

November 2004

The Recorder

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*An edited version of this magazine is now available on the Church Web-site.
(Personal details are NOT included.)*

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

Trinity - A Family Church

Worshipping together - Caring for one another - Sharing with others

‘A Curious Faith’

Revd. Michael Shrubsole

Minister of Trinity United Reformed Church

It seems to me that I am coming across more people in the life of the church who have a real curiosity about what their faith means to them. The signs of this come in attendance at Bible Study, at TLS LITE courses, at the new Theological Discussion Group, in conversations at Friday Café and the proposal that some of the people who come to Friday Café would be interested in attending a Christian basics course. I know that many of you also take out subscriptions for, (and I hope, use) prayer books and Scripture reading plans. And this curiosity also comes across in the general conversations I have with people.

This curiosity comes quite properly in two complimentary halves. Firstly, people are enquiring into the foundations of their faith: wanting to learn more about the Bible, about Jesus, wanting to talk about God and prayer and understand how religious belief fits into the modern world. Secondly, people are asking what their faith means for them today, what it means to be a living Christian, how can they best seek to demonstrate that they are disciples of Jesus in today’s complicated and multicultural world?

Well this makes my job all the easier! My job title in the URC is usually given as ‘Minister of Word and Sacraments’, which means that my two highest concerns should be focussed on the Word - teaching people about the Bible and what it means to them; and on the Sacraments - generally helping people to discover the sacred (=holy, =God) in their lives, and specifically doing this through the two sacraments recognised by most protestant churches - Baptism and Communion. To be a minister of the Word can seem a hard task if people don’t seem very interested. Jesus got round this by teaching in entertaining parables that caught people’s attention, and he also lived out a lifestyle that demonstrated what he would like to teach people through personal example. Well I also try to follow Jesus and discover ways of being a Minister of the Word through subtle methods as well, and often these are the best. But when Jesus’ closest disciples came to him and asked him to teach them directly he was always willing to oblige. “Teach us to pray.” they asked. “Explain to us the parable,” they requested. And Jesus always did so. Jesus was constantly trying to get people interested, to stir up in them a longing, a curiosity, to discover more about the kingdom of God. You can only really teach people who have already discovered that they want to learn. The thirst has got to be there in the first place before the drink can be offered and appreciated.

And so, as Minister of Word (and Sacraments) I want to challenge every one of you to consider for yourself what you are doing to deepen your faith. There are far, far too many people in this supposedly ‘Christian’ country of ours who think it is enough to be christened, married and buried in church, and attend a few years of Junior Church as a little child, and expect that that tiny degree of exposure to the Word of God is enough to feed and nurture them as a spiritual person through the whole of life. I don’t even think that a lifetime of hearing Sunday sermons would do very much good. How often does the sermon you hear really scratch where you are intellectually and spiritually itching at that moment? And if you want more, do ask me to teach you!

Mike

Minister :
Rev Michael Shrubsole,

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

Church Secretary:
Mrs Margaret Lewis,

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

November Services

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m.

Children of all ages meet for part of morning worship using the new 'Light Years' material from Scripture Union. Adult worship usually follows the texts of the Revised Common Lectionary.

7th November - Morning Worship with Communion.

Luke 20:27-38, Job 19:23-27, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17, Psalm 17

14th November - Morning Worship on Remembrance Sunday. Led by Mr. Alan Yates

Luke 21:5-19, Malachi 4:1-2, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Psalm 98

21st November - All-age Worship.

Luke 23:33-43, Jeremiah 23:1-6, Colossians 1:11-20, Psalm 46

28th November - Morning Worship Advent Sunday.

Matthew 24:36-44, Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14, Psalm 122

Rotas for November

Not included in this version

What's on in November



Monday 8th November - My Holiday Experiences - Barbara Macleod
(8pm. Hostess - Barbara M)

Monday 24th May - A day at Sky (satellite TV - not the Hebridean Island!)
A talk by Fiona Barber
(8pm. Hostess - José B)

WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 2nd November Quiz. Bring & Buy

Tuesday 9th November Jean & Jim Stanbury:
Slides of High Wycombe and area

Tuesday 16th November Francis Dunstan: Some unusual Cornish
Characters of his youth

Tuesday 23rd November Olivia Price: A Leisure Group

Tuesday 30th November Hymns and readings for Advent



All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom

Scrabble

Set off some mental fireworks on the
Scrabble board this month

5th and 19th November

at 2pm



Church Walk

There is no arranged Church Walk this month, but there is what appears to be an interesting walk on the Ramblers Association programme called 'Hidden delight of Loudwater'. It starts at 1:30pm from the far end of the Homebase car park (grid ref 906901). It is billed as easy-paced and 3 miles long. You would be very welcome to join it. More details from Olive S.

Not included in this version

Lectionary New Year

With the arrival of Advent Sunday on the 28th of November a new lectionary year commences. We begin a new cycle of Bible readings focussed primarily on the gospel of Matthew. If you are interested in buying any books of prayers or Bible reading notes to help you through the next twelve months, and you want to stay close to what your Minister is doing, you should look for 'Year A' resources which follow the Revised Common Lectionary and which focus on the gospel theme.

Now would be a good time to read the whole of Matthew's gospel (or listen to it on tape) from beginning to end. M.S.

Sunnybank & Trinity Youth Group . . .

November 7th Bible Quiz – Greenbelt style (Sunnybank)
November 21st Imagery and Poetry (Trinity)

Diary

CHURCH DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER

Elders Meeting - Tuesday 2nd, 7.30pm. in the Schoolroom

Church Meeting - Tuesday 16th, 8.00pm in the Schoolroom.

Property Management Committee Meeting - Tuesday 23rd, 8.00pm. in the Schoolroom

Church Theological Discussion Group - Tuesday 30th 8.00-9.30pm in the Schoolroom

Listen - Learn - Discuss - Debate.

Subject for Meeting Two: "Christmas and the virgin birth." A consideration of alternative points of view. [See Mike for further information.]

OTHER DATES

Synod Quiet Day

"What on earth are we waiting for?"

Thursday 18th November - 10.30am - 4.00pm

Queens Park URC, Harrow

Led by Revd Rachel Poolman, minister of Yardley Hastings.

See poster for details or telephone Bob Allen, 020 7799 5000.

Sikhs most prosperous religious group

British Sikhs are now enjoying greater rewards of their work ethic than any other religious group, according to the Hindustan Times.

Eight out of 10 Sikhs owns a house, considered the basic symbol of prosperity. Their success is a tribute to the hard work of the first generation and then the ever-growing economic success and educational achievement of subsequent generations, the Times said.

The figure of 82 per cent home ownership among Sikhs compares to seven out of 10 homeowners among the Christian majority. Sikhs are also as likely as Christians to hold a university degree.

A quarter of Hindus have a degree, while 16 per cent of Christians and Sikhs are educated to that level. The first ever breakdown of religious groups by the government shows that Britain has proved most receptive to ambitions of migrants.

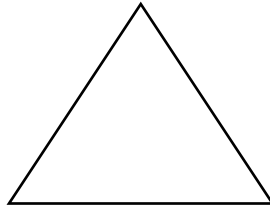
Hindu men are second only to Jews among major religious groups as likely to hold managerial posts or be top professionals. Some 45 per cent of management roles, and one in 20 Hindu men is a doctor, 10 times the percentage of the Christian majority.

The figures also show high levels of deprivation among Muslim communities. This has raised concern that some are increasingly becoming economically and culturally isolated. Almost a third of Muslims have no qualifications, the highest proportion of any other religious groups. Two-thirds of Muslim women have no job.

Trinity Theological Discussion Group

TRIANGLE

BIBLE



EXPERTS

YOU

The place of meeting of different points of view

- Point 1 - What does the Bible say?
- Point 2 - What do experts say?
- Point 3 - What do you say?

LISTEN - DISCUSS - DEBATE - LEARN - SHARE

Open your mind to a wider and deeper range of theological perspectives.

Hear a variety of points of view.

Be equipped to make your own minds up.

Take away something worthwhile for your self and for others.

Following our successful first meeting we are now planning to meet once each school half-term with a fresh theological discussion point each time. We are planning to meet on Tuesdays from 8.00 - 9.30pm. Date of Next meeting: Tuesday 30th November. Subject: 'Christmas and the virgin birth'. Photocopies of preparatory reading matter will be available from Mike a couple of weeks in advance for those who are interested.

We plan not to get too heavy with the deeper issues. For most of us this will be a first experience of dipping our toes into deeper water of theological, ethical and Biblical studies. A bit of splashing is inevitable, but we don't want anyone to choke or drown on the experience! Come and join us, it doesn't have to be a regular commitment, just come to the subjects that interest you.

Other ideas for future times of deeper study and discussion included:

- John the Baptist - who is he and part did he play?
- The role of women in the Bible from a feminist perspective.
- Why did Christianity have to split from Judaism?
- Learning more about Moslem faith.
- Learning more about other faiths.
- Science and Christian faith.
- Evolution and Creation

And of course we remain open to new ideas for discussion. Do let me know your ideas.

Mike S

Report of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church 2004

To begin with.....

I pose the question: What's the point of assembly? Many people have expressed dismay that so much money is spent on this annual gathering of the United Reformed Church. However good it is, (and it was) most of the 700 or so people, who were there representing their districts, sat patiently through many hours of business simply to raise their hand (or not) occasionally to indicate support or otherwise for the motion being proposed. Most did not speak or contribute in any other way. How could they? Even when at most a dozen speakers were lined up at the microphone to speak to a motion, time was at a premium. However, it would be totally impractical to operate in any other way with that number of delegates.

For a meeting of this size, the organisation was superb. Everything ran to time, we could all see and hear, and only the hall lighting system seemed to have a mind of its own causing some amusement and possible frustration. It seemed to have a mind of its own, and faded out the whole front bank of lights from time to time, so that the platform party found themselves plunged into semi-darkness.

It seems to me that Assembly only has point if what is discussed there is seen to touch the life of the local church. Central office works hard to communicate what happens at Assembly through 'Reform', through the 'Hotline' paper and for those with on-line facilities, there's no excuse. because so much of the Assembly business, the speeches, and photos are there to be accessed on the web-site.

I had the privilege of attending General Assembly, as a newly ordained minister, and as a representative for the Central and North London district.

1) Take pride in the United Reformed Church The URC is in the hands of some fantastic people - people with God-given gifts of vision, organisation and administration, writing and speaking. David Cornick, our General Secretary is a deep thinker, a practical theologian and a brilliant communicator. One of the semi-serious comments made was 'please could David make a video, so that all church members and friends could be inspired and challenged by what he has to say. I know we can read it, but it's not the same as hearing and seeing!!' Speakers were prepared to argue and debate, to be creative in presenting reports.

Enormous issues of future patterns of ministry, training and development, finance, and employment issues such as the disciplinary procedures for ministers are being taken seriously. The URC has members who write books, (and a department that publishes them!) and others who write inspirational prayers or produce high quality art work to accompany the re-launched Charter for Children. We have a magnificent team who champion children's work and Pilots, not to mention FURY, which is taken very seriously within the context of the wider church. Our team of Synod moderators, as speakers and leaders, are a great gift to the church.

The United Reformed Church should take pride in the fact that it is brave enough to undertake a major review of its life and work, and that it is also brave enough to close churches

2) The URC takes the Bible and worship seriously

Assembly doesn't just do business. The time spent in worship and Bible study at Assembly was significant. Approximately five hours were spent in worship, and two and a quarter hours spent in Bible study. It would have been easy to compromise on this, but for a church that specifically states in its Basis of Union that '*in the ministry of the Word, through preaching and the study of the Scriptures, God makes known in each age his saving love, his will for his people and his purpose for the world,*' we encountered God, and I was encouraged.

3) Catch the Vision

The process of 'Catch the Vision' is just that: a process - and therefore it continues. To have achieved so much in such a short space of time, gathering responses from nearly every congregation in the URC family, is significant. But there is much work still to do. A broader and deeper picture of our church is emerging, and I commend the text of David Comtek's speech to you. (It's on the web-site: www.urch.org.uk) But i think the message heard loud and clear at Assembly was 'don't stop here' Some of the thinking behind the vision is not radical enough, and we need as a church to pull together. If we take ecumenism seriously, then to speak about unity outside our walls is difficult when we are not unified inside.

[continued on page 9]

Hear from David Cornick, General Secretary: *'This is a spirit-breakingly hard mission field. But it is one to which we bring remarkable resources*

- *a huge commitment of time and lives*
- *a resilience and competence at being a minority in a majority culture which is a product of our dissenting past*
- *a creativity which sometimes allows us to catch God's moment*
- *a vibrant ecumenism which sees fellow Christians as partners not competitors*
- *a spirituality which (at its best) knows Christ and not party lines*

4) The URC looks outwards

The business of Assembly covered issues much wider than internal ones. Issues such as sexual abuse, the welfare and care of the elderly, environmental issues, the 'Commitment for life' programme, Trade Justice, the Israeli separation barrier, and a proposed TV programme about the tragic events in Hungerford in 1987. Overseas guests, representatives from other denominations, and outside speakers were all part of the Assembly programme.

In conclusion.....

In future, fewer people will attend General Assembly following a resolution passed to alter the ratio of representatives. Further changes will follow. But I return to the question I posed at the beginning; what is the point of General Assembly? To celebrate our life together, to affirm and encourage, to argue and debate, to worship and gather around the word of God. to deal with issues relating to the internal workings of the URC and to look outwards to the wider world. Maybe if *all* our meetings could be as inspirational, as wide ranging, as challenging and as encouraging, we wouldn't need general Assembly as often? Or am I just being naive.....

Sue McKenzie

(Minister at Barnet, Wood Street & Chesterfield Road URC)

Interesting trivia - another instalment

A polar bear's skin is black. Its fur is not white, but actually clear.

Elvis had a twin brother named Garon, who died at birth, which is why Elvis' middle name was spelled Aron; in honour of his brother.

Duelling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.

Donald Duck comics were banned in Finland because he doesn't wear pants.

More people are killed by donkeys annually than are killed in plane crashes.

Stewardesses is the longest word typed with only the left hand.

TYPEWRITER, is the longest word that can be made using the letters on only one row of the keyboard.

If the population of China walked past you in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

A snail can sleep for 3 years.

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first-class.

Vatican City is the smallest country in the world, with a population of 1000 and a size 108.7 acres.

HELP TO ENSURE THAT PENSION CREDIT IS GIVEN

WHERE PENSION CREDIT IS DUE

Pension Credit provides extra money for pensioners who have only a modest income. Many already claim it, but some do not and are living 'below the poverty line'.

You may feel that it is the Government's responsibility to ensure every eligible pensioner receives Pension Credit, and it has nothing to do with the Church. But Andrew Smith, - former Secretary of State for Work and Pensions admits that only two-thirds of eligible pensioners may claim Pension Credit. And that means there could be pensioners known to you who are not receiving the extra money which would help to relieve financial stress. **So please pass on this information about Pension Credit to any pensioner who might benefit from it.**

For some years, most people aged 60 or over, with a low income and savings of less than £6000 have been able to claim the full Minimum Income Guarantee. This now guarantees a weekly income of £105.45 for single people, or £160.95 if you have a partner.

The new part of Pension Credit gives extra money to those aged 65 or over if their total weekly income* is less than £144.25 for single people, or £211.50 if you have a partner. Indeed a pensioner may be able to get Pension Credit if his/her weekly income is more than these amounts if the pensioner or his/her partner:

- is a severely disabled person or
- looks after a person who is severely disabled or
- has certain housing costs e.g. mortgage interest payments.

* "Weekly income" includes pensions, certain benefits (but not Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit) and earnings from a job. It also includes a 'notional' amount for savings: i.e. not the interest actually received, but an amount calculated on the basis of £1 per week for every £500 or part of £500 over £6000 (or £10,000 for those living permanently in a care home).

If a pensioner is eligible for just a small amount of Pension Credit, it is important to claim it, because it can lead to being eligible for further help.

To claim Pension Credit: telephone **FREEPHONE 0800 99 1234**

Time out for Parents

Courses designed to build confidence and to encourage each other in parenting, through teaching, discussion and sharing of experiences.

Five themes are covered over a 6 - 8 week period:

- **what children really need**
- **developing emotional security**
- **setting loving limits**
- **keeping children safe**
- **problem solving**

Call Susie King (Wycombe District Council) on 01494 421716 for details of courses in your area. [Also see www.parenting.org.uk]

Our history

Chapter 7 of the writings of Rev Auty in 1924

OUR record has now reached the point where the past joins hands with the present — when a long line of honoured servants of God is continued in the person of a young, ardent, and forceful successor, under whose leadership we hope the later years "Congregational history" will prove not merely worthy of the earlier, but surpassing them in influence and power for good.

In January, 1920, the Church invited the Rev. George S. Auty, of Hackney College, to undertake the pastorate. He accepted, but, his college training having been interrupted by war service, he was unable to come to Wycombe till the first Sunday in July. Since then he has made his mark, both in regard to preaching ability, and energy in all departments of Church life. If a military metaphor may be allowed, it is that, with the gracious help of Mrs. Auty, he has constructed solid entrenchments of good will and esteem, from which he will be loyally followed when he goes "over the top" to attack the powers of evil that lie around.

TRINITY CHURCH BEFORE THE AMALGAMATION.

It has already been told how in 1779, during the pastorate of the Rev. John Smithson, a small body seceded from the Crendon-lane Church, and formed themselves into a distinct congregation, meeting in a building in Easton-street, and afterwards at the old Ebenezer Chapel in the same thoroughfare. This separation lasted till 1801, when Mr. Smithson's successor, the Rev. W. Miller, succeeded in reuniting the Churches,

A second secession of longer duration began in 1807, when the Rev. Andrew Horn, who had come from Cheshunt College, where he had been a tutor, to take up the ministry at Crendon Lane, withdrew after a few months' pastorate, taking with him a part of the congregation, and again Ebenezer Chapel was the meeting place of the separated body. Mr. Horn is described in Mr. Summers' "History" as "one of the young men sent into the ministry by Lady Ann Erskine after the death of the Countess of Huntingdon," and Mr. Summers suggests that "he was not fully in accord with the distinctive traditions and usages of Congregationalism, which appears to have been the real cause of separation."

An old minute book is extant, in which appears an "Agreement and Declaration" of the new Church, over the signature of the Rev. Andrew Horn himself. It is there set forth that "A Gospel Church is a society of such persons as have believed with the heart in the Lord Jesus, and have avowedly renounced the sinful customs and maxims of the world. A congregation of faithful men among whom the pure Word of God is preached and the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's duly administered — such, and such only, can have fellowship with the Father in His pardoning grace, with the Son in His redeeming love, and with the Holy Spirit in His sanctifying influences; having first given themselves to the Lord and then to each other in Christ."

The second clause of the Declaration affirms: "We acknowledge ourselves Dissenters from the Established form of religion, not on account of any difference of doctrine, but chiefly on account of Church government and certain useless ceremonies inconsistent with the simplicity becoming — the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Notwithstanding, we desire to live in fellowship with Christians of every denomination who hold the doctrines which are according to godliness."

Unfortunately the minute book referred to was not applied to its proper use in Mr. Horn's time, no entries referring to the life and work of the Church being made during his pastorate. A list of members follows the "Declaration," and from the fact that the date 1812 appears against the 21st entered on the roll it may be assumed that the seceders from Crendon Lane could not have exceeded twenty — if they were so many. The actual Church minutes began in 1835, long after Mr. Horn had retired. Mr. Summers says he certainly had resigned before 1824.

DROP IT! Is the "Debt Campaigner's Handbook, published by the Jubilee Debt Campaign.
The following is taken from the Winter 2004 edition.

World Debt Day

Groups around the UK and worldwide marked the 2004 World Debt Day on May 16 by organising events including special religious services, school assemblies, speaker meetings, fundraising events, drama performances, signing events in high streets and publicity stunts. In the UK, events organised by JDC groups gained local and national media coverage, while many were attended by MPs. Internationally, events included hundreds of special church services in Tanzania and a human chain containing Members of Parliament in Rome, where JDC co-chair Stephen Rand also spoke on Vatican Radio.

The 2004 G8 Summit Debt campaigners' hopes for the 2004 G8 summit in Georgia

- fuelled by US enthusiasm for full cancellation of Iraq's debt and reported UK enthusiasm to discuss further debt cancellation - were met by an unsatisfactory announcement by the world's richest countries. It offered only a two-year extension on the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative, a debt relief process itself severely criticised by campaigners. But the 2004 summit did open the way for serious discussion of 100% debt cancellation, which is being taken forward by US proposals at the G7 meetings in October, and - we hope - by the UK as hosts of the 2005 G8.

Four more countries get debt relief Since April, Niger, Ethiopia, Senegal and Ghana have all reached Completion Point in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, meaning that some of their debt will be cancelled. Niger and Ethiopia's debt relief had been delayed after some rich countries - including the US, Germany and Japan - disputed a proposal to offer slightly more cancellation than the World Bank's overly-optimistic projections had originally claimed would be needed. This illustrates some of the problems with HIPC: while debt relief is extremely welcome, and releases vital resources for health and education, the HIPC process is too limited, too slow, and excessively controlled by rich creditor governments.

Call for Change

March 2004 saw the launch of JDC's Call for Change campaign. Based on a new report, co-authored with WDM, JDC asked campaigners to send action cards to Gordon Brown, calling on him to fund our 'share' of the debts owed by the poorest countries to the World Bank and IMF. Based on the UK's share of voting rights at the two institutions, we calculated this would cost only £3 per person per year for the next 10 years. To date, thanks to a magnificent effort from campaigners, over 17,000 cards have been received by the Treasury. And the signs are that the campaign is having a real effect as, for the first time, ministers have conceded the desirability of 100% cancellation of World Bank/IMF debts. Watch this space for further news.

Thank You

Thanks to all of you who sent the 'What a 60 Year Old!' action cards enclosed in the last issue of Drop It!, calling for root and branch reform of the World Bank and IMF in this their 60th anniversary year. Responding to the cards, the International Development Minister Hilary Benn wrote to JDC affirming that the UK supports greater participation by developing countries at the World Bank and IMF. We are currently waiting to see whether Mr Bonn's positive words are matched by his actions at the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings in October, where he should at the very least call for candidates from outside the US and Europe to be eligible for appointment as Heads of the institutions.

Please also see the item on page 13, for an update to the above article. [Ed]

*** SUCCESS NEWSFLASH - 27 SEPTEMBER 2004 ***

GORDON BROWN AGREES TO CANCEL UK SHARE OF WORLD BANK DEBTS!

As *Drop It!* went to press, the UK announced that it will put its hand in its pocket and take action to break the logjam holding up cancellation of World Bank debts. This is a tremendous vindication of JDC's CALL FOR CHANGE campaign, demanding that the UK do just that. Well done to all who participated in the campaign!

UK Chancellor Gordon Brown announced that the UK, setting an example to the rest of the G7, will commit up to £100 million per year to pay the UK's 'share' of the debt repayments made to the **World Bank** by up to 30 of the world's poorest countries. He has also called on other countries to agree that IMF gold should be sold to fund the full write-off of these countries' IMF debts. This follows JDC's six-month **Call for Change** campaign, which called on the UK to cancel its share of poor country debts to the IMF and World Bank, after writing off as much as possible by selling IMF gold.

JDC congratulates Mr. Brown - but intends to hold him to his promise that debt cancellation will not be funded at the expense of aid budgets. Now he should take action to eliminate the harmful strings often attached to debt relief, and ensure that **all** poor countries have **all** their unpayable debts written-off. JDC, as a member of the Make Poverty History mobilisation, is also calling on the UK not only to Drop the Debt, but also to commit to Trade Justice and deliver substantially More and Better Aid.

Campaigners are warmly thanked for all their efforts. There's more campaigning to be done before 100% of ALL unpayable poor country debts are written off by all creditors, including the UK. But Gordon Brown's announcement is a huge step forward, and holds out real hope that, with continued public pressure, the debt could be dropped at the 2005 G8 in Scotland.

CAMPAIGNING WORKS - WELL DONE TO ALL WHO TOOK ACTION!
www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

*The next edition of the Recorder will be published on 28th November
Closing date for contributions is Friday 19th November.*

Sorry to worry you all, but the next edition is the last one before Christmas. To make sure that your article / announcement etc gets into the December Recorder, think about it **NOW** - and get it to me as soon as possible. Don't wait until the deadline!

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

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

prayer page
(prepared by the women's meeting)

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2004

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
Genesis Chap 1. verse 3. AV
The readings and prayers this month all contain references to light and/or darkness.

A Hymn:
Thou whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight
hear us we humbly pray
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray
Let there be light. [Rejoice and Sing no. 38]

From the Psalms
The Lord is my light and salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?. Psalm 27. verse 1 A.V.

From The Sermon on the Mount
You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. St. Mattew Chapter 5 verses! 4-15. N.I.V.

Another Hymn - Light of the world
The last verse reads:
Though dark the path, thy lamp is burning brightly lighting
our faltering footsteps through the night from thee we
came, and unto thee returning Light of the world in thee
we find our light. [Rejoice and Sing no. 504]

Prayers and readings for special days in November
November 1st. All Saints Day
Almighty God, break the power of darkness, let your glory appear among us and make us sharers of your eternity, with all your saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

November 11th Armistice Day.
Read Our God our help in ages past, and
notice verse3: under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure
sufficient is thine arm alone and our defence is sure. [Rejoice and Sing no: 705]

November 28th First Sunday in Advent
And now we give you thanks because in his coming as man the day of our deliverance has dawned, and through him you will make all things new, as he comes in power and triumph to judge the world. Alternative Service Book

