

Monday 2 April	Men's Fellowship: Howard Mallinson on Guildford via Cobham
Wednesday 4 April	Holy Communion at 11 am followed by a light lunch
Thursday 5 April	Maundy Thursday Passover Supper in Church Hall, 7 pm
Friday 6 April	Good Friday: Bach's St Matthew Passion in church, 7 pm
Sunday 8 April	Easter Day
Wednesday 11 April	Monthly Prayer Meeting in church, 8 pm
Monday 16 April	"Amazing Grace" - film about William Wilberforce
and 18, 20 April	The Theatre, Leatherhead
Saturday 21 April	Another Night in New Orleans, concert in church, 8 pm
Sunday 22 April	Church Vision Meeting and APCM
Tuesday 1 May	Confirmation service with Bishop Ian in Holy Trinity
Sunday 13- 19 May	Christian Aid Week
Monday 14 May	Men's Fellowship Annual Service, AGM and Supper
Tuesday 15-18 May	Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Park
Sunday 17 June	The Next Chapter: hear back from the Vision process

### REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

	8 am	10 am	6.30 pm
1st Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	Morning Praise	Evening Prayer
2nd Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	Morning Praise	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	All Age Service with baptisms	Evening Prayer with prayer for healing
4th Sunday	Holy Communion BCP	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
5th Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	Morning Praise	Evening Prayer

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monthly on a Wednesday (see diary above): Holy Communion (Prayer Book)  
 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at 10 am: Toddlers' Praise (in Church House)  
 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

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and a great deal more  
to keep you up to date

Easter  
is the birthday of  
Christianity  
Celebrate it with us  
at Holy Trinity  
this year

Full details of our Easter  
services and events are inside.

We'd be delighted  
if you would join us.

VICAR: THE REVD PHILIP PLYMING  
 LAY ASSISTANT MINISTER: VALERIE BAGLEY  
 NON-STIPENDIARY MINISTER: THE REVD PROF LINDA MORGAN  
 COMMUNITY WORKER: STUART WRIGHT  
 YOUTH WORKER: ASA HUMPHREYS  
 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COORDINATOR: ANDREW COWIE

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Recently Annabelle and I took the boys for a day out to Bocketts Farm near Leatherhead. It was one of those warm sunny days in March, and everything was set up to show that spring was here. After the dark days of winter it was wonderful to feel the warming sun, enjoy the blossom and the flowers, and see the newly-born lambs wobbling away around their mums. You could not miss the feeling of new life, of energy and hope - feelings I look forward to every spring.

But those feelings from the farm are restricted to the physical signs of spring; they also speak of what Christians celebrate every spring in the festival of Easter. When Christians remember the resurrection of Jesus – the historical truth that Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to hundreds of people at different times – they are also celebrating the possibility of new life, energy and hope for all who believe in the Jesus who has gone through death and come out the other side.

The gospel accounts brim with stories of people whose lives were transformed by meeting the risen Jesus: Mary Magdalene, Peter, Thomas – all people given new life and hope by encountering the resurrected Christ. And it didn't stop there: at Holy Trinity today, as in any vibrant church, there are similar examples of people who in many different ways have known the new life and hope which Jesus offers.

Of course, at Easter we also recall the death that came before the resurrection. With the joys of spring we try and forget about the gloomy days of winter. However, the proximity of Good Friday to Easter Sunday means we cannot lose sight – and neither should we – of what Jesus went through, a death on a cross, a death for criminals, but a death which was God's plan to rescue a world which was lost.

It is thus very appropriate that on Good Friday Claygate Choral Society are singing Bach's St Matthew Passion, a wonderful way to recall the saving work of God in Jesus Christ. I am hoping that in all that goes on at Holy Trinity over Easter many of us have the chance to celebrate not only the joys of spring, but the joy of new life which comes through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

On behalf of all the team at Holy Trinity, may I wish you a very happy Easter.

*Philip Plyming*

## From the Parish Registers

### *We welcome into the family of the Church:*

Oscar William Welsman Pryor  
(baptised on 4th March)

### *We offer sympathy to the relatives and friends of:*

Hilda Wellden  
(14th February)

Frank Elsdon  
(23rd February)

John Robert (Bob) Worrell  
(24th February)

Gladys Villa  
(3rd March)

Wilfred James  
(8th March)

## Claygate's Parish Magazine

This issue of *Insight* is being distributed to every home in Claygate, something we have been doing with Christmas and Easter issues for several years. We hope you have found it worth looking at.

The magazine is also published on a monthly basis throughout the year, and you can keep in closer touch by subscribing to have it delivered regularly (£4 for 11 issues a year). Please contact Merle Liddiard on 01372 465038.

## Parish Personalities

Marion Chapman is the subject of this month's Insight Inquisition.

*Where were you brought up?*

In Rickmansworth, Herts.

*How long have you been at Holy Trinity?*

About four years.

*What do you like most about it?*

Friendliness, uplifting music and challenging sermons.

*And if there was one thing you could change?*  
I wouldn't.

*Where would you locate your ideal home?*  
South Devon.

*What is the least welcome part of your daily round?*

Getting organised before I leave the house in the morning.

*Which personal trait do you struggle most to overcome?*

Procrastination.

*What food are you most partial to?*

It has to be chocolate....

*And leave on the side of your plate?*

Overcooked vegetables.

*What do you watch on television?*

Period drama, nature programmes.

*What would your desert island book be?*

Anything by Daphne du Maurier.

*What is your favourite music?*

Today it's Beethoven's 9th, but it could be Elgar tomorrow, or Mozart.

*And your favourite hymn?*

Hymn - "Dear Lord and Father of mankind"; modern - "Now is the time to worship".

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

Psalm 23.

*Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?*

To see the Taj Mahal.

## Enthusiastic response to Holy Trinity's Family Time course

Holy Trinity's Family Time course, heralded in the Christmas issue of *Insight*, is now underway and proving valuable and enjoyable. It is a course designed for parents, practical and down to earth, aimed not merely at improving our parenting skills and our raising of tomorrow's adults but at getting the most out of family life.

Twenty-two people are doing the course, and their reaction, although the course is not yet halfway through its term, is a positive one. They represent a broad cross-section of the community, some couples, some single parents, some from within the church membership, others with no links to the church. Five couples are involved in running the course, which runs for ten weeks, one evening a week, with breaks for the school holidays.

Holy Trinity's intention is to run the course in Claygate on an annual basis. If you would like to register an interest in attending the next one, please contact the Church Office.

## Studying the habits and movement of birds

Mary Waller is a Claygate resident who has had a long term interest in assisting the British Trust for Ornithology with its research into wild birds in the British Isles. She came to Holy Trinity last month to share her knowledge and experience with a meeting of the Claygate Men's Fellowship and their lady guests.

Mary spoke about her own involvement in ringing birds in order to monitor their movements, and stressed how astonishing it is that a small creature weighing merely a few grams can travel thousands of miles under its own wing-power. She discussed the breeding success, survival rates, eating habits and seasonal life of our native birds and for example the way their feathers are renewed. She also talked about some of the threats they face, and this inevitably included the influx of green parakeets that we have seen multiplying so rapidly in this area.

Mary also spoke about the BTO's Garden BirdWatch scheme, and encouraged her listeners to take a greater interest in the birds that visited their gardens.

## Is it worth reading the Bible in today's world?

"I have guided my life by the Bible for more than sixty years, and I tell you there is no book like it. It is a miracle of literature, a perennial spring of wisdom, a wonder of surprises, a revelation of mystery, an infallible guide of conduct, and an unspeakable source of comfort. Pay no attention to people who discredit it, for I tell you that they speak without knowledge. It is the Word of God itself. Study it according to its own direction. Live by its principles. Believe its message. Follow its precepts. No man is uneducated who knows the Bible, and no one is wise who is ignorant of its teachings."

*(From Dr Samuel Chadwick, and many will agree with its continuing truth)*

## Claygate Care decides to wind down

*Avril Gilbert explains why an old-established and valued village institution is coming to the end of its existence.*

Claygate Care was set up about thirty years ago, and was designed to fill the gaps in both statutory provision and the services offered by Claygate's own societies and groups.

Over the years, the statutory services have increased and the range of tasks has decreased due, in part, to regulations.

During the last three months, the requests for help directed to Claygate Care have declined further, making us realise that there is no great need for the group, cer-

tainly as it is now, and we are proposing that it quietly comes to an end. It has been decided that we will renew the insurance cover for our volunteers for one more year, so that we can look after our current regular users.

The volunteers have met many delightful people over the years, and some good friendships have developed. The Committee feels that Claygate Care has fulfilled its original aims, and that we can now draw things to a close satisfactorily.

## Can't bear churchiness?

Holy Trinity's Community Worker, Stu Wright, understands, and offers a number of alternatives to church as most people know it. For example, there is:

**START!** - for anyone of any age who struggles with church but knows that God is there. Meets on alternative Sundays at 7.30 in the Quiet Room at Holy Trinity.

**THE HUB** - For 11-15 year olds, offering a place to come and meet friends, compete with the latest video games and find out more about God.

**CLAYGATE SAINTS** - a football team for young men and youths which aims to be the best and to honour God, training and playing on Sunday afternoons at Goal's Soccer Ground off the A3 at New Malden.

**FALCON CAMPS** - giving kids from tough backgrounds a chance to have a holiday and get to know God personally.

More information from Stu, or from Holy Trinity's website.

## Care in the community

With the needs of the local community in mind, Holy Trinity provides

a Care Team, offering friendship and support for the most vulnerable in our community, especially those who have difficulty leaving home.

a Bereavement Support Group, with a fortnightly meeting offering mutual support for those emerging from the first stage of a bereavement.

Please contact Valerie Bagley if you think we might help.

## CREDIT UNION

The Claygate branch of the Elmbridge Credit Union exists to provide the less well off with a free financial service, helping them to avoid the problems that come with increasing debts and high rates of interest. It was set up by the churches and is run by volunteers, and if you want to find out more, please ring Valerie Bagley on 464243.

## Twenty-four hours of prayer

Holy Trinity is presently in the middle of a Vision Process aimed at identifying what are the important questions facing the church and what should be our priorities for the future. At the heart of this lies our discernment of where God wishes to take us as a church in the years to come.

Naturally prayer is central to the process, and there are several prayer events that are happening during March and April to surround the Vision Process in prayer. A 'Prayer Wall' has been constructed in the foyer of the church on which people can affirm their own support and which serves also as a source both of information about prayer events and of resources for members to use as they pray for the process.

One of the key points in this process is when Philip talks to us at the Church Vision Meeting on 22nd April (the same meeting at which the business of the APCM will be conducted), setting out his understanding of where the church now is and the kind of questions that are important for its future.

One of the ways we are preparing for this meeting is by holding a 24 hour prayer vigil at the church starting from 8 am Saturday

21st April until 8 am Sunday 22nd April (transferring to Upper Church House during the concert in the church). There is a rota up in the church foyer for people to sign and ideally we would like at least three people in each half-hour slot. During the hours of darkness there will be people inside the foyer to greet and direct those attending. This is a great way for us to get directly involved and will help ensure that we surround this key time with **focused prayer**.

If you have not already done so then please sign up and make this a very powerful 24 hours as we see the Holy Spirit move and guide us. If you would like any more information about this event please contact either Ian Vale or Kim Cross.

### Guildford via Cobham

Local author Howard Mallinson will be the speaker at the April meeting of the Men's Fellowship, talking about his latest book detailing the history of our local railway line and its impact on the communities along its route. It's at 7.45 for 8 pm in the Church Hall on Monday 2nd April.

**In Holy Trinity on Saturday 21st April at 8 pm**  
**Back by popular demand!**

**ANOTHER NIGHT IN NEW ORLEANS**  
**A concert of traditional jazz with a Spiritual flavour**  
**with the French Quarter All-Stars**

**Tickets at the door £10**  
**or in advance from 01372 464716 or 01372 810106**  
**Organised by the Claygate Men's Fellowship**

## Our Youth Worker is moving on

Asa Humphreys will be leaving Holy Trinity this summer. He joined us in September 2003 with the intention of staying in Claygate for three years but, with the interregnum last year and the arrival of a new vicar, thought it right to stay for a fourth year to provide stability for the Youth Fellowship and to support Philip through his first months.

Asa explains more, and offers some reflections on his time in Claygate, in his article on page 5.

Holy Trinity attaches high priority to its work with young people, and to ensuring its continued growth. The Church Council will be giving active consideration to the arrangements for continuing and developing this work, and the staff it needs. This will naturally take account of the current process for identifying a fresh vision for Holy Trinity's future and the direction in which God is leading us.

## Elections at the Annual Church Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting marks a change of practice, being held not on a weekday evening but on Sunday lunchtime, 22nd April. In addition to a presentation by Philip on where he senses the church might be being led, it will incorporate the usual business conducted at such an event. This includes the election of our Churchwardens and of members of the Parochial Church Council. Four vacancies on the Council arise this year, but please remember that only those on Holy Trinity's Electoral Roll - closing date 25th March - are entitled to vote.

## A new audiovisual system on trial

By the time you read this, you may have experienced a limited trial of a new audiovisual system for the church. Many churches have already found their services enhanced by such a system.

The trial is happening on 25th March and 1st April, and follows an extensive review of the needs - particularly at crowded 10 o'clock services - and how they might best be met. Most of the work has been done by a group led by John Alpess, set up by and reporting back to the Church Council. The PCC has given the go-ahead to the plans.

Subject to the results of the trial, an application will be made for a faculty granting permission for the permanent installation of an audiovisual system in the church.



## Claygate's Village Youth Club

*Judge John Main, President of the Youth Club, hopes you will help.*

The Claygate Village Youth Club opened on 15 November 1985. There had been efforts to open a Youth Club for many years, but its achievement was largely due to the enterprise and energy of Hugh Ashton who realised that the old school buildings in Elm Road were about to be vacated and persuaded Surrey County Council to grant a lease of one of the buildings to the Claygate Village Youth Club Association which had recently been formed. The building was extended in 1994.

The purpose of the Youth Club is to provide for young people, both boys and girls, a place to go and things to do in safe surroundings with supportive adults. Some young people are attracted to the youth activities of the church and some join the Scouts, but there are others who would prefer to look elsewhere, and it is for these that the Youth Club meets a need. At present there are about 50 members with ages ranging from 11 to 18.

From its beginning the Club has been fortunate to have dedicated Youth Leaders, provided by Surrey County Council, who supervise activities for up to 30 members on three evenings each week. The activities available include pool, basketball, badminton and table tennis, and recently some computers have been donated. In addition the Leaders have been fortunate in having the assistance of local residents in organising activities and running a Coffee Bar.

The Youth Club is managed by a Management Committee consisting of volunteers elected annually by local residents together with representatives of the Youth Leaders. The Community Support Officer is a co-opted member and the Surrey County

Council Youth Development Officer for the district attends meetings. The Management Committee is responsible for the rent and maintenance of the Club premises. The main source of income is letting to regular and occasional users. The Noddy Club playgroup meets there regularly, and Elmbridge Borough Council uses it as a polling station.

The Association holds an Annual General Meeting in July each year at which eight members of the Management Committee are elected. The Management Committee then chooses from among its members a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for the following year. At the time of his death Hugh Ashton had been Chairman for several years and there was no Vice-Chairman. Moreover three members of the Management Committee, including the present Secretary and the present Treasurer, who have all served for many years will not be available for re-election at the next AGM. It would be very sad if the Youth Club should have to close, but unless volunteers come forward to fill these vacancies in the Management Committee it will be difficult to keep it going. Volunteers are also needed to help the Youth Leaders in the Club. At present most of the Leaders are female and some male assistance would be particularly welcome.

The AGM this year will be held at the Club on 12th July at 8pm. All residents are welcome. Please let me (01372 466380 after 12 April) or the Secretary (Gill Robinson 01372 463057) know as soon as possible if you are willing to fill any of the vacancies which I have described, or if you have any questions about them.

## Young people today....

Easter remains one of my favourite times of year. My birthday normally falls around about then, the cricket season starts again, I love the first hints of summer warmth that beckon through the fresh canopies of leaves in Claygate, crême eggs are aplenty and we get to celebrate the chance to turn to God, whose power that raised Christ from the dead is still at work today. A pretty good sweep of pretty good things.

However this Easter is tinged with more than a touch of sadness as this month I shared with the Youth Fellowship at Holy Trinity Church and the Catholic Youthgroup on Arbrook Lane that I would be leaving Claygate this summer. I have been in Claygate doing a whole variety of youthwork for four years now and I have felt very keenly in my times of prayer, conversations with trusted friends and through my quiet times of Bible reading that it was right to move on.

There have been tough times and trials, having to learn how to walk properly again after illness being a case in point, but I shall always be thankful to the many people who have provided me with accommodation at various times, cooked me meals, helped out as volunteers just because they wanted to and provided me with genuine fellowship and prayer.

I'd like to thank Mark Aulds at 1st Claygate Scouts for his support and Monsignor Barry for his faithful encouragement and obviously those countless people at Holy Trinity who have truly taken the time to make me feel honestly welcome. It has not gone unnoticed and I am very grateful.

Yet, it is the teenagers that I shall miss most of all. Having got to know so many over such an extended period of time they are the main reason I have stayed as long; wanting to serve them as faithfully as I can, to maintain relationships of depth and substance and encourage them that life is not straightforward and despite great pain, that God is trustworthy. We have been able to share joys and sorrows together, very good times and the very bad, together; it has been my fervent prayer that we would learn together, as a volunteers leaders' team and with the teenagers we come into contact with, that real faith really works.

We have been encouraged by substantial growth in both of these youth groups as the teenagers feel more confident in their faith and this encourages them to invite their friends from school to come along as well. It is impossible to quantify contentment, but I'd wager a content teenager is the rarest of things. I count it as a lasting honour to have been able to witness this most weeks. It shall remain my prayer, wherever I end up, that the contentment which freedom in following Jesus brings can remain clear on the faces of each of those teenagers the churches of Claygate are blessed with. It has been the greatest privilege to share these years and that contentment with them.

*Asa*

*The widow arranged for the words 'Rest in Peace' to be inscribed on her late husband's tombstone. She had second thoughts when she found he had left his fortune to his mistress. When the stonemason said it was too late to change the words, she said "All right, just add the words 'Till we meet again'."*

## Learning from the Bible

It is a terrible thing to have your most ardent hopes dashed, to see what you had felt might become the central pillar of life suddenly crumble away. Many of us might have had the experience of being let down by another person, but how much more distressing when it seems that God might have been responsible for building up false hopes!

The story which begins at verse 13 of the 24th chapter of Luke's gospel tells us that two of the disciples of Jesus were en route from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus, seven miles away. It was in the immediate aftermath of Jesus' death on the cross and, like the other disciples, they were at a very low ebb. Their faces were downcast, we read in verse 17, and they could have only one topic of conversation: everything that had happened in the last few days to blow away all the hope in their hearts about what Jesus, powerful in word and deed as they explained in verse 19, would mean for the future. He had been arrested, sentenced to death, nailed to a cross and buried in a tomb.

Had that been the end of the story, there would have been no occasion for Luke to write his gospel or indeed for any of the New Testament to have been written. Jesus might have been remembered for a while as an inspiring teacher, but all the high hopes he had engendered among those who followed him were now disintegrating; his followers were heartbroken and rudderless, unfit to guide anyone else.

*"We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel."*

Luke, chap. 24, verse 21

To add to the confusion in the minds of the disciples on the Emmaus road, they had heard before they left Jerusalem that the tomb had been found empty. And now here was a stranger joining them on their walk who had to ask them what it was that so preoccupied them; how could he be so ignorant of all that had been going on?

We are told at the outset that it was in fact the risen Jesus who walked with them, but they did not know this; verse 16 explains that they were kept from recognising him. Perhaps it is the case for all of us that we only realise that Jesus is walking with us when he decides to make himself known. At other times he is there, unrecognised.

For the travellers to Emmaus, the revelation came after they arrived and persuaded the stranger, who had set their hearts on fire as he talked, to stay for a meal with them. It was in his action of taking bread, giving thanks, breaking it and giving it to them - a reenactment of what had happened at the Last Supper three days earlier - that their eyes were opened as to his identity. Jesus was alive!

This changed everything. They rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the others, and found that they too had seen the risen Jesus. His death had been not the end, but a mere stepping stone to new life. Now the disciples had a real story to tell, of dramatically good news for the world, and we tell it still, on Easter Day especially.

- *Scribatus*

*"The Easter story ends not with a funeral  
but with a festival!"*

## Commemorating William Wilberforce

*We look back 200 years at the movement to abolish slavery*

It was on 25th March 1807, exactly two hundred years ago, that the House of Commons passed a Bill for the abolition of the slave trade, outlawing the transport of slaves in British ships anywhere in the world. It was an important milestone in a continuing campaign to end slavery: it had been 35 years since the Lord Chief Justice had ruled that it was illegal to own or employ slaves in this country, but was to be another 26 years before slavery was finally abolished throughout the British Empire. But even today there are slaves in the world, suggested to number more than all the slaves seized from Africa over four centuries of the slave trade.

The 1807 Act was the culmination of one man's work in particular, that of William Wilberforce. Born in Hull, he became the MP for the town at the age of 21, but it was five years after that when a bigger event in his life guided the whole of his future: he became a convert to evangelical Christianity and gained a new moral purpose. In 1787 he had a famous conversation under an old tree in Croydon with the then Prime Minister, William Pitt, and as a result he became the Parliamentary leader of the movement to abolish slavery.

It was tough going. There were powerful entrenched interests, for many people had grown wealthy through their involvement in the slave trade and many of our national heroes, from Sir Francis Drake to Admiral Lord Nelson, engaged in or supported the slave trade. Wilberforce submitted Bill after Bill to Parliament but for twenty years they were all rejected. His health suffered.

Wilberforce was not of course alone in his efforts, and had many supporters particu-

larly among other Christians of an evangelical background. He was influenced both by John Wesley, who had published a pamphlet against slavery in 1774, and John Newton, the writer of *Amazing Grace*, who had once been the captain of a slave ship but had a conversion experience which led him to repent and join the church, becoming rector of St Mary Woolnoth in the City of London.

In the campaign which finally led to abolition, Wilberforce banded together with a number of others who became known as the Clapham Sect because they were all worshippers at Holy Trinity Church Clapham. They included the Rector, John Venn, along with Henry Thornton (also an MP), Thomas Clarkson, Granville Sharpe and Hannah More. It was from this group, all dedicated to translating their Christian faith into action on behalf of their less fortunate neighbours throughout the world, which came not only the campaign to end slavery but the foundation of the Church Missionary Society and the Bible Society.

After battling for twenty years, getting a Bill accepted by Parliament must have been a highly charged moment for Wilberforce. At the end of the debate in which the House of Commons finally voted to abolish the slave trade, the Solicitor General, Sir Samuel Romilly, paid an emotional tribute to William Wilberforce, whereupon the House erupted in cheering. When one supporter wrote to Wilberforce to ask whether something so un-Parliamentary could really have happened, Wilberforce replied "I was myself so completely overpowered by my feelings that I was insensible to all that was passing around me".

## EASTER AT HOLY TRINITY

We will be recalling the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Who on the night he was betrayed shared a Passover meal with his disciples -

So on MAUNDY THURSDAY, 5th APRIL, between 6 and 8 pm we will be enacting the traditional Passover meal and reflecting on what it means for us as Christians. This is an event designed for the whole family, and tickets (adults £4, children £2) are available from the Church Office.

The following day he was tried, condemned, crucified and buried -

So on GOOD FRIDAY, 6th APRIL,  
remembering those solemn events,

we join together in a Walk of Witness from the station car park at 10 am

At 10.30 am we hold an All Age service in the Church,  
with hot cross buns afterwards

Between Noon and 3 pm, we mark three hours at the cross during which you can attend one, some or all of the six half-hour sections, each with hymns, a reading, a meditation and prayer reflecting on the people Jesus encountered as he went through the day

At 7 pm, Claygate Choral Society and the  
Arbrook Baroque Chamber Orchestra perform

Bach's St Matthew Passion,  
setting the story, as far as Jesus' burial, to dramatic and moving music  
Tickets cost £12

On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, leaving behind him an empty tomb and bringing to his disciples and to the world joy and hope -

So on EASTER DAY, 8th APRIL,  
rejoicing in that life-changing event

At 8 am, we celebrate Holy Communion using traditional language

At 10 am, we have All Age Holy Communion, using modern language and with an Easter Egg hunt in the Jigsaw and Vicarage gardens to follow.

At 6.30 pm, we have Holy Communion, again using modern language

## The Atheist and the Bear

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods when he heard a rustling in the bushes. Turning to look, he saw a 7 foot grizzly bear charging towards him. He turned and ran as fast as he could, but the bear was closing in on him. In his desperation to escape, he lost control and went sprawling. As he rolled over he saw the bear raising his paw to take a swipe at him. The atheist cried out: "Oh my God!..."

Time stopped.  
The bear froze.  
The forest was silent.

It was then that a bright light shone upon the man and a voice said: "You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light. "I know it would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian, but perhaps, could you make the BEAR a Christian?"

"Very well," said the voice. The light went out, and the sounds of the forest resumed.

And then the bear lowered his paw, bowed his head and spoke: "Lord, bless this food which I am about to receive and for which I am truly thankful, Amen. "

*When I was a child I used to pray every night for a new bicycle.*

*Then I realized that the Lord doesn't work that way. So I stole one and asked him to forgive me.*

## The Barber evangelist

A barber became a Christian and began to think that he really should share with other people what he had found through his faith. He was a bit nervous about witnessing to his faith, but thought it important to pluck up courage to speak about the important issues of life and death. So one morning he resolved that he would raise the subject with his very first customer of the day. Soon after he opened his shop, in came a customer who asked for a shave.

"Certainly, sir", said the barber, "Just take a seat and I'll be with you in a moment." He went into his back room, took a deep breath, offered a quick prayer, and returned with his cutthroat razor in his hand.

"I have a question for you, sir" he said to the customer. "Are you ready to die?"

## Granddad and the Computer

*The computer swallowed Grand-dad  
Yes honestly, it's true.*

*He pressed 'control' and 'enter'  
And disappeared from view.*

*It's devoured him completely  
The thought just makes me squirm.*

*Maybe he's caught a virus  
Or been eaten by a worm.*

*I've searched through the recycle bin  
And files of every kind.*

*I've even used the internet  
But nothing could I find.*

*I asked Jeeves in desperation  
My searches to refine.*

*The reply from him was negative  
Not a thing was found online.*

*So, if someday in your 'In Box'  
My Grand-dad you should see.*

*Please 'Scan', 'Copy' and 'Paste' him  
In an e-mail back to me.*

# "A fantastic time" at Claygate Castle Capers

What was this year's Holiday Club theme?

For our theme of "Castle Capers", Simon Winchcombe and his design team created a magnificent set, featuring a medieval castle complete with drawbridge, gunge shoots, catapult and stocks! The church foyer was transformed into a castle interior, whilst the church quiet room became a dreary dungeon. The scene was well and truly set for knightly fun and games.

The spiritual theme of the Holiday Club was the Armour of God. The children found out about Faith, Salvation and the Holy Spirit through some excellent story time sessions led by our talented Storyteller, Simon Botham.

90 children seems a lot – how did you manage?

The children were grouped by age into one of nine teams, supervised by a team leader and assistant. Each team was named after a heraldic beast, such as the Brave Bears, or Darling Dragons. Each had their own gazebo in the church, which they personalised over the course of the week in an attempt to win the coveted prize of best gazebo. As part of the craft activities, organised by Lorraine Huff, the children were given a tabard to decorate using stencils of their team's heraldic beast, and it wasn't long before the teams had a real group identity.

What did the children do each morning?

The holiday club activities included Crafts, Games, Story Time, Refreshment time, and Together Time. Each activity only lasted half an hour; time went quickly, so the children never got bored. The Craft activities were particularly popular this year: model castles; stained glass windows and making animals with modelling clay. A variety of games were played in the church hall to cater for everyone's tastes. Uni-Hockey allowed the children to run around and let off a bit of steam, whilst thinking and skill-based games mentally challenged them. Simon "Storyteller" Botham held the children's attention in Story Time. Using an incredible array of props - puppets; flash cards; audience participation; and memory verses - Simon brought a number of Bible stories alive for the children, as well as giving them a Gospel overview. The Story Time led to a number of insightful Q&A sessions, with the children asking some very thoughtful questions. The Story Time sessions also provided the children with important clues to help the characters in the drama make some life-saving decisions.

*Ninety-one children enjoyed Holy Trinity's February Holiday Club. Here's a report by Andrew Cowie for those of us who were too old to be let in.*

What is Together Time?

Together Time took place at the beginning and end of each day. With the children all together in the church, Lady Jill (Griffiths) accompanied by Squire Andrew (Cowie) led some action songs, a favourite of which was this year's Holiday Club theme song, "Nothing's too big". The children and helpers enjoyed joining in with the actions, listening to the jokes and admiring the pictures that the children had sent into the castle post-box. Each day saw a different team challenge, for example jousting on Micro Scooters, completing an obstacle course, or putting a helper in the stocks to have them pelted with paper balls. The Together Time concluded with the drama, which made full use of the castle set and props.

What was the drama about?

The drama centred around the fortunes of Sir Armani, brilliantly portrayed by James Hunt, who took method acting to new heights by wearing Armani clothes even when he wasn't acting. The script, jointly written with David King, included a lot of visual gags, and pantomime style participation from the children ("Oh yes they did"... "Oh no they didn't"...). Sir Armani, supported by two "revolting" peasants, (Stuart and Rob Sadler), and his hapless Squire Andrew, had to put his trust in the King, who sent messages by courier pigeon to advise Sir Armani on how to defend himself from the dreaded Enemy. The King suggested that Sir Armani use the Helmet of Salvation, the Shield of Faith and the Sword of the Spirit - but Sir Armani had a problem; he was too interested in his clothes and didn't know which piece of armour was the right one. The children helped Sir Armani through their knowledge of the Bible verses they had learnt in the Story Time sessions. John Alpass, who played

the Enemy, acted out a memorable lingering death scene – as the Sword of the Spirit allowed Sir Armani to triumph.

How many people were involved in the Holiday Club?

There were at least eighty people involved in organising, building and running the Holiday Club. A big thank you to all those who participated and put in so much of their free time to make the whole Holiday Club experience so positive. A number of people also lent their gazebos or donated materials to decorate the church. It sends a positive message to the children and the Claygate community that so many people are willing to help make this time for the children so special. People of all ages got involved: Hub Kids; Teenagers; Senior folk and a number of church Mums and Dads all gave up their time to help in a wide range of activities, including the team who prepared a fantastic farewell lunch for all the children and parents on the Friday. With so much to prepare and plan, Jill Griffiths, supported by Lorraine Huff and Emma Baldwin started planning the Holiday Club way back in October.

What did the children leave with at the end?

Hopefully the children took away many good memories. All of us involved in the Holiday Club would pray that the children now understand why God sent his Son, Jesus to live amongst us; what it means to have faith; why we need to be saved and the power of the Holy Spirit. Each child received their own children's Bible to take home, the things they had made in Craft time, and their Activity book.

What happens next?

One of the ways we hope to keep in touch with the children is through MegaMix, led by Simon Botham, whose format and style is similar to Holiday Club, with action songs, drama sketches, story time and craft activities. Some of the children returned for the February Megamix, and we will remind them of future dates when we send out a Holiday Club Easter Card. The success of Holy Trinity's Holiday Club and its reputation in the wider community means that some children were left disappointed this year as places were all booked up within a few hours. One possibility to meet this demand might be to organise some one day Holiday Club events during the year..... Watch this space to find out more!