

Sunday 6 January	Covenant Sunday and Vision update
Wednesday 9 January	Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch
Wednesday 9 January	Joint Homegroup meeting in the Church Hall, 8 pm
Thursday 10 January	Opening Supper for new Alpha course
Saturday 12 January	Concert in church by Zum - gypsy/ tango ensemble, 8 pm
Wednesday 16 January	Together in Prayer in the Church Hall, 8 pm
Friday 18-25 January	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sunday 20 January	Churches Together united service, Esher Green Baptist, 6.30 (No evening service at Holy Trinity)
Wednesday 6 February	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by lunch
Tuesday 19-21 February	"Going on Safari" Holiday Club
Friday 25-27 April	Parish Weekend Away
Monday 2-6 June	Senior House Party at Pilgrim Hall

### 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	Evening Prayer with prayer for healing
4th Sunday	Holy Communion BCP	Holy Communion Ord 1	Evening Prayer
5th Sunday	Holy Communion BCP	Morning Praise	Evening Prayer

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monthly on a Wednesday (see diary above): Holy Communion (Prayer Book)  
 Alternate 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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## INSIDE YOUR NEW YEAR MAGAZINE

LARGER CHURCHES  
SHARE THEIR VISION  
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UKRAINE UPDATE  
What happened last month  
- in our centre pages

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## MORE FLESH ON HOLY TRINITY'S FUTURE VISION

Sunday 6th January is the day to be in church if you want to hear about the next stages of Holy Trinity's vision process and where it will be taking us in terms of fresh developments. On that day Philip will be giving congregations at all three services an update on the decisions which have been reached and on what 2008 will hold for us as a church.

It is highly relevant that we shall also be observing that day as Covenant Sunday, a feature introduced at Holy Trinity for the first time last year - and fully explained at the time in *Insight's* pages. It gives us the opportunity at the start of a new year to commit ourselves afresh to God's purposes for us, as individuals and as a church, no matter what they might be or where they might lead us.

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Since I last wrote Tom and I have attended a major biennial conference for Anglican ministers. The National Larger Anglican Churches Consultation is for leaders of churches over 350 in size, and was attended by over 100 clergy from all over the country. As a briefing paper before the conference outlined, the significance of larger churches is growing:

- there are 150 Anglican churches in England with a regular congregation in excess of 350. That is 1% of all the Anglican churches.
- in 1989 their collective congregations were 5% of the total numbers attending Anglican churches on a Sunday. By 2005 that figure was 10%.
- 60% have seen growth in the past few years.

The keynote speaker was Rowan Williams who spoke on issues facing larger churches within the Church of England. He spoke with tremendous humility, wisdom and charm, and yet it was also clear that he has only marginal influence over the policies adopted by individual dioceses. In Guildford diocese we have a twice-yearly meeting of incumbents of larger churches, and this has already borne much fruit in terms of sharing best practice and experience and in communicating with those in positions of diocesan leadership.

As ever, one of the most valuable things about the conference was the chance to speak to other ministers about how the churches where they minister have seen development and growth. It was reassuring and encouraging to hear that the aims we identified in our vision process are shared across many churches, and that the ways we are hoping to tackle them are ones that have been tried with success elsewhere.

As I give a vision update on 6th January this will probably be an important point to bear in mind. It will be no surprise to anyone to hear that the journey ahead will require faith and commitment, but we can step out knowing that we have learned from what God has done elsewhere, and confident that he is faithful and able to guide His people clearly.

I look forward to travelling with you in the year to come, and to witnessing to God's faithfulness in our shared life together.

With my love and prayers

*Philip*



## From the Parish Registers

*We welcome into the  
family of the Church*

Oliver John Ruse  
Emma Hannah Ruse  
(baptised on 25th November)

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

Arthur Ronald Bills  
(14th November)  
Sylvia Curd  
(19th November)  
Frances Elizabeth Gale  
(30th November)



## Winner of our Caption Competition



The stand-in organist wasn't really ideal for funerals.

## Parish Personalities

Jackie Burton takes her place to face this month's Insight Inquisition.

*Where were you brought up?*

On a farm, on the Tolworth/ Worcester Park boundary line.

*How long have you lived in Claygate?*

Almost 15 years.

*What do you like most about it?*

Its country atmosphere and the friends I have made here.

*And if there was one thing you could change?*

The "rat-run" traffic.

*Where would you locate your ideal home?*

In a peaceful country village not far from the sea.

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

Hanging up the washing (why do I never have an empty laundry basket?!).

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

*What food are you most partial to?*

Fish.

*And leave on the side of your plate?*

Beetroot.

*What do you watch on television?*

Murder mysteries, detective series, the news, Millionaire.

*What would your desert island book be?*

"Spartacus", by Howard Fast.

*What is your favourite music?*

Country and western.

*And your favourite hymn?*

"I vow to thee my country" (original music).

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

Galatians 5. 22 - 26.

*Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?*

To go on a Western-style riding holiday in Arizona.

## Stu bids farewell to Holy Trinity...

*Stuart Wright's last Sunday with us will be 20th January. Look out for details of his leaving lunch but, in the meantime, Stu sends this message*

It has been a great privilege to be part of Holy Trinity Church and the leadership team here.

We will miss everybody very much and hope that we may be able to stay in contact in the months and years ahead. As soon as we know our address and telephone number we will let the church office have it so that it can go in the news sheet.

It is a very exciting time for Holy Trinity in the coming months. Please be assured of our prayers for you all as you seek to live the risen life of Jesus and share Him with the world.

Please also pray for us as we move. Pray

that we settle in quickly and that Jed feels at home right away in the house, pre-school, and church. Pray for Susie that she makes friends quickly and finds the right role within the church at the right time. Pray for me that God will show me what I am to do with the members of the church in order to win the estates for Christ.

Thank you for all the love you have shown us and the patience you have had with us.

May God bless you all richly and please come along to our goodbye party over lunch on the 20th January.

Love in Christ,

*Stu, Susie and Jed*

## ... And Beverley says hello

*Beverley Hunt writes:*

Based at St Paul's East Molesey, I am in my third year of training on the Guildford Diocese Ministry Course for Non-Stipendiary Ministry, and am looking forward to gaining experience of ministry and worship at Holy Trinity, Claygate. I will be joining you all for three months commencing 6th January and am also looking forward to sharing my call to ministry in the Church of England with you.

My husband, Geoff, and I live in West Molesey, and our three children are grown up and have flown the nest.

## James - our New Year sermon series

From 13th January, our Sunday readings and sermons will be exploring the letter of James, in order to learn what it can teach us about "Practical Christian Living".

Over nine weeks (pausing for Mothering Sunday) we will go through the five chapters of the letter, under the headings of "Tough Times", "Trial and Temptation", "Faith in Action", "Showing Favouritism", "Faith and Deeds", "Taming the Tongue", "Submitting to God", "Confidence in Riches" and "Patience and Prayer".

This applies to all three Sunday services.

*Every man is guilty of all the good he didn't do - Voltaire*

## PLANTS OF THE CHURCH GARDEN

No. 14  
*Olives*

On a sunny Sunday in the autumn people from the 10 am service were seen partaking of the wondrous array of olives in the olive press'. We can take it that olive cultivation was well advanced in those far off times for Paul, in his letter to Romans church garden has been planted, an olive tree in memory of Gwynneth Hills donated by her daughter Cherry. So, the olive is an appropriate topic for the latest in our series on Bible plants.

The golden liquid obtained by crushing olives is one of the most notable of oils, such is its range of uses. Being edible it is valued for cooking, in salad dressings and in canning. It will also burn, making it a useful source of fuel for lamps: maybe the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25 1- 13) used olive oil for theirs? Being a mild oil renders it desirable for use in cosmetics as a base for bath and massage oils and soaps. In biblical times anointing with oil was an act indicating high esteem: Psalm 133 – 'How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity. It is like precious oil poured on the head'; Luke 7: 46 – Jesus, rebuking the Pharisee Simon, said 'You did not pour oil on my head but she [the sinful woman] has poured perfume on my feet'.

It is fairly certain that the many references to oil in the Bible refer to olive oil than to any other type. The adoption of the olive branch as a symbol of peace has its origins in the Old Testament story of the Flood when a dove returned to Noah with an olive branch after the waters had subsided (Genesis 8:11). Olive trees can live to very old age and it is likely that some dating from biblical times are still alive. Our Holy Trinity 'Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the tree has a long way to go so let us hope the winters are kind to it – but an HTC brand of olive oil seems an unlikely aspiration! where Jesus and his disciples gathered to pray after the Last Supper, is said to have

*Brian Mathew*

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Churches Together in Esher and Claygate will be marking this year's Week of Prayer with a series of events details of which will be available shortly. This year's theme is *Pray without ceasing*, based on 1 Thessalonians 5. 12-18.

The united Sunday service, having taken place at Holy Trinity for the last two years, will this year be held at Esher Green Baptist Church on Sunday evening, 20th January. Please note that this means that there will be no 6.30 service in Holy Trinity that evening.

This is a special year for the Week of Prayer, it having been founded 100 years ago, in 1908.

## Adult baptism

At Holy Trinity's 10 am service on Sunday 20th January, there will be an opportunity for the Baptism of adults by full immersion. If you have not been baptised and would like to be, or wish to know more, please speak to Philip or Tom.

## Food for thought

*"British ministers talk about climate change in the way many Christians talk about their faith. If they believed only half of what they profess, then the knowledge would surely have galvanised them, shaken them rigid; they would be grabbing us by our lapels and begging us, imploring us, commanding us, to repent."*

- Matthew Parris, *The Times*

## Alpha

This is the final reminder that the new Alpha course will be starting this month, with an Opening Supper on Thursday 10th January. Many have found this a valuable means of exploring what Christianity is about and if you know someone who wonders about the meaning of life or has faith-based questions, do recommend the course to them. A leaflet in the church foyer has more details, or contact the Church Office for information or to book a place.

## Pilgrim Hall

This year's Senior House Party at Pilgrim Hall in Sussex takes place from the 2nd to the 6th of June. Regular attenders should have received details, but if you have not so far taken advantage of what is a popular event for senior members of the church, there are some vacancies available. Please contact Rosemary or Jem Salter on 464993 if you are interested.

## Volunteering at Claygate Day Centre

The Claygate Centre in Elm Road has been open for seventeen years, succeeding the venture that had started in Holy Trinity's Church Hall. Its work depends heavily on volunteers, to serve lunches, deliver meals on wheels, run the tea bar, man the reception desk etc. A number of church members are already involved, some of them since the Centre first opened, but there is a need to recruit others to keep the work of this valuable community resource going. If you are interested in helping, please have a word with the Centre manager, Jane Pritchard, on 01372 463476.

## Matt steps in to hold the fort when Stu goes

Matt Knight has been appointed on an interim basis as Youth Ministry Assistant, for six months up to July 2008. This decision was taken at December's meeting of the Parochial Church Council, while the Council went on to consider the future of Holy Trinity's youth ministry and its long-term staffing needs. The results of that broader discussion will be shared at the Vision Update on 6 January.

Matt has been helping as a volunteer within Hub2 for the last four months, since coming over from his home in Durban, South Africa, and is looking to stay in the UK for a little while longer. Given his previous youth work experience in a growing local church, the PCC recognised the providential nature of this opportunity as a way of providing continuity and support within youth ministry in the light of Stuart's departure.

Matt, who is 24, will be working with Andrew Cowie who retains overall oversight for youth ministry.

## Beverley to join Holy Trinity on 3-month placement

Beverley Hunt, from St Paul's East Molesey, will be serving a three month placement with Holy Trinity starting this month, as part of her training prior to ordination as a Non-Stipendiary Minister this summer. She writes briefly over the page. Do look out for her and make her welcome.

## Emmanuel Hall talks advance

Discussions about the future of Emmanuel Hall have been progressing since the likelihood of Holy Trinity's involvement there was first mooted earlier last year. The present congregation of Claygate Evangelical Church will hold their final event, a Service of Thanksgiving, in Emmanuel Hall on the afternoon of Sunday 3rd February, and would be pleased to see any members of Holy Trinity joining them for the occasion. Holy Trinity will over time be developing its own gospel ministry using the premises.

## Building management

A new Building Management Group has been established to oversee church property, and has had its first meeting. It is being chaired by Clive Finniear.



## Learning from the Bible

*"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."*

John, chapter 13, verse 17.

The words "A happy New Year" will be much heard over the next few days, as we exchange the first greetings of 2008 with friends and acquaintances. It will be a good-humoured and perhaps rather vague way of wishing people well, and few of us will want to get into the deep water of analysing exactly what we mean. Indeed, different people are likely to have different ideas of the meaning of the words, most notably of what happiness amounts to.

The words of Jesus quoted at the head of this page could be a good text for the New Year. They point us to the means by which we might achieve happiness. You may not see the word "happy" there, but when Bible translators wish to convey Jesus' meaning with a more basic vocabulary, the word "blessed" becomes "happy", as in the Good News Bible - "how happy you will be if you put it into practice!"

The context of the quotation is the story of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples before dinner. This was normally the task of a slave, but on this occasion Jesus donned the uniform of a slave by removing his outer garments and putting a towel around his waist. At first Peter didn't like the idea, feeling that he was not worthy of having his feet washed by Jesus, but when Jesus made clear that Peter's discipleship depended on it, Peter wanted his hands and head washed as well.

Our quotation is linked not to the specific act of feet-washing but to the broader say-

ing of Jesus which followed the incident, where Jesus emphasised that "no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him". We find a similar point made elsewhere, as in John 15.20 and Matthew 10.24, and it seems intended to convey that we cannot expect to avoid doing what Jesus did - or being treated as he was treated.

Jesus left us with a great deal of teaching about our standing in relation to God and what it means to believe in him. Sometimes he simply spoke about this, but very often he showed us the way by his own behaviour, as in this particular story in which we see that the service of others is never to be regarded as beneath our dignity.

The quotation emphasises to us that knowing what Jesus taught and believing in him cannot take us very far unless we also behave in the way he demonstrated to us. Recognising what he did for us has to lead to action on our part. The love that he showed us must be reflected by us to others. That is not to be perceived as a cost to us, because the result will be a greater unity with our God in which the blessings will be immense and everlasting.

Truly, it points us towards achieving the happiness of which we might otherwise only dream. So, a happy New Year to you all!

*Scribatus*

*"Christians are the only people in the world who have anything to be happy about" - Billy Graham*

## Youth update

*Andrew Cowie reports*

The new year gets under way with a training session for all of the children's leaders at Holy Trinity. Lucy Moore, who works for the Bible Reading Foundation, is coming to visit on 8th January from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm to lead the session. Lucy has excellent experience in the field of children's work. Lucy is a professional actor and storyteller, and has published a number of books about children's work. Most recently Lucy has set up the first Messy Church, which a number of other churches are now also setting up (and which we described in last month's *Insight*).

The training evening is the first of a number of sessions planned for children's leaders during 2008. Lucy will be covering a number of areas in leading children's groups, including the key ingredients of what makes for a good children's group, the current thinking on children's spirituality and what a leader is aiming to do in the sessions. Lucy will also cover the nitty gritty of how to do it - e.g. some ideas on telling a story, or how to pray - and will allow plenty of time for questions and discussion with other children's leaders.

Plans are well under way for the February half term Holiday Club. This year the theme is "Going on Safari". We are planning to turn the church into an African Savannah. The Holiday Club will run for three days, from Tuesday 19th to Thursday 21st February, from 9.30 am to 2.15 pm each day. This means the children will stay for lunch. This proved a successful format used during the one-day

Dreamworld Holiday Club which ran in the Summer and Autumn last year.

The Holiday Club drama will focus on the hero Darzan, and his fight to save the African animals from the dreaded poachers. Can Darzan come to the rescue of the animals in time? Can he do it on his own, or will he need the help of the Rangers? The "Going on Safari" Holiday Club will feature some new action songs, as well as singing some of the old favourites from previous holiday clubs, learning some African animal dances, and learning some African drum rhythms. There are also a few live animal surprises in store! If you want to get tickets for the Holiday Club, then they will be available from mid-January - please watch the newsheet for more details.

We are planning to make this the biggest Holiday Club yet, with spaces for 120 children, in order to meet the likely demand for places, but as ever, we will be constrained by the number of people who are able to help before, during and after the event. There are a wide variety of tasks to be done in order for the Holiday Club to run successfully. Many roles don't necessarily involve being responsible for the children. If you have any African theme costumes or props you would be willing to lend to the Holiday Club, or if you feel you would like to assist in any way, no matter how large or small, please get in contact with Jill Griffiths, Lorraine Huff, Gill Lowe or Andrew Cowie.

■ *Materials needed, and which the Church Office will be glad to receive, include*

*Long cardboard tubes*

*animal print/ fur fabric*

*ribbon and beads*

*anything of an African safari nature*

# We continue to build valued links in Ukraine

Michael writes:

I left Claygate for Budapest by air on Saturday December 1st and flew back on Monday 10th. In five days we saw 80 patients. As on previous visits, there were many answers to prayer. Thank you for praying, and here are some of the answers.

**The journey:** Air flights were on time, no baggage went astray, and journeys by road between Budapest and Transcarpathia passed without incident. Akos Bukovszky (our invaluable Hungarian colleague and facilitator), Stuart Sadler with his Hungarian interpreter Adrienne, and I left Budapest on Sunday afternoon picking up Daniel Deme (originally one of our Hungarian medical student interpreters, now a qualified doctor) on the way. Despite fog on the motorway we reached Akli in five hours, with the quickest border crossing into Ukraine that I can remember. On the return journey we were held up for longer at the Hungarian border, having our suitcases searched (they were looking for smuggled cigarettes).

**Medicines:** Seven boxes of medicines had been sent ahead, and the Wednesday before I set out, Akos acting as chauffeur to one of his friends with a diplomatic passport had delivered all seven boxes safely to Akli so that they were waiting for us there. We did not run short of anything!

**Painkillers:** Shortly before I left, I was given some powerful painkillers (no longer required by a patient), and wondered whether or not to take the risk of packing them in my suitcase. They crossed the frontier safely, and the next morning Eva (the nurse practitioner in Akli) told us that her uncle was dying of cancer of the lung in great pain, and asked if we had any painkillers that might help. God's "coincidences" never cease to amaze!

**The twins:** In the summer, Nancy Bostock, one of our medical team, had been asked to see twins (a boy and a girl) born very prematurely in their home in Gyula. When she saw them they were just coming up to their due birth date and she diagnosed hydrocephalus in both. This is a condition where cerebrospinal fluid builds up exerting increasing pressure on

*Last month. Michael Webb-Peploe, Stuart Sadler and Andrew Tarcy all made further visits to the villages in Trans-Carpathia to which teams from Holy Trinity have gone over the last four years. Here is a report and a look ahead to what 2008 holds.*

the brain, eventually causing irreversible damage unless treated. As a result of her urging, and with financial help from our Ukraine Fund, both babies underwent successful shunt operations at the Hungarian University Hospital in Debrecen. It was a thrill to see both of them beginning to make good progress.

**Isabella Podor:** This girl (now aged six) is one of two children with "holes in the heart" that I had seen on our first visit to Akli in 2004. Robbie, a boy of about the same age, has had successful heart surgery; Isabella had been on my conscience and in my prayers for some time. Although we had obtained a Hungarian visa for her to go to Hungary to have the diagnosis confirmed and for an opinion as to whether or not she also needed an operation, the arrangements had always fallen through, and now her Hungarian visa had expired. We needed notarised permission from her father allowing her mother to take Isabella out of the country, an up-to-date photograph of the little girl, a new visa, an appointment with the paediatric cardiologist in Hungary, and someone to drive them there and back. Miraculously, all doors opened and she has an appointment to see the cardiologist on 20th December.

**Renewed links:** We were able to meet with the Ukrainian doctors responsible for medical services in the Akli and Gyula districts, and both appeared to welcome what we were doing. I also met, for the first time, the dentist who works in the neighbouring village to Akli. Relations with the nurse practitioners in both villages remain good, and they had taken a lot of trouble to arrange for me to see most of the patients on my follow-up list.

Please now pray for our summer visit:

1. For the right people (including an eye doctor) to join the medical and dental team.
2. For the organisation of an effective home visit team (to help those patients too sick to come to us),
3. For the right people to run a Christian counselling service for those of our patients whose problems are not purely physical.
4. For adequate supplies of drugs and dressings.
5. That every patient may experience the love of God at work in and through each team member.

Stuart adds:

The medical mission is a key part of the overall mission to Ukraine. This year in the summer, in addition to medical and dental teams, we will be running a children's camp focusing on Gospel teachings. Also, for the first time, we will be taking a small team of men in February to focus on training of male Elders in the 3 villages. Please pray for the right people to respond to God's calling in both the summer and winter trips.

## The plans for 2008

As Stuart says, the Winter Mission to Men, taking place next month, involves a small team only and is not the subject of a general invitation to join in.

This year's Summer Mission will take place between Friday 25th July and Monday 4th August. As Michael indicates in his prayer requests above, there are some specialisms that would be particularly helpful, but we are otherwise looking for any church members, from young people to the retired, who have a commitment to serve the Lord in the most appropriate way. What we can achieve through the Mission will depend on the volunteers coming forward and on the key priorities identified by the churches with whom we work in the villages concerned.

Fuller details are available in a leaflet or from Michael, Stuart or Andrew. Application forms are available from the Church Office and need to be returned there by 7th January.