

**Monday 6 January** Men's Fellowship New Year Social (ladies welcome)  
**Monday 6 January** Parochial Church Council meets  
**Wednesday 8 January** Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by lunch  
**Wednesday 8 January** Toddlers' Praise at 2 pm  
**Saturday 11 January** Training for Credit Union volunteers  
**Saturday 11 January** Handel's Messiah at Guildford Cathedral, 7.30 pm  
**Monday 13 January** Meeting of all leaders of HTC areas of ministry  
**Tuesday 14 January** Prayers for young people, with Stuart, 9.30am & 7pm  
**Thursday 16 January** New Alpha course begins  
**Sunday 19 January** Korean Choir at 6.30 pm (with Churches Together)  
**Sunday 26 January** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends  
**Monday 27 January** "Open to All" meeting in church, 8 pm (see page 10)  
**Monday 27 January** Parochial Church Council meets, after the 8 pm meeting  
**Monday 3 February** Men's Fellowship: Marion Field on the Brethren  
**Wednesday 9 April** Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
**Friday 18 April** Good Friday: St Matthew Passion performed in church

### 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 Dav Centre: Holy Communion

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

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January 2003

40p

## THE SEARCH IS ON TO ACCOMMODATE OUR CURATE

With grateful thanks to the support and encouragement of the Church family, the New Year sees a search being set in train for a suitable house in Claygate into which our new Curate, David King, and his family can move in June.

Julian announced in Sunday services on 8th December that in the space of a few weeks, the appeal to the church membership had resulted in gifts totalling £165,000 and that promises of interest-free loans had brought the funds available to around £200,000. The appeal is remaining open to reduce the shortfall from the target of £350,000 but in the meantime the PCC, with input from the Finance Advisory Group, will be considering how best the balance can be met.

Holy Trinity greatly appreciates the generosity of the response, and, with humility, is mindful of God's continuing goodness to us. The Accommodation Team would be grateful for your prayers.

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Releasing our potential...  
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month's centre feature introduces our link parish

#### "OPEN TO ALL"

Find out about it - page 10

ALL THIS AND MORE  
 WITH OUR  
 BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY  
 NEW YEAR!

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LAY ASSISTANT MINISTER: VALERIE BAGLEY

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YOUTH WORKER: STUART WRIGHT

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## Alpha

This is a final reminder that Holy Trinity's new Alpha course starts on Thursday 16th January (not on Wednesday 15th, as we said last month). A great many people have benefited from previous courses and have been led to recognise the truths of Christianity, so now is the time to encourage your friends and relations to seize this opportunity to explore the serious questions in life.

Those interested should contact the Church Office on 463603.

## NEW YEAR SOCIAL

The Men's Fellowship's popular New Year Social, to which all ladies of the church are warmly invited, will be held in the Church Hall on Monday 6th January. There will be entertainment, fun, drink (a cash bar) and food - provided you bring some! Everyone coming is invited to bring a plate of finger food to add to the buffet from which we all help ourselves. It starts at 8 o'clock, and you don't need a ticket - just come!

## Korean choir again

Professor Chai Hoon Cha is making a welcome return to Holy Trinity this month to conduct his Korean choir. They were a knock-out last July, but the choir this time will be the Korean Students Glee Club itself, not (as in July) made up of former members of the Glee Club. We shall be joined for the occasion, at 6.30 on Sunday 19th January by other members of Churches Together in Esher and Claygate, to mark the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and refreshments will follow. Don't miss it!

*The next midweek service of Holy Communion will be at 11am on Wednesday 8th January.*

*A simple lunch in the church foyer will be available for those staying on after the service.*

## "Open to all"

Making proper provision in our churches for people with any sort or degree of physical disability is not merely a legal obligation but a responsibility derived from gospel. This is the theme of a talk to be given at Holy Trinity by the authors of *Open to all*, a report produced for Guildford Diocese in response to the recent Disability Discrimination Act.

The Revd Andrew Bryant (the Bishop's adviser on disability) and his wife Wendy (mental health and disability officer in the Diocesan Department of Social Responsibility) will explain that this is not merely a matter of provision of physical facilities such as level access, toilets for disabled people, induction loops and large-print documents but also, and at least as important, a matter of attitude of all church members and of communication. We are likely to learn that, although we have got many things right at HTC, we still have a way to go in others!

All members of Holy Trinity are warmly invited to this important and challenging talk to be given in the church at 8pm on Monday 27 January and followed by a question and discussion session.

## Credit Union

There is to be a training session for volunteers to help with the new Claygate Credit Union, being established by Churches Together, on Saturday 11 January. If you are interested in offering some of your time to this new venture, please have a word with Julian in advance of 11th January.

## Insight

*The deadline for contributions to the February issue of the Parish Magazine is Thursday 16th January.*

## Hardship Fund to be considered

The PCC is to consider at its next meeting the idea of establishing a hardship fund which could be available to support those going through difficult times. The idea was first mooted in the context of the appeal to accommodate our new Curate, raised at the open meeting in the church on 30th September as a way of demonstrating that the church was conscious of the needs of others at the same time as it was seeking to satisfy its own.

## Training as Pastoral Assistants

Margaret Mathew and Liz Richardson are undertaking a training course leading to their being formally authorised as Pastoral Assistants at Holy Trinity. Although many people have become involved in the ministry of Holy Trinity in recent times, this is the first time for many years that the church has put members forward for Pastoral Assistant training. Our prayers and good wishes are with them.

## Thanks are due

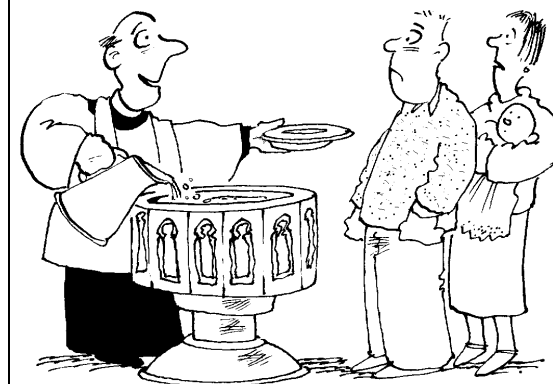
With so much hectic activity over the Christmas season, it is right that we pay tribute to the volunteers without whom it could not happen ... like those who meticulously restore order in the church after each event, especially this year Chris Salter .... and those who helped organise the lights switch-on in the Parade, especially Derek Huff ... and with our website now up and running, thanks to Don Andrews for all his work in designing and implementing it.

## Youth work gives encouragement

The meeting of the Church Council at the end of November spent some time reviewing the Church's ministry among children and young people. Stuart Wright was there to present a detailed report which was divided into three sections, on children, Church youth and community youth. Just two highlights of the report were that growing numbers have led to the Trekkers and Pathfinders being split to make four groups instead of two, and that YF has seen a steady growth in numbers over the last year.

The discussion gave the opportunity PCC members to ask questions and to explore what, in such an encouraging scene overall, might be difficult or disappointing. Since, in that context, Stuart said how much he would value greater support for the monthly sessions of prayer for the young people of the parish, readers might like to know that the next one is on Tuesday 14th January, in the Quiet Room at 9.30 am and 7 pm.

The PCC congratulated Stuart on all that had been achieved by him and his team.



*"We're not allowed to charge for baptisms... but we are introducing top-up fees!"*

## Visiting clergy debate men's posers

At their December meeting, members of the Men's Fellowship posed a variety of questions to a panel of clergy from different backgrounds. It made for an interesting and insightful evening, which the audience of about fifty men much enjoyed and found well worth while.

The panel included two Anglicans, one from our neighbouring parish of Oxshott, the Revd Jeremy Cresswell, and the other the Sub Dean of Guildford Cathedral, Canon Maureen Palmer. The others were Nonconformists, the Revd David Gillman from New Malden Methodist Church, and the Revd Robert Blows, recently retired from Thames Ditton United Reformed Church. Jon Davey took the chair.

The questions put covered a number of issues of the day, together with some of a more general and timeless nature. It was Reg Hincks who started the evening off with a question about war against Iraq, finding the panel united in scepticism about the case for military action. Robert Blows commented that he had answered the same question on his last visit to the Fellowship, though because that was in the wake of the invasion of Kuwait, the case for action was then rather stronger.

The dangers of scientific advances in the field of human procreation were next on the agenda and Maureen Palmer, as a physiologist and leader of the Bishop's advisory group on bioethics, guided us through the issues, urging us to bear in mind at the same time the human feelings of those

who desperately wanted children but found normal conception so difficult.

Other questions asked whether white heterosexual males were fair game amid political correctness, whether the task facing Rowan Williams was, as had been written, the most unenviable in our national life, about the place of Bishops in a reformed House of Lords, the clash of civilisations and the church's concern with numbers - were we falling for Christ's third temptation and placing ourselves in danger of losing our soul?

Asked whether the panel would wish to be young again and what they might do differently, we heard, by contrast, that Jeremy Cresswell thought he should have worked harder, while Maureen Palmer should have lightened up a little. And, invited to name heroes, David Gillman was less inclined to name individuals than his Anglican colleagues, professing a regard for "All Saints", the humble and unsung who had nevertheless made a real difference in our lives.

The final question of the evening asked what one modern trend the panel would like to stop, and the answers ranged from the mania for measuring everything, rule by accountants, slavery to the clock (how refreshing when visiting Africa to find how much time everyone had for you) and materialism. It was a good note on which to finish a very successful meeting.

## Musicmaking tax to be reconsidered

The Church and its various users are breathing a sigh of relief at the news, as *Insight* goes to press, that the Government is prepared to change the provisions of the Licensing Bill currently going through Parliament. The Bill would have required churches to be licensed as places of entertainment in respect of concerts taking

place in them. With Holy Trinity much in demand for that purpose, the fees would have made local musicmaking much more difficult. The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres, speaking in the House of Lords against the proposal, said that the provisions would have cost the Church of England about £2.6 million a year.

## "You took my place"

One day, a man went to visit a busy, thriving church. He arrived early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up near him, and the driver told him, "I always park there. You took my place!" The visitor quietly moved his car, but said nothing.

The visitor went inside for the service, and began looking at the periodicals on display in the foyer. He was about to pick one up, when a member of the congregation came along and said: "I always read that copy. You took my magazine!" The stranger graciously bowed and turned away.

He went into the sanctuary, found an empty seat, and sat down. A lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor again quietly moved away, but still said nothing.

The service began, and the congregation fervently prayed for Christ to come and dwell among them. Suddenly, the visitor stood up. He slowly walked to the front of the church and held up his hands. They looked terrible, all scarred and torn. The congregation was appalled, and someone called out: "What happened to you?"

The visitor replied... "I took your place."

## Different Perspectives on Creation

*Why did God create man before woman? He didn't want any advice.*

*Why did God create man before woman? Because it's always good to have a rough draft before you create your masterpiece.*

## On the other side of the door

A man with a grave illness was visiting his doctor in a small rural village. As he was leaving, he suddenly blurted out: "Doctor, I am afraid to die. You go to church on Sundays. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side of which came a sound of scratching and whining. He opened the door and the patient's spaniel sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice your dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened he sprang in without fear.

I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing: I know my Master is there, and that is enough. And when the door opens, I shall pass through with no fear, but with gladness."



*The Vicar was making a call on one of the elderly ladies of the parish. Seated in the armchair while she went to put the kettle on, he noticed a bowl of blanched almonds by his side, and idly took one.*

*By the time the tea tray appeared, the Vicar felt obliged to apologise for eating so many and promised to bring her a new packet next time he came. "Oh, please don't bother, Vicar", came the reply, "Since I lost my teeth, it's as much as I can do to lick the chocolate off them!"*

# Our parish link with St Peter's, Norbiton



*The PCCs of Holy Trinity and of St Peter's Norbiton have recently endorsed moves to develop a link between the two parishes. With the help of the Revd Peter Holmes, Vicar of St Peter's, our centre feature this month gives you some background on the parish of St Peter's - very different from Claygate if only 5 miles away - what happens next, and how you might become involved.*

## What sort of parish is St Peter's Norbiton?

*Peter Holmes writes:*

St. Peter's is situated in the most deprived area of the Borough of Kingston and has a population in the region of 20,000. Whilst the church is surrounded by several large council estates, including the more well known Cambridge Estate, it also has within its boundaries some of the most expensive properties of SW London on the Coombe Estate. Kingston Hospital also lies within the parish, as does the new Rotunda in the centre of Kingston. So it is a parish with a rich diversity.

Our Church building was erected in 1842 to accommodate 750 people. Now a listed building, it is much in need of repair, refurbishment and renewal. An average of about 100 people from approaching 30 different ethnic groups attend a variety of services each Sunday. A Korean Presbyterian church also worships at the church each Sunday afternoon. Since September 2001 we have hosted the Kingston Borough wide youth initiative called OXYGEN (this year employing 9 full time Christian youth workers) in our Church Hall, and so several hundred young people pass through our doors each week.

## What are the main issues presently facing St Peter's?

*Peter Holmes lists the following:*

- Endeavouring to reach out in mission to such a diverse parish with limited human resources. Our outreach through our church plant called Archway on the Cambridge Estate is one of our priorities. We are also using the Alpha Course as a means of introducing Jesus Christ to enquirers.
- Assisting the local churches in the mission of reaching out in a relevant way to a new and emerging generation.
- We hope that after much prayer and planning we will now realize a re-ordering of our church this year allowing us to be more flexible and to have a church that can be used throughout the week rather than just on the odd occasions and only for services.
- We have strong missionary links with the Church Mission Society, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, the South American Mission Society and Christian Outreach Ministry and Education, through which we are heavily engaged in support of the church in Northern Uganda.

## How did the link come about?

During her ordination training, Linda Morgan had a five month training placement at St Peter's, her choice of placement influenced by a conversation with Penny Alpass, who has been the church administrator at St Peter's for a number of years. Since then, friendships established at the time have grown. Some informal links were made over the summer when some folk from Holy Trinity joined with St Peter's musicians and led a couple of family services at St Peter's whilst their vicar, the Revd Peter Holmes, was on sabbatical leave.

## So what happens next?

- Some people might like to take part in exchange visits to one another's churches early in 2003 to share in Sunday worship together. This will include an exchange of pulpits so that we can each hear a little more about each other
- There are several activities at St Peter's in which people from Holy Trinity might want to offer assistance. For example
  - At Archway on the Cambridge Estate, which meets on Sundays at 4.00pm and Fridays at 12.30 pm.
  - At a midweek coffee/drop-in place this summer for those who regularly cut through the church grounds on their way to shop at Asda. St Peter's hopes to start this up in the summer.

We feel that the best way forward is to let our link begin in a relaxed informal way and build up to whatever God wants of us through it. Linda Morgan will be co-ordinating the Holy Trinity side of things, so if you are interested in being involved in any way, please have a word with her. In the meantime, do let's hold one another in our prayers.

I have been reminded recently of the capacity within the human heart both for good and for evil. This has been brought to my attention from the contrast between the biography of Leonard Cheshire, which I have just finished reading, and some stories in the news about child abuse.

After the end of Leonard Cheshire's war-time career as a bomber pilot, he devoted his life to the provision of care and support for disabled people. Residential homes opened up all round the world and an international movement was born. Cheshire's faith in Christ was the driving force in his desire, often against extraordinary odds, to meet all manner of need among his fellow human beings.

In stark contrast, in mid-December 2002 a report into the death of little Ainlee Walker in January 2002 revealed that she was abused and neglected by her parents and that local officials in the community failed to rescue her from her terrifying ordeal. What is even worse, child abuse has been conducted under the cover of and in the name of the Christian religion, as recent news has shown. The issue of Child Protection is sadly a necessity these days. Any one starting to work with children now has to be cleared by the Criminal Records Bureau.

The contrast is plain. The good that Cheshire was able to achieve in the service of others represents a respect for other human beings and a sacrifice in doing what it takes to make life a little better materially for those who suffer. What a good advertisement it was for Christ his Lord. On the other hand, a disrespect for the needs of the vulnerable is seen in the self-indulgent manipulations of the child abuser. A conscience can be so seared that it has no sense of right and wrong and feels no guilt, even when the greatest of evils are performed.

As a New Year begins, each of us has a choice to make about the way we release the potential in our own hearts, whether we are Christians or not, to make a difference for good or ill in the lives of others. We also have to decide how we respond to wrongdoing in others where it is known to exist in the world. The current questions about war against Iraq loom large and while decisions will ultimately be made by Governments and the United Nations, not us as individuals, it is important that we have a view on how evil, crime, oppression, and injustice are to be restrained. It is too easy for good people to do nothing and let the world spiral further away from what God intended it to be.

Our motto for 2003 appropriately calls for the Christian to live in line with God's will. It is from Galatians 5.25, where the Apostle Paul writes: 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit'. The challenge is to keep in step with God; to so know His ways that we walk in time and in the same direction as Him, and to be so open to His leading that we hear His voice when He calls and respond obediently. If we keep in step with Him, our lives will make an impact for good in 2003 and that's what I mean when I wish you a very happy New Year.




### *From the Parish Registers*

We welcome into the  
family of the Church:

Barney David Clarke  
(baptised on 1st December)

We offer congratulations  
on the marriage of:

James Michael Newman and  
Ann Compton  
(married on 6th December)

We offer sympathy to the  
relatives and friends of:

Thomas James Booth  
(11th November)  
Malcolm William Haldane Peebles  
(24th November)



## Parish Personalities

*Rosie Francis faces this month's Insight  
Inquisition.*

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

*How long have you lived in Claygate?  
Nearly 19 years (a newcomer).*

*What do you like most about it?*

*Its heart and sense of community.  
And if there was one thing you could  
change? Aside from the traffic, the  
unauthorised parking.*

*Where would you locate your ideal  
home? In an identical twin to  
Claygate but with better weather!  
What is the least welcome part of your  
daily round?*

*Washing up and dusting.*

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

*What food are you most partial to?  
Cheese, especially a good Stilton.  
And leave on the side of your plate?*

*Fat (from lamb particularly) .*

*What do you watch on television?*

*Period dramas and cops and robbers.*

*What would your desert island book be?*

*The Oxford Book of 20th Century  
English Verse.*

*What is your favourite music?*

*Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto.*

*And your favourite hymn?*

*"What a friend we have in Jesus"*

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

*Lamentations 3. 22-24 and*

*2 Corinthians 4. 6.*

*Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?*

*To have learnt to play a musical  
instrument properly.*

# A Moment to Meditate

I wonder what thoughts the word "sacrifice" conjures up in your mind? If you are like most people, they are probably negative ones. The word tends to have unpleasant associations.

If we think of the word in religious terms, even in a Biblical context, we remember the wholesale slaughter of animals in the Temple at Jerusalem. Cattle, sheep, goats, doves and pigeons were constantly being sacrificed under the rules laid down in the book of Leviticus. With the Temple effectively a slaughterhouse, with blood being drained off and sprinkled, and fat burnt on the altar, frequenting it must have required a fairly strong stomach.

Beyond Jewish practice, sacrifices were routine in the ancient world. We remember that Paul had to write to the church in Corinth on the troublesome question of Christians eating meat sacrificed to idols, simply because, given the demand for animals to be sacrificed in pagan temples, most of the meat for sale in the butchers' shops of Corinth would have been slaughtered in that way. Were Christians compromising themselves by eating it? - Paul had to steer a careful course through that one: see 1 Corinthians chapter 8.

The more common use of the word in modern times has the connotation of damage and deprivation. We might hear that "he sacrificed his family for the sake of advancement at work". W B Yeats wrote *Too long a sacrifice / can make a stone of the heart*. Sacrifices don't have much of a positive image, do they?

So how prepared are we to respond when we are invited to sacrifice ourselves? Do we immediately see the value of the step which Paul urged on the Christians in Rome, or are we inclined to recoil in horror or distaste at

"I urge you, brothers, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices."

Romans, chap. 12, verse 1

the idea, or think that Paul could at least have found a more persuasive way of expressing his argument?

But that kind of sacrifice means only that we are exercising a choice about where our best interests lie. Certain things are not compatible, and we have to choose which is more important to us. It is for us to decide between cigarettes and our health, or cream doughnuts and our waistline, and on a different level we have the choice of God's way or the worldly way.

Paul's plea is that we yield ourselves as a living sacrifice to God, not to be slaughtered, not to be deprived of everything, but so that we might be transformed by God's good, pleasing and perfect will. Our lives will not be spoiled as a result, but immeasurably enriched, as by sacrificing the things of lesser importance which form a barrier between us and God, we find true fulfilment, peace and joy.

- Scribatus

## Giving ourselves to God

I had known about Jesus dying for me, but I had never understood that if He died for me, then I didn't belong to myself. Redemption means buying back, so that if I belonged to Him, either I had to be a thief and keep what wasn't mine, or else I had to give up everything to God. When I came to see that Jesus Christ had died for me, it didn't seem very hard to give up all for Him.

- C T Studd

# Back to mission work for the Browns

*Martin and Lucie Brown returned to their work with SIM in Niger in the summer, and we here offer news drawn from their last two newsletters.*

"Martin has three major tasks over the next year. The first is to get the new Bible School up and running by the autumn. We have been greatly encouraged by the response to our discussions about the school. There is a general conviction that we need to have an 'Ecole Supérieur' to train the leaders of tomorrow's church. The news of the school has spread across the country and expectations are high. We are now moving into the phase where we are outlining the curriculum, looking for teachers and preparing publicity so that we can find candidates. Pray with us for the Lord's hand in this whole process.

Secondly, Martin has been accepted as a candidate at the University of Utrecht for doctoral studies, and hopes to undertake most of his research on Islam and Christianity among the Hausa people before the Bible School opens. As for the research, all sorts of doors have begun to open. The Christian head of history at the University of Niamey has been a great help and given me

documents that it would be very difficult to get hold of anywhere else. We will work together on the history of the church in Niger and also on the history of Islam among the Hausa. Please pray with us that this work will not only be useful academically but will be of value to Christians across this land.

Thirdly, just before we got back to Niger we heard that the pastor of the church where I am an elder had resigned. I have been asked to take on a pastoral role within the church over the next year, so that the church has time to find a new full-time pastor. We hope to start a church plant in another part of town, three miles away from our compound. This will help our church to look outwards and give us more opportunities to share our faith. Maybe some of the 135 adults in church last week will agree to go to the new church to start a congregation there."

## PEOPLE NEWS

When the Home Fellowship Groups restart in January, they will be studying the letter to the Galatians, from which our 2003 motto is taken, and will use material prepared by the Revd Dr John Stott, Rector Emeritus of All Souls Langham Place. Sunday preaching at 8 am and 6.30 pm will also work through Galatians, though the sermons are not likely to coincide with the studies, as some groups are weekly and others fortnightly. But by the time we get to Easter we should have a good idea of the message of the letter and what God

is saying through it to His church today. Services at 10 am will see a series of sermons arising out of the motto, under the title *What does it mean to live by the Spirit?* The following titles, taken from the New Testament, will be addressed:

12 Jan: *Baptised with the Holy Spirit*  
 19 Jan: *Filled with the Holy Spirit*  
 26 Jan: *Sanctified by the Holy Spirit*  
 9 Feb: *Growing the fruit of the Holy Spirit*  
 16 Feb: *Desiring the gifts of the Holy Spirit*