

Sunday 30 March

Mothering Sunday

Evening service with opportunity for individual prayer

Tuesday 1 April

Monthly youth update and prayers, 9.30 am & 7 pm

Wednesday 2 April

Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch

Thursday 3 April

Anchor: Jill Marsden on Life in Virginia

Monday 7 April

Men's Fellowship: Maureen Osborne on a writer's life

Wednesday 9 April

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thursday 17 April

Maundy Thursday supper in Church Hall, 8 pm

Friday 18 April

Good Friday: for details of services see page 5

St Matthew Passion performed in church

Sunday 20 April

Easter Day: for details of services see page 5

Thursday 1 May

Anchor: Dr Caroline Lucas of the Princess Alice

Hospice

Wednesday 7 May

Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch

Monday 12 May

Men's Fellowship AGM, Service and closing

supper

Monday 19-23 May

Prayer Week at Holy Trinity

Monday 2 - 6 June

Senior Holiday at Pilgrim Hall

Wednesday 4 - 8 June

Flower Festival at Guildford Cathedral

Friday 12 March 2004

Parish Weekend away at High Leigh

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

	8 am	10 am	6.30 pm
1st Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	All Age Service	Evening Prayer
2nd Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	Morning Praise	Holy Communion Ord. 1

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monthly on a Wednesday (see diary above): Holy Communion (Prayer Book)

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at 2 pm: Toddlers' Praise (in the Church Hall)

Every Wednesday, at 7 am: Prayers for 30 minutes (in the Quiet Room)

Every Thursday, at 3.45 pm: Intercessions (in the Quiet Room)

Monthly on a Thursday, at 11.45 am at Wingham Court: Holy Communion

4th Thursday in month, at 11.30 am at the Day Centre: Holy Communion

Insight is the Parish Magazine of Holy Trinity, Claygate, published monthly.

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April 2003

Free distribution

HOLY TRINITY OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Normally, the church building is open for private prayer and quiet reflection from 9.30 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday, and everyone is welcome to use the building in that way. There is no need to talk to or report to anyone; just slip in and have a few moments of quiet, read a passage from the Bible (available in every seat), and let God know of your concerns. Obviously, we can pray anywhere and at anytime, but for some going to a church building might be helpful.

In the possible scenario of the country being at war in the near future, may I encourage the local community to make time for prayer. In addition to the church building being open for private use during Office hours, there will be a time of prayer fortnightly, led by one of the Holy Trinity Team, from 7.15 pm to 7.45 pm on Wednesday evenings starting on March 19th. This arrangement will continue every other week until such time as hostilities have ceased.

Julian Henderson

**WE WISH YOU
ALL THE JOY
OF EASTER**

VICAR: CANON JULIAN HENDERSON

LAY ASSISTANT MINISTER: VALERIE BAGLEY.

NON-STIPENDIARY MINISTER: THE REVD DR LINDA

MORGAN

YOUTH WORKER: STUART WRIGHT

Only once a year - a meeting to attend

Holy Trinity's Annual Meeting takes place on Wednesday 9th April, at 8 pm in the church. This is an important event in the life of the church, when we look back over the last year, with reports on all aspects of the life and activities of the church being presented, and look forward to the next, electing members of the Parochial Church Council and reflecting on the direction in which we are being led.

For this reason, all members of the church are urged to do their best to be there, so that the meeting is fully representative of the church as a whole. In fact, anyone who is interested is welcome to attend, though the right to vote in elections is limited to those who are on the church's Electoral Roll.

The Electoral Roll for the meeting is closing as this issue of *Insight* is going to the printer, so we cannot give the latest membership figures. At last year's Annual Meeting, we were told that the number of adult members on the Electoral Roll had risen to 495, from 450 a year previously.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Claygate Men's Fellowship is coming to the end of its season. The speaker at its meeting on Monday 7th April (8 for 8.15 pm) will be Maureen Osborne on "a writer's life". On 12th May, there will be the Fellowship's Annual Service in the church at 7.30 pm, followed by the AGM and the season's closing supper in the Church Hall.

ANCHOR



The next meeting is on Thursday 3rd April (7.30 for 8 pm), when Jill Marsden, recently back in England after their tour of duty in the United States, will talk about life in Virginia. The meeting takes place as usual at 15 Claremont Road.

"Golden Fanfare"

A Flower Festival at Guildford Cathedral

A Flower Festival is to be held in Guildford Cathedral in June, in celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Coronation of Her Majesty The Queen. It is being staged by the Surrey Area of NAFAS.

The dates are Wednesday 4th June till Sunday 8th June, and it is rounded off with a celebratory service of Evensong on the Sunday. Admission to the Flower Festival costs £7, but £5 for concessions and £2 for children between 5 and 12.

There may be some people in Claygate who have never been to the Cathedral and for whom this might be the occasion. It is worth a visit!

The Passion story

A rare opportunity occurs in Claygate on Good Friday this year - to hear Johann Sebastian Bach's setting of the story of Jesus' Passion, according to Matthew's Gospel. It was not the only version of the Passion story that Bach composed, but it was clearly special in his own thinking - that much is evident from the calligraphic manuscript score he prepared of it, with enormous care and in two colours of ink.

When Bach's wife later referred to "the great Passion", everyone knew which one she meant. It is generally regarded as one of the pinnacles of Western music.

Bach's St Matthew Passion is being sung in Holy Trinity by Claygate Choral Society under their conductor Martyn Daldorph, starting at 7pm. Tickets cost £12 on the night but £10 in advance from CCS members or the Church Office.

New lease of life for Home of Compassion

Readers will be pleased to hear that the Home of Compassion in Thames Ditton, which last summer faced closure, is now able to plan for the future. Between them, Surrey County Council and the East Elmbridge & Mid Surrey NHS Primary Care Trust have recognised that what the Home had to offer in terms of quality of care was more important than the bricks and mortar issues. As a result, they have offered the financial back up and support that was needed to enable the Home to remain open. The Trustees say that, in faith, they have accepted the help offered and, after a time in which they lost staff and had empty beds, they can now push forward with new

ANNUAL MEETING ON 9th APRIL

Please do your best to come to Holy Trinity's Annual Parochial Church Meeting. More details on page 14.

Preparing for a new Curate

An Assistant Curate is to join the staff of Holy Trinity in July. He is David King, currently completing his theological training at Ridley Hall Cambridge prior to being ordained. David is married to Katy and, with their two young sons, they will be moving to Claygate in June.

An appeal to the church membership has raised most of the funds needed for the church to buy a house in which the King family, and their successors, may live while they are in Claygate. A house in Denman Drive was identified as suitable, and the process of purchasing it has gone smoothly and happily, thanks to the existing owner. Contracts are due to be exchanged on 30th March.

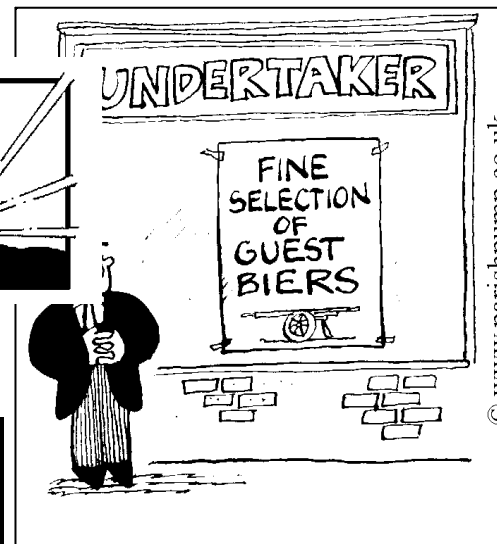
At the same time, plans to convert Upper Church House (the old vicarage), which has proved unsuitable for living in, for general church purposes - it is badly needed to house the growing children's groups on Sundays - received a boost last month, when Elmbridge Borough Council approved the change of use.

Insight Online

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Of course, if you feel there is nothing like paper between your fingers, you can order a subscription from Merle Liddiard on 01372 465038.

**CLOCKS GO FORWARD
ON 30th MARCH**
Don't be late for church!



THROUGH THE COMPUTER SCREEN

5 to 11 year-olds find half term fun

WHAT TAKES 400 biscuits

80 jam jars

40 helpers

10 fishing nets

a chip and a ram and loads of energy to be a success?

Holy Trinity's half term holiday club! The holiday club ran between 9.30 and 12 from Monday 24 February to Thursday 27 February and during the week approximately 80 children aged between 5 and 11 attended each day. The theme of the holiday club was "following Jesus" and this message was delivered to the children through drama, talks, music and craft activities.

The church had been transformed into a massive computer screen and each day, 2 characters called Chip and Ram enacted a Bible story to the children, which was then followed up through craft activities and discussion in small groups. On the final day, the children's parents and carers were invited to attend a show and also received invitations to come to the church service the following Sunday, which brought the half term activities to a close. Approximately 40 people were involved in running the club, so a big thank you to everyone who put in so much effort to make the club such a success.

The message around why we follow Jesus and what he has done for us came across to the children in a really fun and exciting way. Our challenge as a church now is to consider how we can follow up with these children to keep that message alive.

Your prayers would be appreciated as we investigate the possibility of doing a

Sailing the seven seas for a whole year

Perhaps he was feeling a little bored, Ben Young explained, but the advertisement in *The Times* hit him between the eyes. The opportunity to join the crew of a clipper taking part in the Round the World Yacht Race was something he just had to take up.

Not just one race, actually, for the journey was broken into 16 legs, with an average stopover of eight days in fascinating cities around the globe. He left Portsmouth in October 2000 and sailed back into the harbour there on 25th September 2001. The best the *Leeds Clipper* could manage was third place on one of the legs but, for living in the memory, the experience was far more important than the winning.

Giving an illustrated talk to a Ladies Night of the Claygate Men's Fellowship on 3rd March, Ben Young said that his object was to give us something of the atmosphere of the trip, from life on board in close proximity to fellow men and women whose company had not been chosen, to the bliss of the good sail under broad clear skies (particularly across the Indian Ocean from Christmas Island to Mauritius) and the trauma of 65 mph gales and 30 foot waves, especially at night, not to mention all the clearing up which was needed afterwards.

The bonus for Ben, which had not figured in his original thinking, was the tourist opportunity of visiting places like Cuba, Galapagos, Hawaii, Japan, Hong Kong, Christmas Island (the Indian Ocean one with its massive red crabs) Cape Town, Salvador in Brazil and New York. He was extremely good at communicating why it had been truly the trip of a lifetime.

The Men's Fellowship is open to all men in Claygate regardless of church

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF...

Bishops

Some are forgetful:

A bishop was greeting his guests at a garden party when he overheard a new young curate confessing to his friends that he had spent the best years of his life in the arms of another man's wife.

The bishop was scandalised and about to rebuke the curate when the young man went on: "She was my mother!" The friends all roared with laughter at the curate, and the bishop was also very amused. He then moved on to a group of more senior clergy to try the joke out on them.

Apropos of nothing, he broke into the conversation and said simply: 'Do you know, brethren, I spent the best years of my life in the arms of another man's wife?' The clergy were badly startled, and stared at the bishop, aghast. But the bishop suddenly looked very embarrassed. 'Oh dear,' he stammered, 'I've forgotten who it was now!'

and some have silver tongues:

While we in Claygate are fortunate in our clergy, there are some whom their Bishop does his best to transfer to another diocese, using Episcopal tricks of speech. Thus one bone idle curate was recommended in this way: 'Any vicar who gets this young man to work with him will be extremely fortunate.' Another vicar, who was too mean to give anyone even a cup of tea, was described as 'a man of rare gifts.'

One difficult priest was described as 'well-balanced'. The bishop answered the quizzical look of his secretary with, 'Well, he has chips on both shoulders!'

.....
• *There are so many specialist* •
• *phone services nowadays.* •
• *There's even a dial-a-prayer* •
• *service for atheists. You dial a* •
• *number and no one answers.* •
.....

Important recall notice!

The Creator of mankind is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the central component of the heart.

This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units, code named Adam and Eve, that has resulted in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed, 'Subsequent Internal Non-Morality,' or S-I-N. Symptoms include: loss of direction, foul vocal emissions, selfish behaviour, depression, fear and aggression.

The manufacturer, who is not at fault, is nevertheless providing a repair service, free of charge, to correct this SIN defect. Contact him at www.P-R-A-Y-E-R.org.universe Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN by pressing R-E-P-E-N-T-A-N-C-E. Next, download J-E-S-U-S into the heart. No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, the JESUS repair will sort it out. Please see operating manual, HOLY BIBLE, for further details on the use of these fixes.

Warning: If you continue to operate your human unit without correction, you void the manufacturer's warranty. This is because you expose the human unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list.

For free emergency service, call on J-E-S-U-S.DANGER:

The human units not receiving this recall action will eventually be scannned in the furnace. The SIN

The good ordering of society is essential for the well-being of individuals within that society. If democracy, free speech, justice and human rights are not upheld, innocent people suffer and oppressive regimes are allowed to prosper.

The big question is how victory for those important values is achieved. Is it merely a matter of leaving everything to market forces and going with the flow, whichever direction that proves to be? Or is there a need to work at bringing about those standards by any available means? As William Blake put it in the much loved hymn, Jerusalem: 'nor shall my sword sleep in my hand, till we have built Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant land'. And in our current crisis the question is whether military force is a legitimate means?

Sometimes it seems that evil is in the driving seat and will eventually defeat what is good and true. But the Christian faith proclaims the ultimate victory of good over evil, of justice over injustice, truth over lies, love over hatred, God over Satan. This conviction rests on two beliefs:

First, that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ two thousand years ago won a victory over the forces of evil. His death on a cross, though it seemed like a defeat, was in fact a stunning victory, in that He took the consequences of all the evil of the world upon Himself. As a result anyone who puts their trust in Him can find forgiveness for their wrongdoing. Three days later His resurrection was a significant second victory, this time over the power of death with the promise that those who trust in Him have eternal life, and that death is not the end, simply a new beginning. So, Easter is a time for great celebration and thanksgiving and I hope you will come to one of the services at Holy Trinity. Everyone is most welcome.

Secondly, that one day all suffering, injustice and oppression will come to an end and evil as we know it will be no more. This glorious hope is outlined in the Bible and promised at the return of Jesus Christ. Till then we live in a world of pain and anguish and we do what we can to establish truth and freedom, in the confident hope that one day God will win the day.

So, as I wish you all a very happy Easter, my prayer is that we will know the living presence of Jesus Christ with us in our struggles now and that we will look forward with sure faith to the day when God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

With my best wishes and prayers,



PS: If anyone ever wants to talk with me or another staff member about any matter, a spiritual issue, a family problem, a work difficulty, please phone and we shall be delighted to fix a time to meet - 01372 463603.



From the Parish Registers

We welcome into the
family of the Church:

Thomas Oliver Bennis
Isobel Matilda Clifton
Samuel Maximilian White
Aaron Frederick White
(All baptised on 16th March)

We offer sympathy to the
relatives and friends of:

John Edward Stomard
(17th February)
Arthur Edward Harrington
(18th February)
Charles Alan Noble
(2nd March)



ORDINATION SERVICES AT THE CATHEDRAL

Claygate will have an interest in two ordination services being held in Guildford Cathedral at the end of June.

Linda Morgan, who was ordained deacon in June of last year and has since served as part-time and unpaid Assistant Minister at Holy Trinity, will be ordained priest at a service at 5 pm on Saturday 28th June.

David King, who as we report on page 3 will be taking up post as Holy Trinity's Curate in July, will be ordained deacon at a service at 10.30 am on Sunday 29th June.

Parish Personalities

This month sees Bob Hayes facing up to the Insight Inquisition.

*Where were you brought up?
In East Molesey.*

*How long have you lived in Claygate?
Twenty-two years.*

*What do you like most about it?
Holy Trinity Church.*

And if there was one thing you could change? The A3.

*Where would you locate your ideal home?
Djupvasshytta. (If you are as bemused as your Editor, Bob explains that it is in the Norwegian mountains overlooking Geirangerfjorden.)*

What is the least welcome part of your daily round? X-ray reports.

Which personal trait do you struggle most to overcome?

Letting paperwork pile up.

What food are you most partial to?

Reindeer stew, mashed potatoes and lingonberries.

*And leave on the side of your plate?
The pattern.*

*What do you watch on television?
Hardly anything.*

*What would your desert island book be?
William Gurnall's *The Christian in Complete Armour*.*

What is your favourite music?

Elgar's Enigma Variations.

And your favourite hymn?

"Be Thou my vision".

Which passage of the Bible is most telling for you personally?

Romans 5.

Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?

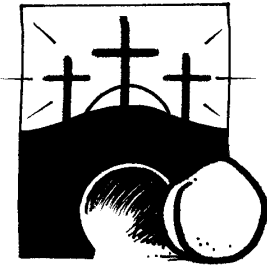
Heaven.

A Moment to Meditate

There are people still for whom their words seem like nonsense. Whose words? Those women who were the original witnesses of the Resurrection of Jesus. For the story they told was an extraordinary one, a story that if it wasn't unbelievable was earth-shattering. Jesus, whose body had been buried after a cruel execution on a cross, was alive again.

Some people today simply refuse to believe it. Others look for a more rational explanation which they can believe. But their attitude is no different from that of those who first heard the story. They didn't believe it either, but they were in a position to confirm it at first hand. They found that it was indeed true.

In the explosion of wonder and joy which followed the realisation that Jesus had risen from the dead, the details became less important. For example, exactly who was it that had gone to the tomb and come rushing back to the disciples with such an astonishing story? The gospel writers all agree that Mary Magdalene was one of them. Matthew, Mark and Luke identify Mary, the mother of James, as being another. That's it, so far as Matthew is concerned, but Mark says Salome was among them, Luke says Joanna and others. There are similarly minor differences in the accounts of what actually they saw. The variations point to the reliability of the essential truth rather than its weakness. We are faced not with a Stalinist conformity



"They did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense."

Luke, chap. 24, verse 11

but with individuals remembering different things about the same event.

Having properly observed the Sabbath, the women had gone early on Sunday morning to the tomb in which the body of Jesus had been interred, in order to anoint it with spices and perfumes. When they got there, they found the tomb open and empty.

There was a young man there (or possibly two), gleaming like lightning (Matthew is certain he's an angel) and he asked the women why they were looking for the living among the dead: "He is not here; he is risen!"

Imagine them returning from the cemetery and saying that to you. Would you have been the exception when "they did not believe them"? But then Jesus was suddenly among them, saying "Peace be with you" and conversing with

them. We are told (in verse 41) that they still did not believe it, but the evidence was overwhelming. Except for Thomas, of course, because he was not with them at the time. But then Jesus came to him too and all his "doubting" evaporated. His response could be nothing but "My Lord and my God!"

It happened a long while ago. But a lapse of time does not invalidate the evidence. It has convinced 2 billion people in the world today. If you have not so far been one of them, just imagine what the implications might be of its actually being true.

- *Scribatus*

*Bibles that are falling apart
are usually owned by people who aren't*

CONDUCTING FUNERALS

The staff at Holy Trinity are always pleased to be invited to conduct a funeral whether in Holy Trinity Church or at a local Crematorium. Our aim is to offer support at the time of and following a bereavement and to be flexible in talking through with the family what they want at a funeral. If that means a service without hymns and prayers, then we are very open to that discussion. There's nothing worse than people feeling words are being said that they don't believe or that the form of service is totally inappropriate for the person who has died.

As Claygate's Church of England Parish Church we wish to support all in the community who experience a bereavement and to do so in a way that is found to be helpful.

Please be in touch with Julian Henderson (Vicar), Valerie Bagley (Assistant Minister) and Linda Morgan (Assistant Minister), if you think we might be able to help,

Courses in parenting get under way

A course in practical parenting, for the parents of children up to the age of six, started at Holy Trinity last month. It is designed to be informal and fun, and was fully subscribed, mostly involving people who are not members of the church.

The Church's intention is to offer such courses, covering all ages including teenagers, on a regular basis, as a service to the local community which we believe will be found valuable.

The current course runs for eight sessions, one evening a week from 7.45 to 9.30 pm, and costs just £12, which includes refreshments and a comprehensive book for use during the course and for reference afterwards.

Join Claygate's OWN Credit Union!



Want to get your money under control?

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ELMBURGH CREDIT UNION is for you.

And Claygate's own branch is now open.

When?

Every Friday evening between 7 and 8

Where?

Claygate Comrades Club and Royal British Legion
at the top of Hare Lane

An easy, convenient and local place to SAVE and, if
you ever need, borrow at low interest rates.

It has been set up by Churches Together in Esher and
Claygate,

but owned and run by its members - you!

Credit Union is fully regulated by the Financial Services Authority, so your money is as safe as in a bank. If you ever borrow, the Credit Union currently charges a maximum of 1% a month. On a loan of £100 repaid over a year, The interest would be just £6.50 (12.84% APR)!!

THE CHANCE TO PRAY AT HOLY TRINITY

Weekly

Wednesday at 7 am: Prayer in the Quiet Room

Thursday at 3.45 pm: Intercessions in the Quiet Room, led by Frank Atkinson

Sunday at 9.30 am: Prayer for the 10 am service in the Quiet Room

Prayer Ministry at the 10 am service: individual prayer at the end of the service, with those wearing an orange badge usually positioned at the front of the church.

Monthly

First Tuesday at 9.30 am & 7pm: Update and time of prayer for young people, in the Quiet Room led by Stuart Wright and Selina Botham.

First Saturday at 9 am: Prayer in Quiet Room

Every two months

Usually on the first Friday: Taizé worship and prayer held at local churches as part of a Churches Together initiative. Forthcoming dates are: 4th April at 8pm - Church of the Holy Name, Arbrook Lane;

6th June at 8.30 pm - Christ Church Esher

Last Sunday of January, March, May, July, September and November, at the 6.30 pm service: individual prayer for healing or other need, for yourself or another person

Annually

Holy Trinity's Week of Prayer - this year from 19th to 23rd May: a full programme of prayer events

Pray for Schools Day in November: a national day of prayer for schools, in the church or the Quiet Room, led by Selina Botham and team
World Focus / Harvest Weekend: evening of prayer for world concerns, led by the Missionary Team

Prayer Partners and Triplets - if you would like regularly to pray with someone else and would like help in arranging a suitable partner, please contact Liz Richardson, below
For further details on any of these, please contact :

Liz Richardson on 01372 467701 or at Oakdene, Church Road, Claygate, KT10 0JP.

Anchor members hear about St Martin's

This women's group at their monthly meeting in March heard the Revd Liz Russell talk about how she came to be one of the four priests at St Martin's in the Fields.

Brought up in Weston Green and living for a time in Claygate, she had had a career in the music department of the BBC for many years, and part of her job was to set up all the Promenade concerts (after a 9 - 5 normal job!).

Five years ago, after at first being astonished when her Vicar suggested it, Liz was ordained and served as a curate in Alton. She joined the team at St Martin's 18 months ago and is in charge of the mission to the homeless, who have a base underneath the crypt restaurant. The homeless have access to help in health and employment prospects, and have facilities for showers, but St Martin's itself offers no beds.

Liz told us of the Church's Chinese section, as St Martin's is the headquarters for London's Chinese Christians, with services in Cantonese which are translated into Mandarin.

They conduct no funerals at St Martin's, as they have no burial ground, but they do have numerous memorial services for well-known people.

Liz also told us of the plans which St Martin's have for a very large renovation scheme, which is expected to cost £34 million. Part of it will entail opening up yet another level below the church, since its site precludes any outward

When troubles beset us

This is a modern paraphrase of the best-known of all psalms - the Twentythird. It has an interesting history. At the end of the Vietnam War, on the day before the ceasefire was announced, the American Air Force pilot son of the film star James Stewart was shot down. His parents were lost in grief. Among the many letters of condolence was one from a woman who had written this just for them. It helped them bear their burden, and became the Stewart family daily prayer.

In pastures green?

Not always; sometimes He

Who knowest best, in kindness leadest me

In weary ways where heavy shadows be;

Out of the sunshine warm and soft and bright,

Out of the sunshine into darkest night,

I oft would faint with sorrow and affright,

Only for this I know He holds my hand

So whether in a green or desert land

I trust Him, though I do not understand.

And by still waters?

No, not always so;

Oft-times the heavy tempests round me blow,

And over my soul the waves and billows go.

But when the storm beats loudest and I cry

Aloud for help, the Master standeth by

And whispers to my soul, "Lo! It is I".

Above the tempest wild I hear Him say,

"Beyond this darkness lies the perfect day,

In every path of thine I lead the way".

So, whether on the hilltop high and fair

I dwell, or in the sunless valley where

The shadows lie - what matters? He is there.

Yea, more than this; where'er the pathway lead,

He gives to me no helpless broken reed,

But his own hand sufficient for my need.

Copyright by the Revd. James Stewart

38,000 sermons in the open air

This summer sees the commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley, Church of England minister and founder of the Methodist movement.

There will be a special service in Lincoln Cathedral, the cathedral local to his birthplace in Epworth, where his father was the Rector. In this article, Dr Herbert McGonigle, Principal of the Nazarene Theological College in Manchester, looks at the way John Wesley took his message into the open air.

Most of us have seen, perhaps even taken part in, open-air preaching at some time. Such ministry is most frequently seen in Britain in the summer in beach missions and other holiday gatherings.

In 18th century England preaching in the open air was unknown until George Whitefield and John and Charles Wesley initiated it. John Wesley began this ministry in Bristol in 1739 and he kept it up for more than fifty years. If Wednesday May 24th 1738 marks the date of his spiritual heart-warming, then Monday 2nd April 1739 marks the beginning of what he always called 'field preaching.'

At four in the afternoon that day he stood up in a brickyard in Bristol and preached to about three thousand people from the words of Luke 4:18, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach...' What a prophetic text it was! Fifty one and a half years later, under an ash tree in Winchelsea in Sussex, at the age of 87, Wesley preached his last open-air sermon, from Mk 1:15, 'Repent and believe the gospel.'

In between the brickyard and the ash tree lay half a century of 'field preaching,' a ministry unequalled by any other Christian preacher. It is estimated that eighty-five percent of the forty-five thousand sermons preached by John Wesley were preached out of doors. In all places, in all weathers, to crowds large and small, he heralded the Good News across the four kingdoms of Great Britain for half a century.

He preached in fields, in barns, on hillsides, at market crosses, in town and city streets and at pit heads from Durham

to Cornwall. All over the country you can still find scores of notices carrying the date when 'John Wesley preached here.' Wesley began this field-preaching, and continued it, because it was the most effective way to reach the people with the gospel. He believed himself called of God to this demanding ministry and he gave himself to it with undivided zeal and dedication. On almost any day during these fifty years, Wesley would travel twenty or thirty miles on horseback, in all weathers, and preach at least twice out of doors.

In one of his journal entries for June 1759, he wrote of why he practised field preaching. 'I preached abroad to twice the people we should have had at the house (i.e. the preaching house). What marvel the devil does not love field-preaching! Neither do I. I love a commodious room, a soft cushion, a handsome pulpit. But where is my zeal if I do not trample all these underfoot in order to save one more soul?' Field-preaching worked! On this occasion twice as many heard the gospel as would have done if Wesley had preached indoors. As Paul said of his ministry, 'I have become all things to all men that I might by all means save some' (1 Cor.9:22). As twenty-first century Christians, we, too, must seek to reach our generation with the gospel 'by all means.'

Holy Trinity goes open-air when an ecumenical service is held on the Recreation Ground on the evening of 20th July.

EASTER AT HOLY TRINITY

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 17th APRIL

At 8 pm, remembering the Last Supper and Jesus' command to "Do this in remembrance of me", we shall join in a simple meal in the Church Hall, including in it a short form of Holy Communion. Supper tickets will be available from the Church Office.

GOOD FRIDAY, 18th APRIL

10 am: We assemble in Claygate Station car park for a Walk of Witness through the Village to Holy Trinity, in time for

10.30 am: All-Age Service in the Church

12 Noon: Three Hour Meditation

(You need not feel committed to the whole 3 hours

- it is divided into segments between which you can come and go)

7 pm: Bach's St Matthew Passion

Claygate Choral Society conducted by Martyn Daldorph

Tickets cost £12 on the night or £10 in advance from 01372 841046

EASTER DAY, 20th APRIL

6.30 am: Sunrise Service on Telegraph Hill

8 am: Holy Communion (traditional language)

10am: All-Age Holy Communion (modern language)

11.30 am: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

6.30 pm: Evening Prayer for Easter

WHY NOT VISIT HOLY TRINITY'S BOOKSTALL?

We stock Bibles, Christian books and cards
During April there will be a display of Easter related materials

You will find the bookstall in the foyer of the church
If a particular Christian book is wanted, we can order it for you

Opening hours:
after services on Sundays
and from 9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Monday to Friday

Bookstall Organiser: Mrs Jan Winser 01372 464527
Church Office: 01372 463603

All-Age Sunday services at Holy Trinity

Why do we have All-Age services?

1. From a church point of view it is really important to work at being united as a church family. A service that is designed to appeal to All-Ages, from the very young to the much older, ought to bring the wide spectrum of Christians together, where the small preferences that divide us are forgotten in the light of the big things that unite us. That's why we call these services 'All-Age', not 'Family' services!

2. It is good for children to stay in the church building to experience a whole service. Every Sunday they go out to their groups after the first quarter of an hour, except for the All-Age service when they remain in with their parents and friends. This is intended to send them a positive message that 'church' is for them as well as for adults.

3. Our marvellous Children's Groups Leaders need both a break from teaching and the opportunity to join in a full service. They prepare and give so much on their various rotas, that it is important that they have a time to receive and renew their energies.

Who are they for?

The purpose of the All-Age service is to provide some Christian encouragement for everyone who attends that service. This is quite a tall order, as the preferences, the attention spans, the interests and the abilities of a wide age spectrum of people vary so greatly. But the aim is to provide something for everyone.

Inevitably, what delights and captivates a five year old is not necessarily going to appeal to a seventy year old and that is where an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding is called for. As the old adage puts it: 'you can't please all the people all the time, however much you try'.

As from May, Holy Trinity's regular monthly All-Age service will move to the third Sunday of each month, instead of the first, starting at 10 am. We will continue to have All-Age services on special occasions, outside this pattern. This feature tells you all about All-Age services, and encourages you to come and join us for one of them.

Who organises them?

An All-Age Service Committee meets around six times a year to plan these services. The committee is made up of Linda Luff, Gilly Hayes, Lucie Cowie, Anna-Lise Gordon, Rachel Stiddard and Julian Henderson.

If you have any comments to make to them about the All-Age services, either positive or negative, please be in touch with one of them. It is good to receive encouragements when things go well, not just the moans when they go less well. Please pray for the committee and those who get involved in leading and speaking at the All-Age services, that these services may have a wide appeal and be honouring to God.

**YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED
TO JOIN US FOR OUR ALL-AGE
SERVICES
AT HOLY TRINITY**

**30th March - Mothering Sunday
20th April - Easter Morning
27th April - Sunday after Easter**

What themes are followed?

The theme for a particular service is decided either by the season of the year (eg Christmas), or by the material the Children's Groups are currently following or by the adults' Sunday teaching series of sermons at 10 am.

What actually happens?

While there is plenty of variety, some things take place at each All-Age service. There are songs to sing, a Bible reading and a talk to listen to, and prayers to pray. Recently, children have helped to lead and speak at these services and they have shown considerable confidence and faith. There is now a growing group of children and young people involved in leading the music.

The services have become more interactive than in the past with movement around the building during a service and with activities to create and hold interest. We interview people about their faith in God (planned in advance, not pounced on unexpectedly!), we use drama, and we involve the congregation in creative ways of offering prayer to God.

Practicalities?

An order of service and a Sunday newsheet is given to everyone on arrival, so that we can follow what happens. There are no reserved seats in the church building, so we can sit anywhere, unless there is a baptism and certain seats have reserved signs on them for the families concerned. The service starts at 10 am and we aim to finish by 11 am.

In the past, baptisms have been on the third Sunday, but will in future usually take place on the first Sunday of the month.