

Everyone ate and had enough.  
[Mark 6: 42.]



**November 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,

Some of you will have met my friend Ellen who lives in Leeds and is visiting us as I write, having come 'South' for my grandson Joshua's first birthday celebration and dedication service. Earlier today Ellen asked if we could go to Notcutts Garden Centre at the end of our road. She recalls it from previous visits, and especially likes to browse amongst all the Christmas displays. We went along, and sure enough, the Christmas goods were out in force and each of us bought one or two things that marked, for us, the beginning of 2012's Christmas shopping. I spent quite a while looking at the food hampers. They look so attractive, don't they?

Christmas food hampers cropped up again this evening in conversation when I was taking Rebecca Hawes home after we had been at a meeting to plan this month's Parade Service. In September Rebecca joined the Wycombe Youth for Christ team and is being sponsored by WYFC to do degree studies in Children and Family Work with Practical Theology at Oxford's Centre for Youth Ministry. As we drove from Downley to Prestwood Rebecca explained to me that Erica Holt, Director of WYFC, wants five churches to pilot a scheme to link the work of WYFC more closely with local churches and wondered if Trinity would be willing to be one of those five. I will be discussing what would be involved in doing that with our Elders at our next Elders' meeting, and will bring it to November Church Meeting. However one aspect of the scheme needs more urgent action – and involves Christmas Hampers!

WYFC 'Helping Hands Project' aims to support schools within the Wycombe area through the help of Christians and Churches, demonstrating the love of Jesus. One practical way of doing this pioneered last year was through Christmas Hampers. As the leaflet Rebecca gave me says:

"After receiving fantastic feedback last year, once again we want to bless the staff at the local schools this Christmas by providing the Staff Rooms with a Christmas Hamper. Can you help by providing any of the following: *Biscuits, Instant Coffee, Tea, Fresh Coffee, Sweets, Cakes, Hot Chocolate, Speciality Teas, Chocolates and/or any other goodies.*"

Readers of the Recorder might like to help in this way. If you do then please look out for WYFC marked box, or speak to Rebecca or myself about it. Deadline: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Last Friday I happened to be at Wesley Methodist Church (to have a brief meeting with Deacon Ruth Richey) just before the Friday drop in for 'One Can'. Ruth showed me into a small room where bags of groceries were ready for those who had been referred to 'One Can' as needing food supplies. It brought home to me afresh how helpful and practical this programme is too.

I'm really thankful to God for those who organise 'One Can' to provide food for people in genuine short-term need. I'm thankful to God too for WYFC and it's immensely valuable ministry to the young people and children of our town through it's schools work, and the teaching at the Lighthouse summer holiday camps.

That makes me think again of my friend Ellen, whose own vocation for many years in Papua New Guinea (before retiring to Leeds) was in children's ministry. At our URC General Assembly this year I picked up a series of interesting booklets on that subject. Let me end with a couple of quotes from those for you to think about: "I like to worship God it makes me feel alive." (Girl, 11) "I wish my church listened to young people. We have good ideas but no one listens to us because they think all we care about is football." (Boy, 12)



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## November Services

**Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am - led by the Minister** (unless otherwise stated)

- Nov. 4        Holy Communion, with speaker Katharine Collins on the charity 'Learning for Life'.
- Nov. 11       Remembrance Sunday
- Nov. 18       Parade Service and all age worship
- Nov. 25       Thanksgiving service, part of our Church Weekend

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### Rotas for November

**Not included in this version**

# What's on in November



Nov 12th Book Review and Sale Evening  
(Hostess - Ellen Murray)

## WOMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday 6th Nov Gunpowder, Treason and Plot  
 Tuesday 13th Nov Holy Communion for Remembrance - taken by Rev Dr Gwen Collins  
 Tuesday 20th Nov Favourite Hymns  
 Tuesday 27th Nov The Samaritan Woman. Bring & Buy



*All meetings start at 2.30 in the Lower Schoolroom*

## Diary Dates

Event	Time and date	Venue
Prayer Circle for Healing	Sunday 4th 3.30pm	Lower School Room
Housegroup	Tuesday 6th 8.00pm	134 Brands Hill Ave
Coffee Morning	Saturday 10th 10.30 - 12	LSR
Chiltern Area 40th Celebration Service & Tea	Saturday 10th 3.00pm	Amersham Free Church
Traidcraft Stall	Sunday 11th	LSR
24/7 Prayer for Wycombe	Friday 16th & Saturday	17th
Parade Service	Sunday 18th 10.30am	Sanctuary
Evening Communion Service	Sunday 18th 4.00pm	Sanctuary
Child Protection Training 1st session	Monday 19th 8.00pm	Sanctuary
Church Meeting	Tuesday 20th 8.00pm	LSR
Child Protection Training 2nd Session	Thursday 22nd 7.30pm	Sanctuary
Coffee Morning	Saturday 24th 10.30 - 12	LSR
Church Weekend "Not Away"	Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th	25th Church
Elders Meeting	Tuesday 27th 8.00pm	LSR
Christianity Explored Taster Session	Wednesday 28th 7.30pm	LSR

November 2012						
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**Not included in this version**

**The Oxford Diocesan Committee for Inter-faith Concerns  
South East England Faiths Forum & Art Beyond Belief**

invite you to the launch of

# **Who am I?**

Who Am I? is an Inter-faith multicultural DVD which explores the religious identity of young people. It features an introductory talk by Prof Eleanor Nesbitt, together with group discussions involving sixth form students from Slough Grammar School.

**Monday 19th November 2012 from 7pm to 9pm**

**Kingsway URC, Church Street, Slough SL1 1SZ**

**RSVP to Emel Soylu: [emel@art-beyond-belief.com](mailto:emel@art-beyond-belief.com) 07446 129154**

**Art Beyond Belief, Kingsway, Church Street, Slough SL1 1SZ**

## **Reform Magazines for 2013**

It is time again to think about placing our order for next year's Reform magazines. The price for 2013 is £25.00 for 10 issues.

Reform normally includes very interesting articles, a bible study, an interview, letters, news, book reviews, sometimes music reviews, a puzzle page and the eco gardener still has a page. If you are interested in subscribing or would like to see a copy please let me know. It would be good if I could place new orders with our existing subscribers but if you decide at a later date I can place an order at any time.

I will be putting an order form in the November edition of Reform for existing subscribers and should be very grateful if this could be returned to me with your subscription by Sunday 11th November. If you are paying by cheque would you please make your cheque payable to 'Trinity URC'.

Thank you.

Kay

E-mail: [kay@trinity-urc.org.uk](mailto:kay@trinity-urc.org.uk)

## ZIMBABWE

Whilst Christian Aid projects continue to make excellent progress in securing communities' rights to essential services and access to income generating activities, particularly dry weather has increased.

### **Habakkuk Trust**

HT trains and equips communities to demand goods and services from local authorities. HT empowered communities to demand boreholes and other infrastructure by making them aware that their parliamentary representatives had received US\$50,000 each for constituency development. The parliamentarians who had abused or misused the money had to explain themselves in the House of Assembly, and some were sent to prison. This news spread across the country.

**Matabeleland South Food and Livelihoods Security Project (MSFLSP).** This project will directly benefit 1,018 households in Gwanda district and 632 households in Insiza district, benefitting more than 8,000 people's lives. Primary beneficiaries for the project are people living with HIV/AIDS, vulnerable men and women, and elderly people and child-headed households. Recent activities include the training and mentoring of 384 farmers in conservation agriculture; the procurement of 100 wood-saving stoves; the training of 159 farmers in livestock management; and the identification and registration of 200 secondary beneficiaries for the pass-on livestock scheme (MSFLSP gives a family an animal from which they can produce milk/wool and breed. When the animal has offspring, one is given to another family so more people can benefit).

Despite the progress made by the project so far, lack of a reliable source of food has increasingly become a critical humanitarian need in both Insiza and Gwanda. The dry weather has challenged the project's objective to improve food security. More work needs to be done towards more innovative approaches to reduce food insecurity in Matabeleland South province.

### **World Development Movement- campaigning**

The overall aim of WDM's short campaign spike on UK aid this autumn is to get a debate going and raise questions in public discourse and in the media about the direction of travel of UK aid policy and the increasing emphasis being placed on the private sector by DfID. WDM's main aims are twofold;

- To focus the debate on the direction of UK aid around key politicians, such as those in the Intl Dev. Committee and Secretary of State for International Development.
- To highlight specific examples of UK government aid that show the move towards greater prioritisation of meeting private companies interests (e.g. special economic zones (tax-free) and public private partnerships) in DfID's aid delivery and use the examples to stimulate debate about the direction of travel of aid policy and the likely adverse impacts on the poor. Hopefully, this work on raising awareness on this problem will secure greater scrutiny of DfID.

How DfID is promoting tax avoidance, cheap labour and land for multinationals in India and Bangladeshis just one example of how UK aid money is currently supporting private sector companies at the expense of the poor.

## JAMAICA

Jamaica celebrated 50 years of independence in August, with celebrations in every parish enhanced by Jamaica's impressive achievements at the Olympics. However, amid the celebrations was sober reflection on the many challenges still being experienced. The economy continues to show little growth, and unemployment has risen to 14.3 per cent. The IMF agreement still has not been finalised, which has led to fears that the country's credit rating will be downgraded and loss of investor confidence will lead to greater economic contraction. Recent national CSEC examinations (equivalent to GCSEs) showed a decline in pass rates for mathematics and English to 31.7 per cent and 46.2 per cent respectively, which has led to the Education Ministry launching an investigation.

## **Report from Synod meeting - September 2012**

### **Reports from General Assembly**

- M&M contributions are falling by 2% p.a. and membership is falling by around 4% p.a.
- URC had a £1m deficit last year. Total income is going down.
- £21m pensions deficit which needs to be resolved.
- Significant cuts are being made in staffing levels – we cannot expect remaining staff to continue to deliver the existing work. We need to be realistic about what we do/don't expect of Church House.
- Retirement age of ministers has been extended to 68 years (current ministers aged over 60 will not be required to work to 68 years).
- Ministers and CRCWs must undertake necessary training in safeguarding etc.
- Special Category Ministers – Thames North Synod has 5 SCMs currently employed. General Assembly allows us to have only 2 which means we will not receive any financial assistance for SCMs from Assembly.

### **Retirement of Geoff Duncan**

Geoff Duncan, Thames North's volunteer Church and Society Consultant has retired. A glowing and heartfelt tribute was made to him for all his work.

### **Commissioning of Tim Reith as Synod's Mission Enabler**

Tim Reith has been appointed as Mission Enabler and will be commissioned at November's Synod.

### **Olympics 'More than Gold'**

This was very successful – a large proportion of the Games Makers came from church organisations. They had been oversubscribed with people wanting to host Olympic families.

### **Bayswater URC redevelopment**

New place of worship for St Paul's Bayswater together with new Synod offices, community space and high quality living accommodation – anticipated completion April 2013.

### **Appointments**

Revd David Skipp has been appointed as Synod Disability Co-ordinator.  
Revd Viv Randles has been appointed as Silence and Retreat Link Person.  
Revd Derek Lindfield has been appointed as line manager for Simon Rudiger (CYDO).  
There are still unfilled vacancies for various roles on Synod committees.

### **Deployment group update**

Areas have been asked to consider all possibilities – a vision for the future, assessing expertise that's needed and what kind of people will be required.

### **Heathrow Chaplaincy**

Revd John Mackerness is halfway through a five-year SCM post.



**Kate Y – Synod Rep**

## Church Weekend “Not Away”

### Thanksgiving & Celebration : Building/s for the Future

**12.00 noon Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November 4.30pm**

*A special weekend of fun and fellowship for Trinity members and friends to celebrate the fact that we have completed Revive phase 2, with no debt outstanding, and are providing ‘a home’ for new community groups*

**Come along for the whole weekend, or ‘dip in’ for the parts that appeal to you**

*Full programme details and sign-up sheets will be available early November.  
Here is a sample of what will be on offer.*

<b>SATURDAY P.M. ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
To be confirmed, but along these lines:	8.00/8.30am Breakfast
1. Good book workshop	10.30am Morning Worship
2. Knit and Chat	1.00pm Sunday Lunch
3. Junk modelling (build your dream church)	2.30pm Messy Church
4. Scrabble	4.00pm Closing Worship
5. Short Mat Bowls	
6. Music planning group	
7. Young people planning group	

As well as ...

Giant Picnic Indoor Saturday lunch (byo);

Fish and Chip Supper;

Sleep in Sanctuary then Sunday Breakfast; Sunday lunch.

Saturday evening – family games / film.



*This month we would like to wish a*

Happy Birthday



to

Julia S (9<sup>th</sup>)  
Grandma B (9<sup>th</sup>)  
Taye A-C (14<sup>th</sup>)  
Willie M (14<sup>th</sup>)  
Ben L (16<sup>th</sup>)  
Gwen C (19<sup>th</sup>)  
Ellen C (26<sup>th</sup>)



Birthday Congratulations

to

Connie B-D (22<sup>nd</sup>)

celebrating her 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
with love from us all at Trinity.

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*The December edition of the Recorder will be published on 25th November.  
Closing date for contributions is Friday 16th November*

The January edition will be published at the usual time - 30th December  
Closing date for all contributions will be Christmas Eve

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

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

# prayer page

## Passionate prayer

O God,  
help us not to be frightened of passion,  
to turn away embarrassed  
when love for another is poured out in pain,  
when lament is loud and lingering,  
when grief overwhelms  
and tears cannot be stopped.

Help us to learn the language of the heart  
so we do not silence  
those who are in the depths  
with wise words,  
sample remedies  
of our own stories.

Lead us, O God,  
to a full experience  
of your passionate life-giving love,  
that we may embrace others  
as you do.

© Rachel Poolman

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will  
say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be  
known to everyone. The Lord is near.  
Do not worry about anything, but in  
everything by prayer and supplication  
with thanksgiving let your requests be  
made known to God. And the peace of  
God, which surpasses all understand-  
ing, will guard your hearts and your  
minds in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 4.4-7*

O God, help us not to despise or  
oppose what we do not understand.

*William Penn (1644-1718)*



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**2012**

O God, control my tongue.  
Keep me from saying things which make trouble,  
and from involving myself in arguments  
which only make bad situations worse  
and which get nowhere.

Control my thoughts.  
Shut the door of my mind against all envious and jealous thoughts;  
shut it against all bitter and resentful thoughts;  
shut it against all ugly and unclean thoughts.

Help me to live today in purity, in humility and in love.  
Through Jesus Christ my Lord, Amen.

*William Barclay (died 1978).*

Do not be afraid – I will save you.  
I have called you by name – you are mine.  
When you pass through deep waters,  
I will be with you;  
your troubles will not overwhelm you.

*from Isaiah 43*