because of its ethical investment practices. What a disappointment this week to hear how the chairman, Paul Flowers, has sullied not only the name of the bank but also the name of the Christian church with his alleged misconduct.

We need goodness - real goodness, goodness that is shot through and through with integrity and genuine care for the welfare of others.

Let's return to that question I posed at the start: which story from Jesus' life best demonstrates his goodness and mercy?

LUKE 23: 33 - 43

Puzzling over this I looked up the set Gospel reading for today, and found that it was the story of the crucifixion. The story that Willie has read to us.

Oh, wow, I thought. Of course. This is the supreme example of goodness and mercy.

Jesus was a good man. Although the record says that he himself rebuked a well wisher for calling him good, he was, in fact, by any standard a good man. He was robustly and bravely good. And in human terms, his goodness was responsible for his cruel death.

His goodness was rooted in a love for people that was powerful in its effectiveness and attractive to the crowd.

His goodness was independent of religious rules. Human need trumped religious convention every time, for Jesus. His life was frightening to the authorities. The precarious political balance with Rome was at risk.

His goodness was responsible for his cruel death, in human terms.

His goodness is touchingly recognised by the second criminal hanging at his side. Luke's account tells us about this profound exchange between dying men.

"This man has done nothing wrong", this criminal says of Jesus.

And then he becomes the first outsider to recognise the Christ in this pathetic human figure:

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

What an unlikely setting for world-shattering theological breakthroughs!! But that is what we have here.

And in fact, even today, we ourselves break through into new, real, deep understandings of God not sitting in comfort in our studies or lecture theatres, but in the thick of engagement with real 21st century problems and in our personal crises.

Jesus responds to the criminal with the mercy and kindness that still today can drive us to our knees in worship: 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

Paradise was a Persian word. It had been imported into Jewish thinking and language. In Persian it meant a garden, and when the Persian King summoned someone to join him in Paradise this was a very special honour as it meant walking in the garden with the king [W Barclay]

'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

For the Christian there is far more happening here at Calvary than a good man dying a cruel and unjust death.

Here we see God's absolute goodness, in Jesus, placed knowingly into the power of flawed humanity. And killed dead.

We believe that that sacrifice healed the deep alienation between flawed humanity and God, who is perfect in goodness, truth and love.

We have many ways of trying to understand this: words like redemption, atonement, substitution, salvation.

[continued on next page]

Today I would like us quite simply to use v.6 of the 23rd psalm as a window through which to view the cross. Real goodness and real mercy are here. For us.

We can know God's goodness.

We can receive God's mercy - through Jesus Christ.

OUR CALLING

And we are called by God to be agents of goodness and mercy for others.

Remember those sheepdogs, bringing up the rear?

Our world needs groups and individuals who can inject goodness and mercy into troubled lives and self-centred social structures.

Goodness that is sacrificial and forgiving.

Mercy that is inclusive and immediate.

We have people here this morning who are church - sisters, brothers, we are called by God to deliver goodness and mercy in Christ's name; to be alert and on the lookout for people who are at a place in their lives where they need friendship, care and kindness.

We have people here this morning who are active in the community - some of you clearly see the Good Shepherd out in front leading the way; some of you don't have that faith but do have a strong inner sense that motivates your commitment. Keep it up. It is important work.

All of us here this morning are individuals who need to remember that sheepdog image - in our workplaces, in our street, in our homes, in all aspects of our lives.

Goodness and mercy are not weak options for soft-hearted goody goodies!

Goodness and mercy are strong, costly, transformative values.

When we try to be agents of goodness, we also need continually to seek God's mercy for our failures.

But that's not a reason to ignore the call and the challenge - far from it.

That's the reason we can go forward with confidence.

Goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives.

CONCLUSION

And we shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

When my father was only weeks from death, although neither he nor we knew that, he asked me if I truly believed in life after death. He was himself a faithful life-long Methodist. Ill health and attending several funerals had churned up doubts and questions in his mind.

Many people today - both outside the church and in it - have similar doubts and questions.

What I said to my Dad was this: in this life I have found that Jesus' words are proved true in my own experience, time and time again. So I am content to trust Jesus also for the future.

The cross is not the final word in the Christian story. 3 days later God raised Jesus from the dead.

Goodness and mercy had the final word then.

Goodness and mercy will always have the final word.

Amen



Happy Birthday



We would like to wish

Win G (4th)

Joan S (16th)

Barbara R (9th)

Seraya (31st)

Linda C (12th)

Xavier (31st)

a Very Happy Birthday
with love from all at Trinity.



World Leprosy Day

The apostle John tells us that Jesus came so that we may have 'fullness of life' (John 10: 10). Throughout the gospels we hear of Jesus's concern for the poor and the oppressed. It is following Jesus's example that The Leprosy Mission works to not only treat people with leprosy, but take an holistic approach to their life, helping to lift them from poverty.

Leprosy-affected people face a triple blow of disease, disability and discrimination. Simply treating a person's leprosy does not change the fact they remain living in poverty. Due to disabilities incurred as a result of the late treatment of the disease and age-old stigma surrounding leprosy, earning a living often seems an impossible dream.

Without a helping hand these people, so loved by God, can be reduced to begging in order to survive.

The good news is that, thanks to your generosity, The Leprosy Mission can offer people affected by leprosy gifts of reconstructive surgery, sight-saving eye surgery, housing, a fresh water supply, schooling for their children, job training and help to start a business. In other words, everything needed to restore their dignity and enable them to be self-sufficient.

On Sunday 26 January - **World Leprosy Day 2014** - please pray for the three million people globally with irreversible disabilities as a result of the late treatment of leprosy. And, if you can, please give a gift of hope so that The Leprosy Mission England and Wales can continue its life-changing work in 11 countries across Asia and Africa.

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 26th January.
Closing date for contributions is Friday 17h January*

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

prayer page

Be strong and of a good courage: be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord they God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. [Joshua 1 v9]

Dear Lord, as Joshua heeded the assurance of your presence as he led the Israelites after the death of Moses, so we need that assurance at the beginning of a new year. Grant us strength and courage and the comfort of your fatherly presence.

Amen

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2014

At this time of New Year . . .

On those who look back at success in the past year -

Lord have mercy

On those who regret missing opportunities in the past year -

Lord have mercy

On those who cling on to the memories of the past year -

Lord have mercy

On those who welcome each new day -

Lord have mercy

On those who fear each day -

Lord have mercy

On those whose days are lonely -

Lord have mercy

On all whose diaries are full of future happy occasions -

Lord have mercy

On all whose diaries are full of work and business meetings -

Lord have mercy

On all who have no diaries and nothing to put in them -

Lord have mercy.

Lord, Creator and Sustainer as the winter days grow longer you renew the earth with signs of Spring for those who have eyes to see.

Renew your people, Lord

Lord Jesus, Saviour, from a baby born in Bethlehem you journeyed through life to Calvary and the tomb to rise to a new life on Easter Day.

Grant new life to your people, Lord.

Holy Spirit, you swept through the upper room turning fearful men to courageous leaders:

Turn your people round, Lord.



Lord, bless all those who make resolutions and forget them, look kindly on those who do not make any because they know they will not keep them.

Amen