

Saturday 3 February	Oriental evening in aid of Vision for China, 8 pm (£12.50)
Monday 5 February	Men's Fellowship: Michael Webb-Peploe on Health & Healthcare
Tuesday 13-16 February	Children's Half Term Holiday Club
Wednesday 14 February	Monthly Prayer Meeting in church, 8 pm
Monday 19 February	Anchor: Suha Rasan, author of Christians in Iraq
Wednesday 21 February	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by lunch
Thursday 1 March	Family Time course for parents begins
Friday 2 March	Women's World Day of Prayer, Christ Church Esher, 8 pm
Monday 5 March	Men's Fellowship Ladies Night: Mary Waller on birds
Wednesday 7 March	Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch
Wednesday 14 March	Monthly Prayer Meeting in church, 8 pm
Friday 6 April	Good Friday: Bach's St Matthew Passion in church
Saturday 21 April	Another Night in New Orleans, concert in church, 8 pm
Sunday 22 April	Church Vision Meeting and APCM

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 Ord 1
3rd Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	All Age Service with baptisms	Evening Prayer with prayer for healing
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 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 lots more to keep
you in touch with Holy
Trinity's life and work

UKRAINE MISSION SURMOUNTS OBSTACLES

Michael Webb-Peploe's interim trip to Ukraine last month had to contend with a number of difficulties before its work could get going. First, the flight was delayed when a broken wheel on the aircraft had to be replaced before take-off. Then a passenger announced himself as a terrorist, meaning that the plane landed at Budapest to a full terrorist alert, surrounded by blue flashing lights and the Hungarian army - and with attendant delays to passengers and their luggage.

At the border crossing from Rumania, their medicines were not allowed through, despite paperwork certifying that they were a free humanitarian donation. But leaving them with the pastor of the Rumanian village closest to the border meant that the Ukrainian mayor with whom Michael stayed was able to retrieve them and bring them across the border the next day.

Michael writes on page 3 about the work undertaken, and offers a reflection on page 9.

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
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On Sunday 14th January at the 10 o'clock service we took the opportunity to thank all those who work with children and young people at Holy Trinity. Well over fifty adults gathered on the dais, while the children and young people made a circle round them and prayed for them. It was a good way to say thank you to that group of people who serve in a way that is often hidden and unseen by the majority of the congregation; they work hard and faithfully so that children and young people can become and grow as followers of Jesus.

Of course, it could have been a number of other groups up at the front. One of the things that has struck me as vicar is how many people get on serving behind the scenes, quietly making things happen, either serving on volunteer teams, offering pastoral care where it is needed, or any other number of ways. I can't thank all of the people all of the time, but I do thank God in my prayers for all those who serve Jesus in this spirit.

As I have been reflecting on our motto for this year, I thought how this hidden work shows we have got something right as a church. The whole point of offering ourselves as 'living sacrifices', as Paul puts in Romans 12:1, is that we do so to God because of what he has already given us in Jesus, not for each other in order to get praise and recognition. Naturally, it is nice when we receive thanks, but the heart of Christian living is serving for and because of Jesus. Whether others see us doing this does not matter; our motivation is from God.

That is a great basis on which to build. The next step from our motto is to be clear what our relation to the wider world should look like. 'Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind', writes Paul (Romans 12:2). I hope and pray our Daniel teaching series is helping us do just that, giving us wisdom about how to be distinct without retreating into a Christian ghetto.

Our particular goal at this time is to be in a place where we can discern together where God wants to take us as a church in the years to come. As we give ourselves to God in loving service and ask Him to transform us, I think we will come to that place where we can listen to God's will for us as individuals and as a church. The key is, of course, prayer, and I hope that we will use Lent as a time for particular prayer for this process; I will be writing to the membership of the church during February with more details of this.

With my love and thanks for all your service

Philip



From the Parish Registers

*We welcome into the
family of the Church:*

Isabella Phoebe Michael
(baptised on 21st January)

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

Doris Augusta Tame
(29th December)
Hugh Ashton
(15th January)



Administrator off on extended leave

Janet Watkins, Holy Trinity's Church Administrator, will be taking extended leave this month, heading to Australia for a month with Nigel, who is enjoying a sabbatical.

Those dealing with the Church Office will want to know that it will be open as usual. Chris Greaves, our Deputy Administrator, will be extending the hours she works to ensure that the office remains open as advertised.

Insight

Contributions for the March issue should reach the Editor please by Friday 16th February.

Parish Personalities

Jill Griffiths takes time out from Holiday Club preparations to face this month's Insight Inquisition.

Where were you brought up?

In Hertfordshire and Hampshire.

How long have you lived in Claygate?

For 12 years.

What do you like most about it?

I can walk to all the amenities; also, its proximity to both London and the countryside.

And if there was one thing you could change?

Inconsiderate drivers and the volume of traffic.

Where would you locate your ideal home?

The coast of Dorset.

What is the least welcome part of your daily round?

Getting out of bed when it's dark.

Which personal trait do you struggle most to overcome?

Procrastination.

What food are you most partial to?

Roast lamb and fresh vegetables from our allotment.

And leave on the side of your plate?

Shellfish and offal.

What do you watch on television?

Classic adaptations, wildlife programmes, history documentaries, oh, and Star Trek!

What would your desert island book be?

The complete works of Thomas Hardy.

What is your favourite music?

All sorts, but particularly anything that gets me bopping.

And your favourite hymn?

"Here I am to worship".

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

Luke, chapter 6, verses 37-38.

Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?

To tour around Australia in a camper van.

Progress report on our staff training

As Insight has previously reported, both Stuart Wright and Asa Humphreys are being supported by the Church in further training. How is it going?

Stuart Wright has been Holy Trinity's main agent in getting alongside those without a previous church connection, and his move from our Youth Worker to our Community Worker reflected the importance we attached to that task. It is a task that the wider church has realised is essential as a generation grows up knowing little of Christianity or the church, and which has led to the exploration of fresh ways of involving people with God and of identifying a kind of church leader different from the vicars we church people know and love.

It is in this context that Stuart was accepted for training leading to his ordination as a pioneer missional leader. Stu writes: "For those who don't know, both Susie and I attend the Monday morning theological training at St Paul's Theological College (SPTC, an arm of Holy Trinity Brompton) and I also attend set weeks through the year at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, where David King trained - as if they haven't suffered enough!

"At SPTC this term we have been studying the theme, 'The Christian God', looking at how the church began to understand how God was different from the pagan gods around them and how they grappled with the truth that Jesus is God and so is the Holy Spirit! It was a very exciting time for the church and their conclusions ground our faith in 2007.

"At Ridley the subject was, 'Introduction to the Old Testament'. It's always good to get into the Bible. I chose to specialise on the Prophets - especially Amos and Jeremiah - and from that to try and understand what Christian prophecy is today.

"The only negative is that we have to write

quite a few essays - boy, do they take a lot of time! But bottom line - it has all got off to a great start. It's the 'Reformation' this term so I'll be picking Philip's brains for sure!

"Thanks for all your support and prayers."

Asa Humphreys has been Holy Trinity's Youth Worker for almost three-and-a-half years, responsible not only for our own youth work but involved with local schools, the Church of the Holy Name, youth camps etc. He is currently being supported in the Arrow Leadership Programme run by the Church Pastoral Aid Society and designed for younger church leaders, combining over its eighteen month span four weeks of residentials, mentors, peer cells and projects. Asa writes: "I am halfway through the Arrow course that the PCC has so generously funded and am loving every minute of it. It has been very challenging on both a personal and a professional level and I have worked through lots of issues like how to better manage a team and how to lead in a more sustainable way. These have already had a discernible impact on my work here at Holy Trinity.

"The best thing about the course though is the people who are on it. Yes, the teaching is fantastic and the times of prayer and sung worship really leave a lasting impact, but the fact that I am treated as an equal by vicars with 25 years experience and by people working in large Christian organisations despite being the youngest and least experienced is humbling. The affection and depth of fellowship that I have enjoyed at Arrow and the opportunities it affords to explore new horizons, is incredible and something I give thanks for daily."

The demise of Capt Mainwaring

This year the Men's Fellowship held another of its New Year Socials, and it was in a convivial atmosphere that Michael Porter entertained us with stories from his 40 years in banking. They went back to the long-lost days of branch managers, with the little old lady content to see that the bank still had the shoebox in which she had brought her money, regardless of its contents, and black-economy fishermen with deposit boxes stuffed with those large white fivers.

There were the years in corporate planning, managing the multifarious implications of the switch from "Ltd" to "plc", and in Moscow, avoiding the turf wars that saw local bankers being gunned down. And then there was the challenge of aircraft financing, with a single jumbo going for a mere £230 million and an engine alone worth several million. So why doesn't American Airlines paint its planes, and why does everyone else bother?

With mulled wine, a buffet and a musical quiz conducted by chairman Ken Hibberd, members and lady guests had a very enjoyable evening.

Putting Ukrainian problems into perspective

Michael Webb-Peploe writes: Returning from Ukraine, my mind was filled with the recruitment of a medical team, continuity of drug supplies given the border difficulties, sorrow that in the supposedly free Ukrainian health service, patients had to give bribes to receive a bare minimum of medical care, and the high costs which placed medicines beyond the reach of most of the villagers. The next morning (Sunday), the Scripture Union passage for the day was Psalm 37, and I read it in the old King James version: Verse 1 - *Fret not thyself* because of evildoers.

Learning about China

The first Anchor meeting of 2007 was opened by Lucy Cowie talking to the group about her experiences in China during the year that she and her family had spent in Xian. The family went with 'Vision for China' in their capacity as English teachers and to share the Christian message.

Many women in China appear to work in menial, poorly paid jobs, even digging roads and constructing buildings, but as Lucy explained, before the revolution they were barely recognised, restricted either to the home with feet tightly wrapped or as concubines to the emperors. Lucy and Andrew's three children were much loved, and spoilt, by the Chinese who respect the family greatly and appreciated the joy of a large family which they are no longer allowed, being restricted to one child only in an attempt to limit the ever-expanding Chinese population. China Vision has a policy of rescuing orphan children, nurturing and caring for them until they are adopted into a real family, and Lucy recounted her visits to the orphanage, showing us pictures of the children and the loving Christians who cared for them. It was a fascinating insight into real life in China from someone who had experienced it first hand for a whole year.

Verse 3 - *Trust in the Lord*, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Verse 4 - *Delight thyself also in the Lord*; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Verse 5 - *Commit thy way unto the Lord*; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. Verse 7 - *Rest in the Lord*, and wait patiently for him. Verse 34 - *Wait on the Lord*, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land.

Here was the answer to my fretting.

Oriental evening

As an extension of the Christmas appeal in aid of Vision for China - the excellent result of which we reported on page 3 - there will be an Oriental Evening in the Church Hall on Saturday 3rd February from 8 pm. The event has been organised by one of the home groups who felt moved to respond to the work that the Vision for China orphanages undertake - to look after abandoned babies, especially those with special needs.

The Church Hall will be transformed into the Orient, with the evening's entertainment featuring an Oriental dinner, a demonstration of Chinese dancing, and Chinese brushstroke painting. Guests will be able to buy promises donated by local businesses and families. There will also be music provided by the local Claygate band "Used Yen". With tickets selling fast - £12.50 from the Church Office - it promises to be a great night out.

Men's Fellowship

Next meeting: Michael Webb-Peploe will be speaking on the subject of Health and Healthcare on Monday, 5th February, 7.45 for 8 pm. Coffee and tea will be served on arrival. All men are welcome.

Jazz concert: The French Quarter All-Stars will be returning to Holy Trinity for another evening of traditional jazz with a spiritual flavour on Saturday 21 April. Those present at their last exhilarating concert will need no encouragement to book for this repeat performance!

Outing to Canine Partners: Anyone who was at - or who heard about - the Church Hall meeting describing the training of dogs to help the disabled will want to join the outing to the Canine Partners Training Centre on Friday 22nd June.

Lent begins....

This year the season of Lent starts on 21st February. We will be marking it with a special Ash Wednesday service of Holy Communion at 11 am, following which a light lunch will be served in the foyer.

Please note that in February the usual midweek Holy Communion on the first Wednesday of the month will not take place.

....and is rounded off

It is not too soon to tell you that Bach's glorious St Matthew Passion will be performed in the Church on the evening of Good Friday, 6th April, by Claygate Choral Society, with orchestra and soloists all under Martyn Daldorph's direction. More information and tickets will be available before long.

Annual Church Meeting

A reminder, following Philip's *Insight* letter last month, that this year's Annual Meeting will be on Sunday 22nd April, after the close of the 10 o'clock service. It will form part of a broader Church Vision Meeting which will include a presentation by Philip, and feedback from us all, about some of the important questions facing the church and possibilities for the future.

Lunch will be included. Please make sure the date is in your diary.

Pilgrim Hall

The brochure for this year's Seniors' House Party at Pilgrim Hall, always a popular and much-valued event, is now available. The dates are from Monday 4th June to Friday 8th June. If you would like more information, please contact Jem or Rosemary Salter.

Meeting medical needs in Ukraine

Michael Webb-Peploe writes: We saw 109 patients in our week in Akli and Gyula, and had sufficient medicines to meet all their needs until our summer visit. One lady in her sixties, whom we had seen last summer, weeping, with severe heart failure, desperately short of breath and with grossly swollen ulcerated legs - and who, poor as she was, had hobbled to the village shop to buy boxes of chocolates to express her thanks - returned this time looking much more cheerful, less breathless, her legs much less swollen and the leg ulcers healed.

Over dinner with our host the mayor and Dr Sabov (responsible for the health of 5000 people in five villages with the help of seven nurses) we were told that next summer he would like us to provide specialists in diseases of the eyes, of the heart and blood vessels and of the digestive system, plus a female gynaecologist. We would also need a number of generalists to run open access clinics.

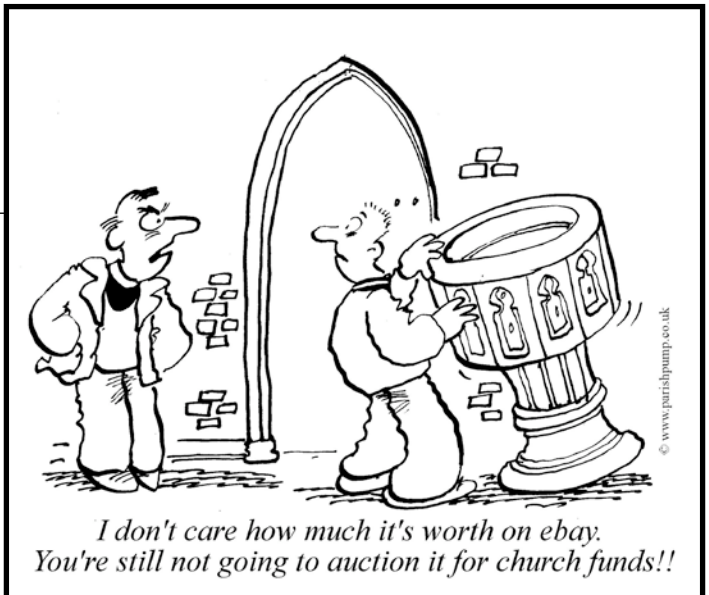
Church School's new Head

Esher Church School, with which Holy Trinity is one of four linked churches, has appointed a new Head teacher. He is Alex Tear, who will be starting at Milbourne Lane later this term.

New record for Christmas appeal

The Christmas Day collections in aid of Vision for China's ELA Childcare Centres in Xi'an, China, raised £2,855. In addition to this, £204 was contributed by those using the Christmas Card Tree, £86 from a cake-stall, £144 by the intrepid Carol Singers on The Parade and £335 from a collection taken at the Milbourne Lodge school's carol concert. Tax recovery on donations from those able to complete the Gift Aid Declaration envelopes added a further £616 and a cheque for the total of £4,240 is being sent to Vision for China. This is by far the largest total collected for our Christmas Appeal.

Another record was the £1,078 received for the Children's Society from collections at our two Christingle services on Christmas Eve. Those completing Gift Aid envelopes added a further £88 to the total.



Learning from the Bible

"Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water."

Matthew, chap. 14, verse 28.

That Jesus was reported as walking on the water is well-known not only to Christians but in the population at large. For most people, it is merely an example of the allegedly supernatural powers of Jesus, which in this sceptical age many will reject. But they probably haven't read the story - in chapter 14 of Matthew's Gospel - for themselves, and would be unable to recount it.

For the disciples, who had left Jesus alone to pray when they set off in the boat across the Sea of Galilee, what they saw that day was compelling evidence of the divine power of Jesus, and their response (verse 33) was to worship him: "Truly you are the son of God".

But there are other valuable lessons for us, not least in what Matthew tells us of the actions of Peter. Some see this as a further instance of Peter's impulsiveness and his failings, which were to lead him into trouble on other occasions. But it is worth regarding what he did in a more positive light.

First, allegations of impetuosity are misguided. Peter did not simply follow the dictates of his own heart: he looked to Jesus for guidance, saying "Lord, tell me to come to you on the water", and Jesus said simply "Come".

Secondly, Peter did not hesitate in following that command. With faith and courage, he stepped out of the boat and walked on the water towards Jesus. That was a remarkable act of faith on his part. Admittedly, his focus on reaching Jesus was then disturbed by his becoming conscious of the

strong wind, and fear overcame him. Frightened, he began to sink.

Jesus' admonition to him - "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" - is remembered as a criticism of Peter and his lack of faith. But we have also to remember two things: that Peter's initial faith in following Jesus on to the water was more than any of his companions could muster; and that he did not suffer when the situation proved too much for him, for when he called out to be saved Jesus was there to reach out his hand and catch him.

The story inevitably raises questions for us: to what extent is fear holding us back? Fear of the unknown, fear that our capabilities are lacking, fear of looking a fool, fear that the Goliath we see before us is unconquerable? Are we content to stay in the boat, within our comfort zone, where we can feel safe?

Are we pretending not to hear the call of God because we don't know where it will lead us, or we think the consequences might be difficult to cope with? Are we allowing the storms of life to distract us from our focus on God and his will for us, so that the good intentions we were starting to follow slip out of our minds?

We may regard walking on water as a remote miracle. But the story leads us to think about the practical implications of faith and obedience, and what, if we allow them to be diluted, we may be sacrificing.

Scribatus

*If God brings you to it,
He will bring you through it.*

Young people today....

This month I have been fortunate to hear the gospel shared in a good many situations and I thought you'd quite enjoy reading about a few of them and the reactions that they produced!

January started with a beautiful moonlit evening which ended the houseparty at Haslemere which 11 of our Young People had thoroughly enjoyed. Joel Watkins and Claire Quest were asked to be leaders for the summer and I got to answer questions on things as assorted as 'submission and marriage' through to 'which is the largest mythical creature in the UK?'

It was hilarious to see 100 people dressed up as Disney characters, but a good time was had by all, and I have to say I particularly enjoyed this New Year dressing up as Dick van Dyke from Mary Poppins. I remember wondering what 2007 had to offer and had no idea that I would be so wonderfully surprised.

It was great to see our Young People studying their Bibles and helping their friends get to grip, just that bit more, with their faith. We should rejoice that the great strength of the Houseparty is its fellowship but that that is so carefully underlain with loving explanation of Scripture.

I then had the chance to go to Chester and speak at a conference for Street Evangelists, nearly 30 of whom turned up for their prayer day in early January. It was hosted by the Light Project which one of my friends set up six years ago. He kindly invited me to go and encourage the evangelists he leads because of a conversation that I had had with him about the vibrancy of the faith of our Young People. Imagine

that, an Evangelist encouraged by the faith of teenagers he has never met. So I went to Chester to help convey that same encouragement to people sorely in need of it.

It is always fun doing outreach and evangelism, but making an Eiffel tower out of Glow Sticks on a rainy Sunday evening in Chester Town Centre was particularly brilliant. It started some great conversations about why we were doing it but gave me a renewed acknowledgement that so often we are too good at keeping the saving truth of Jesus a secret.

Having been asked to go and encourage those reaching out in Chester, I was able to see again how we can each be encouraged that despite media reports to the contrary Jesus saves. Reminding ourselves that we are part of that larger body and that we can indeed help each other was brilliant, but what is truly fantastic is that all of those engaged in evangelism on the streets of Chester were younger than me and half of them were the same age as those in Youth Fellowship.

Be encouraged this month that the church of today is developing around us albeit largely unnoticed. Here we see faith deepening and fellowship shared; in Chester truth and light being spread with imagination and prayer. Let us be encouraged and honour both with our prayer.

Asa

Billy Graham tells of going to a town to preach and, wishing to post a letter, asking a boy where the Post Office was. Having received directions, he said to the boy "Come to the Baptist church this evening and you can hear me talk about how you can get to Heaven".

"I won't bother", said the boy, "You don't even know your way to the Post Office."

The debate about euthanasia and assisted dying

Lord Joffe's "Assisted dying for the terminally ill" Bill, introduced in the House of Lords last year, sought to legalise physician-assisted suicide in England and Wales. This, Lord Joffe's third attempt to change the law, was defeated at second reading by 148 to 100 votes in May 2006.

First, some definitions to help clarify the issues:

Euthanasia: the termination of a person's life, by act or omission, when that life is deemed to be no longer worth living.

Voluntary euthanasia: the candidates themselves request that their lives be terminated and are alert and in their right minds i.e. legally "competent" to make such a request.

Non-voluntary euthanasia (lack of capacity): the candidates cannot make the request themselves (e.g. in coma on life support, in a persistent vegetative state).

Involuntary euthanasia (capacity not consulted): the candidates have not requested termination of life themselves, though they might be able to do so in their more lucid moments (e.g. early dementia, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia).

Active euthanasia: immediate termination of life by, for example, intravenous injection of a chemical to stop the heart.

Passive euthanasia: withdrawal of life support treatment with the intention of ending the candidate's life.

Physician-assisted suicide: the physician provides the means (e.g. barbiturate overdose) which the candidates then use themselves to end life. Three issues arise: 1. Some candidates are physically incapable of ending their own lives (e.g. through paralysis) and need voluntary euthanasia "back-up". 2. There is a failure rate (16/100) due to vomiting, tolerance of the prescribed drug etc. 3. Physician-assisted suicide is merely voluntary euthanasia one step back and effectively legalises voluntary euthanasia.

Summary of the terms of the Bill:

Before agreeing to assist a patient to commit suicide, the attending physician must be certain that:

- The patient wishes to be assisted to die.
- The patient is "competent".
- The patient has a terminal illness.
- The patient is informed of diagnosis, prognosis, the process of assisted dying and all possible alternatives (including palliative and hospice care).
- The patient has been seen by a consulting physician and

The subject of assisted dying was on the agenda for the Church Council's January meeting. Michael Webb-Peploe sets out the issues for us.

a palliative care specialist (doctor or nurse).

Before actually assisting a patient to die, the attending physician must:

- Inform the patient of his right to revoke his declaration.
- Verify that the declaration is in force (and not revoked by the patient).
- Ask the patient immediately before assisting him to die whether he wishes to revoke the declaration.

There is a clause exempting any doctor from assisting suicide if they object on grounds of conscience. But conscience clauses are under increasing threat, and some argue that a doctor's conscience has little place in the delivery of modern medical care.

The health care profession's attitude to the Bill.

The Royal College of Physicians, after taking a neutral stance when giving evidence to the select committee, changed its position to oppose the Bill after surveying members' opinions.

The British Medical Association, after initially taking a neutral stance, debated five motions in June, 2006, that the meeting:

- Believes that the ongoing improvement in palliative care allows patients to die with dignity (84% for, 16% against).
- Insists that physician-assisted suicide should not be made legal in the UK (65% for, 35% against).
- Insists that voluntary euthanasia should not be made legal in the UK (65% for, 35% against)
- Insists that non-voluntary euthanasia should not be made illegal in the UK (94% for, 6% against)
- Insists that if euthanasia were legalised there should be clear demarcation between those doctors who would be involved in it and those not (82% for, 18% against).

The World Medical Association, the Royal College of Nursing, the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Association of Palliative Medicine have always opposed assisting dying.

Arguments for physician-assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia.

1) We want it - the autonomy argument. But do we really want it? A request for euthanasia is often a cry for help. Prognosis (and sometimes even diagnosis) is uncertain. Prohibition of intentional killing is the cornerstone of law and social relationships. To accept the argument means a slippery slope!

2) We need it - the compassion argument. But do we? Palliative care can in almost all cases provide effective pain relief. Despair over loss of independence and dignity is, it is true, more difficult to treat, but good social and family support can overcome this, and we demean people if we think all they are worth is a procured death.

3) We can control it - the public policy argument. Experience in Holland, Belgium, Switzerland and Oregon State confirm that we cannot control it, with poor reporting and substantial numbers of non-voluntary and involuntary euthanasia cases once voluntary euthanasia and or assisted suicide is allowed,

Legalisation of physician-assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia introduces a major shift in doctor-patient relations. Since Hippocrates the medical profession has been dedicated to preserving life. To change this would undermine the patient's confidence and change the sort of people who take up medicine. Attitudes towards voluntary euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide depend largely on how we regard the nature of man:

- 1) A machine - value is judged only by utility. Once utility is lost, the scrapheap is the answer.
- 2) An animal - the balance of pleasure versus pain is all important and once that balance shifts too far (and irreversibly) towards pain, termination of life should be available on demand.
- 3) Created in the image of God and the object of God's redeeming love - all humans, no matter how deformed the body, deranged the mind, diminished the personality, carry this double hallmark of divine value.

In the final analysis, how we view physician-assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia will depend on how we answer the question "What is a person"? Are we to take the secular "I think therefore I am" view (My dignity and value depend on *what I can do.*) or the Christian "You Love Me, therefore I am" view (My dignity and value depend on *who I am*)?