

Saturday 30 November Switch-on of Claygate's Christmas lights, Parade from 4 pm  
 Sunday 1 December Scramblers Christmas Party, 3 pm  
 Sunday 1 December Eternal Outreach service for 14 -19s,  
 Monday 2 December Men's Fellowship Clergy Brains Trust  
 Tuesday 3 December Prayers for young people of the parish, 2 & 7 pm  
 Wednesday 4 December Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by lunch  
 Thursday 5 December Alpha Opening Supper for next course, 8 pm  
 Thursday 5 December Anchor: Christmas meal and get-together  
 Friday 6 December Taizé evening at Church of the Holy Name  
 Monday 9 December Home Group Leaders meeting, 8 pm  
 Friday 13 December Jigsaw Playgroup Nativity Play, 11 am  
 Saturday 14 December Carlo Curley Organ Spectacular, Guildford Cathedral, 7.30  
 Saturday 21 December Handel's Messiah, Guildford Cathedral, 7.30  
 \* FULL DETAILS OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND CONCERTS ARE ON PAGES 6 & 7 \*  
 Monday 6 January Men's Fellowship New Year Social (Open to Ladies)  
 Thursday 16 January Start of new Alpha course

### 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
3rd Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	Morning Praise	Evening Prayer
4th Sunday	Holy Communion BCP	Holy Communion Ord. 1	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 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

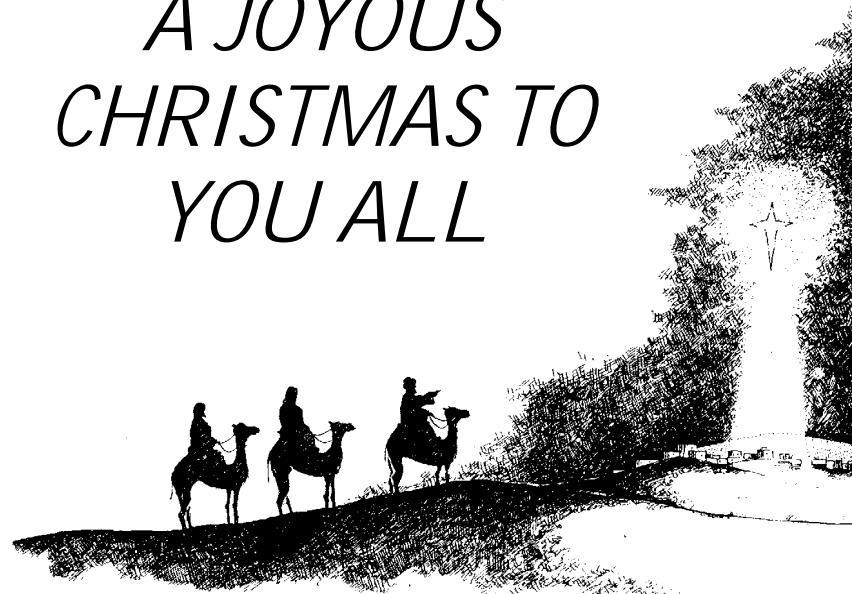
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December 2002

Free distribution

WITH THIS SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE,  
 HOLY TRINITY CLAYGATE  
 SENDS ITS GREETINGS TO  
 ALL RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE

A JOYOUS  
 CHRISTMAS TO  
 YOU ALL



VICAR: CANON JULIAN HENDERSON  
 LAY ASSISTANT MINISTER: VALERIE BAGLEY.  
 NON-STIPENDIARY MINISTER: THE REVD DR LINDA MORGAN  
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## PANEL TO DEBATE MEN'S QUESTIONS

The Men's Fellowship has assembled a distinguished panel of visiting clergy to face the *Any Questions?* evening at its next meeting on Monday 2nd December.

The panellists are:

- Canon Dr Maureen Palmer, Sub Dean of Guildford Cathedral
- The Revd Jeremy Cresswell, Vicar of St Andrew's Oxshott
- The Revd David Gillman, Superintendent Minister of the Kingston Circuit of the Methodist Church,
- The Revd Robert Blows, former Minister of Thames Ditton United Reformed Church.

The meeting is in the Church Hall at 8 for 8.15 pm. Membership of the Men's Fellowship, which meets monthly from October to May, is open to all men regardless of their church affiliation, and any enquiries may be directed to Jon Davey on 01372 810106.

The Fellowship's following meeting is their New Year Social on Monday 6th January, to which ladies are warmly invited.

## Anchor

The next meeting of the Anchor Group is on Thursday 5th December, for a Christmas meal and "Get together" - 7.30 onwards at 15 Claremont Road. Enquiries to Gill Caporn on 01372 462827.

## Insight

*This magazine is published every month of the year, except August, and is available by subscription - £3.50 a year.*

*Speak to Merle Liddiard on 463038 or the Church Office on 463603 to order your regular copy to be delivered to your door.*

*The deadline for contributions to the January issue is 16th December.*

## Albert Witchlow

We record opposite the death of Albert Witchlow. Although one of the more recent members of Holy Trinity, as a result of the Alpha course, Albert's legacy will live on for years to come, because he had employed his woodworking skills for the benefit of the church.

Albert's first venture was the bookrest which adorns the edge of the pulpit. Two years ago, *Insight* invited its readers to admire the superb craftsmanship of the lending library's book trolley, made to commemorate Denis Fountaine, but what we did not tell you at the time, because he was reluctant to draw attention to himself, was that it was Albert's work.

At Albert's funeral, Julian drew attention to the two new lecterns in use at the front of the church, both made by Albert, and he read out Albert's own description and explanation of the larger of the two, completed only in August this year and now bearing the lectern Bible. The note typified Albert's faith, attention to detail and humour.

Albert had unfinished business. After he became a regular member of the 8 am congregation (being among them only two days before he died), he became exasperated that there seemed to be no home for the offertory plate other than on a chair. He had wanted to offer a solution of his own.

## News of Gap yearers

Nicola Steeds is off to Gambia for 5 months from the end of January ..... more information from her about prayer needs, sponsorship and the work she'll be doing will be coming soon.

Greg Stallard, whom Holy Trinity is sponsoring on the "Get Connected" leadership course in Guildford, is "doing a great job", says Stu. You'll see him on the Welcome Team on Sundays, and helping out with the Trekkers and DV8.

## Bereavement service fills need

Last month's Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for the Bereaved showed how valued it has become as an established event in the life of the community. It was first organised in 1999 and has since been held annually, allowing those who have lost loved ones to come back to church for a moving occasion in which we remember and give thanks for what they were to us.

This year saw the largest attendance yet, with 130 candles being lit as the names of those being remembered were read out. They were a measure of the helpfulness which the service has been found to hold for those who have been bereaved.

## NEW CHURCH NOTICEBOARD

A new noticeboard outside the church, fronting Church Road, is due to be erected by the time this magazine reaches you. Plans for a new board, larger and more informative than the old one, have been in train for some time, and it is purely fortuitous that the old board was blown down in the gales of 27th October!

## PORTRAIT GALLERY

Photographs of Holy Trinity's staff, Readers, Churchwardens and PCC members have now been posted on a board in the church foyer as a help to those struggling to identify who is who. Julian explained that it is the first phase in a process of aiding identification within the church.

## Holy Trinity goes online with launch of website

As this magazine is being published, the Church's new website is going live for the first time. You'll find it at [www.holytrinityclaygate.org.uk](http://www.holytrinityclaygate.org.uk)

Those with Internet access, wherever they live, will be able to find out about Holy Trinity and its work - and even read the latest issue of *Insight*. The website has been under development for some time, and is expected to expand as time goes by.

More and more churches are communicating in this way, and this year saw the first competition for the Best Parish Website, sponsored by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group. The winners were announced in October and, if you'd like to see how they look and how ours compares (how's that for pressure on our Webmaster!), here are the top three:

First prize winner: St Paul's Dorking  
[www.stpaulsdorking.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsdorking.org.uk)

Second: St Mary and St Nicolas, Spalding  
[www.spaldingchurches.org/mandn](http://www.spaldingchurches.org/mandn)

Third: Holy Spirit, Southsea  
[www.hlyspirit.org.uk](http://www.hlyspirit.org.uk)



## Christians draw closer together

Anchor enjoyed a most interesting and enlightening talk by Jackie Foster on 7th November, on the history of ecumenism.

Jackie went to a Convent school from the age of four and was a "cradle Catholic" - both her parents were practising Catholics. She was brought up to believe that she belonged to the one true church and that there wasn't much hope for those who did not belong to it. Now she is convenor of the Ecumenical Committee of the National Board of Catholic Women.

Jackie gave us an outline of the slow but steady progress, from the first Week of Prayer for Christian Unity launched by the Anglicans in 1908; through the Malines Conversations in the 1920's; the work of Fr Jean Yves Congar in the 1930's and again in the Second Vatican Council; the intense spirit of unity, often extending to heroism between Christians of different churches during the horror of the Nazi concentration camps and in particular Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer; the first World Council of Churches in Amsterdam in 1948 at which 149 churches were present, to which the Catholic church refused even to send observers, but were so impressed by the results that the following year the first document emanated from the Holy Office, recognising the ecumenical movement as a "fruit of the Spirit". Since 1965 a permanent dialogue has been established between the World Council of Churches and the Catholic Church by means of a "Mixed Working Group".

Jackie finished by saying that the incredible leap forward in ecumenism over the last 100 years can only be sustained by the individual efforts of us all, mainly through prayer.

*Gill Caporn*

## Trekking through Nepal for VSO

What are called the "foothills" of the Himalayas would be called mountains anywhere else, as was obvious to a Men's Fellowship Ladies Night on 4th November looking at the slides taken there by Stella Eusebio a year ago. Being told that today's trek would descend from this point down to the valley bottom and then up to the 10,000 foot ridge on the far side was daunting enough for most of us. But Stella and ten others had spent six days in this terrain, walking from 7.30 in the morning until 5 in the afternoon, with an hour's break for lunch.

It was for all of us a fascinating glimpse of a very different culture, existing at subsistence level, with houses perched on the ridges, cultivated terraces hugging the mountainsides growing barley, maize, millet and vegetables, distinctive carrying baskets supported on people's backs by a strap round the forehead and a school in which its only teacher had constantly to move between four classes.

Voluntary Service Overseas has 50 volunteers working in Nepal. If we might once have expected them to be students, Stella assured us that they are now all mature qualified people, applying their skills and experience to help a very poor country where the needs are enormous. Stella's own VSO experience, as an experienced teacher, was in training teachers in Malawi. In undertaking a sponsored trek in Nepal, Stella's group had raised £42,000 for VSO to support the work it was undertaking.

Before she came home, Stella was able to spend a few days in the teeming city of Katmandu and to take a flight in a small plane across the peaks of the Himalayas to see Mount Everest as few have ever been able to do. Breathtaking!

## I'm a Christian....

## ... and I'm committed

I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of Jesus Christ.

I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure.

I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colourless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits or popularity.

I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognised, praised, regarded or rewarded.

I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer and labour by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way rough, my companions few, my guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, deluded or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up and preached up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus.

I must go on till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know and work till He stops me....

And when He comes for His own, He will have no problem recognising me; my banner will be clear.

As the years pass by, the Christmas story sounds more and more extraordinary. Not that it has changed, for the facts don't alter, but our society is changing. It is more sceptical of what cannot be explained by reason, less trusting of what happened hundreds of years ago and intolerant of anything that does not promote tolerance of all beliefs. So as our society moves further away from our Christian heritage, it finds it harder to believe the facts of the Christian faith.

Take the Christmas event, for example. The incredulous argue: how can you believe that a virgin conceived a child, not by a man, but by the Spirit of God, and was told by an angel that He would be called the Son of the Most High? How can you believe that despite His divine pedigree, He was born in a stable and His birth was announced by a multitude of angels singing in the sky, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased. How can you believe that the Creator of the Universe became a human being, in the form of a tiny and vulnerable child?

If people stop to think and state what they think, it is claimed, they will say this is the stuff of fairy tale and nonsense, good story perhaps, but it belongs to the realm of Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings. The adults put up with it and hope the children don't take it too seriously, a passing phase to be grown out of.

While I can understand that this is where many people are at, it is not within the remit of the Christian church to change the story to make it more palatable or acceptable. We are not at liberty to alter the accounts, to rationalise them, or to rewrite them. In fact, it should be no surprise at all that the arrival of Almighty God on earth in human form should be accompanied by circumstances we are unused to. Serious questions would have to be asked about who Jesus was, if the Gospel accounts did not reveal anything miraculous about His ministry.

The Christian faith claims that God has made Himself known to mankind in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus made the staggering claim: He who has seen Me has seen the Father. The truth about life and eternal salvation has been revealed in the Old and New Testaments and the Christian community is to convey that unchanging revelation afresh to each generation. That people find this teaching about God hard to believe does not alter its truthfulness. It is a revelation that He has initiated and all of us are called to respond to what He has said and done.

I hope that many of you will decide to respond this Christmas season by being present at a service of worship wherever you may be. If you are in Claygate over Christmas why not come to Holy Trinity? Why not try us out? What have you got to lose? But my real Christmas prayer is for more than that. Rather than just attendance at a service, I would love to see some who are sceptical and not sure about God and Jesus coming to a clear and certain conviction that the claims of the Christian faith are true and that God did so love the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. That kind of faith is a recipe for a truly Happy Christmas. May it be yours this Christmas of 2002.

*Julian.*



### *From the Parish Registers*

*We welcome into the  
family of the Church:*

**Callum Ethan Henry Slade  
Charlotte Mary Vaughan  
(Both baptised on 17th November)**

*We offer congratulations  
on the marriage of:*

**Daniel Brown and  
Emma Shaw  
(Blessing of marriage on 16  
November)**

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

**Elizabeth Holmes (25 October)  
Archie Jonathan Harris (28 October)  
Albert Edward Witchlow (29  
October)**

## Parish Personalities

*This month it is Chris Salter who faces the  
Insight Inquisition.*

*Where were you brought up?*

Here, at 4 Meadow Road.

*How long have you lived in Claygate?*

Sixty-three years.

*What do you like most about it?*

For the most part - as it used to be.  
*And if there was one thing you could  
change?* Curb the proliferation of  
incontinent horses.

*Where would you locate your ideal home?*

A little nearer the Lake District.

*What is the least welcome part of your  
daily round? Getting to the end of it.*

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

*What food are you most partial to?*

Sunday family tea at Jem and  
Rosemary's.

*And leave on the side of your plate?*

Anything foreign.

*What do you watch on television?*

The beginning of Newsnight.

*What would your desert island book be?*

Wisden.

*What is your favourite music?*

Pipes and drums with massed bands;  
traditional church music; children  
singing.

*And your favourite hymn?*

The Scout Hymn.

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

Philippians 4. 4-9 (King James Bible).

*Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?*

To beat my son, James, onto a Lakeland  
summit.

## A Moment to Meditate

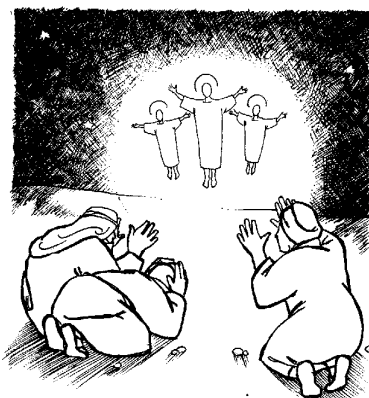
*The shepherds said "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened."*

Luke, chap. 2, verse 15

"While shepherds watched their flocks by night....". It is one of the most familiar images of the Christmas story. Suddenly, this very mundane scene, in which a group of poor men are spending yet another long and dreary night in the open air protecting their sheep from wolves, is transformed not only by the piercing light of the glory of God and the appearance of an angel, but by the announcement of an event of cosmic importance - "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord".

We all know the story. But let us consider afresh some of the features of what happened that night. First, if an event of universal significance occurs, whom do you expect to be the first to be told? It's usually those of power and influence, the great and the good. But God turns worldly expectations upside down: here we see the news being brought first to some of the humblest members of the community. It is a fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah, that good news will be preached to the poor.

As in many other aspects of his gospel story, Luke rejoices in emphasising that Jesus came for the poor, the lowly, and the dispossessed. Luke reports the angel saying to the shepherds that a Saviour had been born "to you", and that this was good news of great joy "for all the people". The message of Jesus is an inclusive one, with no one being left out from its embrace.



Then we have the response of the shepherds. Having been told the good news, they might have simply got on with their jobs and their lives. After all, isn't that what most people do today? They are told that Jesus came into the world to offer salvation and a new relationship with God the Creator, and they say "yeah, right" and carry on with what they were doing. But the shepherds' response was a positive one: they said "Let's go to

Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened", and they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. They could see that the news was something they needed to follow up.

What they did then is a lesson even to those today who share the shepherds' view that Jesus merits a response. They did not simply rejoice that they had seen a Saviour for the world and regard themselves as fortunate. What Luke tells us is that "When they had

seen Jesus, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child", glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen. If this was good news for all the people, it demanded to be shared as widely as possible, not kept to themselves. And that is as true today as it was then.

- Scribatius

*If we have God in all things while they are ours,  
we shall have all things in God when they are taken away*

## A Credit Union for Claygate

At a meeting of Churches Together in Esher and Claygate at the end of October it was agreed that we should open two new 'branches' of the Elmbridge Credit Union, one in Esher and one in Claygate. In the past couple of years branches have opened in Cobham, Walton and Molesey, and it now seemed the right moment to do something in our own area.

We have been concerned for some while about the financial difficulties so many find themselves in, difficulty with saving money, difficulty in paying off debts and difficulty in meeting the extortionate demands of the loan-sharks.

A Credit Union is a bank, which is regulated by Government legislation, where anyone can save small or large amounts of money and where if conditions are met money can be borrowed. Each member has a savings

book that records how much has been saved and interest is earned by the money being placed on deposit. It is a free service, because it is run entirely by volunteers; there are no High Street branches and no fancy Head Offices.

Each branch consists of a local and easily accessible collection point which is open for an hour a week. We are in the process of deciding where and when that will be in Claygate, but hope to make a launch in the New Year. This will be an expression of the local churches doing something very practical to serve the wider community. If you have any comments or are interested in being contacted when the launch is arranged, please phone Julian Henderson on 01372 463603.

One of the best-known and most loved features of Christmas is the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College Cambridge. It has been broadcast on the radio every Christmas Eve since 1928, even during the war years when, for security reasons, the location of the service was not publicised. In more recent years, a version of it has been televised as well.

The service was first held at King's College in 1918, devised by the then Dean of the College, Eric Milner-White, a liturgical pioneer who went on to be Dean of York. It was his wartime experience as an army chaplain which convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship.

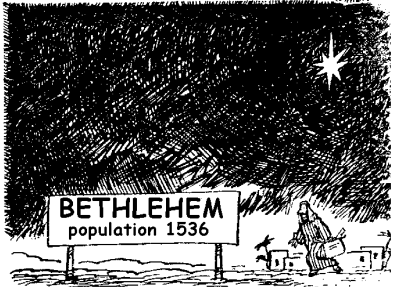
But the idea was not entirely original. It was adapted from a service for Christmas Eve 1880 which had been drawn up by E W Benson, then Bishop of Truro and later Archbishop of Canterbury. It was for use in what was apparently a "wooden shed" ~~was answered, and may I wish you~~

which at the time served as the cathedral in Truro (the diocese was a new one, and the building of the cathedral there commenced only that year). That service consisted of nine carols and nine lessons, read by various officials of the church, starting with a chorister and ending with the Bishop.

The pattern has been copied and adapted in many places. Holy Trinity's traditional carol service, taking place this year at 6.30 pm on Sunday 22 December, is more flexible, but is still a mixture of readings and carols, some sung by the choir whose direction - in the continuing absence of a choir-master - John Alpass is again taking on. You are very welcome to join with us, together - in the words of the King's College service - "in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass".

## Claygate's new Christmas lights go on

The Village has new Christmas lights this year (helped by a grant from Holy Trinity), and they are being switched on during Saturday after-noon, 30th November. Be in the Parade between 4 pm and 6 pm, for carols led by Holy Trinity's Music Group, the Chadsworth children, Scouts, Guides, Morris Men, Father Christmas and a celebrity guest.



### CHRISTMAS CONCERTS IN HOLY TRINITY

There is no excuse for not getting in the Christmas spirit this year, as the Village Church hosts a series of festive musical events.

**SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER AT 7.45**  
Richard Jenner Memorial Trust presents  
**An Evening of Seasonal Music**  
with Kathryn Harries and friends  
Tickets by postal application £12.50

**SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER AT 7.30**  
**A Feast of Christmas Music**  
Handel's Dixit Dominus, Britten's Ceremony  
of Carols and Bach's Christmas Oratorio  
The Ember Choral Society and full orchestra  
conducted by John Sutton  
Admission £10

**SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER AT 7.30**  
The Princess Alice Hospice presents  
**Music for Christmas**  
with special guest Virginia McKenna  
and Frank Renton, Occam Singers,  
Brass Quintet of the Coldstream Guards etc  
Admission £12.50

**FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER AT 7.30**  
**A Christmas Celebration**  
with Surrey Brass and the Ripieno Choir  
conducted by David Hansell  
Admission £8

### **And in Claygate Village Hall**

**SATURDAY 21 DECEMBER AT 7 pm**  
**Claygate Village Carol Concert**  
with the choir of Claygate Primary School  
and Claygate Choral Society  
conducted by Martyn Daldorph  
Admission £4 (concessions £2)

*Holy Trinity is also pleased to be hosting the  
Carol Services of the local Scouts and Guides,  
Milbourne School, Rowan School  
and Claygate Primary School.*

## SCRIPTURE CAKE

*A recipe tried and tested  
by Wendy Tatman*

### Ingredients:

½ lb Judges 6.25	Butter
½ lb Jeremiah 6.20	Sugar
1 tabspn 1 Samuel 16.25	Honey
3 Isaiah 10.14	Eggs
½ lb 1 Samuel 30.12	Raisins
½ lb Nahum 3.12	Chopped figs
2 oz Numbers 17.8	Blanched and chopped almonds
1 lb 1 Kings 4.22	Flour (self raising)
Seasoning 2 Chronicles 9.9	Spices
Pinch Ezra 7.22	Salt
1 teaspn Leviticus 23.17	Baking powder
3 tabspns Judges 4.19	Milk

### Method:

1. Grease and line an 8½ inch round tin.
2. In one large bowl place Kings, Chronicles, Leviticus, Ezra, and mix. Add Samuel 30, Nahum and Numbers, and mix. (Note for cooks: I cut off stems and put figs and almonds into grinder/blender for a short burst)
3. In another large bowl, beat Judges 5, Jeremiah and Samuel 16 to a cream. Then add Isaiahs one by one still beating.
4. Combine the two bowls and add Judges 4 (makes "dryish" mix). Place in tin. Cook in slow oven for approx 90 minutes (mine took 2 hours in a fan oven at 140°, equivalent to 150° in an ordinary oven).

## Did Jesus use a modem?

Did Jesus use a modem,  
at the Sermon on the Mount?  
Did he ever try a broadcast fax,  
to send his message out?  
Did the disciples carry beepers,  
as together they went about?  
Did Jesus use a modem,  
at the Sermon on the Mount?

Did St Paul use a laptop,  
with lots of RAM and ROM?  
Were his letters posted on BBS,  
at paul@rome.com?  
Did the man from Macedonia  
send an email saying "Come"?  
Did St Paul use a laptop,  
with lots of RAM and ROM?

Did Moses use a joystick,  
at the parting of the Sea?  
Did a satellite guidance tracking system  
show him where to be?  
Did he write the law on tablets,  
or are they really on CD?  
Did Moses use a joystick,  
at the parting of the Sea?

Did Jesus really die for us,  
one day upon a tree?  
Or was it just a hologram,  
amazing high-tech wizardry?  
Can you download the action video clip,  
to play on your pc?  
Did Jesus really die for us,  
one day upon a tree?

Have the wonders of this modern age  
made you question what is true?  
How a single man, in a simple time,  
could offer life anew?  
How a sinless life, a cruel death,  
then a glorious life again,  
Could offer more to a desperate world,  
than all the inventions of man?

If in your life, the word of God  
is sometimes hard to hear,  
And with other voices calling,  
his doesn't touch your ear,  
Then set aside your laptop, modem,  
and all your fancy gear.  
Open up your Bible, heart,  
and let your God draw near.

## Finding it's cool to be Christian

*Introducing the next generation to Jesus is a priority for Holy Trinity. Our Youth Worker, Stuart Wright, works not only within the Church but in the local community. Stu and his team have just spent a week at Hinchley Wood Secondary School, taking Assemblies and RE lessons and running an after-school club and lunch-time chats. But this page describes something of what's on offer at the Church itself.*

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH ON SUNDAYS

Bringing the children to church at 10 am on Sunday morning allows them to join in activities suitable for their ages.

CRECHE, for 0 to 3s  
A safe caring environment

SCRAMBLERS, for 3 to 4s  
Songs, stories and activities

CLIMBERS, for 5 to 6s  
Games, Bible stories, quizzes

EXPLORERS, for 7 to 8s  
Games, Bible stories, handicrafts

TREKKERS, for 9 to 10s  
Bible stories, games, drama

PATHFINDERS, for 11 to 14s  
Christian teaching, sport, games

### SUNDAY EVENING FOR THOSE A BIT OLDER

CELL GROUPS AT 6.30 pm  
for boys and girls 12 to 14

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (YF)  
from 8 pm till 9.30 pm  
Informal worship and Christian study, social activities and times away together for 14 to 20 year olds

### PRAYER MEETINGS

to enable us all to pray for the young people of the parish.

### What's been going on at YF

The highlight was the YF GETAWAY at half-term, an amazing few days away at Halls Green, nr Tonbridge, which revolved around talks on the importance of including Jesus into every aspect of our lives. It was great fun, with lots of sports, great music, food and fellowship ... roll on the next one! BIG THANK YOUs to the cooks and all those who helped!

### What is going on at YF

DV8, quite new, continues to go well, with 10 kids coming along regularly on Thursdays. Computer games, Cakes - more big thank yous to those who provide them: they are going down nicely! - and short talks based on "2 ways 2 live" have been really successful.

ETERNAL, the YF worship session, has an Outreach Service on Sunday 1st December, with all between 14 and 19 welcome. Afternoon activity, decent yooof grub, out-standing talk and drama. Cost well cheap!

New Year New Hall from 28 December to 1st January. A good number are going from YF to meet with mates, do loads of sports and activities together, and study a book from the Bible to grow in their relationship with God.

Half-term Holiday Club for primary school ages from 24th to 27th February. Last year's successful theme was *Groundbreakers* - wait and see what this year has in store!

New Hall Mini Reunion is being held at Holy Trinity on Saturday 1st March, hosting youth from all over the country who have been on a New Hall camp, to renew friendships and get some great Bible teaching.

All enquiries to Stu on 01372 463603

## SPECIAL SERVICES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

*There will exceptionally be four All-Age services at 10 o'clock during December. They will be exploring the prophecy in chapter 9 of the book of Isaiah, that "To us a child is born, to us a son is given", each looking specifically at one of the four titles by which the Messiah would be known. Come and meet the Prophet Isaiah!*

### SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER

#### 10 am: ALL-AGE TOY SERVICE

(Isaiah theme: "Mighty God")

Children are invited to bring an unwrapped toy to give to Barnardo's

### SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER

#### 10 am: ALL-AGE PRE-CHRISTMAS PRAISE with HOLY COMMUNION

(Isaiah theme: "Wonderful Counsellor")

#### 6.30 pm: TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE, with choir and organ

Followed by mince pies in the Church Hall

### CHRISTMAS EVE

#### 3.30 pm AND 5.30 pm: CHRISTINGLE SERVICES

For the first time since the Church was enlarged, and in the light of the enormous numbers last year, we are reverting to two services. As a guide (but we allow flexibility!), let your surname decide when to come - A-M at 3.30 and N-Z at 5.30.

#### 11.30 pm: MIDNIGHT HOLY COMMUNION

### CHRISTMAS DAY

*Good Christians all, rejoice, With heart and soul and voice!*

*Christ is born today!*

#### 8 am: HOLY COMMUNION (Traditional language)

#### 10 am: ALL-AGE CHRISTMAS MORNING PRAISE

(Isaiah theme: "Prince of Peace")

#### 11.30 am: HOLY COMMUNION (Book of Common Prayer)

### SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER

Our former Vicar, the Revd Bob Hyatt, will be with us today, as Julian takes a break

#### 8 am: HOLY COMMUNION

#### 10 am: ALL-AGE SERVICE

(Isaiah theme: "Everlasting Father")

#### 6.30 pm: EVENING PRAYER, WITH PRAYER FOR HEALING

# A growing church in the local community

## ***“A church with all the right ideas”***

If you saw that headline in a national newspaper, might you feel it was worth sampling that church for yourself? In fact, the paper was *The Times* and the church concerned is at the heart of your community - Holy Trinity Claygate. When the paper's Religious Affairs Correspondent visited Claygate three years ago as part of a regular series assessing churches around the country, her article concluded “The one question it raised was why more churches are not like this. If they were, there might be less evil in the world.”

## ***“But everyone knows the church is in decline - you can't really be growing.”***

Our Electoral Roll - the list of adults who want to be regarded as members of Holy Trinity - drawn up in 1996 had 360 names on it. By last year, that number had grown to 450. This year, the Church's Annual Meeting was told that the new 2002 Electoral Roll included 495 names. That represents growth of 37.5% over six years.

Growth entails problems we are delighted to address. Having spent £2.5 million in 1998-9 on a redevelopment project which included enlarging the seating capacity of the church by 50%, we are now faced with difficulties in accommodating the increasing numbers of children who are coming along on Sunday mornings. Solutions are in train.

## ***So what kind of church is Holy Trinity?***

It is in the mainstream evangelical tradition of the Church of England, seeking to be a church that is firmly based on the teaching of the Bible. As our final authority, we appeal to the Scriptures regarding matters of belief and doctrine, matters of behaviour and ethics, and matters of church life and practice.

## ***And we have a vision....***

Our vision is of a growing community of Christ's people of all ages and backgrounds, who desire to be:

- Mature disciples
- Effective witnesses
- Caring neighbours
- Committed members of the Church Family.

*Regular churchgoers can skip this page. But if you are new to Claygate or have not so far been inclined to go to church, you may wonder why Holy Trinity is growing and why a national newspaper asked why more churches are not like it. So, encouraging you to join us, here is an introduction to Claygate's parish church.*

## ***Holy Trinity is not just for Sundays***

A great deal goes on at Holy Trinity day by day. Let us mention just the following examples:

- **Alpha courses.** Holy Trinity is one of the thousands of churches in this country and around the world to run a highly successful series of Alpha courses, answering questions about the meaning of life and providing a basic introduction to Christianity. The current course, with 30 participants, is just finishing, and there will be a supper on Thursday 5th December for those who might be interested (no obligation!) in joining the next course starting in January. Ask the Church Office for details.
- **Home Fellowship Groups.** Meeting regularly for Bible study, prayer and fellowship in members' homes.
- **Jigsaw Playgroup.** Holy Trinity's own pre-school playgroup meets every weekday morning during term time in the Church Hall.
- **Toddlers' Praise.** Under-5s and their mums, dads and carers meet every second and fourth Wednesday at 2 pm for music, activities and refreshments.
- **Men's Fellowship.** Meets every month for fellowship, faith and fun, with an interesting range of speakers.

## ***Catering for different tastes***

While Holy Trinity and its members are united in their beliefs and their vision for the future, we recognise that not everyone is happy with the same style of worship. So every Sunday at Holy Trinity there are three services, each with its distinct character and appeal. If one is not your cup of tea, another might well be.

● At 8 am, there is a traditional service of Holy Communion. This is a said service, without hymns or music (except that on the first Sunday of the month we start with a hymn), but always with a sermon. On the 4th Sunday of each month, the service becomes even more traditional by using the words of the Book of Common Prayer.

● At 10 am, our largest service draws on the best of the old and best of the new music to provide an act of worship which is both relevant and reverent. The Church's Music Group come to the fore for this service, though there is also a role for the organ.

There is a crèche every Sunday and, apart from the All-Age services held on the first Sunday of each month, there are separate activities for children aged 3 - 14. Holy Communion is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of the month.

● At 6.30 pm, there is a quieter, more reflective and more traditional service which, with hymns sung to organ accompaniment, will be more clearly what many people think of as 'church'. It includes Holy Communion on the second Sunday of each month.

● And, for those wanting a traditional said service of Holy Communion, but for whom 8 am on Sunday cannot be managed, there is a monthly service at 11 am on Wednesday.

## ***What to do next***

Why not just come along to a Sunday service and see whether it is for you? We'll try to give you a warm welcome. Or take up the opportunity of an Alpha course to explore some of the deeper questions in life.

If you want more information, pop into church during office hours (9 to 5 on Mondays and Fridays, 9 to 3 Tuesdays to Thursdays) and collect a welcome pack.

**WE HAVEN'T SAID MUCH ABOUT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE? - JUST TURN THE PAGE!**