

Salt is good; but if salt has lost its taste,
how can its saltiness be restored?
[Luke 14:34]



September 2010

The Recorder

Inside - this month . . .

Pastoral letter	2	Church Family & Life	5, 7 - 9, 12-13
Services & Rotas	3	The Wider Church	10 - 11
What's on?	4	Prayer Page	16
Commitment for Life	6		

An edited version of this magazine is available on the Church Website.

(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

Dear Friends,

I'm looking forward to our new 'term' at Trinity.

Earlier today I could not have honestly said that. Just back from my summer holidays my mind was still hankering after lazy days and no responsibility other than to enjoy myself! But I have been reading Luke's gospel and have reached chapters 14 and 15. Jesus' words about salt [see cover] are doing what he intended – stirring me up to rekindle my motivation and commitment.

Our travels this summer took us to the Pyrenees. Our return journey was up the west coast of France and included several areas that were very important sources of salt in the Middle Ages. As in Jesus' day, salt was used mainly as a preservative to stop food from going bad, as well as to add flavour. He saw that the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling that tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him and that he welcomed them and even ate with them. So he used the very familiar image of salt to warn the Pharisees and scribes that they were in real danger. When religion no longer results in action to welcome the ostracised and to accept hurting and damaged people it is useless.

What does 'being salty' in Jesus' terms mean in your own particular situation?

Think about it. Every circumstance of human life needs people who are willing to be that bit different and to put themselves out for others. Everywhere needs 'salty' people. Our homes do. Our places of work do. Our schools, shops and neighbourhoods do.

As church together too our calling is saltiness. We are a family church – a family church that is turned outwards to others, not inwards to ourselves. This does not mean that the needs that we ourselves have for comfort, reconciliation and strength are not significant. Of course they are, and thank God that so many of us who are regulars at Trinity appreciate the love and care that we receive from each other. But our main orientation has to be to walk in Christ's way of being a community that makes a difference in the lives of others, locally and globally.

The reason I am looking forward to our new 'term' is that in it we shall have fresh opportunities to grow in our faith and discipleship, and to work out ways to put Christ's teaching about salt into practice more and more. We need to keep that perspective centre stage.

So it's good to be back. September promises to be an interesting month. Junior Church will be starting a new programme called 'The Workshop Rotation Model' that comes highly recommended from two of our churches, in Leeds and Southampton. Linda Mead, the URC's Commitment for Life co-ordinator, will join us for our annual Commitment for Life service. And at the end of the month we shall celebrate Harvest with style [see elsewhere in the magazine for details].

Remember – "you are the salt of the earth" [Matthew 5:13]



Minister : Rev Dr Gwen Collins e-mail: gwen@trinity-urc.org.uk

Church Secretary :Mrs Marian Mole, e-mail: secretary@trinity-urc.org.uk

September Services

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

- 5 Sept. Holy Communion
- 12 Sept. Commitment for Life annual service with the URC's Commitment for Life co-ordinator, Linda Mead. Junior Church restarts.
- 19 Sept. All age worship, with Junior Church certificates awarded.
4.30pm Prayer circle
- 26 Sept. Harvest

Rotas for September

Not included in this version

What's on in September



- 13 September 8pm Planning 2010/11
(Hostess - Marian M)
- 27 September 8pm Book Review & sale.
(Hostess - Ellen M)

WOMEN'S MEETING

- Tuesday 7th Sept Bring & Share Tea. Welcome back
 Tuesday 14th Sept Age UK - Speaker: Lesley Ellis, Age Concern
 Tuesday 21st Sept Looking at Harvest.
 Tuesday 28th Sept Michaelmas and St Michael. Bring & Buy



All meetings start at 2.30pm in the Lower Schoolroom

Diary Dates

- August** 31 Elders' Meeting 8pm
- September** 11 Coffee Morning 10.30 –12noon
 11 Thames North Synod Meeting at Trinity 9.30am
 12 **Junior Church & Creche restarts**
 18 Wedding: Evans Moore & Katie Blair
 19 Prayer Circle For Healing 4.30pm
 21 Church Meeting 8pm
 25 Coffee Morning 10.30 –12noon
 27 Elders' Meeting 8pm
- October** 1 - 7 Gwen will be on holiday
 9 Coffee Morning 10.30 –12noon
 12 Users' & Hirers' Meeting 6.15pm
 16 Youth & Children's Day for Thames North Synod at Trinity 9.30 –1pm
 16 Movers & Shakers Caribbean Style Concert 7.15pm at Trinity
 17 Guiding Centenary Parade Service
 23 Coffee Morning 10.30 –12noon
 26 Elders' Meeting 8pm
 30 Fifth Brigade 9.30 –12.30
 30 Wedding: Daniel Spencer & Stephanie Elliot

September 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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		

Not included in this version

The Council for World Mission (CWM)



In the coming year we are going to be raising the profile of CWM, the world partnership of 31 churches of which the United Reformed Church is one. One way we will do this will be through the Recorder. Here is the first update of news from CWM:

Trustees: CWM must stand with poor

Monday, 19 July 2010

“CWM must stand with the poor” - that was the resounding message from CWM moderator Rev Dr Prince Dibeela to the charity’s trustees on day one of CWM’s Trustee Body meeting in Hong Kong.

Against a background of economic upheaval, environmental destruction and increased marginalisation of ethnic groups across the globe, he challenged CWM to move away from "desktop theology" to "street-talk theology" in order to allow the voices of the oppressed and marginalised to be heard.

“Our dream is to stand with the poor and to stand where God stands,” he said. “We need to change our world view. We must refute the lies of empire and unlearn the things that empire has taught us about issues of power and our relationship with the environment.”

The moderator challenged CWM’s 31 trustees at the start of the week-long proceedings in Hong Kong where they have met to review CWM’s work and direction for the next decade.

CWM has been conducting a series of reviews of its current, management, governance and location. Reports from these reviews will be presented alongside recommendations for a strategy that will direct CWM’s work until 2020.

ZIMBABWE

Many may remember Chris Masenyama who visited the UK with Janet a few years ago. We have sad news from Father David Harrold Barry at Silveira House

'Chris Masenyama died last night. We are all trying to believe it. He had another of his high blood pressure attacks and went to the clinic and then to Pary hospital but he just got worse and worse and died at around 8.00pm. For some time he had been preparing with Fidelis Mpofu to go to Coady in Canada but while Fidelis was granted a visa he was not. No reasons given. He was due to travel next week. I suspect this contributed to his BP. Also the hospital did not seem to be able to help. It took close to seven hours to admit him with queues of people and confused bureaucracy. We were on our way to transfer him to another hospital or the Trauma Clinic when we got the news. It is all a terrible shock. And later.....

They are just back from the burial of Chris Masenyama in his home area near Mutoko. Our bus left full of people at around 9 pm on Monday and when they got there around 11 they sang and prayed all night. The burial took place around 2pm as they had a job to dig the grave it being stony there. The bus returned here about 6 pm yesterday. So the funeral took two days and I guess not much work will be done today: they must be exhausted. David

BANGLADESH

Sharifa Begum from Kaligram in Mohanpur Upazilla got married when she was in class ten at school. In 1997 she became a member of Smrity Forum of The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB). At that time literacy rate in that area was very poor and there was no one there was suitable to be a pre school teacher, except Sharifa. She was very sincere and devoted to teaching and was popular with the students as well as the Forum members. Later in 2007 CCDB had to withdraw its support for the pre school. The Forum members felt the need to continue was great as there was no other pre-school around. Since that time Sharifa has carried on this program in cooperation with the Forum. She uses the Forum centre for teaching with their consent and only takes TK20 from each student as monthly tuition fees. After the completion of pre- primary education, she also assists the students in getting admission to the local government primary school. A few years ago the children were facing problems regarding their admission to the local school as the head teacher refused because they had no places or resources. So she went to the Upazilla education officer to find a way but this failed. Discussing the matter with the other Forum members Sharifa decided to meet the the Upzilla Nirbahi Officer to try to solve the problem. The UNO felt her case was important and took the necessary steps to make sure the children were admitted. Sharifa won because of her willingness to continue advocating for the children. She proved herself a good leader. Because people respected her she is now the president of Mohanpur Upazilla network and looks after fifteen Forums supported by CCDB. From CCDB's annual; report 2008-9

JAMAICA

"Eighty-three percent of the infections of HIV/AIDS in Jamaica are among young people 15 to 49 years old."

In Jamaica, stigma and discrimination remain a reality for people living with HIV/AIDS. This stigma and discrimination can be found in workplaces with little or no recourse for the infected individual. Similarly little or no accommodation is made for employees whose health is failing and are unable to meet their principle terms of employment. Unfortunately this has left many people living with HIV/AIDS unemployed and unable to meet basic needs. "Life's Work" is a work therapy programme run by Jamaica AIDS Support for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Each of Jamaica AIDS Support's three chapters run Life's Work Programs, making hand-made specialty cards, scented candles and hand-made soaps. The labels of the products promote them as made by persons living with HIV and have served to promote an anti-stigma and discrimination message. The production centres have also served to provide psychosocial and economic support for HIV-positive persons in a setting which promotes self-esteem and pride in one's craft. These products have become highly sought after in the local Jamaican market, but are also now expanding to the US and UK markets through specialty dealers. As workers in the program, the staff also benefit from other support services and network alliances for persons living with HIV offered by the host NGO and its partners, such as assistance with school expenses for children; medical support; one-on-one, couples, family and community counseling and support.

URC PRAYER HANDBOOK 2011

'STILL PRAYING'

The prayers in the 2011 URC Prayer Handbook seek to help God's people to keep praying as we enter the year of evangelism for the URC's *Vision4Life* programme

The book begins on 2 January and takes you through the complete year with weekly readings and prayers. It is priced at £5.00 and many people find this book a useful aid to their devotions.

If you would like to have a copy please see me after Sunday worship, phone: 01494 528041 or email: marian@trinity-urc.org.uk.

I have a selection of samples of Bible reading aids from previous years.

If you're interested in seeing them please speak to me as I can often order them at a reduced price.

Marian

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

1. Please be aware of a company called SAS Fire and Security (that also uses the name Crime Research UK) who have been calling residents, offering monitored alarms either free or at a very nominal cost.

This company have been operating in other areas of the country and may claim to be approved' by Crimestoppers, the Police, Government or Local Authority. This is untrue as non of these organisations will promote a specific company.

Whilst the alarms offered are either free or for a nominal cost the company charge an ongoing maintenance fee which is very high and a high cancellation charge.

Residents are encouraged not to divulge any personal or sensitive information over the phone to any unexpected / cold callers. Do not make an appointment for sales people to call at your premise and pass this advice on to any elderly or vulnerable friends, relatives or neighbours.

Signing up for the Telephone Preference Service can help to cut down on any unwanted / unsolicited sales calls. You can do this online at www.mpsonline.org.uk or by telephoning 0845 070 0707.

Further information and advice can be obtained from Consumer Direct at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk or by calling 08454 04 05 06. You can also contact Thames Valley Police via 0845 8 505 505 or in an emergency dial on 999.

2. Please warn all elderly neighbours and family members to be on their guard when approached by strangers claiming to represent utility companies or offering gardening or home maintenance work.

Keep back doors locked at all times and do not allow any stranger into your home without a prior appointment.

Always insist on seeing identification.

Vision4Life Prayer Year

Ways into Prayer

As we go through life we all learn different things in different ways. Sometimes we learn by watching someone else. Sometimes we listen to a talk on a subject and take notes. Sometimes we look for new information on our own – in books or on the internet.

How do we learn about prayer? Reading books about it is not everything and even if we find good teachers we can't expect prayer to come alive for us. That's because prayer is not a skill we learn, or an idea we understand, but a relationship we grow into.

In prayer we try to draw closer to God, and learn how to let God come closer to us. Praying in this way is about recognising how God is with us all the way on our life's journey. It's also about tuning in to the ways in which God communicates with us and listening for God's guidance.

Many of us worry that we don't do this well and never 'get it right'. That's quite natural, because we human beings do things imperfectly, no matter how hard we try. Thankfully, God is expert at dealing with our mistakes and encouraging us to try again. Let's use this time to try new ways of growing in relationship with God through prayer.

A Vision4Life Prayer

Life-giving God, creator of all,
You spoke the world into being and saw that it was good.
Help us to see the world through your eyes –
Messy yet full of potential, incomplete yet perfect in parts.
When our view is distorted may we refocus it through your lens of love.
Generous God, give us vision for life.

Jesus Christ, saviour of all,
You live alongside us and show us life in all its fullness.
Help us to look with you for hidden possibilities –
Tiny mustard seeds of new growth, grains of yeast that activate change.
As we identify signs of hope give us energy to keep searching for more.
Generous God, give us vision for life.

God, the Holy Spirit, new life of all,
You blow away our excuses and overcome our defensiveness.
Help us to keep in tune with your promptings –
Glimpses of what could be, hints of new outcomes we didn't expect.
Generous God, give us vision for life.

The above is from the Vision4Life booklet 'praying our days'. If you do not have a copy and would like one there are some spare copies in the vestry. Please help yourself.

The following was used by Andrew W during the service he conducted at the beginning of August. It is reproduced here at the request of several members of the congregation on that occasion.

God's love letter
My Child ~

You may not know me, but I know everything about you ~ *Psalm 139:1*
I know when you sit down and when you rise up ~ *Psalm 139:2*
I am familiar with all your ways ~ *Psalm 139:3*
Even the very hairs on your head are numbered ~ *Matthew 10:29-31*
For you were made in my image ~ *Genesis 1:27*
In me you live and move and have your being ~ *Acts 17:28*
For you are my offspring ~ *Acts 17:28*
I knew you even before you were conceived ~ *Jeremiah 1:4-5*
You are fearfully and wonderfully made ~ *Psalm 139:14*
It is my desire to lavish my love on you ~ *1 John 3:1*
Simply because you are my child and I am your father ~ *1 John 3:1*
Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand ~ *James 1:17*
My plan for your future has always been filled with hope ~ *Jeremiah 29:11*
Because I love you with an everlasting love ~ *Jeremiah 31:3*
If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me ~ *Deuteronomy 4:29*
I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine ~ *Ephesians 3:20*
For I am your greatest encourager ~ *2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*
I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles ~ *2 Corinthians 1:3-4*
When you are broken-hearted, I am close to you ~ *Psalm 34:18*
One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes ~ *Revelation 21:3-4*
I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus ~ *John 17:23*
For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed ~ *John 17:26*
Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled ~ *2 Corinthians 5:18-19*
His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you ~ *1 John 4:10*
If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me ~ *1 John 2:23*
And nothing will ever separate you from my love again ~ *Romans 8:38-39*
I have always been Father, and will always be Father ~ *Ephesians 3:14-15*
My question is ~ Will you be my child? ~ *John 1:12-13*
I am waiting for you ~ *Luke 15:11-32*

NEWS FROM CHILTERN AREA COMMITTEE MEETING - JULY 2010 (*edited*)

1. News from the churches

Amersham

Phase One of the redevelopment of the auxiliary premises at Amersham is now well under way, The interior of the hall has been considerably increased by the removal of the stage, and this is enabling the creation of a new larger kitchen at the rear.

The work is scheduled for completion by the end of October and £370,000 has already been raised to cover the cost of this and go towards the expense of Phase Two (alterations to the rear entrance and reception area). Future fundraising events include a coach-trip to Whitstable at the beginning of September where the local URC has promised a warm welcome as well as use of their premises in the centre of the town as a base for the day.

2. New ministers

- a) Fairford Leys LEP – we welcome Revd Anthony Howell – induction on 25 September
- b) Beaconsfield & Holtspur – we welcome Revd Nigel Douglas – induction on 28 August
- c) Chesham – we welcome Revd Bridget Powell who has accepted the call to Chesham as a stipendiary minister, having been non-stipendiary – induction on 19 September
- d) Revd Barbara McIntivey replaces Revd Philip Morse at Colnbrook & Poyle United Church at the beginning of September

3. Area session on Children's and Youth Work 9.30-1.30, Saturday 16 October, Trinity, High Wycombe

- Do you have children's and youth work in your church? Come along and find out what works well in other churches and what other ideas are around.
- No children or youth? Come along and find out how to attract them.
- Exhausted, or trying to find new leaders? Come along and be re-energised!

This is now a morning session (9.30-1.30) focusing on children's and youth work, led by Simon Rudiger, the Synod Children's and Youth Development Officer with input from the churches in our Area.

Want to know more or attend the session?

Contact Kate Yates yates.kathryn@gmail.com or phone 01494 672799

4. Area Committee vacancies – Ecumenical Representative; Ministry & Mission (M&M) Representative

Have you got an interest in either of these? Do you want to find out more about how your gifts and skills could contribute to the wider church? Contact Kate Yates yates.kathryn@gmail.com

5. Meet the Area Committee at Wendover – Tues 5 Oct 2010 at 8 pm

If you missed this meeting in Burnham in June, come along to this session at Wendover Free Church to meet the members you have nominated/elected to serve you on Area Committee.

Find out what we do (or what is not within our remit) ... ask questions ... tell us what's happening in your churches!

[continued on page 11]

6. Building projects

- a) **Amersham Free Church** Work is well underway – hope to complete the works by the end of October
- b) **Chesham** Plans are progressing. Hope to start work later this year.

7. Meet the Synod Executive – Saturday 11 September

The Synod Executive are keen to give churches throughout the Synod the opportunity to meet them, find out what they actually do, and ask questions.

Chiltern Area is the first Area in the Synod in which they will be holding one of their meetings where a representative from each church will be invited to attend an 'open' session (time to be confirmed).

Your Church Secretary will receive an invitation for a representative to attend – if you are interested, please talk to them.

8. Synod Elders' Training Day – Saturday 9 October at Leytonstone United Free Church, London

Elders – if you didn't get to the Watford training day do try to get to this! Both the worship and training at Watford were excellent, as was the lunch!

Harvest Lunch



A lunch will be served following the Harvest Festival Service on 26 September. ALL are invited. Margaret Lewis would like to have some idea of the number of mouths to feed - so please let her know if you want to take part, on or before the previous Sunday - ie 19th September.

(Despite the picture, there is no guarantee that apples will be served!!)



Operation Christmas Child (OCC) brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Since 1993, more than 61 million shoe boxes have been packed, shipped, and delivered across the globe. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ.

Junior Church would like to support Operation Christmas Child again this year making up shoe boxes of gifts for children unlike us who do not know the joy of opening presents at Christmas.

Peering out from behind the crooked door of her little house, Adrijana watches as a strange car pulls into her gypsy village in Zranjanin, Serbia. Small and barefooted she pads out to the arriving car, watching in confusion as brightly coloured shoeboxes are unloaded from the back seat. Receiving a shoebox, Adrijana's eyes suddenly light up in astonishment and delight. As the realization hits her that this is a gift just for her, the smile spreads on her face and then neither the mud nor the cold December morning can stop her. Going from house to house she runs telling everyone about the amazing gifts that have arrived in her village.



But we need your help to collect suitable gifts. Please see the list below of suggested items and bring them to Church any time in September or as part of your Harvest offering on September 26th. Junior Church will then sort and pack the shoe boxes with age appropriate gifts ready for distribution in countries like Serbia, Belarus, Bosnia and Romania. The ages that we sort the gifts into are 2-4, 5-10 and 10-14 years old.

Yes please, these gifts are fine..

Toys: Bear, soft toy, tennis ball, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instrument. For boys trucks and cars, for girls dolls, clip on earrings etc.

Educational supplies: Felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, colouring book, notepad, picture or puzzle book, chalk, pencil case, stickers etc.

Hygiene items: Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of soap, flannel etc.

Other items: Sweets (sell by date to be at least March of the following year), gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, hat, bangles, necklaces etc.

No thanks, these items should NOT be included...

No food especially chocolate. Only exception, non chocolate sweets are allowed.

No medicine or vitamins of any kind.

No war related items: Toy guns, soldiers or knives of any kind.

No clothing other than listed above.

No fragile items: Glass containers, mirrors.

No liquids: including blow bubbles, shampoo, bubble bath, toiletry sets or aerosols.

No dangerous items: Any sharp objects, scissors or razors.

Nothing of a political nature.

No hand knitted stuffed toys without a CE mark.

If you are an avid knitter ask Sarah E for a pattern to make clown finger puppets, beanie hats or a teddy hand puppet all of which can be included in our boxes.



In a poor Roma community on the outskirts of Sarajevo, Bosnia, shoeboxes are speaking words of love and hope into the lives of hundreds of children this Christmas.

Our partners in Bosnia explain the amazing difference these shoeboxes are making in the lives of the children:

"About 70% of the children we give shoeboxes to don't go to school. But arriving with shoeboxes packed full of gifts, we are able to convey a message of God's love and acceptance into a community that experiences rejection. The smiles and warm greetings from the Roma people as they voice their thankfulness shows us how powerful these simple gifts really are."

Thank you for your help and support, we look forward to receiving your gifts.

Junior Church



The lighter side

The Mayonnaise Jar

A professor prepared for his philosophy class, an array of objects on the desk before him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large, empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of small pebbles and poured them slowly into the jar, shaking it lightly as he did so. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar, again shaking it continuously. Of course, the sand particles eventually filled up the space between the pebbles and he once more asked if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes".

Finally the professor produced two cups of coffee from under the desk and very slowly poured their entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the remaining empty space between the particles of sand. The students all laughed.

"Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the things that really matter - your family, your children, your health, your friends and your other favourite passions - things that if you lost everything else and only they remained, your life would still be full.

"The pebbles represent other things in life that are not quite so important - like your job, your house, your car - all replaceable if necessary.

he sand is everything else - the small unimportant details of day-to-day living. Note that if you put the sand into the jar first, there will be no room for the pebbles, not to mention the golf balls...

"Exactly the same applies to your life," continued the professor. "If you spend all your time and energy on the small things, you will never have room for the things that really matter to you.

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take the time to get medical check-ups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another eighteen holes. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the waste disposal unit. Take care of the golf balls first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities - the rest is just sand!"

One of the students then raised a hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled.

"I'm glad you asked," he said. "It was just to show that, no matter how full life may seem, there is always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."

So, when everything in your life seems almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, just remember the mayonnaise jar and the two cups of coffee.

Worshippers may not realise the potential hazards a Minister faces when selecting hymns for a normal Sunday Service.

A Minister was explaining to his flock that this was his last service with them. He had been very happy in his short time there. Jesus had sent him to them and after a short ministry he was calling him elsewhere. He announced the last hymn and the congregation sang with gusto "What a friend we have in Jesus".



Happy Birthday



This month we would like to wish

Sarah H (3rd)

James F (8th)

Simon E (14th)

Iris H (18th)

Denzel J (22nd)

Saskia F (24th)

Valerie L

A Very Happy Birthday
With love from all at Trinity.

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

Recorder Editor : Angus Massie, 86 Cressex Road, High Wycombe. ☎ 01494 444560
e-mail : editor@trinity-urc.org.uk

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

prayer page

S
e
p
t
e
m
b
e
r

2010

Prayer for the People of Zimbabwe

We pray for the suffering people of Zimbabwe,
Forced to live amid deterioration, disease and despair.
We raise our voices on their behalf,
As truth-tellers we want to proclaim
'This is not good',
It is not how God desires our world to be.
Loving Father, look after the people of that sad but beautiful land,
Care for the little ones,
Comfort the dying ones,
And into this hour of darkness may the light of your new dawn begin to shine.
Amen

from www.invitationtoprayer.org

God to enfold me,
God to surround me,
God in my speaking,
God in my thinking.

God in my sleeping,
God in my waking,
God in my watching,
God in my hoping.

God in my life,
God in my lips,
God in my soul,
God in my heart.

God in my sufficing,
God in my slumber,
God in mine ever-living soul,
God in mine eternity.

Ancient Celtic prayer



Lord,
isn't your creation wasteful?
Fruits never equal the seedlings' abundance.
Springs scatter water.
The sun gives out enormous light.
May your bounty teach me greatness of heart.
May your magnificence stop me being mean.
Seeing you a prodigal and open-handed giver,
let me give unstintingly ... like God's own.

Helder Camara, Brazil from Bread of Tomorrow © Christian Aid

Even though the fig trees have no fruit
and no grapes grow on the vines,
even though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no corn,
even though the sheep all die
and the cattle stalls are empty,
I will still be joyful and glad,
because the Lord God is my saviour.
The Sovereign Lord gives me strength.
He makes me sure-footed as a deer,
and keeps me safe on the mountains.

From the book of Habakkuk, chapter 3

Sunday	Pray for evangelists and especially Debbie Orriss, Town Evangelist
Monday	Pray for farmers and market gardeners
Tuesday	Give thanks for the gardens and allotments where vegetables are grown
Wednesday	Pray for shop owners who are struggling in the recession
Thursday	Pray for West Africa, suffering from famine ... for Pakistan and China suffering from floods
Friday	Pray that world governments will take more action against climate change
Saturday	Enjoy your garden or nearest park or open land, and thank God for what you experience