

HTC News

HTC News is launched

Welcome to the first edition of HTC News!

HTC News is a bi-monthly production and features many of the popular items from Insight: the Vicar's letter, news from the church family and in-depth articles. In this edition we have coverage of the Church Vision meeting and news from Drew Waller, who will be starting here with his wife Emma and son Thomas in June as our new Director of Youth Ministry. There's an article on the new Messy Church initiative, where it's alright to make a mess in church apparently, more on that on page 3.

In this new magazine there will be photos - lots of them. Here's one of our youngest reader, relaxing after reading through the first edition!



May / June 2008

Inside this issue

Phillip's letter - page 2

Messy Church - page 3

Church Vision Meeting
- Centre pages

Haslemere Venture Camp
- page 6

London Men's Convention
- page 7

Come Home for Lunch -
back page

and a great deal more to
keep you in touch with life
at Holy Trinity

Our vision is:

- *more followers of Jesus*
- *deeper followers of Jesus*
- *closer followers of Jesus*

Holy Trinity Claygate

Following Jesus Together

Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends,

I am really glad that you are reading this, the first edition of HTC News. It is my hope and prayer that this is a helpful way for you to keep in touch with all the things happening at HTC.

One of the things that I was most encouraged by recently was our worship and celebrations over Easter. From the Passover Supper on Maundy Thursday, with over 200 people of all ages there, through the creative services on Good Friday, to the joyful celebrations on Easter Sunday, I was struck by a real sense that people wanted to go deeper into the good news of Easter. It was especially good to welcome people who came because of receiving the church's Easter card through the door.

"I was struck by a real sense that people wanted to go deeper into the good news of Easter"

It was also on Easter Sunday that I was able to offer the post of Director of Youth Ministry to Drew Waller (see next page). I am delighted that he has accepted the job, excited by the future of young people's ministry at HTC and believe we can all look forward to getting to know him, Emma and Thomas in the time to come.

Finally, it was over the Easter weekend that we had the first of three recent break-ins at HTC, not to mention a number of other acts of vandalism within the vicarage and church grounds. To me it does not seem co-incidence that these attacks should have been around the busiest time of the year, with God so clearly at work; if we are going forward in faith, we should not be surprised by an attack, in whatever form it comes.

I am proud of how church staff and members have responded to these incidents and the damage done, and that we have not been distracted from our core missionary task. That's an important message going forward: as well as reviewing our security procedures and working with the police to catch the criminals, we should also pray that the devil will not use these incidents to discourage us or keep us from focussing on Jesus.

With my love and prayers



Youth Ministry

On 30 March Philip announced that Drew Waller, who is currently Area Director for Young Life, a Christian youth outreach ministry, in Atlanta, USA will be joining the HTC ministry team in the summer as our Director of Youth Ministry. Drew, who is 30, and his British wife Emma have a son Thomas who is almost two.

Do thank God for His guidance of this process, the unanimous decision of the selection panel and commit Drew and his family to God in prayer.

Drew Waller writes...

Hello! As Emma and I dream about our new adventure in the UK, what we are most energized about is getting to know the people at Holy Trinity and the wider Claygate community.



Jesus didn't minister to humanity from afar, but rather he took on flesh and made his dwelling among us (John 1:14a). Following Jesus' lead, we are ready to move, become a part of the community and begin building relationships with young people. New beginnings are a lot of fun, but will also require us to step outside of our comfort zones. Looking to the future, we are thankful for the opportunity to serve with you as instruments of God's grace in the community of Claygate.

"It's church Jim, but not as we know it"

Messy Church starts at Holy Trinity Claygate on Thursday 5 June. Andrew Cowie explains what it is all about:

Messy Church is a new style of church service, which has been pioneered by a number of churches in recent years. Its appeal is both to children and their parents/carers. There are three elements to Messy Church: a time of arts and crafts on a bible based theme, a short all age service that draws on the same theme and a meal together. Children must bring an adult with them, so there is a family focus to the service.

Messy Church is for anyone, but we particularly want to encourage those who may know about HTC through say Holiday Club or other events we have run, but might find going to church on a Sunday too big a step to make.

Messy Church will run on the first Thursday of the month from 3:30 to 5:45pm. The dates for the first two are 5 June and 3 July. We will then break for the summer, before starting up again in September.

Church Vision Meeting

On Sunday 20 April around 200 church members came to the annual Church Vision meeting, after the main morning service. Philip started the meeting with an inspiring video produced by Matt Knight showing some highlights of the past year at HTC. He went on to address two questions: where we are as a church and what challenges lie ahead. In this article we summarise the key points from his address.



Philip said that as a church we are in a **place to be thankful** and a **place of progress**. He said that the Annual Review published two weeks before the meeting and the video provided many reasons for which to thank God for the year just gone: people coming to know Jesus for the first time, people of all ages worshipping him, growing as his followers, showing love to one another, sharing the good news with others, seeing the facilities for worship, teaching and evangelism improve. He also highlighted the vision process itself as a real answer to prayer over the past year; the clarity and unity that God had given the church was a real blessing

He went on to review the church's progress against the vision aims and suggested that there were already ways in which we were seeing more, deeper and closer followers of Jesus.

Philip then outlined the specific challenges that the church faces in the time to come.

First, there is the **challenge of change**. Philip said that the new services in the autumn would require the whole church to face change in one way or another, and, while that is exciting as we pray to see more followers of Jesus, it will require faith on the part of all members. He reminded those at the meeting of the reasons we are starting new services, namely to create space for more followers of Jesus, and also encouraged members to

make the most of the forthcoming teaching series on Hebrews 11 – Living by Faith.

Second, Philip outlined the **challenge of service**. The new services in the autumn would require detailed planning and increased participation from the whole church family. It was estimated that 70 people would be required each Sunday to make things happen, and it will need a response from the whole church membership to ensure no one team is overburdened. There was a questionnaire for every church member asking them to think about ways they can be involved in making the new services happen. Philip said that he was excited about more people finding out the joy of serving and growing as Christians through working with others.

The final challenge Philip described was the **challenge of discipleship** as the whole church is encouraged to be deeper followers of Jesus. Philip shared with the church

For a full version of Philip's address, please visit the church website or pick up a CD from the church office.

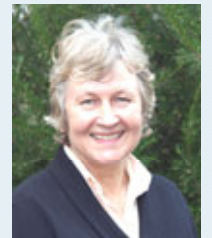
an exciting programme we will be doing as a church in the second half of the autumn called **Forty Days of**

Purpose, based on Rick Warren's excellent book The Purpose-Driven Life. This programme, starting in late October and going through until early December, was based around daily reading, weekly small group learning and Sunday teaching. Philip described enthusiastically the opportunities Forty Days of Purpose will give for every member to discover personally what God's purpose is for their life and how with others they can open up how Jesus wants them to live, serve, support and help each other grow.

During the meeting Philip thanked publicly and gave presents to those who were stepping down from faithful service as office-holders in the church: Richard Gordon (churchwarden), Jem Salter (Treasurer) and Andrew Stroud (PCC Secretary).



Mark Chapman was elected as new churchwarden and will serve alongside **Penny Alpass** for the coming year.



At the PCC meeting following the main meeting, Brian Howells was appointed Treasurer, and Michael Porter PCC Secretary. Clive Finnear, Stuart Sadler and Andrew Tarcy were also welcomed as new members of the PCC.

Philip finished his address by thanking his colleagues on the Ministry Team and wider staff team, together with the membership of church for their support and commitment. He said he was privileged to serve as vicar of HTC and looked forward to continuing to do so in the year to come.

Haslemere Venture Camp

Over the Easter break nine of our youth from The Hub course went down to Haslemere to join other teenagers from all around the country on a 6 day trip.

The venue was great and had so many activities, from Ultimate Frisbee and Football to a games hall, horse riding, Laser quest and bowling.

With such a big team of leaders available, about 23 in all, it meant there were a lot of opportunities to build one-on-one relationships with the youngsters - who started off keeping to

themselves but by the end of the week were participating in all the events.

Each evening and morning there were times of worship and the word, and group times each day to allow space for growing in God and learning about taking steps in our faith.

It was a wonderful time away together. Please keep the youngsters in your prayers as they return to life here in Claygate.

Matt Knight

Doug Horley comes to Claygate



Doug Horley came to Holy Trinity Claygate on 2 May and great fun was had by all. Those who came to Holiday Club already knew a lot of Doug's songs, and the actions. There were also puppets, and some break dancing too! But most importantly, we were able to sing our praises to God in a really fun cool way.

May Tea

For the last few years, HTC has hosted an annual tea, a social occasion specially for those who have suffered a significant bereavement. The tea is organized and hosted by our Bereavement Visiting Team and is a great occasion for enjoying friendly conversation, not to mention the tasty sandwiches and home-cooked cakes! We use the church hall for the tea, and when the weather is fine, we spill out onto the lawn outside, where we have tables in the shade of a gazebo.

All those whose next of kin has had their funeral Thanksgiving Service taken by members of staff here within the last two years, and therefore whose contact details we have, are sent an invitation by post. However, anyone who has been bereaved and who would appreciate informal contact with others in a similar situation, is welcome to attend - contact the church office for an invitation. Those who wish to come are also very welcome to bring a guest. This year's tea is on Sunday 11 May from 3 - 5pm.

Valerie Bagley

London Men's Convention, March 2008

A group of 16 men from HTC went to the London Men's Convention on a sunny Saturday in March. The impressive venue of the Albert Hall was matched by the even more illustrious and uplifting set of speakers. Most memorable of these was Al Stewart, an Australian evangelist and also a Bishop in New South Wales.

Al spoke about the reality of hell and heaven, and how we should be striving to spread the word of



Christ and his Good News to all, and above all to our close family. This topic is very real for me as I have close family who are far away from Christ. It has

given me a sense of urgency, and I have resolved to speak more boldly about the Lord to my two brothers.

Initially, I was rather hesitant about attending such an event as I didn't know what to expect. I imagined it would be overly charismatic and beyond me - BUT I was pleasantly surprised by the low-key nature of things, and the emphasis on teaching and the word. I recommend it to anyone who has the opportunity to attend such an event and I will certainly be signing up for the 2009 convention.

Majello Fernando

Marriage Preparation Day

Three engaged couples joined Philip and Annabelle Plyming for a Marriage Preparation Day on Saturday 12 April. The couples, all to be married at HTC this summer, spent the day reflecting together on topics such as communication, expectations and handling difference, as well as planning a church wedding.

Philip commented, 'It was a really enjoyable day. I always encourage couples getting married to plan as carefully for the marriage as the wedding day itself, and to look to God's love as the basis for life together.'

Philip Plyming
Vicar

Tom Darwent
Curate

Linda Morgan
Asst. Minister

Valerie Bagley
Asst. Minister

Andrew Cowie
Children & Families Minister

Drew Waller
Youth Minister

Janet Watkins
Church Administrator

'Playing God': What are the ethics of reproduction? Christian FAQs - 18 May @ 8pm

Much in the news over recent months has been the controversial Human Fertilisation and Embryo bill. Opposition from bishops forced a concession to allow MPs to vote against parts they found ethically objectionable. Pro-life and pro-family groups warned against the threat of commodifying children and creating them fatherless. So just what are the ethical issues involved and what exactly is wrong with

'designer babies'? Andrew Goddard will be our speaker on this complex and fascinating subject. He writes and speaks on ethical issues and until recently was Tutor in New Testament ethics at Wycliffe Hall.



Confirmation at HTC

On Tuesday 29 April HTC hosted a confirmation service for neighbouring churches. Three adults and five young people from HTC testified to their personal Christian faith by being confirmed by Ian Brackley, the Bishop of Dorking.

Next Edition

HTC News will appear again in July.

Come Home for Lunch - Sunday 18 May

Following our very successful 'Come Home for Lunch' in November last year,



we are doing it again! We hope that the whole church family will either be out to lunch on Sunday 18 May or having people home for lunch.

All you need to do is call in to the foyer and sign up by Wednesday 7 May and we will do the rest! Details of where you are going or who is coming to your house for lunch will be up in the foyer on Sunday 11 May.

Giving Review

During May we will be having our annual Giving Review, when we write to all church members asking them to help us plan for the future mission of the church.

Services

Currently our Sunday services are held at 8am, 10am & 6.30pm and from September will be held at 8am, 9.30am, 11.15am and 6.30pm.

Church Office

Monday and Friday - 9am to 5pm
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - 9am to 3pm

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