

HTC News

“the times they are
a-changin'”

It's here! After months of planning and months of prayer - finally the new services start on Sunday 7 September.



Philip Plyming, Vicar of Holy Trinity Claygate, said he was excited about the changes. 'We're doing this for a great reason, which is to create space for more followers of Jesus', he said. 'It also the case that people will have a greater choice of services to attend.'

The new services kick off an exciting autumn at HTC - discover more in this 50% longer HTC News!

September/
October 2008

Inside this issue

Philip's letter - page 2

Jon Hidden - page 3

Drew's Summer Update -
page 4

Forty Days of Purpose -
Centre pages

Nettle Warrior - page 8

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 excited about this autumn at HTC, for a whole number of reasons.

First, the new services that start on the 7 September. A lot of planning has gone on, and I want to pay tribute to Janet and the team for that. But I particularly want to thank the hundreds of church members who responded so magnificently to the request for people to serve in the four Sunday services we will now be having. There are lots of new people on the teams, and I think that is really encouraging.



The new services will require some level of adjustment from most of us, but I believe the vision behind these changes is really compelling and makes it all worthwhile. Let me restate what our vision is: our aim in all of this is to create space for more followers of Jesus. Holy Trinity is not a church that exists just for its members but for those in this village and beyond who have yet to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus. Four services will give us the space and the range of services to allow many more to come and worship at Holy Trinity.

Second, the Alpha course. Why? Because there is nothing better than seeing people grapple with the claims of the Christian faith and discussing them in an honest and open way. Seeing it click for people that Jesus died for them is fantastic. I've already started inviting people to think about Alpha, and hope others are doing that too.

Third, 40 Days of Purpose which starts at the end of October. Before I started at Claygate, I went on a training course for leaders of larger churches. The other fifteen ministers there all gave me the same message: '40 Days of Purpose helped our church like no other course has done'. If we want to be deeper followers of Jesus, I think this is just the best thing to be doing as a church.

Finally, our preaching programme for the first half of the autumn. Soon after I came to faith I read a book called The Grace Awakening which helped me realise for the first time how amazing God's grace is. My prayer is that our series 'Stories of Grace' will awaken joy and peace in all of us, and motivate us to share that love with others and go deeper in it ourselves.

There's lots more going on as well: a new youth programme starting, Jon Hidden starting as Cornhill Ministry Assistant, Messy Church building on the success of the first two services and progressing the results of the Seniors' Questionnaire. I hope you enjoy reading more in the pages that follow, and value your support and prayers in the months ahead.

With my love and prayers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. P.', written over a light blue background.

Jon Hidden and the Cornhill Course

John Hidden is starting the Cornhill Training Course this September. His placement will be at HTC as a Cornhill Ministry Assistant. In this article he introduces himself and tells us what he will be doing

Tell us about yourself:

I was born and brought up in Claygate and still live here with my wife Hannah. I've worked for Barclays Bank for the last 6 years in various offices. To relax I love watching rugby especially my team Bath. If there is no rugby on I'll go for a ride on my mountain bike or a good walk with an OS map in hand. If conditions are right a trip to the coast for surf is always popular.

What has your journey of faith been like?

I started coming along to Holy Trinity Church in 1993 with my parents Roger and Philippa, my sister, also dragged me along to Youth Fellowship. YF in particular gave me an opportunity to find out more and ask questions about God. As a youth group YF would go on residential house parties; one in 1997 really stood out for me. It was during a talk about Jesus that something struck a chord with me about what Jesus had done for me. Shortly after this I decided to follow Jesus because I felt there was something more to life than studying, working and being a teenager.

What are the best bits and worst bits of working with YF?

There are many best bits; getting to

know the teenagers and seeing them get to know Jesus are definite highlights. Their boundless energy. Their sense of humour. Also working with other leaders who want tell teenagers about Jesus is a great encouragement.

Worst bits? Their boundless energy! Not always being up to date with the latest music/internet thing.

What are your next plans?

I'm starting the Cornhill Training course on 14 September. This is a two-day a week course run by The Proclamation Trust based in Borough (near London Bridge). I'm also going to work at HTC, mainly alongside Tom and Drew for the rest of the week seeing how HTC works Monday to Saturday.

What are you hoping to get out of the course and HTC?

The Cornhill Course will provide great bible based ministry training including preaching and bible study preparation. Working at HTC will give me great experience of seeing ministry in action. As HTC is a local parish church it will provide me with a wide range of opportunities to explore what Christian ministry looks like. I'm really looking forward to it!



Drew's Summer Update

HTC just finished a series of messages that looked at Jesus' sermon on the plane. In His sermon, Jesus finishes with a parable contrasting a man who built his house on strong foundations with a man who did not. Jesus' point is that His words are a strong foundation for our lives. Laying the foundations of a building are the first task of a construction crew and the foundations are the most important part of a building's integrity. This summer, it has felt like we have spent a lot of time laying the foundations for our church's ministry to young people.

In YF this summer, we focused on the basics by taking a closer look at the life of Jesus through study of the Gospel of John. Among the Pathfinders, there were a handful of trailblazers who travelled to Wales for a first-ever Pathfinders holiday camp. At the Hub, we are celebrating the re-formation of our leadership team. And as a team we are following Jesus' model by devoting our energies on building lasting friendships with young people.

Also, as a part of preparation to grow our ministry to young people we have plans to start a midweek outreach meeting for 14-18s that will meet on Wednesday nights starting in October. We will continue the ongoing and important work of the Hub on a Thursday night and are looking to expand our provision for 11-14s by still having Pathfinders available on a Sunday morning and encouraging all our younger teens to try the new

Sunday night (6.30pm) get-together that is designed exclusively with them in mind.

We are also going to further develop our YF by integrating with the

wider church family through the new 6.30pm service and through small groups.

Finally, all of the existing and new ministry fronts we are developing will require more help. This means adding to our current leaders and empowering the rest of our church to understand young people and the issues they face. We hope to accomplish this through our Reaching



Young People training course. This course started in August and there is still room to join us in September!

With all of our plans and initial work, it is our hope that we would honour Christ and fix Him as the cornerstone of our entire ministry. Please join us by praying that we would look to Him to ground us as we seek to grow into the vision Holy Trinity has for young people in Claygate.

We asked a few of the young people who went to Wales for the Pathfinders' camp to tell us how they found it:

"I enjoyed having the chance to try new things like abseiling and canoeing. I have learnt more about who God is and would like to follow him more. Also, I've grown closer to some of the people in Pathfinders as I didn't know them much before but this camp gave us the opportunity to get to know each other a bit more."

Amy Blake (14)

"Drew and I were the only men from Claygate but that didn't matter because we were in a tent with loads of Liverpoolians that we got on well with. It was good to have so much fun and get very very muddy. There was a huge slide in the middle of the campsite which I really enjoyed. I really liked the way we were taught about God's love in so many different ways like through sketches, cartoons and learning new songs. I got a certificate for smelling hot chocolate!"

Rob Sadler

Emmanuel Hall

Since Claygate Evangelical Church held its final service at Emmanuel Hall in February this year, Holy Trinity has been seeking to finalise the lease agreement between the Federation of Independent Evangelical Churches, who own the building, HTC's PCC and the Diocese of Guildford. As HTC News was going to print the final lease was about to be signed and HTC will have a 21-year lease on the building.

The building is structurally sound, but some work will be done redecorating the main hall in a way that means it can be used by a range of church groups and meetings, hopefully from some time in October. Young people will use the hall on Sunday mornings and evenings, and will share use with other groups during the week.

Philip comments, 'I am excited that we can look to start using Emmanuel Hall very soon. I am sure usage will develop over time; it is my prayer that Emmanuel Hall will be a great centre for worship, teaching and fellowship in the years to come.' Philip paid tribute to the work of Harry Jones who has been carrying on the legal discussions on behalf of Holy Trinity. 'The work has required patience and attention to detail' he added, 'and Harry has done a great job.'

It's Not About You...

Rick Warren opens his book *The Purpose Driven Life* with the words "its not about you. The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfilment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness....you must begin with God. You were borne by his purpose and for his purpose".

What follows over 40 Chapters, intended to be read as a journey of spiritual discovery and transformation, is crystallised in this Autumn's Church-wide programme, 40 Days of Purpose.

Using Warren's book as the central resource, HTC has developed home-grown material to complement the

40 days in the Bible: God's Transforming Power

In the Bible, when God seeks to transform people, 40 days is a significant time period. We can pray that he opens our hearts to what he has in store for us over our own 40 days from 26 October.

Noah's life was transformed by 40 days of rain (Genesis)

Moses was transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land (Exodus)

The spies were transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land (Numbers)

David was transformed by Goliath's 40 day challenge (1 Samuel)

Elijah was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal (1 Kings)

The city of Nineveh was transformed when God gave the people 40 days to change (Jonah)

Jesus was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness (Matthew, Mark, Luke)

The disciples were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after his resurrection (Acts)

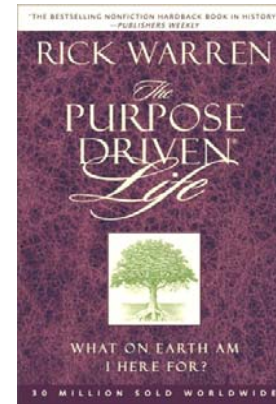


text, in the form of new teaching, small group study and video. In fact, 40 Days of Purpose has been already used as a Church-wide programme, with great success, in over 20,000 Churches including thousands in the UK.

HTC members who participate in the programme will receive a copy of the book, and read a chapter a day for 40 days. In addition, central sessions will be held in Church, providing a special teaching programme and the opportunity to discuss and pray through the issues raised with others in small groups. Children and Youth will follow their own 40 Days of Purpose programmes too.

Tom Darwent says: "40 Days of Purpose is our chance to become deeper followers of Jesus, by understanding what he wants from us and doing it. The programme will take us into areas of worship, community and service in a refreshing way that is also thorough and biblically-based". He adds "its an exciting prospect not just for the few, but for all who are Christian and seek to develop their relationship with Jesus. We hope this will be a breakthrough time for all the Church family together".

The 40 Days commence at all services on Sunday 26 October, and conclude on 4 December. Look out for full details in the invitational leaflet available from Sunday 7 September. If you have any questions at any time you can contact Mike Harle on 01372 463898 or email mikeharle@holyltrinityclaygate.org.uk



Autumn at HTC

As mentioned on the front page, it is an exciting autumn at HTC. Here are some of the things that are happening.

Alpha Supper and Course

Philip writes: 'Many people are interested in Alpha but want to find out a bit more about the course before signing up to do it themselves. So this year we have are running an Alpha Supper on Thursday 25 September from 7.45pm. This will be for people to come along and hear about the course from people who have done it before, without having to commit to doing the whole course. Live music together with great food and wine will make for an enjoyable evening - I'm encouraging all church members to think about inviting a friend or neighbour along.'

The Alpha Course itself starts on Thursday 2 October and lasts for eight weeks with a break for half-term.

Service of Thanksgiving & Remembrance

Valerie writes 'I always find that people appreciate the Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for the Bereaved is an opportunity to give thanks for someone who has died, and bring their memory to God in prayer. It is also a precious chance to have contact with people who do regularly come to church and encourage them in their exploration of Christian faith.'

The service is on Sunday 2 November at 3pm and concludes with Tea in the Church Hall. All are welcome to attend - nearer the time just pick up an invitation from the foyer.

Harvest Tea

Andrew writes 'As the number of services increases, opportunities for the church family to come together are increasingly precious. The Harvest Tea on Sunday 21 September is for all ages in the church family to come and give thanks for all that God has given us and learn more about where the Harvest Appeal is going, which this year is The Garden Route Children's Trust who work with children in South Africa. There will be activities for children and young people, and fine cake for all.' *Tickets from the church office: £2.50 for adults, £1 for children.*

Nettle Warrior 2008

I don't know if you remember Sunday 27th July 2008? It was probably one of the hottest days of the year. Not the best of days then to try and survive a notorious adventure running event, but that's exactly what a team of eight hapless souls set out to do!

Back in April doing the Nettle Warrior event seemed like a great idea, so we formed a small team and called ourselves Team I(40:31), in reference to Isaiah 40:31. Four months of hard training later and we were standing nervously at the start of the event, along with some 5000 others, wondering what an earth we'd let ourselves in for! A quick survey of the course had revealed a monstrous challenge – about four miles of off-road running, followed by two (yes two!) circuits of a hideous obstacle course called the "Killing Fields", involving tower structures, wire walks, tunnels, razor wire, electric fences, lots of water, and lots and lots of mud. It looked a nightmare!

Nearly four hours of pain, blood and sweat later we crossed the finish line exhausted, but elated. It's not everyday you face something that pushes you beyond what you think your capable of. Doing this event took us there, and by God's grace we all got through it in one piece - just! Same again next year then.

Paul Dodson



News of Philip's PhD

Many congratulations to our Vicar, Philip Plyming, who has been awarded a PhD by the University of Edinburgh for his thesis '*Transforming News: A Theological and Critical Analysis of Contemporary News Handling in the Light of the Apostle Paul's Corinthian Hardship Narratives*'.

Philip spoke about his doctoral research: My aim in researching this area was to see what contribution the apostle Paul might have to make to how Christians think about communication in today's culture of spin and image.

The context in which Paul was speaking and writing in Corinth actually has a number of similarities with our own. Paul was under considerable pressure to communicate like the rhetorically-gifted speakers who plied their trade in Corinth, who focussed on winning applause for themselves, getting a good reputation and being more concerned with image over content. The spin-doctors of yesteryear?

However, because he was preaching a gospel of Christ crucified, Paul deliberately chose a different way of communicating. The stories he shared in 1 and 2 Corinthians were not about his own success or achievements, but instead his own hardships as a disciple and apostle of Jesus Christ. He knew these stories were not going to go down well with his Corinthian audience, but Paul firmly believed that his theological message was more important than his own reputation as a successful speaker.

own reputation as a successful speaker.

In my research I researched how Christians handle news today, how this news was received by various audiences, and how all this can be assessed from a theological perspective. Set against the cross-centred model set by Paul, it was clear to me that as Christians we should think more critically about the sort of reputation we should be seeking for ourselves, how we encourage one another, and what sort of stories are really 'good news'. The result might be more honesty about the 'tough times' as Christians and as a church, and not pretending everything is great all the time.

[We asked Philip how he feels now:](#)

"I am really thankful to have been awarded this PhD. It has taken me over five years part-time and, perhaps not surprisingly given the topic, has involved some bumps along the way! Having said that, I've really enjoyed doing it and have loved making connections between the world of the New Testament and the challenges of living in today's world. There may have been no internet back then, but the challenges of communication were in many ways the same!

It's also affected me as a person. I try and be more honest about things I am struggling with and not collude with an expectation of perfection or success. Above all I hope and pray this research has brought me closer to Jesus and his cross, in whose shadow I as a disciple am called to walk".

Ukraine

Summer 2008

Friends it is with pleasure and honour that I have this opportunity to share with you just two highlights of this year's trip to the far west of the Ukraine to three small villages in Trans-Carpathia.



The theme we had this year was 'Serving the Servant King' and this for me was the first highlight. There was an incredible unity of spirit, of purpose in the team. We were serving him by serving others. We had a real emphasis on this, thinking of others before ourselves, living out Jesus' commandment to love one another. This unity does not come from Man but can only come from the Holy Spirit and we were well aware of this.

In addition to a specific mission to men back in February, this summer we continued to serve him by caring for peoples medical and dental needs and also by running a children's camp. Gods beautiful calming influence was so evident across all of the activities this year.

And for the first time we also ran four mother and toddler mornings in two villages. A real encouragement here was that in one session of the eleven mums that came nine did not usually go to church. Also that in both villages these mornings were seen by the local church as so successful that they plan to start running these mornings themselves.

Throughout the planning beforehand and the mission itself we have been so conscious of bringing everything to him in prayer. Thank-you too for your prayer support, this is so very important to us. And this is my second highlight. It is sometimes easy to forget to look back after praying and not to see how much God has answered prayer. I have been bowled over looking back at the blog of what we prayed for and how our loving father has answered prayer again and again and again. Praise Him.

Stuart Sadler

Serving the Servant King
A Szolgáló Király Szolgálatában
Ukraine 2008



Holiday Club

Over 90 children attended the Safari Holiday Club in July. We learnt what it meant when Jesus said "I am the good shepherd." The reptile man was back, the bouncy castle proved a hit and the kids enjoyed making glove puppet animals! 'Wise Tom' enthralled his audience telling the story of the lost sheep. In the church, the kids created their own tribal dances, and dressed up their leaders. Everyone joined the action songs, cheering (or booing) in the drama.



Can you spot the snake?!

Services

Our Sunday services are held at 8am, 9.30am, 11.15am and 6.30pm.

Church Office

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

www.holytrinityclaygate.org.uk

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News from the PCC

Since the last issue there has only been one meeting but we still managed to cover a wide range of subjects.

We are delighted to report that Jess Balding has started as our new Ministry Assistant and the first few weeks have been very exciting for her and the Ministry Team. It is also wonderful to report that Jon Hidden has decided to undertake a two year Cornhill training scheme and has nominated HTC as his placement church. Jon will be supported financially by his family and other church members but we ask you to support him in this decision with your prayers and encouragement.

Significant progress has been made towards the conclusion of negotiations on the Emmanuel Hall lease and reports on the outcome of the first Growing Leaders course and news that a second course has been launched were received with enthusiasm.

Drew Waller gave us his first impressions of what he hopes to achieve in his Ministry to Young People and we concluded the meeting with a full discussion on the pending Lambeth Conference and prayed for God's hand to guide the participants.

Michael Porter, PCC Secretary

Next Edition

HTC News will appear again on 2 November.

Philip Plyming

Vicar

Tom Darwent

Curate

Valerie Bagley

Asst. Minister

Linda Morgan

Asst. Minister

Andrew Cowie

Children & Families Minister

Drew Waller

Youth Minister

Janet Watkins

Church Administrator

Holy Trinity Picnic

Despite a rather wet day for our picnic, we all pretended it was dry, warm and sunny and had a great time in the Church Hall. Toy Story 2 was a big hit in Church on the big screens, providing several dads a more restful time of child care.



And by the time we left the weather was indeed dry, warm and sunny!



See you again next Summer!

