

Sunday 3 June Trinity Tea in Church Hall, 5 pm
Monday 4 June New Baptism Preparation course begins
Tuesday 5 June Youth work update and time of prayer, 9.30 am and 7 pm
Wednesday 6 June Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch
Wednesday 13 June Monthly Time of Prayer in church, 8 pm
Saturday 16 June Vision Prayer Team meeting in Quiet Room, 9 am
Sunday 17 June The Next Chapter: hear back from the Vision process
Monday 18 June Anchor: Informal supper at Gill Caporn's house
Friday 22 June Men's Fellowship outing to Canine Partners
Sunday 1 July Tom Darwent's ordination, Guildford Cathedral, 10.30 am
Celebration & Welcome lunch for Tom at Holy Trinity, 1pm
Wednesday 4 July Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch
Sunday 8 July Farewell Tea for Asa, Church 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 (trad)	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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June 2007

50p

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S MAGAZINE

A VISION EMERGING
Philip's letter - page 2

ASA'S FAREWELL
Not only page 5, also page 11

PREPARING FOR WORK
IN UKRAINE
Report on a May visit
- in our centre pages

CRUCIFERS EXPLAINED
Botany and the Bible - page 9

PCC PROFILES
New members - page 10

and lots more to keep
you in touch with Holy
Trinity's life and work



*The next Churchyard Working Party
is on Saturday 2nd June, from 9.30 am.
Come and join us (coffee and biscuits provided!)*

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

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I am really grateful to those who have written and spoken to me since the Church Vision Meeting with their thoughts and hopes for the future. Going through these and other responses has been encouraging and helpful as I prepared for the Leadership Day Away on Saturday 19 May. I am so pleased that people have responded to the invitation to contribute to the vision process, and I know that the conclusions will be better as a result. It has also been very good to get feedback from homegroups on the way they are working at the moment and might grow in the time to come.

The Leadership Day Away itself went very well. PCC members and other leaders in the church - 35 of us altogether - had a productive and enjoyable time at St Columba's House, Woking, working on how we plan the next steps turning vision into reality. I look forward to reporting back more fully at all three services on Sunday 17th June, the day which we have marked as The Next Chapter. Then I will be sharing how exactly we hope to move forward in each of the areas we have identified, and describing how we can all be involved. For now I can say that there is remarkable unity about where God is taking us as a church, and for that we can praise Him. It is a real answer to prayer.

I actually think that the whole process has been surrounded by prayer; my only hope is that once 17th June is over we do not slip back and think we can do things in our own strength. If we are to grow in the ways we believe God is calling to, it is going to take more prayer and not less. People clearly appreciated the 24 hours of prayer before the Church Vision Meeting; I hope we will do similar things in the future. Ian Vale and the Prayer Co-ordination Team have done a great job, and I know they will welcome any ideas for ways of encouraging prayer in the future.

With my love and prayers

Philip



From the Parish Registers

We welcome into the family of the Church:

Morgan William Herbert Jones
Edward William Herbert Jones
Calla Drew Mackintosh
Torin William Stewart Mackintosh
(all baptised on 6th May)

We welcome into full membership of the Church:

Jamie Blake
Jane Blake
Sharon Maher
Rob Sadler
Freya Vale
(all confirmed on 1st May)



Farewell to Asa

Asa leaves his post as Holy Trinity's Youth Worker at the end of this month, and we are pleased that he has agreed to occupy the adjacent column before he departs for Cambridge. Asa is returning for a farewell Tea Party on the afternoon of Sunday 8th July, so please sign the clipboard if you wish to join us then.

Insight

Contributions for the June issue should reach the Editor please by Friday 15th June.

Parish Personalities

Asa Humphreys responds to this month's Insight Inquisition.

Where were you brought up?

In Sunny Ashford in beautiful Kent.

How long have you lived in Claygate?

Approaching four years now.

What do you like most about it?

Ella at Somerfield and David at Claygate Station (we always chat and it's nice after the anonymity of London life).

And if there was one thing you could change?

It'd be nice to have a pool table at the Foley...

Where would you locate your ideal home?

Anywhere, so long as you could see the sky.

What is the least welcome part of your daily round?

The fact that each day ends, it always feels such a shame.

Which personal trait do you struggle most to overcome?

Sometimes I think too much, but find actually that is more of a strength than a weakness.

What food are you most partial to?

Jaffa Cakes (original, none of this lime and blackcurrant rubbish).

And leave on the side of your plate?

Boiled egg white, with its texture of an eyeball.

What do you watch on television?

Newsnight, The Simpsons, Match of the Day.

What would your desert island book be?

"The pig that wanted to be eaten..."

What is your favourite music?

Grieving Flamingo are pretty excellent.

And your favourite hymn?

"Abide with me" - my grandfather's favourite.

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

Isaiah chapter 57, verse 15.

Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?

Hundreds, but having learnt how to walk again I take pleasure in the small things.

Growing leaders

One of the areas we reflected on during the Leadership Day Away was the value of ongoing training for leadership and ministry. One of the ways this will be developing at Holy Trinity in the time to come will be through a 'Growing Leaders' course starting in September. This course has been produced by the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) with the aim of enabling churches to help develop leaders in all areas and at every level of church life. It runs for one evening a month and two residential 24 hours away.

It is hoped that following a successful pilot course this year, 'Growing Leaders' will become an ongoing programme at Holy Trinity. For this pilot course I will be inviting up to twenty members of the church from all sorts of different backgrounds and areas of church life, in order that we can test that the course works over as wide an area as possible. In future we hope that church members will express an interest in doing the course and discuss with me and others about taking it further.

Please pray for Stuart Wright and Valerie Bagley who with me will be running the course, and for those who will consider doing the course.

Philip

Our new curate

Tom Darwent will be ordained in a service at Guildford Cathedral at 10.30 on Sunday 1st July (all welcome), after which we will be holding a Celebration and Welcome lunch for him in the Church Hall. The Church Office has lunch tickets (£5 adults. £2 under 14s) for those who'd like to be there. Please book early!

Confirmation at Holy Trinity

The Bishop of Dorking, the Rt Revd Ian Brackley, came to Holy Trinity on 1st May for a Confirmation service for candidates not only from Holy Trinity but from Christ Church Esher, St Nicholas Thames Ditton and St Mary Magdalene South Holmwood.

Holy Trinity put forward five to be confirmed by Bishop Ian: Jamie Blake, Jane Blake, Sharon Maher, Rob Sadler and Freya Vale. A Confirmation service has an inevitable solemnity to it, especially for those making the commitment involved in being confirmed. One might think that this could be daunting for young people in particular, but Rob at least was not fazed: "It was really good, and not as formal as I had expected". For him, unsurprisingly, it was the personal part which will stay in the memory: of "going forward in pairs to kneel before the Bishop and then receiving communion for the first time".

We pray that that experience will remain meaningful for all those who were confirmed that Tuesday evening, and that growing numbers will come to the same point of public commitment.

2007 Annual Giving Review

Holy Trinity's annual Giving Review is launched on 3 June. This is the time of year when members new and old are encouraged to consider, plan and pledge their regular giving for the year ahead.

If, for any reason, you have not received a letter about this year's Review by 10th June, please contact the Church Office (01372 463603).

Completed pledge forms should be returned by Sunday, 1st July.

PLANTS OF THE CHURCH GARDEN

No. 13
Crucifers

Jesus often used parables in his teachings, a very effective method of clarifying concepts which may have been puzzling to his followers – and they are just as effective and meaningful for us today. For his material he frequently chose everyday things to which they could relate and, as many of them relied on the land for their livelihood, it is not surprising that plants featured prominently; not only useful plants such as olives, vines and corn but weeds as well.

The mention of weeds is a reminder that several members of the family Cruciferae are growing in the church garden at present, an indication that the weeding has fallen behind schedule due to more pressing matters of mowing and strimming the churchyard. So what are these 'cruciform' plants whose family name appears to have some connection with a cross?

They are in fact very familiar to us all, including many common weeds, vegetables and ornamental garden plants. They have only four petals which are usually arranged in a straightforward cross shape. Mustard (*Brassica nigra*) is an example and is referred to by Jesus in one of his parables but there are lots more in this huge, world-wide family: cabbage, rocket, radish, wallflower, stock, aubrieta, alyssum, cress, candytuft, shepherd's purse and horse radish to mention just a few.

Some of them, including mustard, are constituents of commercial bird seed

mixtures so it is not surprising that they appear frequently in our gardens as weeds. For human consumption in salads, mustard is grown and harvested, often along with cress, when it is still a tiny seedling but left untouched in decent soil and some space to develop it can form a large bushy plant up to a metre or more high and bearing many yellow flowers before the seed pods appear; it is the oily seeds within that give us our table mustard. In the Mediterranean climate mustard and its relatives can grow to nearly two metres and the Holy Trinity specimens might match this unless the weeding is done soon!

As recorded in Mark 4: 30-32, Jesus likened the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed "which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade".

Let us not quibble over 'the smallest' (there are many plants with much smaller seeds) or 'the largest' (there are many larger plants) for the point of the story is clear regardless of botanical exactitude, that a contrast exists between a small seed and what might develop from it. A tiny seed if planted and nurtured can grow into something special, branching out in all directions. Many Christians have prayed that the seeds they have planted in the lives of others will do likewise.

Brian Mathew

Who are your new PCC members?

Last month's magazine was able to report the names of those newly elected to the Church Council. Here's a fuller picture of each of them.

Andrew Forbes

Andrew was born in Woking 40 years ago and brought up in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. He and Helen have lived in Thames Ditton since 1998, now with children Nick (7), Tabitha (4) and Matilda (2). He is a chemical engineer who works for a consultancy designing plants & platforms in the oil and gas industry. He was bullied ferociously by Helen (though no one would believe it) into doing an Alpha course in 2001, whereupon John 14:6 hit him like a freight train and a life of dreamy agnosticism came to an end. He has been helping with the Climbers children's group & the Baptism course for a while, and thus becomes a very poor replacement (he says) for Simon Botham on the PCC. Before they had children Helen and Andrew had a number of hobbies such as sailing, skiing & walking, but can now no longer remember how to do any of them. He remains an inveterate listener to terrible CDs and a book worm which suit his chronic tendency towards laziness. His garden is a mess. He's quite surprised to have this much hair at 40, though there's nothing to boast about. Likes a beer.

Brian Howells

Brian is Welsh and was born in Pembrokeshire, West Wales. He has been married to Doreen for 35 years and they have two adult children and one granddaughter. They have lived in Claygate for 22 years. He has spent most of his working life in retail banking. He was with a leading international bank for 26 years before leaving to set up a new banking operation for another overseas organisation in 1999. He retired from corporate life in 2003 and

now consults within the financial services sector. He is Holy Trinity's Pledge and Gift Aid Secretary and helps to coordinate our Crisis Support scheme, and was recently elected as a school governor to Claygate Primary School. Being Welsh, Brian enjoys his rugby and is a debenture holder at the Millennium Stadium.

Michael Porter

After early years in Kent, followed by Sussex and now Surrey you could say that Michael is gradually moving West! He had a 40 year career in banking, dealing with some of the more exciting parts of that type of business, such as three years in Moscow and a number of years financing aircraft. He retired in January 2006 and after a year "off" travelling he decided to take on a few new initiatives, one of which is the PCC!

He and Clare celebrated their marriage in the old Holy Trinity building and spent the rebuilding period in Moscow. They returned home in 1998, since when they have been regular HTC worshippers and members of the choir formed for special occasions. Michael's hobbies include gardening, walking and music and both he and Clare are keen to travel when they can squeeze trips into their busy schedule.

Other members of the PCC, in addition to our ministerial staff, are Penny Alpass and Richard Gordon (Churchwardens), Jackie Burton, Mark Chapman, Leslie Cross, Rose-Marie Francis, Gilly Hayes, Jon Hidden, Tim Hurdle, Rodney Luff, Jem Salter, Dudley Sloggett, David Steeds, Andrew Stroud, Barry Wakefield, David Wakefield and Catherine Winchcombe.

Men's Fellowship in suspension

A failure to find new leaders means that no steps will be taken to organise another season's programme for the Men's Fellowship, members were told at the AGM on 14th May. Retiring Secretary Jon Davey explained the difficulties faced by a shrinking committee, and said that last year's gesture by Ken Hibberd in returning to the chairmanship for a year, in order to allow time for a broader search for a chairman and other officers, had been to no avail. Philip Plyming, as President of the Fellowship, detailed his own soundings among men of the church, and said that he had found no appetite to join the Fellowship or to help to run it. Things were different for different generations. But he was confident that other opportunities for men's ministry at Holy Trinity were emerging, and it might be a case of another door opening as this one closed.

John Alpass has been elected as a member of the new Bishop's Council, the senior decision-making body for the Guildford Diocese. The new Council results from the recent reshaping of the Diocesan structures designed, in the words of the report which recommended it last year, to bring joined-up thinking into the Diocesan structures, improve efficiency and facilitate greater strategic thought.

The new Council embraces the old Bishop's Council, the Pastoral Committee and the Diocesan Board of Finance Executive. It brings together in one smaller body responsibility for policy, priorities and finance, with members being the trustees of Diocesan funds. Apart from the ex-officio members - the two Bishops, the Dean, the Archdeacons etc - the Council is elected by the Diocesan Synod.

Tea for the bereaved

The wet weather may have deterred some people from coming to our annual May Tea for the bereaved, but the event, which brings in many people who are not members of the church, was clearly enjoyed and appreciated by those who came.



Learning from the Bible

It's not quite the shortest book in the Bible, but there aren't many that take up only one page. And it's too short to be divided into chapters, which is why you may initially have been startled at the lack of a chapter reference for the quotation above.

Paul's letter to Philemon is also the most personal and least theological of his epistles; it was written to a friend about one specific matter and contains no exposition of the gospel and no exhortations about the way it should govern our behaviour. So what general message can it hold for present-day readers?

We cannot be sure where Paul was when he wrote this letter, but wherever he was he had encountered a runaway slave named Onesimus and apparently converted him to become a follower of Jesus. The Roman empire was heavily dependent on slaves (though they were not necessarily in a worse position than domestic servants or employees as we have known them in this country), and Paul as a Roman citizen knew better than to break the law by harbouring runaway slaves.

Moreover, Paul knew, or at least knew of, Onesimus' former master, because he was a leading member of the church in Colossae which met at his house. This gave him the confidence to send Onesimus back to his master with this letter appealing to Philemon not merely to excuse him his punishment for running away but to grant his freedom and moreover to receive him as a Christian brother - "welcome him as you

'If you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.'

Philemon, verse 17.

would welcome me".

As we read Paul's letter, we can see that he wishes to leave nothing to chance. He goes out of his way to offer compliments to Philemon and to affirm his understanding of what we owe to Christ. He invites Philemon, if there is any recompense due from Onesimus, to charge it to Paul himself. He makes the point of writing in his own hand rather than via a scribe. And when he asks Philemon to prepare a guest room for him, could it be that this is a warning that he will be coming to check that Philemon has done the right thing?

Paul may not expound the gospel here, but we can see it underlying what he says. He wanted Philemon to respond out of love rather than to an order. He was prepared to pay the price so that Onesimus could stand before Philemon without fear of retribution, just as Jesus did for all of us on the cross. When we become a follower of him, as Onesimus did, our slavery falls away and we become a new creation, welcomed into the Father's arms as he welcomes his own Son, united in an equal bond with all believers.

What a shame that we have no way of knowing the outcome of Paul's intercession on behalf of Onesimus. But surely, given Philemon's status as a Christian leader, it cannot have fallen on unsympathetic ears. One thing we do know is that, some years later, there was a Bishop of Ephesus named Onesimus. I wonder....

Scribatus

*Man is most free when controlled by God alone.
- Augustine*

Young people today....

And so it is. Just like that. My last article for Insight before I depart for parts more northerly. It has been some four years since I accepted this position back in June 2003. In that time I have seen many amazing things. I have seen hopes fulfilled, opportunities won and lost, young people grow in their faith, miracles without a doubt and the power of forgiveness to conquer all. Learning how to walk again was a trial I had not bargained on facing, but the sacrifice of those who faithfully ran YF in my absence, Yvonne Kelly, Jon Hidden and Julian and Hils Coy, is a light that only brightens as the tide of time flows by.

In my time in Claygate I have enjoyed the hospitality of a good many people who have let me stay at their homes and treated me as part of the family; so if you'll permit me the indulgence, I'd like to say thank you to John and Angela Main, Roger and Philippa Hidden, Si and Cath Winchcombe, Jem and Rosemary Salter, David and Linda Morgan and David and Christine Steeds. I will not forget the ongoing kindnesses they have shown me in good times and bad.

When others ask me about the love of Christians, it is people such as those named here that I talk about; both here and far away.

I have had the great privilege of being part of a fellowship group for the last two years of my time here who have lovingly supported me in the work that I have been engaged in. Jon and Hannah Hidden, Sam Barker, Yvonne Kelly and Susan Maskell have provided me with the necessary care and a listening ear, alongside prayer-

filled intercession. It is fellowship such as this that we as a leader's team have tried to show to the forty or so teenagers we now have in and around YF.

It is here for which I save my greatest thanks. The volunteers who over the last four years, without ever being on a rota, have lovingly devoted their Sunday evenings to spend time with our teenagers and show them Christ in all they say and do. Please look at this list and give thanks and praise for each name here present; catch them at church and show your appreciation: Jon Hidden, Sarah Slater, Hils Coy, Fiona Chapman, Sam Barker, Hannah Hidden, Lora Wilson, Julian Coy, Lesley Cross, Hannah Mason, John and Penny Alpass, Marcus Wood, Chris Greaves, Rachel Lowe, Joel Watkins, Yvonne Kelly, Susie Henderson, Tara Watkins, Claire Quest, Mark Chapman, Nicola Steeds, Sophie Ayling, Jamie Henderson, Mark Zacharias and Andrew Cowie.

Please praise God for each of these that they may each draw closer to Him who is powerful and mighty to save. Most of all though, please be praying for our young people, as they become solely your young people once more. They shall remain daily in my prayers. Please continue to include them daily in yours as well. Thank you.

Asa

The preacher arrived at the country chapel to find only one elderly farmer. He asked if the farmer still wanted to hear his sermon. The farmer answered "If I took my bucket into the yard and only one hen turned up, I'd still feed her".

The sermon was a long one. The farmer afterwards muttered "I said I'd feed her but I'm blown if I'd give her the whole bucketful!"

Plans laid for another visit to Ukraine friends

A quick visit in May

Stuart Sadler and I have just returned from a brief visit to Ukraine to meet the ministers in our link villages and to prepare for the summer mission which will see 30 members of Holy Trinity (and 65 in total) spending a week there. It was encouraging to find the ministers and congregations so clear in the ways that they want us to work there - but also so many people wanting to welcome us as guests for the week in the summer (there are too few visitors for the numbers of host volunteers!!).

This year we will be holding a separate Children's and Youth mission and we were very encouraged to find Bea Bocskor - the youth worker supported by Holy Trinity - building up such momentum among youth locally and ready to actively take part in the planning and leading of the camp.

Another area where we were pleasantly surprised was in the building of a new school in Uj Akli - a project Holy Trinity has been supporting. There had been real progress with active support from the local villagers, the (now Christian) mayor and the state as well.

We also saw the results of ongoing work by the medical team, with the local doctor reporting many people benefiting from the basic medicines that we bring and many specific results - such as the simple machine that our team left to allow a local child with a heart defect to get her blood tested each week at home, without having to travel a long distance and miss school for a whole day.

The local ministers have asked us to pray for the continuing unhealthy influences of drink and drugs (especially on the young) and some very negative effects of the internet which has now been extended to the nearest town. They also asked if we could bring more Christian literature and modern Bibles this summer for those who need them.

Andrew Tarcy

Regular readers will be familiar with Holy Trinity's link with the villages of Akli, Uj Akli and Gyula in the West of Ukraine, and the annual summer visits which we have made there since 2003. Andrew Tarcy (left) writes about last month's preparatory trip for this summer's mission, with more background below and (right) how you can help.

Why Ukraine?

In briefing congregations on Ukraine Focus Sunday, 20th May, Michael Webb-Peploe described the people of Trans-Carpathia and their situation. The villagers to whom we were going represented the ethnic Hungarian minority in Ukraine, a people who had been kicked around for the last century. When in the wake of the Second World War the region found itself in the embrace of the Soviet Union, all the men were deported to the gulags, and only one third of them ever returned. In 1945 there had been 104 pastors of the Hungarian Reformed Church, but by the time the Russians left in 1991 there were only four. The population lived on the poverty line: in the towns there was 70% unemployment, while in the countryside where we were going the people lived by subsistence farming. Medical care was limited - "gratitude payments" (ie, bribes) were expected by the rare doctor or nurse - and medicines were beyond the means of most people: insulin for a diabetic would cost two-thirds of a teacher's salary. This meant that our own medical team was particularly valuable and appreciated, and this year's party would include five doctors from the UK, one from Hungary, one dentist and two pharmacists. Others would be running a youth and children's mission and undertaking visiting of those confined to home.

What the rest of us can do to help

1. Pray for the success of the mission, for the safe arrival of medicines that are being despatched and for the members of our team. The prayer meeting on Wednesday 11th July will focus on Ukraine, and there will be updates in the coming weeks, and during the visit itself (27th July to 7th August).
2. Send a card with a greeting to people that our team will meet while they are there (to be handed in by 8th July).
3. Give money to be used for various purposes in Ukraine:
 - to ensure the ongoing supply of medicines so that our help can continue beyond a short-term visit;
 - to provide a small salary to the Christian Youth Worker now appointed to work in the three villages
 - to provide modern Bibles and Christian books for those whom the local ministers believe would benefit;
 - to complete, furnish and equip the new school now well under way, as the picture below illustrates.

A special Gift Aid envelope is available. Again, it would be helpful for all donations to be received by 8th July.



The new school in Uj Akli is taking shape with Holy Trinity's support